



FEMA



CAMDEN COUNTY & CITY OF ST. MARYS JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE

National Flood Insurance Program
Community Rating System

Program for Public Information Joint Steering Committee Kick-off Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

St. Marys Visitor's Center

400 Osborne St.

St. Marys, GA 31558

Minutes

Attendees:

Rowland Eskridge, Jeff Foster, Jeff Adams, Michele Wood, Scott Brazell, Kevin Lang, Nancy Stasinis, Kelly Spratt.

Meeting called to order at 11:07, due to road blockage in St. Marys for unfolding police incident;

1. Welcome & Introductions:

Jeff Adams, Community Development Director for St. Marys welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for making their way through the road blocks into St. Marys. Mr. Adams thanked Scott Brazell for his efforts in starting this process and Angie Eaton and Kelly Spratt for their help in St. Marys' recent efforts in their initial application for the Community Rating System (CRS). Mr. Adams also said that Jessica Warren, from Camden County UGA Extension, couldn't make it to the meeting. Michele Wood, City of St. Marys Flood Plain Manager, was the project manager for the City's CRS application. Ms. Kelly, UGA's Marine Extension, congratulated St. Marys on their entering the program at a 7, and possibly 6. She also, said that if we complete this PPI, Camden/St. Marys would be the first coastal community to do so, which would be a great benefit to the communities, but also help raise our ratings for our next modification. Scott Brazell, Flood Plain Manager and Coordinator for Camden County read the names of the other members from the Camden County team (Chip Keene, Citizens State Bank; Angie Eaton, Camden County GIS; and Larry Bruce, Camden County Information Officer) who couldn't make it and gave a brief explanation of to what point the County had reached in the PPI process. Kevin Lang said he looked forward to working with the group and acknowledged how much was already shared amongst the Camden County group, as they began the process. Rowland Eskridge, appraiser and long-time city official and former Mayor spoke of the need for better land valuations and the environmental constraints of coastal areas. Jeff Foster, surveyor, has worked for over twenty years with the development community and looks to add his perspective to the discussion.

2. Review of the Community Rating System

A discussion of the CRS and the materials provided led to a couple of questions regarding surrounding communities and their efforts. Kingsland is yet to enter the program and yet, many of the surrounding

counties have entered or are in the process of entering. The benefit the CRS offers citizens was really given credence and became even a political talking-point with the Big Waters movement.

3. Review of the Program for Public Information (PPI):

Mr. Brazell explained that they had held a series of meetings about a year ago and showed an example of Camden County's self-assessment and related maps, which were produced as part of that effort. They recommended St. Marys begin that effort and offered their services in helping complete that prior to the next meeting.

4. Best Practices from other Communities:

Mr. Adams passed around a series of PPIs and Multi-jurisdictional PPIs for review. The group suggested they focus on developing a strong set of goals and to examine other Best Practices provided for examples of programs that might work for our local community.

5. Proposed Timeline & Meeting Schedule

The Steering Committee proposed meeting once a month for the next few months, focusing over the next couple of meetings on background research and getting St. Marys to the same point Camden County has reached. The Committee proposed the next meeting as Thursday, December 5th, at 11AM, at the same location.

6. Next Steps

Camden County will assist the St. Marys staff in completing the Self-assessment, including mapping hazard and repetitive loss areas and identifying target areas;

St. Marys will place meeting materials in a Dropbox and on a website for distribution;

Committee Members will review example PPIs in the Camden/St. Marys Dropbox or website for goals, projects and ideas for the Camden/St. Marys PPI;

Committee Members will also seek to identify partners that can help act as a conduit for flood information and who might be interested in developing and supporting projects.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:55

Next meeting:

Thursday, December 3rd
11AM

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