

Rebuild Florida Voluntary Home Buyout Grant - Public Meeting

Thursday, April 13, 2023, 10:00 am

Escambia County Central Office Complex

3363 West Park Place, Pensacola, FL 32505



Matthew Skipper, Stormwater Engineering Program Manager

Matt Skipper called the meeting to order at 10:17 am.

Mr. Skipper gave a brief description of the four grant agreements the County is submitting applications for procurement of funding match. Three of the grants are Hurricane Sally Hazard Mitigation, and the fourth was created by the Department of Economic Opportunity following the COVID epidemic. Mr. Skipper stated the County is pursuing these grants to purchase and demolish homes that have experienced reoccurring flooding events and to create deed restrictions on the purchased properties to prevent future damage.

Mr. Skipper presented the affected addresses of the property owners who have shown willingness to participate by filing preapplications. Mr. Skipper clarified that property owners are not bound to participate and may withdraw at any time from the program.

Allen Vinson, PE, with HDR, Inc. pointed out that the CDBG match focuses on floodplain areas where there are no infrastructure repair options; and properties meeting low to moderate income criteria receive an increased priority level and when needed, assistance with relocation. Mr. Vinson also mentioned that future CDBG's are possible, and the County uses flooding questionnaires to determine the level of destruction in the flood zones.

Mr. Skipper discussed the various identifiers, drainage basin studies, GIS mapping, public meetings, questionnaires, and inspections by the Engineering and Building Inspection departments.

Mr. Alex Rigsby, offered the services of Legal Services of Northwest Florida to assist indigent property owners with obtaining clear title to their property. Eligibility requirements must be met. These citizens should call (866)550-2929 to reach the Disaster Legal Aid Hotline.

As there were no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.