

**Summary of Minutes
Okaloosa County
Local Mitigation Strategy Committee
May 14, 2025**

**LOCATION:
1250 N. Eglin Pkwy., Shalimar, FL**

TIME: 10:30 AM

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Kampert called the meeting to Order.

II. ROLL CALL/QUORUM

Mr. Kampert called roll of those present:

Michael Burgess- City of Destin
Joshua Stevens – City of Fort Walton Beach
Keith Williams – Town of Cinco Bayou
Tom Burns – Town of Shalimar
Jayce Vanderford – City of Crestview
Kelvin Cherry- City of Mary Esther
Elliot Kampert- Okaloosa County Growth Management
Randy Woodruff- Okaloosa County Growth Management
Sherry Cadenhead- Okaloosa County Growth Management
Leslie Adams- Okaloosa County Growth Management
Ryan Prince- Okaloosa County Public Safety
Owen Betts- Okaloosa County Public Safety

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. 1-30-2025 minutes

Motion by Kelvin Cherry; 2nd by Michael Burgess; approved all ayes.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation by Jacobs Engineering for the Flood Vulnerability Assessment project.

See attached presentation presented by Blaine Beck & Charley Golden of Jacobs Engineering.

Discussion ensued with the presenters.

B. Discussion of possible CRS Program for Public Information (PPI)

Mr. Ryan Prince stated that a whole county PPI

Motion by Tim Gibson; 2nd by Tom Burns, approved the letter, all ayes.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Renewal of projects on the project list. REMINDER

Mrs. Cadenhead reminded all member to review the project list and update any projects on the list with a new project sheet.

B. Discussion of possible CRS Program for Public Information (PPI)

Mr. Ryan Prince presented the following document titled “Developing Okaloosa County CRS Program for Public Information”:

**Developing Okaloosa County CRS
Program for Public Information**

Executive Summary:

Okaloosa County received a draft verification of the community rating system (CRS) of 2735 points that resulted in a rating of 5. This correlates to a discount on flood insurance premiums of 25% or an average of \$200 per year savings for individuals requiring flood insurance. By developing a Program for Public Information within the structure of CRS the rating will reach a sustainable 4. That rating would equate to a 30% discount on premiums or up to an average of \$280 in per year savings for individuals. This would equate to an estimated total of \$4.2M back in the citizens’ pocket.

Introduction:

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\)](#). Over 1,500 communities participate nationwide.

Okaloosa County through its growth management department and certified floodplain managers submits documentation annually in relation to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). This documentation is then compiled and awards points towards activities identified in the CRS program. Every three (3) years the rating is recalculated. The last calculation was conducted in 2024 receiving a rating of five (5), with the next major review set for 2027.

Justification:

After thoroughly reviewing the credit calculations it was identified that there were credits that were easily attainable and sustainable. One such way to have maximum impact across the spectrum of activities was identified as a Program for Public Information (PPI). The majority of the requirements were met and are already being accomplished but were simply not codified under a specific program. The PPI gives an average of 40% bonus to credits across activities and has the capability to stack with other bonuses such as the 30% stakeholder bonus (projects highlighted by community stakeholders). Through just this one line of effort the county can easily attain a 4 rating.

Additionally, the PPI would have impacts outside of just CRS ratings. Certain grants (IE EMPG, HMGP, BRC) require active engagement and education of the public with strong stakeholder engagement. Key portions of being a Storm Ready community are also included in the requirements of the PPI and would increase the number of Municipalities that are storm ready. Being a Storm Ready community adds an additional 25 credits towards their CRS rating. The PPI would directly meet EMPA and EMPG requirements of stakeholder engagement as well as possibly improve public engagement in the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Committee.

The PPI would not only impact unincorporated Okaloosa but will also impact municipalities if they are active members in the PPI process. Strengthening municipal and county relationships already exist in LMS and improving the CRS ratings of all participating municipalities.

Activities Impacted by the PPI:

CRS Elements with a Public Information Component			
Activity	Element	OP Credit?	PPI Bonus?
320 (Map Information Service)	Publicizing the service	*	*
330 (Outreach Projects)	Outreach projects (OP)	Yes	Yes
	Flood response preparations (FRP)	No	Yes
	Program for public information (PPI)	—	—
	Stakeholder delivery (STK)	—	—
340 (Hazard Disclosure)	Disclosure of the flood hazard (DFH)	No	Yes
	Real estate agents' brochure (REB)	No	Yes
350 (Flood Protection Information)	Website (WEB1)	No	Yes
360 (Flood Protection Assistance)	Property protection assistance (PPA)	No	Yes
	PPA site visits (PPV)	No	Yes
	Financial assistance advice (FAA)	No	Yes
	Publicity for PPA, PPV, and/or FAA	*	*
370 (Flood Insurance Promotion)	Coverage plan implementation (CPI)	No	Yes
Section 504 (Repetitive Loss Area Outreach Project)	Repetitive loss area outreach project	*	*
540 (Drainage System Maintenance)	Stream dumping regulations (SDR)	No	Yes
610 (Flood Warning and Response)	Annual outreach project prerequisite	*	*
620 (Levees)	Annual outreach project prerequisite	*	*
630 (Dams)	Annual outreach project prerequisite	*	*

* OP credit can be provided for the publicity or outreach project prerequisite for this element.
The OP credit can also receive the PPI and STK bonus credit if the project is in the PPI.

The way forward:

To receive credit for the PPI a seven (7) step planning and public involvement process.

- 1) Establish a committee for public information. For PPI credit the committee must meet at least twice a year and consist of members inside and outside local government.

A proposed Committee would consist of:

Okaloosa County	-Emergency Management -Floodplain Manager -Growth Management -County PIO	**
City of Crestview	-Planning	
City of Destin	-Public Works Director	
City of Fort Walton Beach	-Planning	
City of Mary Esther	-Code Enforcement	
City of Niceville	-Deputy City Manager	
City of Valparaiso	-City Administrator	
Town of Shalimar	-City Manager	
Town of Cinco Bayou	-City Manager	
City of Laurel Hill	-City Clerk	

** Each community government entity would be required to propose 1 or more local stakeholders.

- 2) Assess the community's public information needs.
 - a. Identify Priority Areas
 - b. Assess Flood Insurance Coverage
 - c. Determine Priority Audiences
 - d. Inventory Other Public Information Efforts
- 3) Formulate Messages
- 4) Identify Outreach Projects to Convey Message
- 5) Examine other public information initiatives
- 6) Prepare and adopt the public information program
- 7) Implement, Monitor, and Evaluate.

Completing these steps in coordination with the existing LMS committee would have a significant impact on credits received during the CRS Calculation Review Process. 10 of the 11 impacted activities during the last calculation would have improvements in credits. This is reflected even more so that PPI credits and bonuses are available in 9 of the 13 scored activities of 2024. An addition of 2 more scored areas would be added that were not previously credited at all.

The above program is supported by the NFIP/CRS publication "Developing a Program for Public Information", 2021 edition.

Discussion ensued with the committee to move forward with this program.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Ryan Prince reminded the members that the annual hurricane exercise will be held May 29, 2025 at the County Emergency Operations Center from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

VI. ADJOURN

Mr. Kampert adjourned the meeting at 11:35 AM.