

## Section 2 – Planning Process

### Requirements:

§201.6 (c) (1) - The plan shall include documentation of the planning process used to develop the plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process for each jurisdiction, and how the public was involved.

§201.6 (b) (2) - An opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, and agencies that have the authority to regulate development, as well as businesses, academia and other private and non-profit interests to be involved in the planning process.

§201.6 (b) (1) - An opportunity for the public to comment on the plan during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval.

§201.6 (b) (3) - Review and incorporation, if appropriate, of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information.

§201.6 (c) (4) (iii) - Discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.

This section of the Plan describes and documents the process used to review and update the 2020 Franklin County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS.) The current 2016 plan will expire on February 16, 2021. The final draft of the 2020 updated plan will be submitted to the State of Florida by August 16, 2020 for review and approval.

The Franklin County Emergency Management (EM) office initiated the 2020 LMS 5-year update process by hiring The Management Experts, LLC to facilitate the update process, and update the risk and vulnerability portion of the plan. The LMS working group engaged local agencies, community members, neighboring communities, regional agencies and the public to be involved in the planning process, beginning with a kick-off meeting on January 9, 2020. See LMS working group meetings listed below and all meeting documentation (i.e. meeting advertisements, sign-in sheets, current working group members, and meeting minutes) in Appendix A.

Details were reported at the Franklin County BOCC meeting on January 7, 2020 from the EM Director.



### Emergency Management Director – Pam Brownell

#### 5. Report

#### Action Items:

None

#### Information Item:

A. Staff worked on updating the LMS (local mitigation strategy).

B. FCEM Staff continues to work on FEMA reimbursement claims from Hurricane Michael. This includes working with FEMA staff regarding mitigation of damaged parks, roads, etc. Mitigation takes some time but EOC Staff continue to work diligently with FEMA Staff on the most beneficial repairs for Franklin County.

## Planning Area & Participation

Franklin County is located in northwest Florida on the Gulf of Mexico approximately 40 miles southwest of Tallahassee. It is bounded on the west by Gulf County, on the north by Liberty County, and on the east by Wakulla County. The larger communities within the county are the City of Apalachicola (the County seat), located at the mouth of the Apalachicola River, and the City of Carrabelle which is located on St. George Sound, and Eastpoint. The county's

islands includes St. Vincent, St. George and Dog Islands. Franklin County encompasses 535 square miles of land and 492 square miles of water.

There have been neither new municipalities created nor any dissolved since the last plan approval date. The planning area continues to include the City of Apalachicola, City of Carrabelle, and the unincorporated areas of Franklin County. For information about population and growth statistics, see the Demographics details located in Table 3.1. In addition, there are special districts in Franklin County, however, the local government authority is either Franklin County, the City of Apalachicola, the City of Carrabelle, or multi-county and these districts would not be adopting the LMS Plan.

### Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group Members

Franklin County has Working Group Members that participate and provide support and assistance in the LMS meetings with active members from the local and state government, the community businesses and residents, representation from each jurisdiction, and the neighboring communities.


The organization is intended to represent a partnership between the public and private sector of the community, working together to create a disaster resistant community. The proposed mitigation projects developed by the Working Group and listed in this plan, when implemented, are intended to make the entire community safer from the impacts of future disasters, for the benefit of every individual, neighborhood, business, and institution.

The Franklin County LMS Working Group encourages participation by all interested local and neighboring jurisdictions, agencies, organizations, and individuals. The Franklin County EM office sent email notifications to all Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group (WG) Members inviting them to attend and participate in the 2020 LMS Plan update. Legal meeting notices were placed in the local newspaper, on the EM Facebook page and posted at the clerk's office. Neighboring communities and regional agencies were also invited to attend and participate in the planning process through the review of the draft plan in August. Specifically, the following external groups were invited:

- Apalachee Regional Planning Council
- The Northwest Florida Water Management District
- Liberty County's LMS Chairperson/Emergency Management Director
- Florida Division of Emergency Management Regional Coordinator, Region 2

The LMS Working Group Members consist of membership from each jurisdiction. Several of the members of the *current planning group* were involved in the 2015 LMS Plan update including the risk assessment portion of the plan. Membership consists of local government representatives including city, town and county emergency management, fire, police, planning, and school board; private sector interests including construction, engineering, and small business; and private citizens. All members of the Working Group participated in various aspects of the update process whether through technical assistance, data input, local knowledge or plan element review. See Appendix A for the comprehensive mailing list of invitations sent to several organizations for the LMS meetings.

**Table 2.1 - 2020 Franklin County  
Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Group Members**

 <b>Franklin County</b> <small>FRANKLINCOUNTYFLORIDA.COM</small>		
<b>LMS Member</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Title</b>
Pamela Brownell	Franklin County Emergency Management	Emergency Management Director
Jennifer Daniels	Franklin County Emergency Management	Emergency Management Coordinator
Amanda Anthony	Franklin County Emergency Management	Special Needs Coordinator
A.J. Tony Smith	Franklin County Sheriff's Office	Sheriff
Billy Fuentes	Eastpoint Water & Sewer District	Administrator
Rhonda Skipper	Franklin County Appraiser's Office	Property Appraiser
Traci Yoder	Franklin County School District	Superintendent
Amy Kelly	Franklin County Planning & Building	Floodplain and Zoning Administrator
Howard Nabors	Franklin County Road Department	Supervisor
Fonda Davis	Franklin County Solid Waste and Franklin County Parks & Recreation	Director and Interim Director
Kevin Begos	City of Apalachicola	Mayor
Anita Grove	City of Apalachicola	Commissioner
Keisha Messer	City of Carrabelle	City Clerk
Brenda LaPaz	City of Carrabelle	Mayor and Commissioner
Charles Harris	Florida Forest Service	Forest Area Supervisor
Joey Taranto	Florida Forest Service	Forest Area Supervisor
Clint Davis	Florida Forest Service	Forest Ranger
Rhonda Lewis	Liberty County Emergency Management	Emergency Management Director

### **Working Group Meetings**

The Franklin County Emergency Management office is the lead agency in scheduling, advertising and conducting the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group efforts, including annual reporting and the 5-year LMS Plan update. The Local Mitigation Strategy meetings were held at the Franklin County Emergency Management Office, 28 Airport Road Apalachicola, FL 32320.

The LMS meetings occurred in 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019 and 2020. The yearly LMS meeting documentation (i.e. meeting advertisement, agenda, sign-in sheet, meeting minutes and the current LMS Working Group Member list) is located in Appendix A.

## Public Participation

The public was invited to participate in all of the LMS meetings throughout the 5-year planning cycle through public notices in local newspapers, The Times Apalachicola and Carrabelle, on website notification methods (County Facebook page(s)), and on the Franklin County Emergency Management (EM) website.

- ✓ Franklin County Emergency Management Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/FranklinEOC/>



- ✓ Franklin County Emergency Management - <https://www.franklinemergencymanagement.com/>



Franklin County is very fortunate to have private citizens who attend the local LMS meetings. Also, numerous volunteers participate in sea oat planting mitigation project. The sea oats provide a natural barrier against storm erosion.

In addition, the Emergency Management office actively participated with local community meetings, the Seafood Festival events, CPR training, etc. to get the citizens involved in the County Local Mitigation Strategy. See section 6 for further public outreach programs.

## Public Involvement in the drafting stage of the LMS

A copy of the current 2020 LMS plan was available to the public for review at the Franklin County Emergency Management website, the EOC Facebook page and on Oyster Radio from August 12 – 14, 2020. Comments and other input were accepted during the drafting stage and prior to plan submission. The public citizens within the County were encouraged to submit their comments via email to the EM office.



mitigation efforts over the past five years in working with the county citizens that contributed to the update of the LMS Plan.

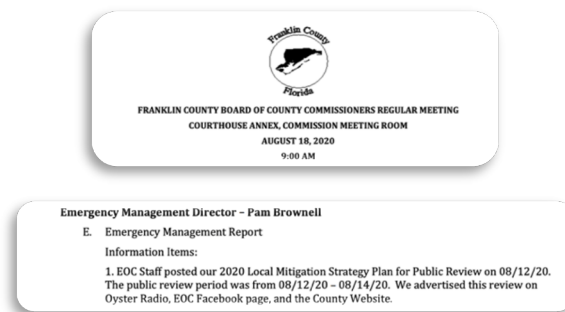
Although there were no public comments or feedback received on the LMS Plan when it was available for review online, if there had been comments or suggestions, they would have been incorporated into the plan. It is important to document that the EM office in Franklin County have made significant accomplishments in



They are as follows:

- ✓ 34 residential home that were hurricane proofed through the HLMP grant program;
- ✓ 52 repetitive loss properties that were relocated or an acquisition/demolition;
- ✓ Active partnership from several volunteers on the sea oat planting mitigation project;
- ✓ Engaged attendance from the county citizens with the disaster expo;
- ✓ Enthusiastic participation with the flood mitigation survey; and
- ✓ Thousands of mitigation materials have been distributed at the annual festival in Apalachicola.

For the next planning cycle, it was discussed that the WG will evaluate different mechanisms when working with the citizens to discuss the planning process of the LMS Plan and encourage cooperation and feedback, possibly by establishing subcommittees for the different sections of the LMS Plan and recruiting new participants to the working group.

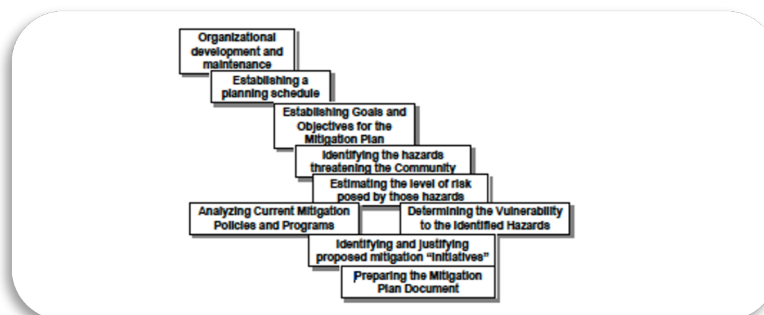


## Hazard Mitigation Planning Procedures

The procedure or direction used by the Franklin County LMSWG is based on the following important concepts:

- A comprehensive planning group representing all jurisdictions within Franklin County that establishes specific goals and objectives to address the community's vulnerabilities to the hazards that affect the community.
- It utilizes an analysis of the identified hazards, the risk evaluation and vulnerability assessment.
- Mitigation projects by the specific jurisdiction or organization with the authority and responsibility for the project implementation.

**Figure 2.1 – Franklin County Hazard Mitigation Planning Process**



The planning process begins with the development of the Working Group as an organization and obtaining participation from the local government jurisdictions and key organizations and institutions. The planning work conducted to develop this document relies heavily on the expertise of the participating agencies and organizations, in addition to detailed

scientific or engineering studies. Participation and feedback from local experts is essential in the analysis of local mitigation planning.

Analyzing the need for the community and then evaluating proposed mitigation projects to avoid or minimize vulnerability of the community to future disasters is important, and an area that will be reviewed and addressed on an annual basis. The goals and objectives set by the WG are intended to help focus the effort of the participants by directing attention to certain types of neighborhoods, or by emphasizing implementation of selected types of proposed mitigation projects.

The Working Group members established a planning schedule for the upcoming planning period that allowed the participants to anticipate their involvement in the technical analyses and evaluations, and also to review the current LMS Goals and Objectives (which are located in Section 5) in guiding the planning efforts.

Conducting the needed analyses and then proposing mitigation projects to avoid or minimize vulnerability of the community to future disasters is a time-consuming process. Therefore, for the planning period, the goals and objectives set by the LMSWG are intended to help focus the effort of the participants by directing attention to certain types of facilities or neighborhoods, or by emphasizing implementation of selected types of proposed mitigation initiatives or projects.

The LMS Working Group is responsible for:

- ✓ Official decisions regarding the planning process;
- ✓ Evaluating the natural hazards that affect the County;
- ✓ Determining the priority and approving the proposed mitigation project/action items for each jurisdiction;
- ✓ Reviewing any changes to local maps;
- ✓ Deleting projects that are no longer applicable for implementation; and
- ✓ Coordinating the technical analysis and planning activities.

These activities include conducting the hazard identification and vulnerability assessment and exposure processes, as well as receiving and coordinating the mitigation projects for incorporation into this plan.

## **Hazard Identification and Risk Estimation**

The Working Group analyze the natural hazards that threaten all or portions of the County. Where possible, specific geographic areas subject to the impacts of the identified hazards are delineated. Data is analyzed on previous occurrences for the natural hazards. In addition, the WG uses general information to estimate the relative risk of the various hazards as an additional method to focus their analysis and planning efforts. They compare the likelihood or probability that a hazard will impact an area, as well as the consequences that impact the public health and safety, property, the economy, and the environment. This comparison of the consequences of an event with its probability of occurrence is a measure of the risk posed by that hazard to the community.

Depending on the participating jurisdiction, a variety of information is obtained regarding hazard identification and risk estimation. The planners representing the jurisdiction attempt to incorporate consideration of hazard specific maps, including flood plain delineation maps, whenever applicable, and GIS-based analyses of hazard areas and the locations of critical facilities, infrastructure components and other properties located within the defined hazard areas.

## **Vulnerability Assessment**

There are two procedures available to the Working Group to assess the communities' vulnerabilities to future disasters.

1. Analyze and examine the vulnerabilities of the important facilities, systems and neighborhoods to the impacts of future disasters. For the participating jurisdictions and organizations, the individuals most familiar with the



facility, system or neighborhood will provide a guided, objective assessment process established by Working Group, and a complete the analysis and examination details.

The process ranks both the hazards to which the facility, system or neighborhood is most vulnerable, as well as the consequences to the community should it be disrupted or damaged by a disaster. This process typically results in identification of specific vulnerabilities that can be addressed by specific mitigation projects that can be proposed and incorporated into this plan.

The LMSWG will review past occurrences and decide on the need for specific mitigation projects based on the type or location of damage they caused. Analysis on these experiences can result in the formulation of specific mitigation projects for incorporation into the plan.

2. The second method for assessment of community vulnerabilities involves comparison of the existing policy, program and regulatory framework promulgated by local jurisdictions to control growth, development and facility operations in a manner that minimizes vulnerability to future disasters.

The Working Group members can assess the individual jurisdictions' existing codes, plans, and programs to compare their provisions and requirements against the hazards posing the greatest risk to that community. If indicated, the participating jurisdiction can then propose development of additional codes, plans or policies as mitigation projects for incorporation into the Franklin County LMS for future implementation when it is appropriate to do so.

## Review & Integration with Existing Plans

The LMS is intended to provide the local communities an opportunity to implement mitigation efforts across planning boundaries. In an attempt to integrate mitigation efforts across both the public and private domain, the LMS Working Group works to incorporate existing planning mechanisms into the LMS and to assure that the LMS is integrated into other mechanisms throughout the county.

### County and City's Comprehensive Plans *(examples include)*

Mitigation is incorporated in the **County Comprehensive Plan** which addresses hazard mitigation strategies through the following:

#### Land Use Element

- ✓ Policy 1.2.6.e Floodplains – any structural development will have to comply with the county's Flood Hazard Ordinance, which regulates construction within flood prone areas).
- ✓ Objective 9 - The County has, through its Land Development Regulations, limited development type, density and intensity, within the Coastal High Hazard Area, as defined in the Conservation/Coastal Management Element, and directed unsuitable development outside of the Coastal High Hazard Area, to minimize the impact of natural hazards in this area. By December 31, 2006 the county shall develop policies to restrict public funding for facilities within coastal high hazard areas.

#### Coastal/Conservation Element

- ✓ GOAL 2 - THE VULNERABILITY OF PEOPLE AND PROPERTY IN FRANKLIN COUNTY TO HARM FROM HURRICANES WILL BE REDUCED AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURES IN AREAS SUBJECT TO NATURAL DISASTER WILL BE LIMITED.  
OBJECTIVE12 - Hazard Mitigation and Coastal High-Hazard Areas (CHHA). The County shall adopt Land Development Regulations to restrict development within coastal high-hazard areas and shall develop budget policies to restrict public funding for facilities within coastal high hazard areas.
- ✓ Policy 15.6 The County shall, through its local mitigation strategies, identify structures in the coastal high-hazard area, inventory their assessed value, judge the utility of the land for public access, and make

recommendations for acquisition when post-disaster opportunities arise.

#### Intergovernmental Coordination Element

- ✓ Policy 7.1.d The County shall encourage the location of schools proximate to residential areas by: 3. Prohibiting schools to be located in designated coastal high hazard areas.

Mitigation is incorporated in the [City of Apalachicola's Comprehensive Plan](#) which addresses hazard mitigation strategies through the following:

#### Coastal Management Element

- ✓ COASTAL AREA BOUNDARY - The coastal area for Apalachicola shall consist of an area designated by the City Zoning Regulations as the special waterfront district. This designation serves as the special purpose study area for hurricane evacuation and hazard mitigation purposes and includes the Category 1 Hazard Zone.
- ✓ XI. Natural Disaster Planning - The Coastal High Hazard Area is identified on map 9. As required pursuant to chapter 9J-S.003 F.A.C. this area comprises all land in Apalachicola which falls: 1. Seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line established by the Florida Department of Natural Resources and Federal Emergency Management Agency designated V zones. These areas include all areas within Apalachicola's jurisdiction where public facilities have been damaged or undermined by coastal storms.
- ✓ Vulnerability Analysis - An analysis of the storm surge vulnerability for the B zone (Category 3) is as follows: Category 3: The presence of a well-developed barrier island system will provide protection to the coast of Apalachicola during a Category 3. The SPLASH II model does not carry storm surge characteristics past the point of landfall. Because of this limitation, it is difficult to predict the effects of open water, such as the Apalachicola Bay, on the storm surge. However, some flooding is likely in low-lying areas south of Highway 98, including waterfront areas in the City of Apalachicola. Low points in roads are susceptible to washout. The effects of a Category 3 storm would be similar to a Category 1 or 2 hurricane. Low-lying areas in Apalachicola are in the Category 3 Hazard Zone. Storm surge adverse effects could be experienced from 2.5 to 11.0 hours prior to landfall. Duration times for storm surge flooding vary from two hours to twelve hours. Gale force winds continue to batter the area for up to 13 hours.

Mitigation is incorporated in the [City of Carrabelle's Comprehensive Plan](#) which addresses hazard mitigation strategies through the following:

#### Land Use Element

- ✓ 1.G.1 Policy 1.5.2 It shall be the policy of Carrabelle to require that all land development applications within the Coastal High Hazard Area be planned and obtain approval pursuant to a site plan review process to ensure that development is compatible with site characteristics. Applications will be reviewed according to pertinent sections of the National Flood Insurance Program and will be reviewed for compliance with all other applicable flood control regulations, including the Federal Emergency Management Administration /National Flood Insurance Program and the City of Carrabelle's Flood Hazard Prevention Ordinance #233.
- ✓ 1.G.1 OBJECTIVE 1.9, Protect the Natural Functions of the 100-Year Floodplain -The City shall protect the natural functions of the 100-year floodplain in order to protect and preserve the value and function of floodplains from encroachment by development.

### Ordinances and Maps

Other planning procedures for the county that the LMS Plan can be integrated into would be ordinances and maps.

- ✓ Franklin County Flood Hazard Ordinance, Ordinance 2013-04
- ✓ Franklin County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6.5 – Flood Damage Prevention
- ✓ City of Apalachicola Flood Plain Management Ordinance, Ordinance 2013-02
- ✓ City of Apalachicola Code of Ordinances, Chapter 107 - Floods



- ✓ City of Carrabelle Code of Ordinances, Flood Damage Prevention
- ✓ FEMA Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM)

Listed below is the detailed information from the COMP's, Ordinances and Maps.

### Additional Methods

There are further methods the mitigation can be incorporated during the recovery process after the county has been declared a disaster area would be by completing a public assistance project worksheet to repair infrastructure (an example would include the damaged Highway 98 see photo to the right).



Photo source: FDOT District 3

### Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)

One of the more essential associations that exist between two mitigation related planning mechanisms is the CEMP and the LMS Plan. The LMS's risk assessment is integrated into the CEMP. The Franklin County CEMP, updated in 2019, was reviewed and referenced in this LMS planning cycle. The CEMP is adopted by resolution at the county while the other participating municipalities adopt by promulgation, therefore, all municipalities provide their consent on this integration.

### Review and Integration *(cont.)*

The County and the two cities plans, ordinances, and maps are carefully reviewed and integrated into the LMS as they undergo their regular updates. Many of the LMS Working Group members are also involved in the current update of the County's and City's Comprehensive Plan and the Ordinances and brings the LMS goals and objectives to the table of those efforts. The County and City's currently use comprehensive and emergency management planning, capital improvement projects, building codes and ordinances to guide and control development throughout the County. Also, the future land use planning for the entire County incorporates specifics from the LMS risk assessment to limit development in hazard areas and reduce risk. These examples demonstrate that each participating jurisdiction is committed to include mitigation procedures through the existing plans, ordinances and programs. Franklin County Emergency Management maintains the process for incorporating the Local Mitigation Strategy into other local government planning mechanisms.

As stated, the County has incorporated the requirements of the Local Mitigation Strategy into their comprehensive plans and Ordinances. The process for amending local government comprehensive plans is specified by Florida law, Section 163.3 191, Florida Statutes, which requires local governments to prepare Evaluation and Appraisal Reports of their comprehensive plan at least once every seven years. The purpose of the process is to consider changes to comprehensive plans that reflect new information, comprehensive plan successes and failures, changing conditions and trends, as well as changes in state policy on planning and growth management which may have occurred during the prior seven years. The County considered new information and policy guidance provided in the LMS in their next evaluation and appraisal report for amendments to their comprehensive plans.

The LMS Working Group consulted, reviewed and analyzed the following documents for review and incorporation into the 2020 LMS. Each incorporate hazard mitigation plan of action in the following Elements, Chapters, Ordinances, and programs.

- ✓ **Franklin County Comprehensive Plan**, the Future Land Use Element, the Housing Element, the Coastal/Conservation Element, and the Intergovernmental Coordination Element
- ✓ **Franklin County Flood Hazard Ordinance**, Ordinance 2013-04
- ✓ **Franklin County Code of Ordinances**, Chapter 6.5 – Flood Damage Prevention
- ✓ **City of Apalachicola Comprehensive Plan**, Coastal Management Element and Conservation Element
- ✓ **City of Apalachicola Flood Plain Management Ordinance**, Ordinance 2013-02
- ✓ **City of Apalachicola Code of Ordinances**, Chapter 107 - Floods
- ✓ **City of Carrabelle Comprehensive Plan**, the Future Land Use Element, the Coastal Management Element
- ✓ **City of Carrabelle Code of Ordinances**, Flood Damage Prevention
- ✓ **Northwest Florida Water Management District – Strategic Water Management Plan**
- ✓ **FEMA Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM)**, February 5, 2014, revised preliminary June 13, 2019: effective date not determined

A summary of mitigation elements in each of the above listed documents is given below; the flood ordinances and FEMA flood maps are briefly discussed below but are presented in more detail in Sections 4 and 5 of this plan.

## **Franklin County Comprehensive Plan**

### **Land Use Element**

GOAL - ENSURE THAT THE CHARACTER AND LOCATION OF LAND USES IN FRANKLIN COUNTY MINIMIZE THE THREAT TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OR PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE, AND MAXIMIZE THE PROTECTION OF THE APALACHICOLA BAY, WHILE RESPECTING INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

OBJECTIVE 1 - Future development activities shall be directed to appropriate areas as depicted on the Future Land Use Maps to assure that soil conditions, topography, drainage, and natural conditions are suitable for development and adequate public facilities are available, and the Apalachicola Bay is protected from harmful impacts.

Policy 1.1 The Future Land Use Maps will be reviewed to be sure that adequate infrastructure is in place before areas are permitted for development. Adequate infrastructure is defined as the infrastructure necessary to maintain the adopted levels of service in this plan. The County shall not issue development orders that will degrade the existing levels of service below that level adopted as the minimum in this Comprehensive Plan.

Policy 1.2 The Future Land Use Maps will be reviewed to insure that the proposed uses, in the various categories, do not conflict with the prevailing natural conditions including: Soil Conditions; Topography, Drainage, Wetlands and Floodplains.

Policy 1.2.6. e FLOODPLAINS - Any structural development will have to comply with the county's Flood Hazard Ordinance, which regulates construction within flood prone areas.

Policy 1.6 Development, alteration of native vegetation, and habitable structures shall be so allowed in a Development of Regional Impact ("DRI") as defined in Section 380.0651(3)(i), Florida Statutes, and Rule 28-24-032(2), Florida Administrative Code, when the overall environmental impact of the development is lessened or mitigated and the average setback is at least 50 feet from wetlands or waters of the State, or when the setback is at least 50 feet from wetlands or waters of the State.

Policy 2.1.c Regulate areas subject to flooding. The County shall enact an ordinance, which shall regulate construction in areas subject to seasonal and periodic flooding. This ordinance, which shall adopt the Federal Insurance Rate Maps for Franklin County dated July 18, 1983 promulgated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall provide for the enforcement of building regulations that will make the County eligible to participate in the Federal Flood Insurance Program.

Policy 2.2.d.a Residential Development shall be prohibited within the portions of the Soundings Property within the Coastal High Hazard Area designated by the Apalachee Regional Hurricane Evacuation Study prepared in 2004 and adopted by the Franklin County Board of County commissioners on April 5, 2005. the only development allowed within the portions of the Soundings Property within the above described coastal high hazard Area shall be 9i) recreational trails and paths, (ii) water access in the form of a dock with viewing platform and no permanent mooring vessels

allowed, (iii) stormwater management facilities and (iv) wetland maintenance and restoration as permitted or required by the regulatory agency with wetland jurisdiction.

Objective 9 The County has, through its Land Development Regulations, limited development type, density and intensity, within the Coastal High Hazard Area, as defined in the Conservation/Coastal Management Element, and directed unsuitable development outside of the Coastal High Hazard Area, to minimize the impact of natural hazards in this area. By December 31, 2006 the county shall develop policies to restrict public funding for facilities within coastal high hazard areas. The manner of development shall be guided by way of increased setback requirements, impervious surface limitations, vegetative preservation requirements, and other necessary performance criteria.

Policy 11.5 All residential and other structures shall conform to applicable standards established in the Franklin County Zoning Ordinance, Critical Shoreline Ordinance, Flood Hazard Ordinance, Coastal Construction Code Ordinance, and, if applicable, other standards adopted by a county PUD ordinance or DRI development

### **Housing Element**

GOAL - PROVIDE DECENT, SAFE, AND SANITARY HOUSING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL THE PRESENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY.

OBJECTIVE 11- The County will continue with the current private system of making housing available to residents of Franklin County. This objective will be accomplished by fulfilling the following policies.

Policy 11.1 The County shall continue to issue building permits for housing units that meet the minimum standards established in the Franklin County Zoning Ordinance, the Coastal Building Code, the Flood Hazard Ordinance, the Critical Shoreline Ordinance, the Florida Building Code, and other relevant land development regulations.

### **Coastal/Conservation Element**

GOAL - BALANCING GROWTH AND COASTAL RESOURCES – THE NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES OF THE COASTAL AREA SHALL BE PRESERVED, PROTECTED OR ENHANCED AS THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED IN THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OCCURS.

OBJECTIVE 1 -The wetlands of Franklin County shall be conserved and protected such that no net loss (after mitigation) shall occur.

Policy 1.3 Franklin County shall oppose through formal resolution further depositing of dredge material in the floodplain of the Apalachicola River, other than those already approved spoil sites.

Policy 2.4 The County shall, through the reduction of setback requirements, encourage the use of natural vegetation erosion control structures along the coastal area.

Policy 2.9 The County shall only allow minimal permitted amounts of backfill to be placed behind erosion control devices.

OBJECTIVE 5- Coastal Barrier Protection/Conservation - The coastal barriers islands of Franklin County shall be protected/conserved such that there will be no loss of the dune systems.

OBJECTIVE 10 - By 2009, the county shall develop land development regulations to conserve appropriately use and protect minerals and soils. Policy 10.1 The County's site plan review process shall be amended to take into consideration natural constraints such as flood hazard, wetlands, soil suitability and aquifer recharge potential, and shall be restricted depending upon the severity of those constraints.

GOAL 2 - THE VULNERABILITY OF PEOPLE AND PROPERTY IN FRANKLIN COUNTY TO HARM FROM HURRICANES WILL BE REDUCED AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURES IN AREAS SUBJECT TO NATURAL DISASTER WILL BE LIMITED.

OBJECTIVE 12 - Hazard Mitigation and Coastal High-Hazard Areas (CHHA). The County shall adopt Land Development Regulations to restrict development within coastal high-hazard areas and shall develop budget policies to restrict public funding for facilities within coastal high hazard areas.

Policy 12.2 A crucial need finding must be arrived at by the County to authorize public expenditures within the CHHA and shall establish that the expenditure is necessary to alleviate dangerously overcrowded or otherwise hazardous roads, to replace or construct wastewater facilities to alleviate or prevent potential violations of surface and potable water quality standards, or to construct recreational facilities unique to coastal sites such as boat ramps and associated facilities. Furthermore, a crucial need may only be established after consideration has been given to hazard mitigation standards, including floodproofing and evacuation.

Policy 12.4 The County's Floodplain Management Ordinance shall reference the building elevations of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, the building requirements of the National Flood Insurance program, provide for detention of rain from a 25 year - 24 hour rainfall event, and restrict discharge of rainwater into ditches which may flood evacuation routes.

OBJECTIVE 13 - DEVELOPMENT DENSITY AND INTENSITY: The County shall through its Land Development Regulations, limit development density and intensity within the Coastal High Hazard Area and direct it outside of the Coastal High Hazard Area, to mitigate the impact of natural hazards in this area

Policy 13.5 The County shall prohibit the approval of new development orders for mobile home projects within the V-zones of the FEMA maps and on the barrier islands in Franklin County.

Policy 13.10 Should a comprehensive plan amendment in the coastal high hazard area cause the hurricane evacuation clearance times for a Category One storm to exceed the established county standard, the amendment shall mitigate such impacts to insure compliance with applicable established hurricane evacuation level of service. Mitigation may include subscribing to "reverse 911" system, providing NOAA weather radios, developing hurricane evacuation plans, creating annual hurricane evacuation information, and providing other development specific requirements.

OBJECTIVE 14 -Hurricane Evacuation - The County shall conduct its hurricane evacuation procedures to ensure that Countywide evacuation clearance times do not exceed 16 hours for Category 1 storms and 24 hours for Category 2, 3, 4, and 5 storms.

Policy 14.4 All future improvements to roads along the evacuation routes shall include remedies for flooding problems.

OBJECTIVE 15 - Post-Disaster Redevelopment. By 2009, the County shall adopt a post-disaster response and cleanup assistance, procedures for redevelopment permitting and hazard mitigation measures.

Policy 15.3 The Recovery Task Force shall propose comprehensive plan amendments to County officials, which reflect the recommendations in any interagency hazard mitigation reports or other reports prepared pursuant to Section 406 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974.

Policy 15.4 In coastal areas needing redevelopment after a disaster, structures, which were nonconforming in terms of flood elevation or land use and which suffered damage in excess of fifty percent of their appraised value shall be rebuilt to meet all current requirements, including those enacted since construction of the structure.

Policy 15.6 The County shall, through its local mitigation strategies, identify structures in the coastal high-hazard area, inventory their assessed value, judge the utility of the land for public access, and make recommendations for acquisition when post-disaster opportunities arise.

Policy 15.7 As modified pursuant to policy 15.2, the County shall incorporate into this plan recommendations listed in the hazard mitigation appendix of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, as well as applicable hazard mitigation recommendations from future revisions to the Regional Hurricane Preparedness Plan.

### **Intergovernmental Coordination Element**

OBJECTIVE 7 - School Facility Siting To establish a process of coordination and collaboration between the County, local governments, and the School District in the planning and siting of public school facilities in coordination with planned infrastructure and public facilities.

Policy 7.1.d - The County shall encourage the location of schools proximate to residential areas by: 3. Prohibiting schools to be located in designated coastal high hazard areas.

### **Franklin County Flood Plain Management Ordinance**

Ordinance No 2013 – 04 - An Ordinance by the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners, amending the Franklin County Code of Ordinance to repeal Ordinance 2003-39; to adopt a new flood plain management ordinance; to adopt flood hazard maps, to designate a floodplain administrator, to adopt procedures and criteria for development in flood hazard areas, and for other purposes; to adopt local administrative amendments to the Florida Building Code; providing for applicability; repealer; severability; and an effective date. (A copy of the entire ordinance is located in Appendix C).

## Franklin County Code of Ordinances

### **Chapter 6.5 – Flood Damage Prevention**

Franklin County enforces local floodplain management ordinances that provide flood loss reduction building standards for new and existing development. The purpose of the Floodplain Management Ordinance and the flood load and flood-resistant construction requirements of the Florida Building Code are to establish minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flooding through regulation of development in flood hazard areas to:

- (1) Minimize unnecessary disruption of commerce, access and public service during times of flooding;
- (2) Require the use of appropriate construction practices in order to prevent or minimize future flood damage;
- (3) Manage filling, grading, dredging, mining, paving, excavation, drilling operations, storage of equipment or materials, and other development which may increase flood damage or erosion potential;
- (4) Manage the alteration of flood hazard areas, watercourses, and shorelines to minimize the impact of development on the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain;
- (5) Minimize damage to public and private facilities and utilities;
- (6) Help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of flood hazard areas;
- (7) Minimize the need for future expenditure of public funds for flood control projects and response to and recovery from flood events; and
- (8) Meet the requirements of the NFIP for community participation as set forth in the Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 59.22.

Section 6.5.5 Warning. The degree of flood protection required by this chapter and the Florida Building Code, as amended by this community, is considered the minimum reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering considerations. Larger floods can and will occur. Flood heights may be increased by manmade or natural causes. This chapter does not imply that land outside of mapped special flood hazard areas, or that uses permitted within such flood hazard areas, will be free from flooding or flood damage. The flood hazard areas and base flood elevations contained in the Flood Insurance Study and shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps and the requirements of the Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 59 and 60 may be revised by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, requiring this community to revise these regulations to remain eligible for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. No guaranty of vested use, existing use, or future use is implied or expressed by compliance with this chapter.

Section 6.5.23 Basis for establishing flood hazard areas. The Flood Insurance Study for Franklin County, Florida and Incorporated Areas, dated June 17, 2002, and all subsequent amendments and revisions, and the accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), and all subsequent amendments and revisions to such maps, are adopted by reference as a part of this chapter and shall serve as the minimum basis for establishing flood hazard areas. Studies and maps that establish flood hazard areas are on file at the Franklin County Planning and Building Department.

- (1) Submission of additional data to establish flood hazard areas. To establish flood hazard areas and base flood elevations, pursuant to article I, division 5 of this chapter the floodplain administrator may require submission of additional data. Where field surveyed topography prepared by a Florida licensed professional surveyor or digital topography accepted by the community indicates that ground elevations: a. Are below the closest applicable base flood elevation, even in areas not delineated as a special flood hazard area on a FIRM, the area shall be considered as flood hazard area and subject to the requirements of this chapter and, as applicable, the requirements of the Florida Building Code. b. Are above the closest applicable base flood elevation the area shall be regulated as special flood hazard area unless the applicant obtains a letter of map change that removes the area from a special flood hazard area.

## City of Apalachicola Comprehensive Plan

### **Coastal Management Element**

#### **I. COASTAL AREA BOUNDARY**

The coastal area for Apalachicola shall consist of an area designated by the City Zoning Regulations as the special waterfront district. This designation serves as the special purpose study area for hurricane evacuation and hazard mitigation purposes and includes the Category 1 Hazard Zone. The special purpose study area for estuarine water quality are these estuarine waters referred to as the Apalachicola River and Bay, East Bay, St. Vincent Sound and adjacent Gulf of Mexico waters.

XI. Natural Disaster Planning - The Coastal High Hazard Area is identified on map 9. As required pursuant to chapter 9J-S.003 F.A.C. this area comprises all land in Apalachicola which falls: 1. Seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line established by the Florida Department of Natural Resources and Federal Emergency Management Agency designated V zones. These areas include all areas within Apalachicola's jurisdiction where public facilities have been damaged or undermined by coastal storms.

✓ Vulnerability Analysis - An analysis of the storm surge vulnerability for the B zone (Category 3) is as follows: Category 3: The presence of a well-developed barrier island system will provide protection to the coast of Apalachicola during a Category 3. The SPLASH II model does not carry storm surge characteristics past the point of landfall. Because of this limitation, it is difficult to predict the effects of open water, such as the Apalachicola Bay, on the storm surge. However, some flooding is likely in low-lying areas south of Highway 98, including waterfront areas in the City of Apalachicola. Low points in roads are susceptible to washout. The effects of a Category 3 storm would be similar to a Category 1 or 2 hurricane. Low-lying areas in Apalachicola are in the Category 3 Hazard Zone. Storm surge adverse effects could be experienced from 2.5 to 11.0 hours prior to landfall. Duration times for storm surge flooding vary from two hours to twelve hours. Gale force winds continue to batter the area for up to 13 hours.

### **Conservation Element**

II. Inventory and Analysis, Water Resources, Floodplains - Apalachicola lies within the Apalachicola River floodplain with a drainage pattern comprised of numerous creeks, rivers and streams. The area of floodplain in Apalachicola comprises 125 acres. Because of the effects of relatively high annual rainfall, extensiveness of low topography and the proximity of the City to the River systems, surface drainage is an important consideration for development along the Apalachicola Shore Zone. The Future Land Use Element contains a map of the floodplain. Alteration of the natural drainage patterns within these zones can create serious flood or water hazards if not properly planned. City leaders should continue to ensure that local floodplain management regulations conform to the latest State and Federal standards.

## City of Apalachicola Flood Plain Management Ordinance

Ordinance No 2013 – 02 - An Ordinance amending the Apalachicola County Code of Ordinance to repeal Ordinance 2006-03; to adopt a new flood plain management ordinance; to adopt flood hazard maps, to designate a floodplain administrator, to adopt procedures and criteria for development in flood hazard areas, and for other purposes; to adopt local administrative amendments to the Florida Building Code; providing for applicability; repealer; severability; and an effective date. (A copy of the entire ordinance is located in Appendix D).

## City of Apalachicola Code of Ordinances

### **Chapter 107 – Floods**

The City of Apalachicola enforces local floodplain management ordinances that provide flood loss reduction building standards for new and existing development. The purpose of this chapter and the flood load and flood-resistant construction requirements of the Florida Building Code are to establish minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flooding through regulation of development in flood hazard areas to:



- (1) Minimize unnecessary disruption of commerce, access and public service during times of flooding;
- (2) Require the use of appropriate construction practices in order to prevent or minimize future flood damage;
- (3) Manage filling, grading, dredging, mining, paving, excavation, drilling operations, storage of equipment or materials, and other development which may increase flood damage or erosion potential;
- (4) Manage the alteration of flood hazard areas, watercourses, and shorelines to minimize the impact of development on the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain;
- (5) Minimize damage to public and private facilities and utilities;
- (6) Help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of flood hazard areas;
- (7) Minimize the need for future expenditure of public funds for flood control projects and response to and recovery from flood events; and
- (8) Meet the requirements of the NFIP for community participation as set forth in the Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 59.22.

Section 107.6 Warning. The degree of flood protection required by this chapter and the Florida Building Code, as amended by this community, is considered the minimum reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering considerations. Larger floods can and will occur. Flood heights may be increased by manmade or natural causes. This chapter does not imply that land outside of mapped special flood hazard areas, or that uses permitted within such flood hazard areas, will be free from flooding or flood damage. The flood hazard areas and base flood elevations contained in the Flood Insurance Study and shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps and the requirements of the Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 59 and 60 may be revised by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, requiring this community to revise these regulations to remain eligible for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. No guaranty of vested use, existing use, or future use is implied or expressed by compliance with this chapter.

Section 107.35 Basis for establishing flood hazard areas. The Flood Insurance Study for Franklin County, Florida and Incorporated Areas, dated June 17, 2002, and all subsequent amendments and revisions, and the accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), and all subsequent amendments and revisions to such maps, are adopted by reference as a part of this chapter and shall serve as the minimum basis for establishing flood hazard areas. Studies and maps that establish flood hazard areas are on file at the Franklin County Planning and Building Department.

107.36 Submission of additional data to establish flood hazard areas. To establish flood hazard areas and base flood elevations, pursuant to article I, division 5 of this chapter the floodplain administrator may require submission of additional data. Where field surveyed topography prepared by a Florida licensed professional surveyor or digital topography accepted by the community indicates that ground elevations: a. Are below the closest applicable base flood elevation, even in areas not delineated as a special flood hazard area on a FIRM, the area shall be considered as flood hazard area and subject to the requirements of this chapter and, as applicable, the requirements of the Florida Building Code. b. Are above the closest applicable base flood elevation the area shall be regulated as special flood hazard area unless the applicant obtains a letter of map change that removes the area from a special flood hazard area.

## **City of Carrabelle Comprehensive Plan**

### **Future Land Use Element**

**GOAL 1 - ENSURE THAT THE CHARACTER AND LOCATION OF LAND USES MAXIMIZE THE POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC BENEFIT AND THE ENJOYMENT OF NATURAL AND MANMADE RESOURCES BY CITIZENS WHILE MINIMIZING THE THREAT TO HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE POSED BY HAZARDS, NUISANCES, INCOMPATIBLE LAND USES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION.**

1.G.1 Policy 1.1.6 Land development regulations shall contain specific and detailed provisions required to implement the adopted Comprehensive Plan and will: d) Regulate areas subject to seasonal and periodic flooding and provide for drainage and stormwater management by requiring elevation certifications in compliance with FEMA; by requiring compliance with the City's stormwater management standards; by requiring FDEP stormwater management permits in subdivisions, commercial, and multifamily development; and by requiring site suitable best management stormwater

plans in the Critical Shoreline District. Public expenditures for infrastructure shall be limited within the Coastal High Hazard Area.

1.G.1 Policy 1.5.2 It shall be the policy of Carrabelle to require that all land development applications within the Coastal High Hazard Area be planned and obtain approval pursuant to a site plan review process to ensure that development is compatible with site characteristics. Applications will be reviewed according to pertinent sections of the National Flood Insurance Program and will be reviewed for compliance with all other applicable flood control regulations, including the Federal Emergency Management Administration /National Flood Insurance Program and the City of Carrabelle's Flood Hazard Prevention Ordinance #233.

1.G.1 OBJECTIVE 1.9, Protect the Natural Functions of the 100-Year Floodplain

The City shall protect the natural functions of the 100-year floodplain in order to protect and preserve the value and function of floodplains from encroachment by development.

1.G.1 Policy 1.9.1 The City shall continue to enforce the Carrabelle Flood Hazard Prevention Ordinance within its land development regulations, which includes limitations on development and density, which requires all development within the City's areas of special flood hazard to submit a certificate of elevation in accordance with Federal Flood Hazard Regulations; or, for commercial structures, provide engineer- certified documentation for flood proofing.

1.G.1 Policy 1.9.2 The City shall cooperate with the Federal Emergency Management Administration to control and monitor development within the floodplain.

1.G.1 Policy 1.9.3 The City shall adopt and enforce new cost effective programs for minimizing flood damage. Such programs may include modification in construction setback requirements or other site design techniques, as well as upgraded building and construction techniques to protect against flood hazards.

### **Coastal Management Element**

7.G.1 Policy 1.5.4 The City shall continue to enforce the Carrabelle Flood Hazard Prevention Ordinance within its land development regulations, which includes development and density limitations that requires all development within the City's areas of special flood hazard to submit a certificate of elevation in accordance with Federal Flood Hazard Regulations; or, for commercial structures, provide engineer- certified documentation for flood proofing.

7.G.2 OBJECTIVE 1.2, Limit Density and Intensity in Coastal High Hazard Area

In order to mitigate the impact of natural hazards within the Coastal High Hazard Area, the City shall limit density and intensity within the Coastal High Hazard Area and direct it outside of the Coastal High Hazard Area.

7.G.2 Policy 1.2.1 Carrabelle shall limit the density of new residential development within the Coastal High Hazard Area to a maximum of two dwelling units per gross acre.

7.G.2 Policy 1.2.2 It shall be the policy of Carrabelle to require that all land development applications within the Coastal High Hazard Area be planned and obtain approval pursuant to a site plan review process to ensure that development is compatible with site characteristics. Applications will be reviewed according to pertinent sections of the National Flood Insurance Program and will be reviewed for compliance with all other applicable flood control regulations.

## **City of Carrabelle Code of Ordinances**

### **Part 3.06.00 – Flood Damage Prevention**

The City of Carrabelle enforces local floodplain management ordinances that provide flood loss reduction building standards for new and existing development. The purpose of this part and the flood load and flood-resistant construction requirements of the Florida Building Code are to establish minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare and to minimize public and private losses due to flooding through regulation of development in flood hazard areas to:

- (1) Minimize unnecessary disruption of commerce, access and public service during times of flooding;
- (2) Require the use of appropriate construction practices in order to prevent or minimize future flood damage;
- (3) Manage filling, grading, dredging, mining, paving, excavation, drilling operations, storage of equipment or materials, and other development which may increase flood damage or erosion potential;
- (4) Manage the alteration of flood hazard areas, watercourses, and shorelines to minimize the impact of development on the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain;
- (5) Minimize damage to public and private facilities and utilities;

- (6) Help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of flood hazard areas;
- (7) Minimize the need for future expenditure of public funds for flood control projects and response to and recovery from flood events; and
- (8) Meet the requirements of the NFIP for community participation as set forth in the Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 59.22.

Section 3.06.01.05 Warning. The degree of flood protection required by this part and the Florida Building Code, as amended by this community, is considered the minimum reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering considerations. Larger floods can and will occur. Flood heights may be increased by manmade or natural causes. This chapter does not imply that land outside of mapped special flood hazard areas, or that uses permitted within such flood hazard areas, will be free from flooding or flood damage. The flood hazard areas and base flood elevations contained in the Flood Insurance Study and shown on Flood Insurance Rate Maps and the requirements of the Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 59 and 60 may be revised by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, requiring this community to revise these regulations to remain eligible for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. No guaranty of vested use, existing use, or future use is implied or expressed by compliance with this chapter.

Section 3.06.02.03 Basis for establishing flood hazard areas. The Flood Insurance Study for Franklin County, Florida and Incorporated Areas, dated February 5, 2014, and all subsequent amendments and revisions, and the accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), and all subsequent amendments and revisions to such maps, are adopted by reference as a part of this chapter and shall serve as the minimum basis for establishing flood hazard areas. Studies and maps that establish flood hazard areas are on file at the Franklin County Planning and Building Department.

A. Submission of additional data to establish flood hazard areas. To establish flood hazard areas and base flood elevations, pursuant to section 3.06.05 5 of this part the floodplain administrator may require submission of additional data. Where field surveyed topography prepared by a Florida licensed professional surveyor or digital topography accepted by the community indicates that ground elevations: 1. Are below the closest applicable base flood elevation, even in areas not delineated as a special flood hazard area on a FIRM, the area shall be considered as flood hazard area and subject to the requirements of this chapter and, as applicable, the requirements of the Florida Building Code. 2. Are above the closest applicable base flood elevation the area shall be regulated as special flood hazard area unless the applicant obtains a letter of map change that removes the area from a special flood hazard area.

### Northwest Florida Water Management District Strategic Water Management Plan

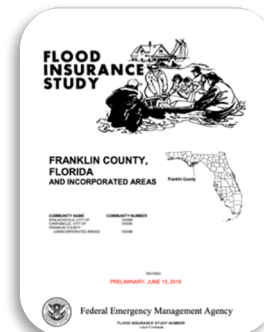


The Northwest Florida Water Management District typically integrates mitigation initiatives from the LMS into their planning and activities. In their 2019-2020 Strategic Water Management Plan published in September 2019, the District committed to continue to work on detailing special flood hazard areas in cooperation with FEMA. This work is crucial to Franklin's better understanding of flood risk along both the Chipola and Apalachicola River systems, as well as in undefined flood hazard areas elsewhere in the county. Per this report: This effort includes collaboration with state and local agencies to deliver quality data and digital flood insurance rate maps (DFIRMs) to increase public awareness of and support for actions that reduce flood-related risks.

Risk MAP evaluations are ongoing for the Lower Ochlockonee River, Apalachicola River, New River, Chipola River, Pensacola Bay, Perdido River, Perdido Bay, Apalachee Bay – St. Marks River, Pea River, and the Lower Choctawhatchee watersheds. The District also maintains natural floodplain functions along large tracts of land along the Apalachicola River to protect these natural systems and water quality, provide public safety (especially during times of flooding) and access to natural areas for recreation purposes.

## FEMA Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM)

According to the FIS the following streams were studied by detailed methods: the Carrabelle River, the Ochlockonee River, and the Apalachicola River. For the February 5, 2014 revision to the countywide FIS, all coastal hazards affecting the county have been revised. The existing detailed study for the Ochlockonee River has been superseded with the revised coastal study. Additionally, the floodplain for the Apalachicola River has been redelineated using updated topographic data. Existing data for St. James Bay and the area in the vicinity of Eastpoint has also been incorporated.



For the (preliminary June 13, 2019:effective date not determined) revision to the countywide FIS, three unnamed flooding areas along the Gulf of Mexico were studied by limited detailed methods. Limits of detailed study for riverine flooding sources are indicated on the Flood Profiles in Exhibit 1 and on the FIRM Exhibit 2. The areas studied by detailed methods were selected with priority given to all known flood hazard areas, and areas of projected development or proposed construction.

No Letters of Map Change (LOMCs) were incorporated as part of this revision to the countywide FIS. All or portions of numerous flooding sources within the county were studied by approximate methods. Approximate analyses were used to study those areas having a low development potential or minimal flood hazards. The scope and methods of study were proposed to, and agreed upon by, FEMA and Franklin County. Further details from the FIS are noted in Section 4 under the flooding section.

## **Hazard Mitigation Projects/Initiatives**

Developing hazard mitigation projects/initiatives enables the Working Group participants to prioritize the most significant vulnerabilities and define specific hazard mitigation projects to eliminate or minimize those vulnerabilities. Once the highest priorities are defined the Working Group members can identify specific mitigation projects for the plan that would eliminate or minimize those vulnerabilities. This procedure involves describing the project, relating it to one of the goals and objectives established by the Working Group, and justifying its implementation on the basis of its economic benefits and/or protection of public health and safety, as well as valuable or irreplaceable resources. The proposed mitigation projects are “prioritized” for implementation in a consistent manner by each participating organization using a set of nine objective criteria. The LMS prioritization method was discussed and evaluated by the working group and determined that it would remain effective for the 2020 LMS Plan update.

1. Support Public Health and Safety
2. Protect Lives and Property
3. Reduce Future Damage
4. Provide for Essential or Critical Services
5. Support Community LMS Goals and Objectives
6. Ensure Regional Benefits
7. Protect Natural Resources and Environmental Quality
8. Protect Cultural Resources

In characterizing a mitigation project for incorporation into the LMS plan, it is important to recognize that the level of analysis conducted by each organization involved has been intentionally designed to be appropriate in this stage in the planning process.

In the interest of the LMSWG to have a satisfactory level of confidence that a proposed mitigation project, when it is implemented, will be cost effective, feasible to implement, acceptable to the community, and technically effective in its purpose. To do this, the technical analyses conducted, including the development of a benefit to cost ratio for each

proposal, have been based on a straightforward, streamlined approach, relying largely on the informed judgment of experienced local officials.

The analyses have not been specifically designed to meet the known or anticipated requirements of any state or federal funding agency, due largely to the fact that such requirements can vary with the agency and type of proposal. Therefore, at the point when the organization proposing the project is applying for funding from any state or federal agency, or from any other public or private funding source, that organization will then address the specific informational or analytical requirements of the funding agency.

## **Developing the Local Mitigation Strategy Plan**

After the vulnerability assessment has been performed and mitigation projects are identified, the information used to characterize the project is submitted to the Working Group for review and inter-jurisdictional coordination.

The Working Group members assure that the proposal is consistent with the goals and objectives established by each jurisdiction for the planning period. Once reviewed and coordinated the submitted projects, it is formally considered for incorporation into the Franklin County LMS. The proposed project is identified as consistent with the goals and objectives for the planning period and would be beneficial for the community as a whole if and when implemented. If so, the WG then informally votes to incorporate the proposed project into the strategy.

At the annual LMS meetings, each mitigation project/initiative or action items included in the plan is evaluated to determine the following:

- ✓ If the project or initiative should remain as a valid and ongoing project (deferred until a later time due to funding);
- ✓ If the mitigation project is completed (all details are gathered on the hazard(s) mitigated, mitigation goals achieved, jurisdiction, funding source, total cost to complete the project, agency responsible for implementation, timeline to complete the project, and any specific details relevant to the project);
- ✓ If the project should be removed or deleted from the mitigation project list (LMS plan);
- ✓ If there are any new projects that should be added to the mitigation project list (LMS plan); and
- ✓ Prioritization of all mitigation projects or initiatives.

See Appendix B for the details on the ongoing, completed, deleted or new mitigation projects for Franklin County.

## **Approval of the Current Edition of the Plan**

At the end of each planning period, a plan document such as this is prepared for release to the community and for action by the governing bodies of the jurisdictions and organizations that participated in the planning process.

## **Implementation of Approved Mitigation Projects**

Once incorporated into the Franklin County LMS, the agency or organization proposing the project becomes responsible for its' implementation, if feasible, otherwise it could be assigned to another department, if the LMS Working Group votes and all agree on the decision for the other organization. This could be developing a budget for the effort or making application to state and federal agencies for financial support for implementation.

## Current Status of Participation in the Working Group

In order to support the participating jurisdictions in the completion of the community profiles and vulnerability assessments, the Working Group set a review for each technical step, provide training in the evaluation, if needed, and distribute the necessary forms for completion.

The support staff supporting the LMSWG is from the Franklin County Emergency Management. The staff facilitated the work of the LMSWG by advertising the LMS meetings, notifying the members and general public on the upcoming meeting, preparing the meeting agenda, completing the meeting minutes, updating the LMS mitigation project/initiation/action item list, keeping documented data on the natural hazard events that occur, and providing technical assistance or direction on the analysis as needed.

The participating jurisdictions, organizations, and individuals in the Franklin County LMS Working Group have all worked with dedication to carefully to complete this plan and will continue to do so in the future to create a truly disaster resistant community for the benefit of all its citizens.



Photo Source: FEMA, Region II