

Section 6 – Plan Evaluation and Maintenance

Requirements:

§201.6(c)(4)(i): The plan maintenance process shall include a section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.

§201.6(c)(4)(ii): The plan shall include a process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate.

§201.6(c)(4)(iii): The plan maintenance process shall include a discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.

§201.6(d)(3): Was the plan revised to reflect changes in development?

Changes In Development

The Franklin County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) is a living document that must continually reflect the changing needs of the communities as the county experiences growth and changes in relation to hazard vulnerability. Changes in land use and development can affect a variety of infrastructure issues such as storm water runoff patterns, potable water, sewer, roads, and ecological considerations such as water quality. Natural Hazards and other processes, like coastal erosion, continually alter hazard prone areas.

Over the last five years since the last LMS plan was approved, there have been some significant changes in development or important improvement projects in Franklin County.

City of Carrabelle City Hall Complex

Scope of Work:

The structure is approximately 5,300 SF and consists of wood framing & trusses, a shingle roof, and hardie board siding. Installation of the large emergency generator that was once at the Carrabelle High School.

Cost:

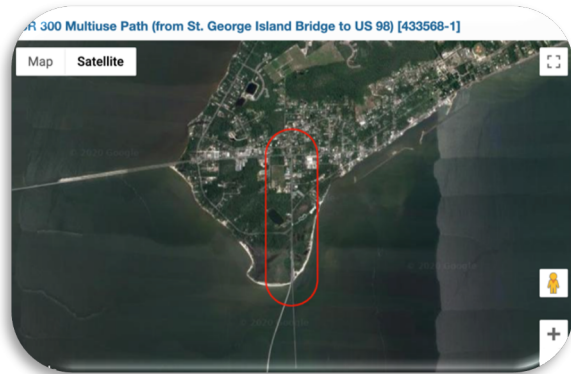
Approximately \$972,824

Mitigation Benefits:

The new City Hall Building includes office **space for the city personnel as well as the Carrabelle Police, secured storage for the cities records and police evidence rooms**, and a large meeting room for City Commission and other meetings.



SR300 Multiuse Path from St. George Island Bridge to US 98, (mitigation project completed from the NFWMD)



Scope of Work:

Discharge of fill material into 0.47 acre of waters to construct a multi-use path. The impact to waters consist of 0.26 acre of tidal marsh and 0.21 acre of roadside ditches.

Mitigation Benefits:

The mitigation project's goal is to **offset the wetland functional loss**. The mitigation activity consists of enhancing 6.49 acres of sawgrass-dominated marsh wetlands.

Indian Creek Boat Ramp

Scope of Work:

Install a new boat ramp, aluminum access gangway and floating deck, replacement of existing bulkhead with steel sheet piling and concrete cap, safety fencing, ADA parking space, and improved parking.

Cost:

\$629,000

Mitigation Benefits:

Improved and better technology for **preventative measures during storm events**. Balance environmental protection with appropriate shoreline use and development, and public access uses within the shoreline jurisdiction.



Mitigation projects to be completed over the next five years (2020 – 2025).

- A. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Project - Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration. This project will enhance approximately 18 acres and improve the management of approximately 3,000 acres of degraded oyster reef habitat across a range of salinity levels and other conditions to better understand the optimal conditions for promoting oyster resiliency to various future disturbances (e.g., increased salinity levels, sedimentation due to storms, etc.). A key objective of the proposed 5-year oyster restoration and research project is to provide important information to inform the design and management of future oyster reef restoration projects.



Photo source: Apalachicola Times

The Apalachicola River watershed, including Apalachicola Bay, is one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the U.S. The Apalachicola Bay oyster fishery represents 90 percent of the total oyster fishery in the state of Florida, and 9 percent of the oyster harvest in the Gulf. Decreased freshwater flows into the Bay, combined with other factors including overharvest and drought, have hastened the decline of this important biological, cultural and economic resource. Oyster harvest in Apalachicola Bay is now at less than 50 percent of historic levels. The multiple stressors impacting oyster populations in the Apalachicola Bay Watershed creates a sense of urgency for management efforts to increase the resiliency of this important resource. The award date was November 2013, however, the status (as of February 2019) is considered active with a cost of \$4,189,400.

- B. Florida State University (FSU) received \$8,000,000 to study how to revive the Apalachicola Bay. The 10-year project will be housed at FSU's Coastal and Marine Laboratory and will work to rehabilitate the community's oyster industry. The FSU proposal indicates that the funding would be used to produce oyster spat or seed for aquaculture and restoration.
- C. A new wastewater treatment plant in Eastpoint is currently being built. The estimated timeframe for completion is within two years at a cost of approximately \$3,500,000.
- D. Control panels will be replaced at an existing lift station in the City of Apalachicola within the next two years.
- E. Details from the Department of Environmental Protection, recent awards from the state revolving fund, January 2020 - A planning and design loan was executed for \$257,950 for water lines in Lighthouse Estates residential subdivision on the west side of Carrabelle. This includes \$128,975 in principal forgiveness which will not have to be repaid by the city.
- F. Living Shoreline Project led by the Apalachee Regional Planning Council– Among the most erosion-prone portions of the Apalachicola Bay coastline between Eastpoint and Carrabelle are about to get a much-needed stabilization to prevent erosion along the shoreline and strengthen coastal US 98. This area is a vital hurricane evacuation route between Apalachicola, Eastpoint and Carrabelle and now is the only way to access the Franklin County Schools. Scope of work: This nature based solution along the water's edge would help lock in and secure sediment with an offshore hard-bottom reef helping to establish the marsh and would add another layer of protection to the roadway. The goal is to increase estuarine habitat while helping to address chronic shoreline erosion. The project timeline will stretch over the next four years.
- G. Phase II of the Marine Street Stormwater Retrofit in Carrabelle - Phase I of this project is funded by a \$462,000 grant from NFWMD and involves removing, repair and replacing existing storm-water utility lines & culverts to more efficiently handle storm-water runoff along Marine Street, and installation of a rain garden in what is now the round gravel "pit" next to the boat ramp. Phase I is designed to eliminate all the storm-water "ponding" along the southern end of Marine St, including the large pond at the entrance to the boat ramp "turnaround". The Community Redevelopment Agency partnered with the WMD to fund Phase II of the project by allocating up to \$150,000, which will include repair of the decorative streetlights along Marine St, resurfacing of Marine St & SE Ave E, and repair of storm-water runoff issues affecting buildings on Marine St between SE Ave B and Hwy 98.

The considerable changes in development that have occurred (2015 – 2019) or will occur over the next ten years will **decrease the vulnerability** from strong hurricane force winds by providing secure structural buildings for critical facilities (i.e. police station; in addition the EOC and County Jail were wind retrofitted and completed in 2015; to providing a new wastewater treatment plant) to introducing coastal erosion control preventative measures from storm surge and flooding events; to establishing and restoring the Apalachicola Bay oyster fishery.

Table 6.1 are the mitigation initiatives or projects that have been completed over the last several years. Detailed specifics on the agency responsible for implementation, the estimated total cost for the project, the funding source, and timeframe for project completion are located in Appendix B, the Franklin County Local Mitigation Strategy Project Master List.

Table 6.1 – Mitigation Projects Completed (2015 – 2019)

LMS Mitigation Projects or Initiatives for Franklin County Scope of Work	Hazards Mitigated
Purchase and install a countywide telephone emergency notification system, Nixle.	All Hazards
Installation of hydrologic monitoring gauges on the following rivers: Apalachicola, Ochlockonee, Crooked and the New.	Flooding
In Eastpoint, built a new water well in 2012. A secondary well was built and completed in 2017.	All Hazards
Institute a flag system and display board for the St. George and Carrabelle beaches.	All Hazards
Install weather water and wind gauges on all bridges and several locations throughout Franklin County	All Hazards
Upgraded a lift station in the City of Apalachicola with installation of a new generator in 2017.	All Hazards
Perform a study on the effects of severe hurricanes, high winds, tropical storms, tornadoes and storm surge on businesses that perform essential services to the community.	Hurricanes, tropical storms, severe thunderstorms, strong winds, tornadoes, waterspouts, storm surge
There were 34 Franklin County residents that hurricane proofed their homes through the hurricane loss mitigation program.	Hurricanes, tropical storms, severe thunderstorms, strong winds, and tornadoes
As stated in the Flood Mitigation Assistance Plan 52 repetitive loss properties were mitigated in recent years via relocation or acquisition/demolition.	Flooding

Deleted Mitigation Projects

There were nine mitigation projects that we deleted since the last LMS Plan. The Working Group determined that the projects could be removed from the LMS Project list. See Appendix B for details.

LMS Plan Evaluation, Maintenance and Update

The Franklin County Emergency Management Director in conjunction with the Franklin County LMS Working Group coordinates the following process for monitoring, evaluating, and revising the LMS Plan over the five year period.

The Franklin County EM Director will be responsible for monitoring the LMS plan. This includes technical and clerical support for the benefit of the LMS Working Group. The EM Director will monitor the status of the mitigation projects throughout the year and hazard events that have occurred within the County. If a significant event occurs in Franklin County, for which a LMS-supported project may be eligible for grant funding, a special meeting the LMS Working Group

will be called by the Chair. In addition, the goals and objectives will be evaluated and analyzed to confirm that they are meeting the needs of the County. If there are any required significant changes needed for the LMS Plan, the discussion will occur at the annual meeting with the Working Group.

Every year the LMS Working Group will meet at least once an annual basis and if necessary on a biannual timeframe to discuss the LMS plan's effectiveness on the following topics:

- ✓ Changes to the hazard risk or vulnerability;
- ✓ Discuss each mitigation project and update the status:
 - if any mitigation project has been completed - provide as much detail as possible on the project, the hazard mitigated, the cost, and timeframe to complete the project,
 - if any project needs to be removed or deleted, deferred due to funding or
 - if there are new mitigation projects or initiatives to added to the master list.
- ✓ Review the mitigation goals and objectives to confirm that they are meeting the county's needs;
- ✓ Discuss any revision to applicable maps;
- ✓ Evaluate the repetitive loss properties data; and
- ✓ Changes to the County's critical facilities list.

As a result of these efforts, any significant changes as well as information required in accordance with Florida Statute Chapter 27P-22 will be submitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Mitigation Planning Section within the timeframe outlined in the statute, which is in January.

If in the event a disaster should occur, or other type of emergency in the County, the Working Group may choose to meet early in the recovery and then redevelopment phase, soon after damage assessments are conducted. At this point, the current strategy will be reviewed and necessary changes made based on lessons learned from the response and recovery phase of the disaster. Also, new mitigation projects might be identified as a result of the disaster event and will be considered and added to the mitigation project list if deemed viable.

The Working Group will begin the 5-year update process as close to the 18-months prior to the expiration of the LMS Plan. The plan update will be based on an evaluation and analysis of the risk and vulnerability assessment. The intent is to incorporate any changes in the estimate of replacement costs, new scientific data on hazards, the effects hazards have on the communities, changes in growth patterns, and if there are any reductions in vulnerability due to completion of mitigation projects.

Once the risk assessment is updated, the Working Group will utilize this information and evaluate the goals, objectives, and actions contained in the LMS to determine if they are still applicable.

In addition, the Working Group will evaluate whether or not the communities have the resources available to implement current and new programs and projects. The updated LMS will also capture the planning process followed during the update of the Plan.

During the 5-year LMS evaluation and revision process, one or more public meetings will be conducted and include elected and appointed County officials, each participating municipality, and the general public, for consideration of the proposed comments or changes. The updated LMS plan was available online at the County EM website to give the public an opportunity to review the document prior to the final plan approval.

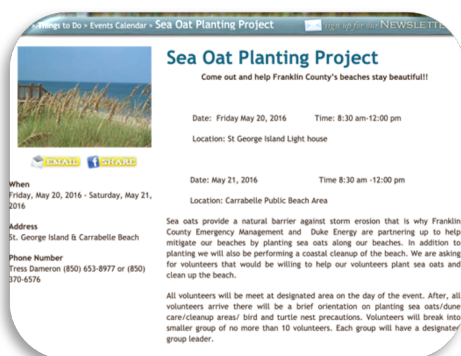
Continued Public Involvement

Educating the County citizens on mitigation, preparedness, and public safety is an important issue for Franklin County. The Emergency Management office does an excellent job in getting the community involved in mitigation. Here is just some of the activities:



- ✓ The Emergency Management Department is actively involved with the annual Florida Seafood Festival held in Apalachicola by participating with a float in the parade and an EM booth where mitigation and preparedness materials are distributed to the County residents and visitors.

- ✓ Speaking engagements occur throughout the year on disaster preparedness, mitigation and weather for several organizations, clubs, schools and local groups.
- ✓ Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – The CERT program has an active membership and provides training on a bi-annual basis, including CPR/First Aid.
- ✓ Over the last several years, the EM staff has performed 15 CPR classes for schools and daycares throughout the County.



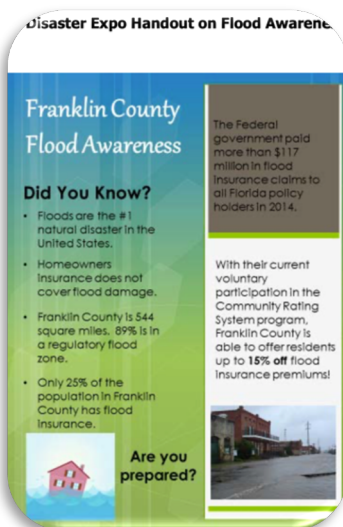
- ✓ Numerous volunteers participate in sea oat planting mitigation project. The sea oats provide a natural barrier against storm erosion.

- ✓ St. James Bay Rehabilitation Center – the EM staff drove a marked EOC response vehicle in the COVID 19 Hello Parade. Then materials were distributed to the residents of the center.

- ✓ The Emergency Management Office participated in the 2nd Annual Disaster Expo and distributed materials to attendees.



- ✓ The EM staff was actively engaged with several workshops through the years:



- Living Shorelines
- Blue Carbon
- FEMA Flood Insurance Information
- Invasive Exotic Species

Flood Survey

- ✓ A comprehensive flood survey was available for the County residents through the EM website. This survey was developed with the Flood Mitigation Assistance Plan in 2016.



The Flood Survey summary results is located in Appendix F, Franklin Flood Mitigation Plan. Highlights from the survey include details from the highest response:

1. How long have you lived in Franklin County? 34.78% state 10 - 19 years
2. What town do you live in? Apalachicola
3. Have you experienced or been impacted by flooding in Franklin County? 60.87% answered no
4. When was the last time you experienced flooding? Various answers
5. Where do think most of your flooding comes from? 60% - Ocean/Bay
6. How prepared are you and household/business for the probable impacts of flooding? 54.55% - somewhat prepared for some events
7. Looking back over the past 5 years, which statement about Franklin County weather do you believe to be true? I haven't noticed a difference.
8. Does your street flood when it rains? 81.82% stated no

9. If yes, please provide the street name and nearest cross street. [Various answers](#)
10. How many times has the street flooded in the last 12 months? [78.95% stated I don't know](#)
11. Is your home/business located in a floodplain? [45.45% stated no](#)
12. Do you currently have flood insurance on your home? [54.55% stated no](#)
13. If you don't have flood insurance, please indicate why? [Not located in a floodplain](#)
14. Have you taken any actions to make your home, business or neighborhood more resistant to flooding? [66.67% stated no](#)
15. If yes, please explain. [Various answers](#)
16. Are you interested in ways to make your home, business, or neighborhood safer when it floods? [95.65% stated yes](#)
17. Are you in favor of spending tax dollars on mitigation projects for the benefit for the entire community? [69.57% stated yes](#)
18. How do you prefer to receive information about how to better protect your home, business, or neighborhood? [65.22% stated email](#)
19. How do you currently receive weather alerts? [66.67% stated cell phone](#)
20. There are many ways Franklin County can reduce the risk from flooding. [Five categories, various answers](#)

The Franklin County Emergency Management Department staff will continue the following activities and programs to involve public participation in the mitigation program for the County. Participating in each of these activities have been very successful in the past years in educating the Franklin County citizens. The goal over the next five years is to increase an even greater partnership with the general public.

- ✓ Continue to participate in the Florida Seafood Festival with an Emergency Management float in the parade and an EM booth at the festival where materials are disseminated.
- ✓ Instruct and educate clubs, schools, local groups on disaster preparedness, mitigation and weather. It was discussed that outreach would also be evaluated for mitigation presentations to churches and chamber meetings.
- ✓ Proceed with the sea oat planting mitigation project and try to engage more volunteers from the local community.
- ✓ Emergency Management has a strong and active CERT team. The goal is to develop and enlarge the CERT team for the County.
- ✓ Search out for additional workshops and/or Expos to attend and distribute mitigation materials, and
- ✓ Update the Franklin County Flood Survey and distribute it to the entire County for feedback and participation.

Over the last 15 years Franklin County Emergency Management has continued to evaluate which methods have worked in public outreach and participation. As stated, Franklin EM has been very successful in gaining public participation with many mitigation activities and informing the residents on the mitigation efforts. The goal each year is to continue to improve and reach out to more residents to make the County a safer place for future generations.

The Franklin County LMS Working Group held scheduled meetings throughout the 5-year mitigation planning process cycle. All meetings will be public meetings as required by Article I, 24 (b) of the Florida Constitution and any exceptions to this law would have to be duly noted. A legal notice of all County LMS meetings was advertised on the online websites and in the following newspaper prior to each meeting inviting the public to attend and participate. There was an opportunity at every meeting for the public citizens to provide comment on the Local Mitigation Strategy and planning process for updating the LMS. As stated, private citizens participate with the LMS meetings. All LMS meeting notices were announced at the:

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

<https://www.facebook.com/FranklinEOC/>

- ✓ Apalachicola Times

<https://www.apalachitimes.com/>

- ✓ LMS Meeting Notices were announced at the County Commissioner's meetings.

The LMS Working Group provided an alternative method for those interested in the County mitigation efforts and are unable to attend the LMS meetings.

Public Involvement with the LMS Plan



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.

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

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.

After approval by the County LMS Working Group, the revised plan and appropriate crosswalk was submitted to the State for review and final approval.

Upon receiving an “approved pending adoption” letter from the FDEM, the LMS Working Group will present the updated plan to the Board of County Commissioners as well as the Commissions of the City of Apalachicola and the City of Carrabelle for approval and adoption. At least one jurisdiction must adopt the updated plan within one year of receiving “approved pending adoption” letter in order to receive a final approval. All other jurisdictions must adopt the updated plan in order to be eligible for federal mitigation grant funds.