

**Leon County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan  
Tallahassee Renaissance Center  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
435 North Macomb Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301**

**Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:30a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees**

**Representing**

Glenn Dodson	City of Tallahassee Growth Management Department
Jeff Evans	Tallahassee National Weather Service
Ryan Guffey	Leon County Development Support and Environmental Management Services
Denise Imbler	Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)
Lamarr Kemp	Leon County Division of Housing
Alex Mahon	Leon County Health Department
Gary Oberschlake	City of Tallahassee Electric
Mark Phelps	City of Tallahassee Stormwater
Susan Poplin	Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department (TLCPD)
Robby Powers	City Emergency Management
Larry Strickland	Tallahassee Homebuilders Association
Cynthia Valencia	Capital Area Community Action Agency

**Welcome**

Denise Imbler welcomed everyone to the March Focus Group Meeting and asked for brief introductions. The purpose of the meeting was to go over the Action Plan recommendations and then to discuss ideas and framework for the Plan Implementation Chapter of the PDRD.

**Review of Action Plan**

The Action Plan is on the website and close to finalization. Denise indicated she requested input from Talquin Electric regarding the utilities section and is awaiting those comments. On the Economic Development Section, final comments are being developed by Tallahassee-Leon County planning and City Economic Development staff; Denise is awaiting those comments also. Planning staff in attendance offered to follow-up with the planning section to make sure comments are received.

Denise reported that the Debris Management Plan identified in the Action plan is being updated. The new Leon County Debris Management Plan will be available in February.

With regard the Housing Section, Lamarr Kemp reported that the County Housing Department is looking at future bonds and other sources for recovery/redevelopment purposes. Lamarr shared that the Leon County Housing Finance Authority had met and

discussed potentially issuing a set of future bonds that are only active in a major disaster. The item was tabled by the authority in order to further discuss the financial aspects of the PDRP and to explore board issuance of bonds with specific PDRP language. Denise also mentioned the possibility of future participation in a more detailed “host” community Housing Plan for the PDRP through the Florida Division of Emergency Management. The “host” plan would provide details on accommodating those survivors that evacuate to Leon County from surrounding areas including Gulf, Franklin, Wakulla and Jefferson counties.

The Health Care section is complete. Denise commented that in her meeting with the health care contingent that many of the programs are geared for immediate response. However, there may be some applicability of existing programs for post-disaster purposes, i.e., use of counselors and counselor programs.

The Economic Development section is still under development. In looking at the programs under the Small Business Administration, ARPC staff is determining what resources are available that could be used in a post-disaster scenario. The group had previously discussed potential for education and training by SBA on their available resources and will continue to follow-up on that issue as an action plan item.

The Land Use Section is complete. Planning staff indicated that review of the revised section had not been completed. Planning staff indicated they would look at that section and provide comments if necessary in the next week.

With regard to the essential services center established at the response stage, Denise commented that she did not include the Community Organizations Active in Disaster [COAD] comments because of the transitional nature of the center. EOC/center activities would transition to other service providers and programs in the post-disaster stage.

### Implementation Plan

Denise passed out a discussion document providing an initial framework for the Implementation Plan. In the implementation section we must discuss when we activate the plan, who maintains and initiates updates to the plan, and how often it is updated.

Activation of the Long-Term Coordination Recovery Group was discussed. The group would be the official representative advisory body for the PDRP and have responsibility for activating those parts of the PDRP that are pertinent in a disaster scenario. In discussing the method of activation, Denise commented that historically there have been two ways to activate the group. One way is through the board of county commissioners and the other is via ordinance that identifies steps for activation. After discussing possible activation methods, the group recommended a joint decision by the County Administrator and the City Manager. The County Administrator and the City Manager would activate the group based on the recommendation of Leon County Emergency Management. Once the group is activated, the group would in turn make a decision to activate the portion or portions of the PDRP plan and the agency(ies) or entity(ies) with authority or expertise in the subject area would implement as directed in the plan.

Denise suggested identifying personnel in the Implementation Plan that would carry out specific functions for the PDRP. The PDRP Coordinator would be responsible for plan maintenance and updates, and is the public point of contact. It was suggested that planning staff fill this function and perhaps use the LMS update process/committee to also maintain and update the PDRP. Planning staff commented that this issue would need to be discussed internally before responding to the proposed responsibilities and function for the PDRP coordinator.

Other personnel functions were recommended for a Disaster Recovery Coordinator, an Economic Recovery Coordinator, and a Hazard Mitigation Coordinator. With regard to a Disaster Recovery Development Coordinator, the role of the coordinator would be identify and secure disaster assistance from state agencies and the federal government. It was felt the recommendation for this should come from the County Administrator and Denise is going to explore this item with the County grants coordinator. The group further discussed the potential for the county grants administrator or other recommended staff from the County Administrator to fulfill this function.

The Economic Recovery Coordinator would be responsible for facilitating the coordination of economic recovery with the business community following a declared disaster. The group commented that the recommendation for personnel should come from the Economic Development Council and include the greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce. Denise also commented that the ARPC has staff dedicated to economic development and could also serve in this role.

The Hazard Mitigation Coordinator would be responsible for facilitating the coordination of hazard mitigation assistance from the federal government and state agencies available to the county following a declared disaster. The group discussed using the current Local Mitigation Strategy [LMS] committee and coordinator to fulfill this role. The staff could also include emergency management personnel or it could be the treasurer/clerk, etc.

Composition of the Long-Term Recovery Coordination Group was discussed. The group would be identified in the PDRP and would serve in an advisory capacity. Also, the group would be responsible for activating the pertinent portions of the PDRP plan which would then be implemented by those identified in the plan. The group was asked to review the proposed list of participants and identify if this was the "correct" list. Several changes were made to reflect correct department names and to add entities. The health department listing was changed. The American Red Cross was added. The distinction between the PLACE Department and City Growth Management and County Development Support and Environmental Management Services was made. A question was asked regarding what role the state would play due to potential impacts to facilities and to operations. After some discussion, no changes were made to the advisory group. However, it was suggested that the potential for state government participation and input in recovery and redevelopment could be recognized in a "noncommittal" way.

Denise indicated she would revise the section on the advisory group to include a "loose" description of roles and responsibilities for the group. The identified roles will be kept general because we've never implemented a plan like this before and because it will minimize needed future revisions to the PDRP.

## Phases Of Response

The framework for the Implementation Plan includes a description of response and recovery phases. These descriptions allow the reader to determine how the PDRP relates to the phases and to assist in determining when the PDRP should be activated. The phases include emergency response, short-term recovery, and long-term redevelopment. The PDRP plays the greatest role in long-term redevelopment.

The Emergency Response phase includes activities to address immediate and short-term effects of a disaster. Milestones that mark the end of this period include having major streets cleared of debris, allowing reentry to homes, and end of imposed curfews. The group had no comments on this section.

The Short-Term recovery period includes activities such as damage assessment, transitions from shelters to temporary housing, utility restoration and deeper debris removal. Milestones that mark the end of this period include restoration of power and water, schools re-opening, and operation of road network and traffic signals. Denise commented that she will tweak this section to recognize there may still be some non-functional infrastructure.

The Long-Term Redevelopment phase includes reconstruction, holistic long-term recovery, and community enhancement. The PDRP is integral in this phase and should be a lead document to guide efforts. Milestones marking successful completion of this phase include replacement of housing stock, stabilization of economic indicators, reopening of 70% of businesses, and reduction of the percent of population dependent on disaster assistance and social assistance programs to pre-disaster levels. In discussing the section, it was recommended that a bullet on infrastructure be added to reflect one milestone being restoration, rehabilitation or new provision of infrastructure consistent with community plans.

## Last Public Workshop

The group discussed having the last public workshop to coincide with activities through the County and state emergency management departments, and the National Weather Service to ready the local community for the upcoming hurricane season. At this time hurricane preparedness and education events are planned for the airport and Lowe's. The airport event will occur on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed attending and having a question and answer booth at the events in lieu of holding a sole purpose public workshop as before. In looking at the grant requirements, we have met the task deliverables for holding one public workshop and thus the flexibility to use a different format for reaching the public would not be inconsistent with the grant. The group was in favor of exploring this option.

## Next Meeting

The group has tentatively targeted April 24<sup>th</sup> to meet next. At the next meeting the group will review the revised Implementation Plan and also discuss the Outreach and Coordination Chapter.