

EM Program Stakeholders Meeting Minutes for March 2026

Director Cooper welcomed everyone, thanked everyone for participating, reminded everyone that Hurricane Season begins in a few months and asked everyone to address their preparedness measures, response capabilities, any losses in capacity, and commitment of resources for any activations needed.

EM Program – Quarterly Update

- The FEMA-approved Natural Hazards Mitigation Strategy has been adopted by all jurisdictions. Copies of their resolutions will be added and the whole document will be published on the www.OneNassau.com website. Mark Wilson asked the County to provide a final version of the annex they want to add so that it can be included. Director Cooper advised everyone that he hoped this would be the last Hazard Mitigation Strategy developed under his watch, and the next statutorily required plan would be the Comprehensive Emergency Management Program Base Plan that will have to conform to FDEM's new requirements.
- EM Staff Training & Exercises Completed this quarter:
 - Marcia completed the All-Hazards Finance Administration Section Chief course
 - Mark and Marci completed the Science of Disasters course
 - Jami has completed her second week-long course in FEMA's year-long Advanced EM Academy
 - Scott is attending the All-Hazards Logistics Section Chief course this week; recently received his UAS pilot license and joined the NCSO Drone Team
 - EM staff conducted a COOP exercise in January to test remote communications
 - EM staff participated in the NWS statewide tornado drill
 - EM staff conducted four damage assessment operations classes with 60 personnel from Hilliard, CoFB, and the unincorporated county – Logistics still needs to identify sources for the vehicles and smart phones or iPads that will be needed if the entire county needs an Initial Assessment within 48 hours
- EM staff worked with NCSO and fire rescue to develop a comprehensive IAP for emergency services at the Wildlight Run Wild 5K event and The Amelia car show
- Nassau EM hosted the FDEM Region 4 Quarterly EM Directors Mtg in February; it included a hurricane readiness review with State Emergency Response Team representatives from Tallahassee.
- FDEM's annual Statewide Hurricane Exercise (HurrEx) is scheduled for **April 13-15**. EM Staff will participate with table-tops on the **Preparedness Operation** and **Response Operations** days (third day is a Recovery scenario) to test communications procedures in preparation for a tropical cyclone; FDOH plans to participate with EM to test communication procedures for ESF-6/8 SpN Registry call-down procedures and EM's new GIS interface.
Director Cooper invited other stakeholders who need to or want to test their plans for these phases to participate with EM in the EOC on April 13 and 14.

*Please advise the EM Training & Exercise Coordinator (Jami McCormick) **if your agency would like to participate**, including the number of people who will be at the EOC, the plan to be exercised,*

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and the plan's target capabilities you intend to test so they can be included in the HurrEx documents.

- FDEM's Training Symposium in Orlando (to meet training requirements set in SB 180) is scheduled for the first week of June and registration is open online. Every county is obligated send two personnel to attend the required trainings in person, the first one from EM and a second one from County management or from EM; fiscally constrained counties only have to send one person to attend the week-long event. A "Virtual Attendee" option is available for those not required to attend in person.
- The *Local Communicators Network* held its first quarterly meeting with a virtual option; it was well attended – all stakeholders are encouraged to have their Information Officers, Public Relations staff, and Social Media Managers get with Jami McCormick to participate in the LCN to ensure efficient coordination and consistent messaging to the public during emergencies. Chief Tambasco asked to be included in their quarterly meeting invitations.
- EM staff have already had a pre-hurricane-season planning meeting with FPL – we'd like each of our stakeholders to meet and discuss their roles in the EOC's new ESF hybrid model before June.
- *Identified EM Program GAP* – A secure, environmentally stable storage facility for all of the EM Program's **training equipment** like our CPR mannequins and *StopTheBleed* kits, and **disaster supplies** of cots and blankets, drinking water, MREs, muck-out kits, tarps, and our standby communications equipment (phones, MiFis, iPads, and radio go-kits), and 4 portable generators. Current facilities have outlived their usefulness: insufficient space overall, Conex boxes and sheds have proven widely accessible to people and vermin, have allowed mold to build up on supplies and equipment, and are allowing damage to expensive electronics.
- **2026 EM Training Program Updates**
 - Annual 6-week *Ham Radio Technicians* course begins Wednesday night, March 25th (7-9 pm) with review and exam on the sixth Wednesday.
 - *Community Preparedness Program* – 10 AM on the second Thursday each month at the EOC (CPP Passport training topics are subject to change)
January and February held Help Until Help Arrives and AHA CPR/AED, *Ocean Rescue's water safety class will be held tomorrow* – Monthly Schedule is on the OneNassau website
 - *TEAM for GIRLS* (Training, Education, Activities, and Mentorship for Girls Interested in Response, Leadership, and Safety) – **June 22-26** – the schedule is set and registration opens **May 1st**.
- **Natural Hazards Mitigation Strategy and Prioritized Project List Updates**

Mark Wilson (LMS Chair) reiterated that each participating jurisdiction has passed resolutions adopting the FEMA-approved Natural Hazards Mitigation Strategy. The resolutions will be added to the document and posted on the Stakeholders page of the OneNassau website. Although the unincorporated county has asked to have an annex appended to the Mitigation Strategy, only a draft version has been developed; when the final version is approved it will be added to the document.

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Mitigation Projects funded/initiated, completed, or withdrawn – Andre Desilet said that the CoFB Area 6 project will be completed this fiscal year; the CoFB Waterfront Resiliency project will be split into three phases, funded by State of Florida appropriations.

Additional mitigation projects to be added to the prioritized list should be submitted for scoring and ranking, either to Mark in EM or jurisdictional mitigation project contacts: Andre Deliset for the City, Lee Ann Wollitz for the Town of Hilliard, or Katie Peay for the unincorporated county.

HLMP (Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program through the State of Florida) \$250,000 annual grant opportunity (one per jurisdiction; letters of intent are required in advance of application) – the unincorporated county submitted two letters of intent but withdrew them both; Town of Hilliard submitted one for their generators a lift stations project.

HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – funded by congress only after Federal Disaster Declarations) application deadlines have passed for the 2024 declared storms. An Acquisition & Demolition project was submitted for Hurricane Debby HMGP; the unincorporated county opted to turn over all Tier 1 funds allocated for Nassau after Hurricane Helene to the Elevate Florida program; Nassau was not in Tier 1 for Hurricane Milton and no Nassau jurisdictions elected to submit any applications for potential Tier 2 or Tier 3 funding.

Stakeholder Updates

(changes to capabilities/capacities, updates to plans, grants, projects, training & exercises held)

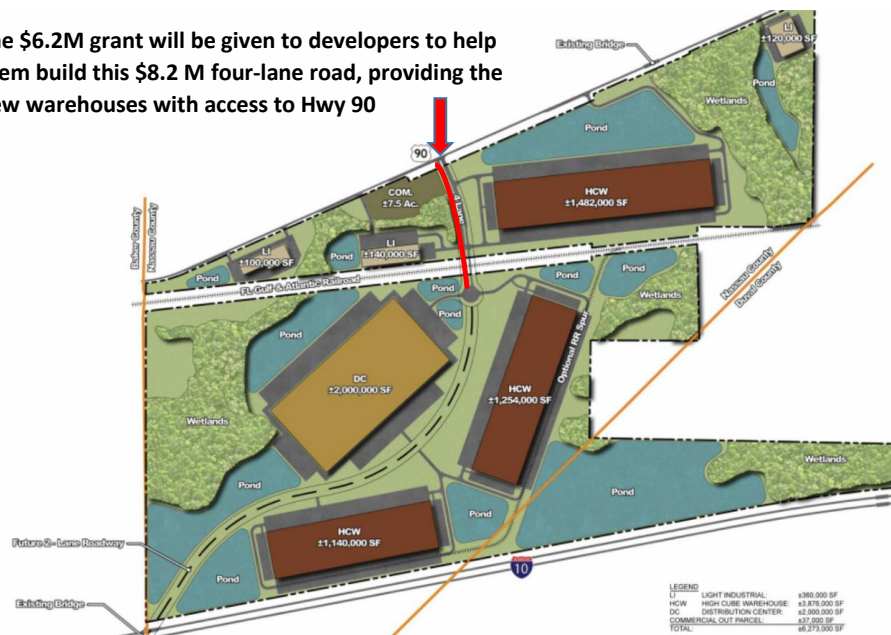
- **City of Fernandina Beach**

- **CoFB Fire Dept** – Chief Holmes introduced the agency’s new smartphone App “Fernandina FD” for alerts, news releases, beach safety information, community resources, etc. that should get in front of the questions and conjectures from residents that get posted on Facebook – he is currently managing the app himself but FBFD will be interviewing to put someone into that communications management role; a Life Flight medical transport helicopter is now stationed at the Fernandina Beach Municipal Airport.
- **CoFB Manager’s Office** – Katie Newton has transitioned from the Legal Department and is now the new Downtown District Coordinator.
- **CoFB Planning** – Not Present
- **CoFB Police Dept** – Chief Tambasco announced the “under cloak of darkness” hiring of former School Safety Specialist, William Schmelling; all FBPD staff have completed ICS online courses (100, 200, 700, and 800), some supervisors still need to take ICS-300 and/or ICS-400. Director Cooper advised that EM intends to hold those courses early in summer for all agencies that need the courses for NIMS compliance and promotional requirements. Also mentioned that Tina Smith is their communications officer and that he wants her to be more directly involved with the JIC during emergencies, to do more than re-post the EM PIO messages.
- **CoFB Public Works & Roads** – Deployed the Bity’s new Colorado Barriers to help block roads and prevent illegal parking during The Amelia car show.

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- **CoFB Utilities/Stormwater** – No changes to capability or capacity; Ash St project near City Hall is ongoing.
- **Florida Divisions & Departments**
 - **FDEM Region 4** – the Regional Directors Meeting and hurricane season readiness meeting was held in Nassau last month, Joshua Saunders (Regional Recovery Coordinator) noted that the window for Hazard Mitigation Program and Hazard Loss Mitigation grant opportunities has closed.
 - **FDOH-Nassau** – Cara Gluck said that they have been working closely with all of their ESF-8 partners, ALFs, SNFs, and the hospital. Kyle Lind said they are working on internal division COOPs and had two instances requiring activating their COOPs in the past month; Preparedness Coordinator Briana is participating on the BMC Nassau EM Committee, has completed her ICS-300 training, and is currently in ICS-400 class.
 - **FDOH Region III** – New representative Rel Perea has been assigned Nassau as part of his district “readiness coordinator” responsibilities.
 - **FDOT Region 2** – Sarah Hipps reminded everyone that in emergencies they can help get messages out to the public with their changeable highway message boards. She would like to be invited to Local Communicators Network meetings.
- **Nassau BOCC** – Florida’s Governor was in Nassau last week to announce that Nassau and Baker counties have been classified as “Rural Areas of Economic Opportunity” which included a \$6.2M infrastructure development grant for the new Nassau SW Industrial Park planned for the 680-acre area in the SW corner of Nassau, between US Hwy 90 and I-10. One Nassau Commissioner said they see this as a great way to stimulate local job creation and employment opportunities for Nassau residents.

The \$6.2M grant will be given to developers to help them build this \$8.2 M four-lane road, providing the new warehouses with access to Hwy 90

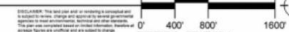


Nassau SW Industrial Park

Conceptual Site Plan
November 2024

LEGEND

LI	LIGHT INDUSTRIAL	±300,000 SF
HCW	HIGH CUBE WAREHOUSE	±3,878,000 SF
DC	DISTRIBUTION CENTER	±3,000,000 SF
	COMMERCIAL OFFICE PARCEL	±7,000 SF
	TOTAL	\$6,275,000



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- **Animal Care Services** – New Director, Steve MacKinnon, began in the role at the first of the year and has already met with EM to discuss ways NCAS can support operations during an emergency. (noted - no office dog in the EOC)
- **Building Dept and CRS** – No update from Building Department but Sarah Clifton announced that the CRS program has stalled because of FEMA, the program did not receive an evaluation this year so they did not have an opportunity to improve their rating (currently a 7); they received a BOCC declaration for Flood Awareness Month.
- **Capital Projects** – George Murray announced that the Buccaneer Trail Roundabout will require a full road closure for five weeks beginning March 25 because it involves relocation of multiple utility lines. William Burgess and Chester Rd road improvements are in their final phases. The “William Burgess extension” is not really an extension, it is a new road that will be called Hornets Drive.
- **Development Services** – Caleb Hurst announced the new roundabouts under construction on William Burgess Blvd will be completed in 45-60 days.
- **Fire Rescue** – Chief Rigdon announced that the new Station 90 is officially open, the old trailers are gone, and all staff and apparatus are moved in. The construction of a new Station 30 at Sill Quarters should begin soon. Chief Rigdon told Director Cooper that his agency resources are committed to support EOC activations and disaster response operations.
- **Management & Budget** – Chris Lacambra announced that their DRA received an FROC score of 50 and said that Public Assistance Category B funds for the 2024 storms have been received. Tim Cooper asked if the documentation being provided post-activations had improved the PA claim results. Lacambra said the documentation they were getting was good; FEMA Public Assistance will only ever cover a portion of local expenses – communities can’t “break even” with disaster “reimbursement.” Chris Lacambra also completed the Finance Administration Section Chief course.
- **Manager’s** – Marshall Eyerman said the Annual Report has been published and shows they are accomplishing a lot with roads, parks, and quality of life things. The Winter Planning Session included continued investments and contingency planning for legislative decisions.
- **Parks & Recreation** – Doug Podiak announced that the Westside Park project should be completed by June 1st.
- **Planning** – Will Righter announced they are working toward adoption of a new Comprehensive Plan.
- **Public Works & Roads** – Doug Podiak said that they are focused on road drainage projects for nine roads.
- **Stormwater & Drainage** – Katie Peay announced they will be finishing their Adaptation Plan deliverables by the end of March. Reminded EM that they do have two field teams with iPads that can be deployed to assist with post-disaster damage assessments.
- **Strategic Advancement** – Not Present.

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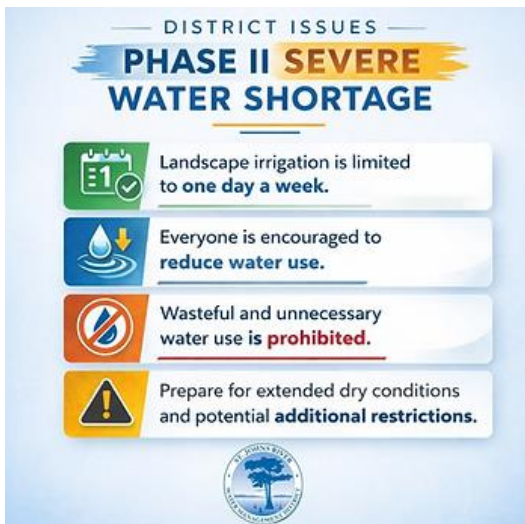
- **Nassau Clerk of Courts** – Not Present.
- **Nassau Property Appraiser/GIS** – Katelyn Holton reported that the William Burgess extension has been officially named Hornets Drive and the school is being given a new address; they've also established 100 new 911 roads and 1500 new addresses. . The GIS team have been integral in the new Damage Assessment Operations solution and they have deployable appraisers with iPads to assist post-disaster.
- **Nassau School District** – The new Chief of Police for NCSD, DJ Valentine, had another meeting but said they have selected a new School Safety Specialist, Stephen Johns, who will start the job after Spring Break.
- **Nassau Sheriff's Office** – Received new Colorado Barriers through UASI grant; also has a smartphone app for the community, like FBFD. Director Cooper announced that grant writing by Martha Oberdorfer had been integral in the public safety agencies' receipt of more than \$1.2M in regional assets, including the barriers for FBPD and NCSO, communications equipment, drones, and (awarded but not yet received) a new \$350K customized drone unit vehicle. The regional equipment is all used by Nassau with the understanding that we keep it secure and operational, (which is another reason additional secure climate-controlled storage is needed.)
- **Nassau Supervisor of Elections** – Not Present.
- **Nassau Tax Collector** – Not Present.
- **Town of Callahan** – Not Present.
- **Town of Hilliard** – building plans have all been permitted for construction of the community center at corner of Oxford St and W Fourth St, it will be home for Parks & Rec and an approved hurricane shelter - should be complete in 2027; taking offers for 40 acres of Town land to help finance.
The Town of Hilliard's Volunteer Fire Chief addressed the recent 80 ac brush fire in the Town limits and his concern that homes and businesses (including assisted living and daycare facilities) don't have plans for sudden evacuation of their buildings. He wants to meet with interested stakeholders to discuss; his primary concern is how evacuations for a sudden incident such as a train wreck with hazardous materials would be handled. Director Cooper offered EM's planning expertise and the EOC for the meeting. Chief Roland agreed to participate. (Meeting date and time have been set for **10 am Wednesday, March 18th**.)
- **Other Stakeholders** (*Authorities, Boards, Chambers, Committees, Districts, Private Partners*)
 - **Amelia Island Mosquito Control** – Anthony Dunkleburger announced that he has been appointed as the new AIMC District Director and Cole McCarthy is the new Supervisor for mosquito control operations. They are currently treating area catch basins with "dunks" to prevent mosquito larva from developing, will have their entomology laboratory upgraded to BSL-2 (biosafety level 2) by April allowing them to test for arboviruses, and are working with Anastasia Mosquito Control to implement more best practices.
 - **American Red Cross NE FL** – Mary Ann Giannini announced that they have partnered with Callahan Methodist Church to provide emergency shelter in no-notice incidents (volunteers

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staffed the shelter several times due to extremely cold weather the past few months); will be providing shelter training in April and will be giving away free Smoke Alarms for residents May 2nd (likely at Station 50)

- **Baptist Medical Centers** – Sky Barber reiterated that the hospital has been working closely with FDOH; she is planning a decontamination functional exercise for their Emergency Departments but needs mannequins – does anyone have any to lend?
- **Nassau Co MRC Unit & Hands4Hearts** – volunteer trainers have been holding free Hands-Only CPR classes for residents; already have a waiting list for the next class west of I-95
- **OREMC** – first of April begins their annual hurricane preparation, this year they have 2000 poles to replace, the new poles will allow broadband hookups that will enhance capabilities on the northwest side of the county
- **RYAM** – no update
- **SJRWMD** – A Phase II **Severe Water Shortage** has been declared due to ongoing **Extreme Drought conditions**. Below-average rainfall (40 inches below normal in the past 12 months), declining groundwater levels, and reduced river flows are contributing to water resource stress. **All landscape irrigation is limited to one day a week, and only before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.**

All domestic, utility, and commercial water users are encouraged to voluntarily reduce water use. HOAs cannot cite residents for not pressure-washing homes or driveways. Residents, businesses, and property managers are encouraged to prepare for extended dry conditions and the potential for additional restrictions. Additional restrictions may be implemented if conditions worsen. **Executed Order is Attached.**



- Irrigation is limited to **one day per week and no more than one hour per zone on your scheduled day.**

Residential address ending in an Odd #	Residential address ending in an Even #	Non-Residential Properties
Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday

- **No watering between 10 am and 4 pm.**
- Postpone new landscape plantings and gardens that would need more frequent watering.
- No aesthetic water use (e.g., ponds, fountains, pressure washing buildings or driveways, washing mobile equipment)
- Restrictions apply to all water from public and private utilities, private wells, pumps, and ground or surface water.

Agendas and minutes of EM Program Stakeholders Meetings are available:

<https://www.onenassau.com/em-stakeholders>

**Next EM Program Stakeholders Meeting is
Wednesday, June 10th, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**