

**Leon County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan Focus Group Meeting
Tallahassee Renaissance Center - Tallahassee, Florida
October 4, 2011 – 9:30 am**

Meeting Summary

Attendees

Ryan Guffey

Chris Horne

Denise Imbler

Alex Mahon

Greg Mauldin

Keith McCarron

Emily Meyer

Marc Phelps

Susan Poplin

Robby Powers

Chris Rietow

Richard Smith

Larry Strickland

Janice Watson

Scott Weisman

Representing

Leon County Department of Development Support
and Environmental Management Services Lee Hartsfield

Tallahassee-Leon County GIS Department (TLCGIS)

Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department (TLCPD)

Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)

Leon County Health Department

Tallahassee-Leon County GIS Department (TLCGIS)

Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)

Florida Department of Emergency Management

City of Tallahassee Stormwater

Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department (TLCPD)

City of Tallahassee Emergency Management

Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)

Leon County Emergency Management

Capital City Builders Association

Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)

Tallahassee-Leon County GIS Department (TLCGIS)

Welcome

Denise Imbler welcomed everyone to the third Leon County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP) Focus Group Meeting and before beginning the discussion, asked the attendees to introduce themselves and to identify the agency they represented.

Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Assessment Chapter Update

Scott Weisman, Greg Mauldin, and Lee Hartsfield of the Tallahassee-Leon County GIS (TLCGIS) Department, gave the Group an update on their progress on the development of the HAZUS hurricane model methodology. Mr. Weisman explained that the model would be based on a specific user defined scenario. Denise Imbler pointed out that the model allows the user to create a unique tropical storm or hurricane impact and then once created the model will produce the economic, monetary, and social impacts resulting from the particular storm as created. Richard Smith suggested running 5 different storm models, based on the 5 hurricane categories. Emily Meyer stated that most other Counties have only run models based on Category 3, 4, and 5 storms. Ms. Imbler also noted that it would be very unlikely that the PDRP would be implemented with anything less than a Category 3 storm. Lee Hartsfield reported that the TLCGIS had been discussing possibly running a slow moving storm model that dumps a lot of rain as well as a Category 3 or above fast moving storm model with a lot of wind. Ms. Meyer suggested that the best approach would be to plan catastrophically from a higher level

and then work down from there. Ms. Imbler stressed that if the need does arise to implement the PDRP, specific portions may be put into action, without implementing the entire plan. Mr. Smith stated that the Recovery Ordinance works in exactly the same manner, where only the portions needed are implemented.

The TLCGIS staff, outlined the essential facilities that would be included in the HAZUS model. They explained that the TLCGIS would augment data as needed. They also stated that it was their intent to include in the emergency facilities category: hospitals, emergency operations centers, and other medical care facilities including doctor's offices and nursing homes.

The TLCGIS staff reviewed for the Group, the default inventory data supplied with the HAZUS which relies on census population data from 2000. They explained that it would not necessarily affect the monetary impact because property values used to assess losses are updated as much as possible, do not rely on population and may not be significantly different from earlier values due to market conditions. It was noted the new 2010 census data would not be available until 2012. Ms. Imbler questioned why communications had not been included in the inventory, and the TLCGIS staff agreed to add it to the inventory.

Ms. Imbler asked about the feasibility of adding the layer which included all the dams in the County. TLCGIS staff explained that their layer outlining the dams also included all of the 400 plus stormwater ponds in the county, which would cloud the model if included. The TLCGIS staff assured the Group that they would be making Leon County specific changes wherever they could to the default inventory. Ms. Imbler noted that Chris Rietow of the ARPC was preparing an updated hazardous material site list that would also be beneficial to include. There was some discussion about whether or not a natural gas line mapping project recently completed by the TLCGIS could be included but it was determined that it may not be feasible as the software is point based and the natural gas project is a line.

Ms. Imbler questioned where that lift stations might be included. TLCGIS staff stated that it would probably be included in the essential facilities section. TLCGIS staff also noted that the list could be updated as needed.

Keith McCarron questioned whether or not the model would incorporate both 2000 and 2010 census data. TLCGIS staff replied that it was their intent to use only 2010 census data in the model where the model would allow the input and that they would continue to include the new American Community Survey 2010 data as it was made available to them.

Richard Smith questioned whether the public transportation inventory also included independent providers such as Big Bend Transit. TLCGIS staff stated that they assumed it did, but they would research the matter further during a more in-depth review of all the categories in the default inventory. They explained that the purpose of the scheduled upcoming review was specifically for becoming more familiar with what each category included.

TLCGIS staff reviewed a hurricane loss estimation methodology output. It was discussed whether the data should be regional or just specifically for Leon County. By general consensus the Group decided to give the question posed some additional thought and make a final determination on the issue at a future PDRP Focus Group meeting.

Ms. Imbler asked what version of SLOSH was being used by the model, explaining that if the model was not using the new version it would drastically affect the output because the old version stopped at the Wakulla County line. TLCGIS stated that they would research the SLOSH question and report back to the Group on the issue.

TLCGIS explained that they are now getting to the point of work on the model where they are examining the data levels to determine whether or not there is already local data available which might be better. They noted that once the best data is identified, they will determine whether or not the model even allows for the process of inputting the local data. They also noted that in some cases more detail may not have any effect on the end model and likewise not change the overall analysis. TLCGIS discussed that they may have to run a proposed scenario to determine what impacts are ultimately affected, before the final model is run. Ms. Imbler asked when they needed the draft scenario, and TLCGIS stated that it would be best to have it by the end of the month. It was discussed that it might be easier to run an actual past storm to test the model than to spend a lot of time creating a new scenario. Ms. Imbler agreed to put the TLCGIS staff in touch with Jeff Evans of the Tallahassee National Weather Service who could provide them with the past storm GIS data in a format compatible with the model.

Ms. Imbler questioned what housing data year was being used by the model, noting that if 2004 data was being used, it would not be reflective of actual property values in 2011. TLCGIS staff explained that every version of the software has updated data to assist in the most possible accuracy of the output, emphasizing that the model was and always would be merely an estimate based on actual real life events. Ms. Imbler stated on behalf of the Group that she was comfortable with the data sets being used and that the Group would decide from the information provided, what and how many scenarios would need to be produced.

Review of Draft Institutional Capacity Assessment

Ms. Imbler reviewed the emergency management portion of the Draft Institutional Capacity Assessment and stated that the PDRP would support the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). She noted that after the process was completed, the LMS may have to be updated to comply with the more detailed data provided in the PDRP. It was discussed that the County, the City, and the hospitals have both Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) and Continuity of Operation Plans (COOP) already in place. Also discussed was the section noting that the County and the City have a combined ordinance temporarily permitting the use of a mobile home or recreational vehicle when a single family residence has been rendered uninhabitable from a disaster incident. Ms. Meyer questioned the absence of debris management. Ms. Imbler stated that it was handled by Leon County Public Works and had been addressed in the infrastructure portion. Ms. Imbler asked the Group to read over the draft carefully and email her with any corrections or deletions to the document as presented.

Ms. Imbler explained that land use was one of the most controversial and central topics to address in a PDRP. She noted that in the land use section she had tried to address numerous issues that could possibly surface during a post-disaster period due to existing plans that might produce legal obstacles in the process of re-development.

Ms. Imbler reported that floodplain management was done routinely by Leon County and as updated information was provided it would be incorporated into the data of the PDRP. She noted that the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) would serve as the liaison between the local government and FEMA which recognizes the new data when submitted. It was discussed that the section might be updated to state that Leon County already has in place a relationship with FEMA for the continuing process of updating its FIRM.

It was discussed that both the County and City have adopted the State Land Development Code (LDC) and after the final analysis, possible changes needed in the current LDC might be included as part of the Focus Groups' final recommendations.

Susan Poplin suggested that the manner in which various health and human services such as the Departments of Health and Elder Affairs, and mental health services were to be provided during the post disaster period, might also be addressed in the capacity assessment. Ms. Meyer stated that the issue of how long social services case management workers could function successfully in a skeleton facility during the post-disaster redevelopment period would also be beneficial to include. Ms. Imbler stated that she would continue to work with Ms. Poplin on these issues who to date has provided much useful information in reference to existing capacity in these areas. Ms. Imbler noted that the gaps would be addressed in the action items.

Ms. Imbler stated that her research had confirmed that historic preservation funds were available post-disaster to assist residents in the redevelopment of their historic properties.

Ms. Imbler reported that in reference to building permits, there was no process currently in place to waive the requirements of re-building to the new building codes for a previously grandfathered-in structure. It was discussed that maybe the Group could suggest at a minimum, the inclusion of an expedited permitting process. Ryan Guffey stated that there were provisions in the current building code for some leniency in the case of natural disaster.

Chris Rietow reported that he had worked with the staff of all the County and City Infrastructure departments gathering input before writing the narrative. He requested the Group to review the section and email him with any comments on the infrastructure portion of the draft assessment.

Ms. Imbler briefly reviewed the economic development section prepared by Bruce Ballister of the ARPC and noted that Mr. Ballister was currently working with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to determine which of their programs might be accessible post-disaster.

Richard Smith requested that an acronym definition sheet be included in the document. Susan Poplin and Cherie Horne indicated that the County has initially reorganized to establish the Planning, Land Management and Community Enhancement Department. The planning division is one section within this new PLACE Department. References to the Department within the PDRP should be revised as appropriate when the departmental reorganization is complete.

Review of Draft Financial Strategy

Ms. Imbler explained that the Draft Financial Strategy discussed the revenue sources coming in and the flexibility of the elected bodies to use those funds in response to a catastrophic event. She stated that both the Leon County and City of Tallahassee Finance Directors had conveyed to her that they were very comfortable with the Financing Strategies currently in place. Ms. Imbler noted that gaps, if any were noted, would be addressed in the action plan. Keith McCarron added that it might be beneficial to note whether or not accessible funding sources required matching dollars. Emily Meyer stated that roles and responsibilities might be also good to include. Richard Smith noted that in his experience matching dollar requirements had often been waived in previous catastrophic events.

Housing Strategy Work Group Update

Ms. Imbler stated that she had been assured by the Housing Work Group that one of the main objectives of the housing strategy was to provide affordable housing from 90 days until 18 months post-disaster and then to take the process to completion by getting the displaced residents back into permanent housing. Emily Meyer stated that she would check and see if there were other similar housing strategies from communities of like size to Tallahassee that the Housing Strategy could be modeled after and agreed to forward any information gained to the ARPC.

Next Meeting

Ms. Imbler thanked everyone for their participation and announced that the next Focus Group Meeting would be on November 8, 2011 at the same location and at the same time. She stated that the meeting was scheduled to include a report from the Housing Work Group, another update from the TLCGIS, and a brainstorming session on what would be the best way to approach public outreach.