



# LMS TIMES



Volume 23

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**Director's Corner**

**By Mary Blakeney, FPEM, Director, PBCDEM**



We are constantly looking over the horizon to prepare for and mitigate the pervasive threat of natural, technological and human caused hazards. It is imperative for us as leaders to continually educate and remain vigilant to ensure resilience in this dynamic environment. This year we will continue to learn off previous incident/storm responses and Emergency Operations Center Activations. We will incorporate those lessons learned into our drills, exercises and haz-

ard response plans. Our team continues to learn and collaborate mitigating strategies by participating in Martin County and Miami Dade County LMS working groups. Additionally, we have been working alongside PBC's Office of Resilience to examine flood and sea level rise vulnerability assessments.

By the end of March, I am extremely proud that we anticipate having the updated revision to our Local Mitigation Strategy. We also are planning to educate and increase public awareness on the Prioritized Project List so that each municipality in PBC is represented and has a better understanding of the application process. We can't eliminate disasters from happening but we can plan accordingly and minimize their impact!

## Palm Beach County Spotlight

### LMS 2024 Revision



**Local Mitigation Strategy 2024**



Palm Beach County  
Public Safety Department  
Division of Emergency Management

20 South Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415  
561-712-6400

The Final Draft of the LMS 2024 Revision was posted to [readyabc.com](http://readyabc.com) on February 21st. The PBC DEM in conjunction with the LMS Working Group will be holding a Public Forum on the Final Draft at our LMS Working Group Meeting on:

**March 13, 2024 at 9:00am**

**Wellington Community Center**

**12150 Forrest Hill Boulevard**

**Wellington, FL 33414**

The public is encouraged to attend. Please contact Jerri Clairday, LMS Coordinator, at [PBC-LMS@pbcgov.org](mailto:PBC-LMS@pbcgov.org) or 561-712-6481 for more details. See you there! (More information on page 4)

## Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Prioritized Project List (PPL)

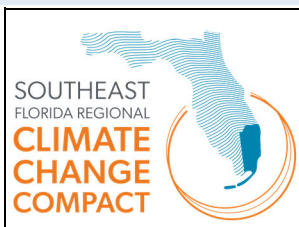
The Prioritized Project List (PPL) is a consolidated list of mitigation projects within the County that are reviewed, scored, and ranked twice per year. The next project submission period will be April 26—May 10, 2024.

Project funding can include Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs (HMGP), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), and Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program (HLMP) to name a few.

The Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide, Element C4-a (Mitigation Strategy Requirements) requires each local government to have a project on the PPL. Existing projects on local Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) could qualify alleviating the need to create a new project.

\*Jerri L. Clairday, LMS Coordinator, [PBC-LMS@pbcgov.org](mailto:PBC-LMS@pbcgov.org) or 561-712-6481\*

## 15th Annual Southeast Florida Climate Leadership Summit



Left to right: Whitney Carroll (Director III PCB PZB, Jerri L. Clairday (LMS/CRS Coordinator PBC DEM), Eoin Devlin (Boca Raton GIS Planner, Alannah Irwin (Boynton Beach Sustainability & Resilience Administrator, and Patrick Rutter (PBC Deputy County Administrator)

15th Annual  
Southeast Florida  
Climate Leadership  
Summit

On November 16th and 17th of 2023, the Southeast Florida Regional Compact hosted the 15th Annual Southeast Florida Climate Leadership Summit at the Miami Beach Convention Center. Sessions included:

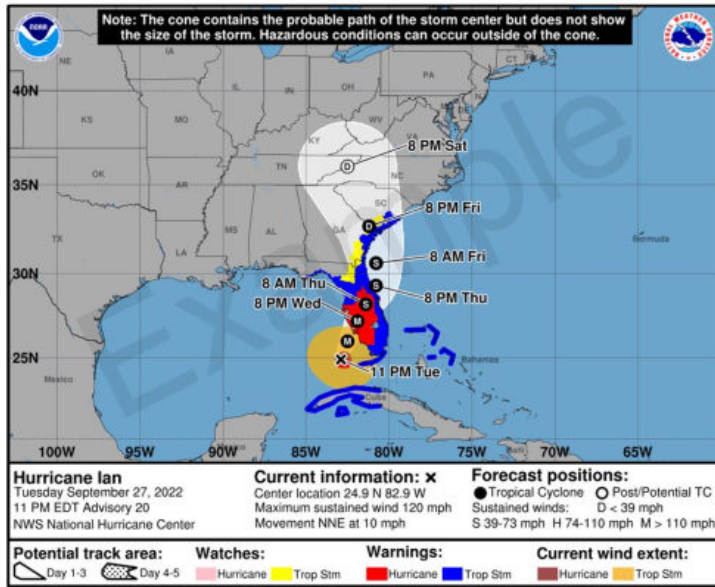
- State of the Climate,
- Role of insurance in equitable and resilient communities,
- Climate gentrification and investing in affordable housing,
- Partnering with the private sector,
- Climate action and activism through art,

- Panels with chief resilience officers from Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties,
- Transformative climate action,
- Regional water management resilience, and
- FEMA resources maximization for South Florida.

The summit was well attended by Palm Beach County with dedication to mitigating the effects of climate change. PBC Commissioner Greg Weiss, Deputy County Administrator Patrick Rutter, and Megan Houston Director of the Office of Resilience spoke on the County's initiatives, challenges, and progress that we've made in relation to vulnerabilities associated with the impacts of climate change.

# The National Weather Service (NWS) Announces 2024 Experimental Cone

## Depicting Inland Watches/Warnings on Cone



- New experimental cone graphic depicting inland U.S. tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings will become available in 2024
- Will help convey wind hazard risk
- Graphic may not be available as soon as the current cone graphic due to the time need to compile complete inland watch and warning information
- Will be available beginning on or around August 15, 2024

Department of Commerce // National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration // 1

## Hurricane Season Begins June 1, 2024

Palm Beach County's Division of Emergency Management maintains webpages dedicated to ensuring public safety ([readypbc.com](http://readypbc.com)). The Official Palm Beach County Hurricane Planning Guide is available in English, Spanish, and Creole. Begin preparations now.

Official Palm Beach County Hurricane Planning Guide

Emergency Information Center | PH: 561.712.6400

Make a Plan Build a Kit Be Informed Get Involved!

www.ReadyPBC.com

- 1 Make A Plan
- 2 Build A Kit
- 3 Get Involved
- 4 Be Informed

### LMS 2024 Revision (continued from page 1)

The LMS Revisions Sub-Committee is wrapping up the final revisions of the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). The LMS is a living document that outlines the County’s mitigation strategy for all-hazards identified as threats to Palm Beach County. Every five (5) years, the document must be revised and submitted to FDEM and FEMA for approval. The revision will be submitted to FDEM on April 1, 2024.

LMS Revisions Sub-Committee members consist of dedicated and passionate practitioners who serve as fire chiefs and firefighters, PBSO personnel, business analysts, directors of public works and safety, utility service managers, and DEM staff. Each member contributes perspective and experience that work symbiotically to protect the County’s residents, guests, infrastructure, and ecosystem.

PBC DEM has published a news release, information on the web ([readyabc.com](http://readyabc.com)), social media, and email information on the revised document and public forum for the LMS 2024 Final Draft.

### KNOW YOUR ZONE!!

Do you live near the coast, poor drainage areas, or sheet flow? Access Palm Beach County’s **Flood Zone Look-up Tool** to determine if your address could be adversely affected.

<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/pages/know-your-zone.aspx>

### FEMA Flood Protection Toolkits

FEMA has numerous resources for property owners to protect their assets from flooding.

| [Flood Protection Toolkit](#) | [FloodSmart](#) or

<https://agents.floodsmart.gov/toolkits/flood-protection-toolkit>

Just one (1) inch of water cause \$25,000 of damage to your home. (NFIP website)

### Letter from the Editor

2023 was an exciting year. I began my journey as the LMS/CRS Coordinator for PBC DEM in April of last year. We continued to mitigate risks, focused on our priorities by working on our CRS recertification, and then plunged into the LMS2024 revision. I am in awe and inspired by the groups of dedicated PBC professionals who are committed to the preservation of life and property.

As we look ahead to 2024 and 2025, I have developed these goals:

#### Goals for 2024 & 2025

1. Increase LMS Working Group attendance to 100% compliance
2. Increase PPL project submission to 100% compliance (Local Mitigation Policy Guide, Section C4-a.)
3. Align the PBC DEM Mitigation Office to educate in awareness and understanding of each funding opportunity
4. Achieve CRS Classification 3

These are large undertakings. With the experience, expertise, and dedication of the members of all of the LMS and CRS Cooperating Committees, I believe that together we will not only meet but exceed these goals.

FEMA’s concept of “Whole Community”: We live it. We are it. Onward!

*Jerri L. Clairday, LMS/CRS Coordinator*

### Request for LMS Times Articles

We are requesting community input for publication in the LMS Times quarterly newsletter. Has your community implemented or completed a mitigation project? If so, please submit a narrative of approximately 500 words along with high resolution photos to:

Jerri L. Clairday, LMS/CRS Coordinator

**Electronic submission:**

[JClairday@pbcgov.org](mailto:JClairday@pbcgov.org)

**Hardcopy submissions:**

20 Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415