



Memorandum

Meeting Details: April 16, 2025 – Board of Commissioners Workshop
Prepared For: Honorable Mayor Brooks and the Board of Commissioners
Staff Contact: Community Development Department
Subject: Pinellas County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS)

Background

The Pinellas County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) is a multi-jurisdictional, FEMA-mandated plan that identifies strategies to reduce or eliminate risks from natural and manmade hazards. As a participating jurisdiction, it is our responsibility to stay engaged with the LMS process and ensure our local priorities are represented.

Discussion

The LMS serves several key functions such as identifying vulnerabilities to hazards such as flooding and hurricanes, develops prioritized projects that can reduce or eliminate those risks, maintains eligibility for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant funding, and coordinates a countywide effort across municipalities and agencies. Participation in the LMS allows the city to submit projects for inclusion on the county's project priority list, increasing our eligibility for federal mitigation funds, influences countywide planning efforts with local knowledge, collaborate on multi-jurisdictional projects, and satisfies a requirement under the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) for mitigation planning. The city must remain in good standing which includes attending LMS working group meetings, updating and submitting mitigation projects, and providing documentation of completed projects.

The LMS must be updated every five (5) years. The last LMS was adopted in 2020, and an updated LMS is near completion and must be adopted May 2025. To comply with FEMA requirements, Pinellas County initiated the 5-year update process well in advance. The updated 2025 LMS plan has been completed and reviewed by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), which has provided an Approved Pending Adoption letter. Adopting the updated LMS plan before the expiration of the current plan is crucial. The updated 2025 LMS plan will be presented at the May BOC Regular Meeting for formal adoption.

For more information please visit: <https://www.pinellaslms.org/>

Fiscal Impact

This depends on whether the city applies and receives funds for HMA grants.

Recommendation(s)

Adopting the 2025 LMS plan.

Attachments/Corresponding Documents

- Resolution 2020-12 LMS Adoption (Madeira Beach)
- 2025 LMS Plan Executive Summary

- 2025 Plan update summary of changes
- Pinellas County LMS approved pending adoption FDEM