

Stakeholders Meeting Minutes – 10 June 2026

EM Program – Quarterly Update

- EM staff has supported NCSO Special Ops with planning and resource coordination for multiple events like Hilliard VFD's LOD Funeral, the Eucharist Pilgrimage, the Westside Park Grand Opening; the Red, White, & Boom.
- EM staff participated in the 3-day FDEM Statewide Hurricane Exercise which tested the new State EOC and their new staff; Nassau EM tested local technology with FDOH-Nassau and practiced requesting resources and documenting essential elements of information through the SEOC.
- EM supported local wildfire response operations in Hilliard and the countywide burn ban; specifically with resource support and frequent "crisis communications" messaging to keep the public informed of the situation, including having FDOT put burn ban information on their highway message boards.
- The EOC hosted the annual ESF-17 preparedness presentation which included information about emerging diseases and pests (screwworm), hurricane resources, and post-hurricane mosquito control.
- Staff continued professional development training:
 - Jami & Marcia completed the State's L-103 EM Planning course.
 - Marcia completed Mitigation Planning, Mass Care, and Public Information Awareness courses.
 - Mark completed the All-Hazards Planning Section Chief course.
 - Jami completed her third week of the four-week Advanced EM Academy and will graduate next month.
 - Martha and Mark attended the NE FL Regional Hospital and School Reunification Training Seminar.
 - Scott and Martha attended the State Recovery Bureau's Individual Assistance training; part of the FDEM Recovery Specialist certification series.
 - Staff participated in the week-long FDEM Training Symposium, some in person and the rest virtually, to meet the SB-180 emergency management requirements; Doug Podiak also attended a day of training at the symposium.
- *Identified Programmatic Gap persists* – A secure, environmentally stable storage facility for all of the Program's training equipment, disaster supplies, and emergency equipment. The EOC storage shed and current facilities at Blackrock and Musselwhite are insufficient due to space, security, and climate control constraints.
- The EOC has adopted the hybrid ICS/ESF model for this year's hurricane season. One seminar has been held with leaders; now need to identify individuals who would be a good fit as "information coordinators" for each ESF Desk during activations so they can get oriented to the position roles and responsibilities. The ESF coordinators are the ones who call/reach out to the agencies in the community that perform and support their ESF (e.g., ESF-8 would contact pharmacies, health clinics, nursing homes, and other health providers; ESF-17 would contact veterinarians, shelters,

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and feed stores) to gather essential elements of information (operational status, damage sustained), identify any unmet needs and facilitate resource requests. Stakeholders present provided some names for the different ESFs and were asked to think of others. Slated individuals will be contacted when training is scheduled.

- **2026 EM Training Program Updates**

1. *Community Preparedness Program* –

- In April the National Weather Service conducted SKYWARN Storm-Spotter training and in May we taught STOPTHEBLEED; *All-Hazards Preparedness* class will be held tomorrow at 10 am in the EOC.
- Free community training opportunities are posted on the *OneNassau* website and Nassau EM's Facebook account.

2. EM's annual 6-week *Ham Radio Technicians* course was held this past quarter – 9 new licensed amateur radio operators.

3. EM's annual summer *TEAM for GIRLS* (Training, Education, Activities, and Mentorship for Girls Interested in Response, Leadership, and Safety) session will take place June 22-26.

4. Nassau EM held *Intermediate Incident Command for Expanding Incidents (I-300)* and *Intermediate Emergency Operations Center (G-2300)* training in May; *Advanced Incident Command (I-400)* will be held June 29-30.

5. The State is transitioning from their SERT TRAC platform to their new "learning management system" FLEX. All SERT TRAC users should have received an email with a link to register for a FLEX account. Once your account is created, they will transfer your in-person EM training records to FLEX. FEMA Independent Study certificates will be accessible through the FEMA student portal.

- **Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Strategy and Updates to Priorities or Projects**

Mark Wilson announced that the Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Strategy was approved by the State and forwarded to FEMA. Nassau EM has now received FEMA's Formal Approval letter, which means the approved Mitigation Strategy is now valid through May 21, 2031. The Strategy includes each jurisdiction's mitigation priorities, and a ranked list of mitigation projects for which the jurisdictions may seek federal funding assistance. The project list should be continually updated to include each jurisdiction's mitigation progress, whether the projects are federally funded or not. If any stakeholder has a mitigation project to propose, please get with your jurisdiction's representative and complete the project summary form so that it can be reviewed and ranked. To be eligible to apply for any federal funding that might become available, project proposals have to have been ranked and endorsed by the local hazard mitigation review team; notices of funding opportunity frequently have short application windows. The ranked hazard mitigation project list and submission forms are on WebEOC. Now is a good time to log into WebEOC and update passwords before any hurricane activation.

- Director Cooper thanked Chief Rigdon for NCFR's support during planning for everyone to formally pay their respects to Kevin Crews, Hilliard VFD Station 5, who lost his life during the

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Conner-Nelson Wildfire response. Chief Rigdon recognized the Emergency Management staff for their efforts to organize multiple agencies, coordinate resources, and honor Firefighter Crews with the memorial procession and service.

EM Stakeholder Updates

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

- **City of Fernandina Beach**

- CoFB Building Dept – issued 2 permits for new commercial structures and 17 for new residential structures so far this year.
- CoFB Fire Dept – Danielle Shough reported that FBFD has acquired a new John Boat.
- CoFB Manager’s Office – Katie Newton reported that the City has engineering studies underway for seawall sections that still need repair, in preparation for future funding applications. Demolition of Brett’s at the marina is scheduled to begin in August.
- CoFB Planning – the Technical Review Committee is evaluating plans for downtown townhomes and commercial development on the water.
- CoFB Police Dept – Jon Hepler said that FBPD had no changes to capabilities to report; the most recent events in the City (i.e. the Eucharist Procession and the Gumball Rally) had no complications.
- CoFB Public Works, Roads, Utilities, Stormwater – Katie Newton, on behalf of Andre Desilet, that the Area 6 drainage project on Ash St (a.k.a. the Big Dig) will be completed by June 30th; then they will move on to the next section of Ash St.

- **Florida Divisions & Departments**

- FDEM Region 4 – Tara Kostich-Berry, Response Coordinator, provided details about the transition to FDEM’s new training platform, FLEX, which should be functional by August. Director Cooper added that FDEM is trying to make technological improvements, evident by the new requestable resources catalog and customized request forms in WebEOC used during the statewide exercise. Josh Saunders, Recovery Coordinator, encouraged stakeholders to document all response activities well; in reference to county debris operations, have an over-abundance of documentation when submitting a PA request. Also info/checklist for requesting a local Multi-Agency Resource Center (a state-run DRC) for IA is now available. He reminded the county that the F-ROC Opt-in period opened on 6/1 and training will be held in Region 4 during August: 8/18 in Duval County, 8/19 in St. Johns County, 8/20 in Putnam County. Other Recovery trainings: FL-612 Debris Monitoring in Putnam County June 29, G-205 Local Government Role in Recovery in Flagler County July 6-7 (also will be hosted in Duval County later), FL-601 Damage Assessments in Alachua County July 8, and FL-681 (another course in the Recovery IA series) in St. Johns County July 15.
- FDOH-Nassau CHD – Briana Angstman participated in the statewide FDOH Planning Meeting & Training. The team has been contacting Special Needs Registrants to verify information, and will be holding a functional SpNS exercise at Yulee High School on June 25th. They are

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moving resources into their new storage facility on Musslewhite Rd. Locally, partners are applying for a Rural Health Capacity Grant.

- FDOH Region III – Not present
- FDOT Region 2 – Sarah Hipp reminded stakeholders that she is the FDOT EM liaison for 18 counties but will try to facilitate communication with other FDOT divisions. She did help get the local Burn Ban messaging onto the FDOT highway signs for several counties.

• Nassau BOCC Departments and Offices

- Animal Care Services – Director Steve MacKinnon has had 58,000 cans of pet food donated; reaching out to local rescues and shelters to share.
- Building Dept – Robert Hunt announced that he and Tom Ray will be representing the Building Department at meetings moving forward.
- Capital Projects – George Murray announced that the Amelia Island Pkwy roundabout project is now 75% completed; new asphalt on AI Pkwy will be completed by the end of August. The department is 50% through with culvert replacements on CR-121; the next culvert to be replaced will close a section of CR-121 for a few weeks. The Chester Rd and Pages Dairy Rd construction is nearly complete; intersection signals will be operational by the end of today. Striping and signalization are the final steps to complete the William Burgess Blvd spur – he will notify Director Cooper before the roadway is completely opened so that drone footage of the area around the Yulee school shelters can be taken.
- Development Services – Not present
- Fire Rescue – Chief Rigdon talked about the reason a countywide Burn Ban was enacted for a month and announced that they have hired a new Fire Marshal, Kevin Jones. Also, the new Station 30 contract is in process and the facility should be ready to occupy in a year.
- Manager's Office – Not present.
- Office of Management & Budget – Chris Lacambra reported that the county has opted-in to the state's Florida Recovery Obligation Calculations (F-ROC) program to prepare for potential federal Public Assistance after a natural disaster. Right now, FEMA has determined that they will obligate \$1.1M in Public Assistance for expenses incurred during the last few years hurricane impacts.
- Parks & Recreation – Doug Podiak reported that the grand opening of Westside Park this weekend was very successful. (Westside Park's development was budgeted \$22M.)
- Planning Dept – William Righter announced that they have been working closely with their contractor and the Growth Plan should be ready to adopt by the end of the year. The plan does include more commercial development and rezoning.
- Procurement – Not present
- Public Works & Roads – Doug Podiak reported that the department is preparing for hurricane season, working on lift stations to ensure good road drainage and documenting the current condition of assets and maintenance, so that they will have "pre" incident practices and condition documented if the county is impacted.

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- Stormwater & Drainage – Katie Peay reported that they are waiting of the shed water master plan contract. Also noted that the County’s HMGP application related to Hurricane Nicole had been approved by FEMA but FDEM has not released the funding. Tara Kostich-Berry said that she would try to get information about that for her.
- Strategic Advancement – Not present.

Director Cooper asked Chris Lacambra if he would be willing to speak to the proposed increase in homestead exemptions and the effect the resulting decrease in property taxes would have on funding for public safety. Chris said, “Police, Fire, and Roads shouldn’t be touched.” He estimates a decrease of \$45M in ad valorem revenue the first year if the proposal passes, and another \$45M on top of that in the second year. But he assured everyone that the County does have alternate sources for revenue; “somebody will pay.” Katie Newton said that the City Manager gave a Town Hall Presentation on this topic recently and she will share it with Director Cooper. Cara Gluck reminded everyone that Public Health depends taxes for a third of its operational funding as well, and the reduction will impact the ability to prevent, detect, and contain diseases.

- **Nassau Clerk of Courts** – Not present
- **Nassau Property Appraiser/GIS** – Katelyn Holton announced to everyone interested in drone footage that Eagleview will be providing a presentation on their oblique imagery technology on June 30th.
- **Nassau School District** – DJ Valentine announced that Stephen Johns is the district’s new School Safety Specialist.
- **Nassau Sheriff’s Office** – Director Cooper said that the Sheriff is working with leadership on developing the budget for the coming fiscal year. Also, if anyone was wanting to talk to Bobby Lippelman about working with the Liaison Officer as an Agency Rep during EOC activations, Sgt Decker is here in his stead.
- **Nassau Supervisor of Elections** – An unnamed individual from the SOE office said that we do have an election in August, that will be held regardless of hurricane unless the Governor says differently. Early voting begins August 6th for the August 18th election.
- **Nassau Tax Collector** – Not present
- **Town of Callahan** – Not present
- **Town of Hilliard** – Fire Chief and Town Land Use Administrator met with EM and Chief Roland, Health Dept, and Red Cross to discuss evacuation concerns and planning processes. Bidding opens on 6/11 for a General Contractor for our hurricane shelter/community center. Anticipate issuing a notice to proceed the second week on August with a “golden shovel day” the second week of September.
- **Other Stakeholders** (Authorities, Boards, Chambers, Committees, Districts, Private Partners)
 - Amelia Island Mosquito Control District – Anthony Dunkleberger announced AIMCD has received a Safety Grant, expanded capabilities with an in-house BSL-2 (Bio Safety Level 2)

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Lab, their sentinel chicken program can now test for West Nile Virus, and they have acquired three bee hives so they are keeping bees now.

- American Red Cross NE FL – Mary Ann Giannini introduced their new local representative, Robert McKee. He is in the Jacksonville area now and lived in Callahan for six years, so he is familiar with the area.
- Baptist Medical Centers – Not present
- FPL – Carol Saviak mentioned that they have been doing fire mitigation and have added high-capacity back-up batteries to their solar farm
- HCA Healthcare – Not present
- JEA – Jenelle Milton said that in preparation for hurricane season, their 95 lift stations have been examined and the ones deemed critical (high flow structures that could result in sanitary system overflow) have had back-generators installed. Their large water reclamation facility has increased capacity significantly, although it is not been necessary to run at capacity.
- Nassau MRC & Hands4Hearts – Including this past Saturday’s student athlete heart health screenings with the Who We Play For organization, conducted more than 500 ECGs for Nassau County students. Some facts from Who We Play For:
 - Between August 1, 2025, and May 1, 2026, the Who We Play For team conducted heart screenings for over 42,392 Florida students. An overwhelming majority of these participants (41,493) were categorized as low risk for sudden cardiac arrest and subsequently authorized for athletic activity.
 - 813 students were flagged for underlying cardiac conditions requiring secondary consultation.
 - 86 students were diagnosed with severe, potentially fatal cardiac abnormalities. Among that group, 34 students have successfully completed life-altering surgical interventions and have been cleared for sports. Several other students are currently finalizing their schedules for corrective procedures.
 - Clinical medical evaluations identified hypertrophic cardiomyopathy — the most lethal cardiac condition — in 3 students.
 - One student received a heart transplant this past week.
- OREMC (Okfenoke Electric) – James Riggins reported that the OREMC team has been holding disaster planning sessions. They were able to rapidly deploy technicians to the Conner-Nelson Rd fire to restore burned power poles and get electricity to residents.
- RYAM (formerly Rayonier) – Not present; visited the EOC to observe during the statewide hurricane exercise.
- Salvation Army – Richard Thompson said that they will support ESF-11 (Food and Hydration)
- SJRWMD (Water Management District) – Douglas Conkey provided an update on the drought, its effect on the aquifer, and DEP’s Phase III Extreme Water Restrictions. Although recent rain has provided some surface wetness, the aquifer is still very low. NE Florida would

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need 33 inches of rain over the next three months to alleviate drought conditions and restore the aquifer to normal levels. For hurricane season, Chris Kinslow is our EM representative for situation reports and river levels. Other resources that DEP can provide for disaster response: cut and toss teams, 4-6" pump teams for emergency flood relief (requires somewhere for the water to go), damage assessment for water structures, and prescribed fire resources (7 engines, 3 amphibious, 5 dozers, 2 tenders, and skilled personnel.)

Minutes of EM Program Stakeholders Meetings are always available:

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

**Next EM Program Stakeholders Meeting is
Wednesday, September 9th, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

(peak week of Hurricane Season)