

MEETING MINUTES

Indian River County
Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group Meeting
Indian River County Emergency Operations Center
4225 43rd Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32967

October 9th, 2025
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Call to Order/ Role Call/ Welcome and Introductions

On October 9, 2025, at approximately 1:00 PM, Ryan Lloyd, Vice Chair of the Indian River County (IRC) Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group (LMS), called the meeting to order with attendee introductions. Today's agenda and minutes from the previous two meetings¹ were unanimously approved.

Project Prioritization List Review

The LMS reviewed the current Project Prioritization List (PPL). Matthew Mitts, City of Vero Beach (COVB) Public Works, presented three previously approved projects with a request to increase estimated funding costs. Revised cost estimates for the following COVB projects were unanimously approved by the LMS:

- Humiston Beach Seawall project: Revised to \$1,000,000
- Conn Beach Seawall and Armoring: Revised to \$12,000,000
- City Hall Storm Hardening: Revised to \$1,000,000

Pete Copeman, IRC School District (IRCSD) Fire Official, will evaluate their Shelter Hardening project to determine if revisions or PPL removal is warranted.

Kevin Burge, City of Fellsmere Utility Director, presented a new Emergency Operations Center project. The estimated cost is \$6.1 million, and construction will take approximately two and one half years (pending funding). The project was added to the PPL through a unanimous LMS vote.

LMS Plan Update

On August 13, 2025, FEMA approved IRC's LMS Plan. IRC and two municipalities (COVB and Sebastian) have adopted the plan². The City of Fellsmere and Indian River Shores' adoptions are scheduled. The LMS was reminded that our Plan is a living document, and partners should submit revisions before the next update cycle in 2028.

Elevate Florida Reallocation

The LMS discussed the Elevate Florida program and identified that Community Rating System (CRS) credit only applies once elevation work is completed and documented. Outreach confusion

¹ March 20, 2025 (Regular Meeting) and June 5, 2025 (Interim Meeting)

² The IRCSD also adopted the LMS Plan on August 25, 2025.

remains regarding Elevate Florida's benefits and local involvement. A Florida Division of Emergency Management vendor has requested meetings with local building and zoning officials. If HMGP funds that were previously allocated for Elevate Florida are unused, then the funds may revert to back to LMS projects.

Legislative, Policy, and Funding Discussion

The LMS discussed Senate Bill 180's cumulative substantial improvement tracking and compliance requirements under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). IRC municipalities continue to seek clarifications, and updates will be shared when available. The LMS also noted service impacts due to the Federal Government shutdown. The LMS was reminded that members may apply for HMGP even if IRC is not initially included since shovel-ready projects can be eligible for Tier 3 funding.

Update LMS Contact List

IRC Emergency Management will distribute an updated LMS contact list. Members were asked to submit points of contact changes.

Public Comment

N/A

Open Discussion

General discussions continued about project readiness, state guidance on SB 180 permitting, and future mitigation funding opportunities.

Next Meetings

April 9, 2026, and October 8, 2026. The LMS agreed to conduct meetings bi-annually unless interim meetings are needed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 PM.