

Planning & Capacity Branch – Lee County Recovery Task Force

Meeting Minutes

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM | NOVEMBER 14, 2023 | COLLABORATORY | 2031 JACKSON STREET,
FORT MYERS, FL 33901 | PUBLIC MEETING

Call to Order

At 2:03 PM on November 14, 2023, Sandy Stilwell-Youngquist, Branch Lead, convened the Planning & Capacity Branch meeting with the following Members present:

- Sandy Stilwell-Youngquist, Branch Lead
- Jennifer Hagen
- Stephanie Wardein
- Steve Belden
- Alvin Henderson

Facilitators and Branch Support:

- Tessa LeSage, Collaboratory
- Tracey, Phillips Hagerty Consulting
- Robbie Heere, Hagerty Consulting

Introductions

Ms. LeSage provided an update on the work of the Recovery Task Force and the ResilientLee Recovery and Resilience Planning Process.

Upcoming Community Engagement

Ms. LeSage summarized the upcoming community engagement series regarding the Initiatives of the Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Updated Initiative Review

The Support Team introduced each Initiative for discussion with Branch Members.

Supporting Regional Disaster Debris Management

- Members discussed coordination, communication, cost recovery, and reimbursement of debris management.
- Members suggested updating the Stakeholder List to be more generalized and include further entities.

Strengthening Emergency Logistical Resources

- Members suggested adding coordination with nonprofits and faith-based organizations that provide significant support services during emergency response.
- Members suggested cross-referencing the Initiative with the Resilience Hubs Initiative.
- Members suggested clarifying whether the Initiative addresses community-wide logistical resources or logistical resources for first responders.
- Members suggested clarifying and further defining “centers.”
- Members suggested an important aspect of pre-planning is in the time before Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) are set up that could start the process to support residents in need with FEMA (EMRIC) communication.
- Members suggested including volunteerism coordination and adding volunteers as a resource.
- Members suggested for implementation, consideration be given to timing and lifecycle of recovery and the importance of long-term recovery.

Increasing Cost Recovery Capacity

- Members requested checking the use of the term, “jurisdiction.” The intent is to have a definition that serves the local purpose in cost recovery planning.
- Members stated the grant process can be difficult and requires prior planning. Cost recovery requires transparency and coordination to determine who has the legal responsibility when there is shared ownership for certain items. Implementation could look at facility ownership and how to be proactive on cost recovery so management can be improved. Further consideration should be given to clarifying and coordinating the correct use of terms.

Planning Regional Resilience

- Members suggested determining the relationship between the maps and the data presented in the overlay.
- Members discussed the need to define short-term and long-term recovery and resilience to improve respective strategies.
- Members discussed the implementation of mixed-use. The City of Fort Myers codes allow commercial mixed-use, but developers have cited many reasons not to build mixed-use areas. Incentives could be a tool to support the data behind making decisions for mixed-use development. Further consideration should be given to reimagining how this could work in the area and the diversification of incentives to make this possible.

Next Steps

Members discussed the next process steps, including that they will be notified about the next Branch meeting.

Public Comment

No request for Public Comment.

Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Ms. LeSage thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting at 3:35 PM.