



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
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Indian River County
Floodplain Management Annual Progress Report
April 2020

The Indian River County Unified Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) serves as the County's Floodplain Management Plan under the Community Rating System (CRS) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Under CRS Activity 510, the County is required to complete a Floodplain Management Plan annual progress report. This document is that report.

Adoption of the LMS / Updates

The Indian River County LMS was originally adopted in November 1999 (County Resolution 99-125). In February 2005, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution 2005-023, approving a 2005 Revised Unified LMS. On July 13, 2010, the Board approved a 2010 Revised Unified LMS (County Resolution 2010-059). In July 2015, the Board adopted a 2015 Revised LMS (County Resolution 2015-078). This year, on March 3, 2020, the Board adopted a 2020 Revised LMS (County Resolution 2020-020). The 2020 LMS complies with the federal hazard mitigation planning standards contained in 44 CFR 201/6(b)-(d).

The 2020 Unified LMS is on file at the Indian River County Department of Emergency Services.

Purpose and Objectives of the LMS

The purpose of the LMS is to develop a unified approach among County and municipal governments for dealing with identified hazards and hazard management problems, including flooding, in the Indian River County area. The LMS serves as a tool to direct the County and municipal governments in their ongoing efforts to reduce the vulnerability to the impacts produced by both natural and man-made hazards. The LMS also helps establish funding priorities for currently proposed mitigation projects and develop priority mitigation projects to be completed with such disaster assistance funds as may be available after a disaster.

The primary objectives of the LMS are to:

- Improve the community's resistance to damage from known natural, technological and societal hazards;
- Place Indian River County in a position to compete more effectively for pre- and post-disaster mitigation funding;
- Reduce the cost of disasters at all levels; and
- Speed community recovery when disasters occur.

Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group

A Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group has been established to review and make recommendations concerning the LMS. The Working Group consists of representatives of local municipalities, local organizations and County departments, and is coordinated by staff of the County Emergency Management Division. In 2019, the LMS Working Group met and made recommendations on the updated 2020 LMS, which has since been submitted to and approved by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). The LMS Working Group webpage can be found at the following link: <https://www.ircgov.com/Boards/LMS/Index.htm>.

LMS Project Prioritization List

The LMS Working Group has established a general Project Prioritization List (PPL) of 36 projects eligible for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grants and/or other potential funding sources (see Attachment, list as of July 31, 2019).

CRS Program Participation

The LMS references the importance and benefit of Indian River County's participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Under the CRS, the County undertakes flood protection measures beyond the minimum requirements of the NFIP. By doing so, Indian River County has achieved a "Class 6" certification, resulting in a 20% discount of flood insurance premiums in the unincorporated county.

The County achieves CRS points by undertaking various activities that promote flood protection. These activities are conducted by various county departments. Following is a summary of certain ongoing activities by various departments resulting in points under the CRS program:

Activity	Department(s)	CRS Activity #
Maintain elevation certificates, make copies of certificates available to the public	Building Div. / Planning Div.	310
Provide Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) information, maintain updated FIRMs	Planning Div. / Engineering Div.	320
Provide outreach to community / flood protection information	Emergency Management	330
Provide credited hazard disclosure measures; information on recorded plats	Planning Div.	340
Provide flood protection materials at public library	County Library	350
Preserve floodplain in open space through zoning / CPLU / public acquisition	Planning Div.	420
Review new development for compliance with flood protection regulations	County Engineering Div. / Building Div. / Planning Div.	430
Track substantial improvements / permitting to meet current requirements	Building Div. / Planning Div. / Engineering Div.	430
Maintain elevation reference marks	County surveyor	440
Maintain FIRMs since County	Planning Div.	440

Activity	Department(s)	CRS Activity #
participation in NFIP		
Maintain drainage systems through a regular program	Road and Bridge Div. (also IRF Water Control District)	540
Enforce stream dumping regulations	Code Enforcement / Public Works / Stormwater Div.	540
Conduct test of flood warning / emergency response program	Emergency Management	610

Certified Floodplain Manager Program

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has established a national program for professional certification of floodplain managers. The program recognizes continuing education and professional development that enhance the knowledge and performance of local, state, federal, and private-sector floodplain managers. Staff in the Land Development Section of the County Engineering Division, as well as the County Building Official, have achieved and maintain the status of Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM), which reflects Indian River County’s commitment to professional service in implementing the County’s floodplain management plan.

County Website Access to FEMA Digitized Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)

In Indian River County and elsewhere, Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) identify the location of Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) which are based on 100-year floodplains. These flood maps are used regularly by the public for flood insurance reasons and by county staff in regulating development in SFHAs.

In 2012, FEMA completed a FIRM modernization project in Indian River County, resulting in the County formally adopting revised digital FIRMs effective December 4, 2012. Those revised, current FIRMs are now available for public access and viewing on Indian River County’s website (www.ircgov.com), on the following web pages:

<http://www.ircgov.com/flood/>

<https://ircgis.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

IRC Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedure (LAMP) and Coastal Study Project FIRM Updates

In September 2015, representatives from FEMA Region IV and its consultant, AECOM, met with local government officials in an initial “Stakeholder Engagement and Data Collection Meeting.” The purpose of the meeting was for FEMA and AECOM to provide an overview to local stakeholders of the levee analysis and mapping process for non-accredited levees, particularly relating to the “Vero Lake Channel A” levee that was under review in conjunction with an appeal by the Sebastian River Improvement District (SRID). The SRID appeal occurred when Indian River County was undergoing its flood insurance rate map (FIRM) modernization in 2012.

Since that time, FEMA and AECOM representatives have met with local officials on a number of occasions for discussion and review of draft working maps of revisions relating to Vero Lake Channel A and also relating to a Coastal Study Area update. On September 29, 2017, FEMA issued preliminary revised maps of the Levee Analysis and Coastal Study updates, which are available for public access and viewing through a link on the County’s Flood Information web page: <http://www.ircgov.com/flood/>.

On March 21, 2018, FEMA, in coordination with the County and local municipalities, held an advertised open house at Sebastian River High School inviting the public to view and provide comments on the preliminary revised maps. On October 9, 2019, FEMA advised the County that issues relating to the SRID appeal had been resolved and that FEMA was ready to issue a Letter of Final Determination (LFD), 6 months after which time the revised FIRMS would go into effect. The City of Fellsmere, however, on November 6, 2019, intervened and objected to the SRID appeal resolution reached by FEMA, SRID, and the County. In objecting to the appeal resolution, the City submitted a request to FEMA for a Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) to review the SRID appeal data. FEMA is now in the process of reviewing the City's request. Due to the City's intervention and SRP request, it is currently unknown when the revised maps will go into effect.

Summary

The LMS, which serves as the County's Floodplain Management Plan under the CRS of the NFIP, underwent a five-year update that was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on March 3, 2020. As a part of that update, an LMS Project Prioritization List (PPL) was revised and has been updated. FDEM has reviewed and approved the 2020 revised LMS.

Indian River County has achieved and maintains a Class 6 certification under the CRS. Activities are undertaken by various county departments on an ongoing basis to retain the CRS certification, which results in substantial discounts to flood insurance premiums in the unincorporated county.

In 2012, FEMA completed a FIRM modernization project in Indian River County, resulting in the County formally adopting revised digital FIRMS effective December 4, 2012. Those FIRMS are available for public access and viewing on Indian River County's website. More recently, representatives of FEMA and its consultant, AECOM, have met with local officials as part of a process to resolve a disputed flood mapping area affected by the Vero Lake Channel A levee, which has been deemed by FEMA to be non-accredited. Preliminary issuance of revised maps affected by the non-accredited Vero Lake Channel A levee, as well as Coastal Study Area revised maps, are being finalized. Due to an intervention by the City of Fellsmere, however, disputing data as it affects the City, it is currently unknown when the revised maps will go into effect.

Attachment: LMS Project Prioritization List (as of July 31, 2019).

**Indian River County
Local Mitigation Strategy
Project Prioritization List
General Project List**

Project Priority	Project Score	Project Description	Estimated Project Cost & Estimated Time of Completion & Est. Federal Share	Applicant/ Responsible Party	Mitigation to be Accomplished	Hazards Mitigated	Jurisdiction(s) Involved*	Possible Funding Sources	Date Confirmed/ Added
1	94	Replace and upgrade roof of the Vero Beach Police Department building.	\$450,000 12 months \$337,500	City of Vero Beach Don Dexter	The police department serves as the city's EOC and the existing roof is approximately 30 years old and does not meet current wind load standards.	Hurricane/Tropical Storm	City of Vero Beach	HMGP, CDBG, Pre-disaster Mitigation Program	Confirmed HMGP 1/16/19 (Don Dexter)
2	93	Retrofits to the county's public schools that serve as public shelters.	\$75,000 <12 months \$56,250	Indian River County Emergency Management Tad Stone	Reduces vulnerability to wind and flood damage and provides for critically needed shelter (primary critical facilities) and reducing the county's safe shelter space deficit.	Hurricane and Tropical Storm	All Jurisdictions	Coastal Construction Building Zone Program; CDBG; DRI; HMGP; Hurricane Program; NFMF	Confirmed 1/5/19 (Tad Stone)
3	93	Fellsmere Culvert Replacement	\$630,000 6 months \$47,250	City of Fellsmere Jason Nunemaker	Replacement of all existing culverts along New York/97th Street with RCP at proper intervals to reduce head loss to Park Lateral.	Hurricane and Tropical Storm	Multiple	CDBG, HMGP, DRI, USDA, EDA	Confirmed 2/27/19 (Jason Nunemaker)
4	91	Blue Cypress Park access repair	\$100,000 48 months \$75,000	Indian River County Parks Division Kevin Kirwin	Provide access to the park, raise roadbed, replace failing culvert, flood mitigation.	Tropical Storm/Hurricane, Flood	All Jurisdictions	HMGP, FWC/DEP, SJRWMD	Confirmed 2/27/19 (Kevin Kirwin)
5	86	Rebuild non-wind code compliant Fire Rescue Stations.	\$4 million 18 months \$3,000,000	Indian River County Emergency Services Tad Stone	This will allow these critical facilities to withstand major hurricane impact, and support the personnel on an extended basis with power water and sewer facilities. These projects will benefit all citizens and visitors of Indian River County as well as the surrounding counties we assist through mutual aid by providing uninterrupted Fire Rescue and EMS service during and after a major disaster event.	Hurricane, Tropical Storm and Flood	All Jurisdictions	HMGP	Confirmed 1/5/19 (Tad Stone)

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6	85	Conservation Area Prescribed Burn	\$255,000 12-36 months \$191,250	Indian River County Community Development Roland DeBlois	Purchase of equipment contract work to treat areas vulnerable to wildfire, especially conservation areas with added material from Hurricane Matthew through mechanical means and prescribed burns.	Wildfire	All jurisdictions	HMGP	Confirmed HMGP 1/17/19 (Roland DeBlois)
7	84	Historic Fellsmere Flood Study	\$50,000 12 months \$37,500	City of Fellsmere Jason Nunemaker	An accurate flood map will mitigate against future floods by ensuring homes will be properly elevated.	Flood	City of Fellsmere	HMGP	Confirmed 7/23/18 (Jason Nunemaker)
8	83	Generator project for Sebastian Adult Day Care Center.	\$100,000 <12 months \$75,000	Senior Resource Association, Karen Deigl IRCES, Cory Richter	Generator upgrade for the Sebastian Adult Day Care Center to increase the shelter capacity for a step-down shelter for Special Needs Shelter clients.	Hurricane/Tropical Storm	All Jurisdictions	HMGP	Confirmed 1/26/18 (Karen Deigl/Cory Richter)
9	83	Elkcam Canal dredging and seawalls	\$4 million >12 months \$3,000,000	City of Sebastian Paul Carlisle	Reduces the exposure of possible flooding and property damage to residential homes, businesses, and city owned facilities.	Flooding and erosion	City of Sebastian	HMGP , FMA, SJRWMD, FPMS, USACE, CDBG	Confirmed 2/12/19 (Tim Walker)
10	81	Retrofits to the North County Library to reduce vulnerability to wind and flood damage.	\$10,000 <12 months	Indian River County Public Works Rich Szpyrka	Reduces vulnerability of a public building and contents (library) to flooding damage.	Severe Weather: including Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Tornado, lightning and Flood	All Jurisdictions	Public Library Construction Grant; Coastal Construction Building Zone Program; CDBG; DRI; FMAP; HMGP ; Hurricane Program; NFMF	Confirmed 3/1/19 (Rich Szpyrka)
11	81	Retrofits to the county's main library to reduce vulnerability to wind and flood damage.	\$10,000 <12 months	Indian River County Public Works Rich Szpyrka	Reduces vulnerability of a public building and contents (library) to flooding damage.	Severe Weather: including Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Tornado, lightning and Flood	All Jurisdictions	Public Library Construction Grant; Coastal Construction Building Zone Program; CDBG; DRI; FMAP; HMGP ; Hurricane Program; NFMF	Confirmed 3/1/19 Rich Szpyrka
12	80	Indian Lane drainage canal	\$933,400 >1 2 months	Indian River Shores Joe Griffin	Dredging the Indian Lane storm water drainage canal to improve holding capacity and provide better flow from the storm water drainage system	Severe Weather: including Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Tornado, lightning and Flood	Town of Indian River Shores	Flood Plain Management Services, HMGP , FMA, State Preparedness Grant	Confirmed 2/27/19 (Joe Griffin)
13	80	Barber Street bridge replacement	\$2.5 million >12 months \$1,875,000	City of Sebastian Paul Carlisle	Ensures traffic circulation, emergency response, and public transportation from the city to U.S. #1, C.R. 512, and I-95.	Hurricane/tropical storm, erosion, and flooding	City of Sebastian	CDBG, HMGP , EDA	Confirmed HMGP 2/27/19 (Scott Baker)

Indian River County LMS

*Indicates jurisdiction interest in this project and support wherever necessary.

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14	80	George Street canal dredging and seawalls	\$4 million >12 months \$3,000,000	City of Sebastian Paul Carlisle	Reduces the exposure of flooding and property damage to residential homes, businesses, and city owned facilities.	Hurricane/tropical storm, flooding, and erosion	City of Sebastian	HMGP, FMA, SJRWMD, FPMS, USACE, CDBG	Confirmed 2/12/19 (Tim Walker)
15	79	Retrofits to the City of Vero Beach Public Works facility including roof replacement and hardening of building.	\$2 million >12 months \$1,500,000	City of Vero Beach Don Dexter	Reduces the vulnerability to category 4 or 5 hurricanes for two critical facilities.	Severe Weather: including Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Tornado, lightning and Flood	City of Vero Beach	HMGP, CDBG, EMP&A Trust Fund (DCA), Pre-disaster Mitigation Program (FEMA), Hurricane Program (FEMA)	Confirmed 1/16/19 (Don Dexter)
16	79	Fleming Street bridge replacement	\$2 million >12 months \$1,500,000	City of Sebastian Paul Carlisle	Ensures traffic circulation, emergency response, and public transportation from the city to U.S. #1, C.R. 512, and I-95.	Hurricane/tropical storm, flooding, and erosion	City of Sebastian	CDBG, HMGP, EDA	Confirmed 2/27/19 (Scott Baker)
17	79	Replacement of county bridges constructed below the 100-year flood plain for improved access, evacuation and exposure to flooding.	\$10 million >12 months \$7,500,000	Indian River County Public Works Department Rich Szyrka	Reduces the risk of fatalities (loss of life) during evacuation.	Flooding	All Jurisdictions	CDBG; DRI; Emergency Relief Program; FMAP; HMGP; Hurricane Program; NFMF; STP	Confirmed 3/1/19 (Rich Szyrka)
18	78	Install flood control structures Vero Isles.	\$60,000 12 months \$45,000	City of Vero Beach Don Dexter	Installation will help to minimize tidal flooding of the homes and businesses from the Indian River Lagoon to 8th Avenue in the Miracle Mile and Royal Palm Point shopping areas.	Flooding, hurricane/tropical storm, tsunami	City of Vero Beach	HMGP, FDEP	Confirmed HMGP 1/16/19 (Don Dexter)
19	78	Hibiscus Children's Center	\$575,000 <12 months \$431,250	Hibiscus Children's Center/IRCEM	Fortification of group home for 40 at-risk teenagers to allow shelter-in-place. Harden roofs and install generators.	Tropical Storm/Hurricane, Flood	Vero Beach	HMGP	Added 2/1/18 (Lisa Wynne)
20	75	Protection of the Surficial Aquifer groundwater quality and quantity as a secondary potable water source through acquisition of primary recharge areas and through the plugging of abandoned artesian wells.	\$2 million >12 months \$1,500,000	Indian River County Community Development Roland DeBlois	Reduces the exposure to potential wellfield contamination.	Drought	All Jurisdictions	Capitalization Grants for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund; Conservation Technical Assistance; DRI; HMGP; Planning Assistance to States Program; Water Pollution Control: State and Interstate Program Support; Water Quality Program Management	Confirmed 1/17/19 (Roland DeBlois)
21	77	Laconia Avenue extension	\$5 million >12 months \$3,750,000	City of Sebastian Paul Carlisle	This project will provide a major emergency evacuation route. that will include a new bridge over the St. Sebastian River. It will provide a much-needed major escape route not directly impacted by the Florida East Coast Railway.	Flooding	Sebastian	CDBG, Emergency Relief, FMAP, HMGP	Confirmed 2/27/19 (Scott Baker)

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22	74	Culvert/Pipe for Stonecrop Main ditch alignment	\$500,000 <12 months \$375,000	City of Sebastian Paul Carlisle	Ensures circulation of storm water system and reduces possible flooding and property damage.	Hurricane/tropical storms, flooding, erosion	Sebastian	HMGP, FMA, SJRWMD, FPMS	Confirmed HMGP 2/12/19 (Tim Walker)
23	74	Relocation of City of Vero Beach wastewater treatment plant.	\$25,000,000 36 months \$18,750,000	City of Vero Beach Rob Bolton	Relocate WWTP located next to the I.R. Lagoon to City owned property located near the WTP at the Vero Beach Airport.	Hurricane/tropical storms, tsunami	City of Vero Beach	HMGP, FMA, EPA	Confirmed 1/16/19 (Don Dexter)
24	72	Construction of seawall/revetment along Humiston Beach in the City of Vero Beach.	\$600,000 >12 months \$450,000	City of Vero Beach Don Dexter	Residents and business owners will benefit from continued and uninterrupted access to the beach facilities and associated parking.	Flood and erosion	Vero Beach	HMGP	Confirmed HMGP 1/16/19 (Don Dexter)
25	71	Construction of tilting Weir gates across two canals that connect Rockridge subdivision with the lagoon.	\$6.5 million >12 months \$4,875,000	Indian River County Public Works Rich Szpyrka	Will prevent flooding in the subdivision during hurricane events.	Flood	Unincorporated Indian River County	HMGP	Confirmed 3/1/19 (Rich Szpyrka)
26	67	Study of sea level rise potential impacts to public facilities.	\$100,000 >12 months \$75,000	Indian River County Community Development Roland DeBlois	This project will provide information for long range planning of new public facilities and retrofit of existing facilities.	Flooding	Unincorporated Indian River County	HMGP, PDM, EMPA	Confirmed 1/17/19 (Roland DeBlois)
27	66	Acquisition of land along the Indian River Lagoon within the Coastal High Hazard Area to reduce potential future losses.	Phase I - \$2 million Phase II - \$7 million >12 months Phase I - \$1,500,000 Phase II - \$5,250,000	Indian River County Community Development Roland DeBlois	Will reduce county exposure by preventing development in a high hazard area.	Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Flood and coastal erosion	Indian River County and City of Vero Beach	Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act; CDBG; DRI; HMGP ; NFMF; North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Program; Outdoor Recreation: Acquisition, Development, and Planning	Confirmed 1/17/19 (Roland DeBlois)
28	64	Culvert replacement for ditch/street crossings	\$1 million >12 months \$750,000	City of Sebastian Paul Carlisle	Replace all ditch culverts that intersect streets to promote better drainage.	Flood	Sebastian	CDBG, Emergency Relief, FMAP, HMGP	Confirmed HMGP 2/12/19 (Tim Walker)
29	64	Establishment of a county GIS department to improve flood mapping for flood damage reduction.	\$1 million to \$2 million >12 months \$750,000 to \$1,500,000	Indian River County Public Works Rich Szpyrka	Reduces countywide flood exposure by allowing better management of flood zones.	Flood	All Jurisdictions	Challenge 21: Floodplain; Conservation Technical Assistance; FMAP; HMGP ; Land Protection; NFMF	Confirmed 3/1/19 (Rich Szpyrka)

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*Indicates jurisdiction interest in this project and support wherever necessary.

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30	64	Construction of seawall along Conn Beach in the City of Vero Beach.	\$1.7 million >12 months \$1,275,000	City of Vero Beach Don Dexter	This project will provide erosion control, prevent damage to Ocean Drive and the Boardwalk which sustained approximately \$1 million in damages from Hurricanes Frances and	Hurricane/Tropical Storm, flood and coastal erosion	Vero Beach	HMGP	Confirmed 1/16/19 (Don Dexter)
31	63	Modifications to the outfall structure at Stonebridge Subdivision for flood damage reduction.	\$5000 >12 months \$3,750	Indian River County Public Works Rich Szpyrka	Reduces vulnerability to flooding at this site.	Flood	Unincorporated Indian River County	CDBG; DRI; Emergency Rehabilitation of Flood Control Works; FMAP; HMGP ; Hurricane Program; NFMF; Public Assistance	Confirmed 3/1/19 (Rich Szpyrka)
32	61	Jones' Pier floodproofing/elevation	\$800,000 <12 months \$600,000	Indian River County Community Development	Elevating historic structures to above base flood elevation (BFE); storm shutters; drainage improvements	Flooding, Hurricane/tropical storm	All Jurisdictions	HMGP , DHR	Confirmed 1/17/19 (Roland DeBlois)
33	59	Restoration of critically eroded areas along an 8.3-mile stretch of the Atlantic shoreline in an effort to provide needed storm protection.	\$18 million initial/ \$48 million long-term >12 months \$13,500,000/ \$36,000,000	Indian River County Public Works Department Rich Szpyrka	Reduces storm surge and flooding vulnerability.	Flood	City of Vero Beach	CDBG; Conservation Plant Material Centers, Conservation Technical Assistance; DRI; FMAP; HMGP ; Hurricane Program; Land Protection, Planning Assistance to States Program	Confirmed 3/1/19 (Rich Szpyrka)
34	55	Historic Fellsmere Regional Lakes	\$2,000,000 12 months \$1,500,000	City of Fellsmere Jason Nunemaker	Will mitigate against future floods by storing flood waters within large regional lakes thereby reducing the flood level in the basins served by the deterioration lakes.	Flood	City of Fellsmere	HMGP	Confirmed 7/23/18 (Jason Nunemaker)
35	48	Historic Fellsmere Alleyway Grading	\$1,400,000 12 months \$1,050,000	City of Fellsmere Jason Nunemaker	Will mitigate against future floods by storing flood waters in the alleyways thereby reducing the flood level in the basins served by the alleyway flood storage system.	Flood	City of Fellsmere	HMGP	Confirmed Added 7/23/18 (Jason Nunemaker)
36	48	Historic Fellsmere Stormwater Greenway	\$1,800,000 12 months \$1,350,000	City of Fellsmere Jason Nunemaker	Will mitigate against future floods by storing flood waters in the stormwater greeway thereby reducing the flood level in the basins served by the stormwater greenway.	Flood	City of Fellsmere	HMGP	Confirmed Added 7/23/18 (Jason Nunemaker)