

## Memorandum

To: Ms. Bonnie Dhonau, Town Administrator and Town Council

From: Robert H. Brotherton, P.E., Town Engineering Consultant *RHB*

Date: September 1, 2016

Subject : Annual Report for the Town of Indian Shores Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) and the Pinellas County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS)

By Ordinance 2009-3 on May 14, 2009, the Town of Indian Shores adopted the Floodplain Management Plan (FMP). This memo is the progress report for 2016. It was prepared by Robert H. Brotherton, P.E., Brotherton Engineering, Inc., Town Engineering Consultant. It will be reviewed and approved by the Town Planning, Zoning, and Building Committee (PZB) who also serves as the Local Planning Agency (LPA) at the September 20, 2016 PZB committee meeting and at the September 21, 2016 Town Council meeting.

The Town of Indian Shores Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) is more stringent than the Pinellas County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) based on the fact that the Town of Indian Shores agreed to require the building of new structures to higher regulatory standards. Some of these more restrictive Standards are as follows:

- The cost of all improvements, modifications, reconstruction, repairs, and/or additions to all existing structures that, are below proper flood elevation, shall be added cumulatively for ten years from the date of the initial permit date. When the total equals 50% of the market value, the structure will be required to be elevated to the FEMA established Base Flood Elevation plus 4 feet.
- A single addition or renovation shall be considered a substantial improvement (which will then require the structure to be elevated to the FEMA established Base Flood Elevation plus 4 feet) when the cost of improving the structure exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure.
- All new structures, regardless of what flood zone they are located in, must have the following:
  - 1) Breakaway walls and hydrostatic vents if the ground level is enclosed.
  - 2) Shall be elevated to or above the FEMA base flood elevation plus four feet.

The Town of Indian Shores continues to maintain the Town's MS4 drainage system under its Phase II Generic NPDES Permit. This includes routine inspection, removal of debris from streets, maintenance of retention ponds, CDS units, pipes and catch basins and repairs to the MS4 system. The Town also continues to maintain and monitor the Town-owned parks and lands throughout the Town.

The Building Department continues to provide:

- Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and other Map assistance to property owners.
- Flood documents available at the Town's public library.
- Provide technical assistance concerning flood issues.
- Publicizing these services.
- Encourage the elevation/retrofitting of existing structures to Town requirements of (FEMA Base Flood elevation plus 4 feet) through the enforcement of the Fifty percent rule and through distribution of information to Town residents and making suggestions to raise the structure during structure improvements to existing buildings that are below flood elevations per Town standards.

The Pinellas County "Local Mitigation Strategy" (LMS) was developed cooperatively with representatives of Pinellas County and the 24 municipalities. The LMS is a unified, coordinated effort to develop local initiatives to mitigate for future property damage and possible loss of life from severe storms and flooding. LMS participants meet regularly to discuss the LMS and prioritize local topics including major drainage improvement projects, hardening of public structures, Emergency Operation Center updates and improvements and other mitigation construction type projects. The LMS group also encourages educational outreach programs to the community. The LMS is updated and revised annually as goals are reached, projects are accomplished or priorities are shifted.

The LMS qualifies for credit as a Floodplain Management Plan under the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) program. The CRS is a point system program that rewards communities that undertake floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards by reducing flood insurance premiums for the citizens of participating communities. There are 10 CRS classes: Class 1 requires the most credit points and gives the greatest premium reduction; Class 10 receives no premium reduction. Indian Shores has participated in the CRS program since 1986 and is currently a "Class 6" community due to the Town's Floodplain Management Plan (FMP). As a Class 6 community, all property in Indian Shores receives a twenty percent discount on flood insurance premiums.

In order to continue to receive CRS points, a progress report must be submitted as part of the required documentation during the annual CRS recertification process. This memo is the Town of Indian Shores annual progress report. It was prepared for review by the Town Council at the September 21, 2016 Town Council meeting. Copies of this report are available to the public and posted on the Town's Website. The status for year 2016 is essentially the same as the status for year 2015.

## **STATUS OF THE INDIAN SHORES FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP)**

### **Initiative:**

- Obtain approval of the Town recommended revisions to the Town's Floodplain Management Ordinance from the Florida Division of Emergency Management per the "Model Ordinance". Request submitted on July 26, 2016.
- Distribute sand bags during storm warning.
- Continue Erosion control and implementation of the Town's NPDES Permit.
- Continue to encourage existing structures at low elevations to raise the structure to Town standards.

## **STATUS OF THE INDIAN SHORES (FMP) MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Increase Public Awareness Regarding Mitigation**

**Initiative:** Provide education and information to property and business owners about storm damage and ways to properly protect structures. Utilize print media and the Town website to educate the public on mitigation.

**Status:** This was accomplished by Town website "Flood Information" and storm preparedness during the year by way of links to "Hurricane Safety" on the Home Page. The Town library and quarterly newsletters, offer flood information for properties within the Town.

### **Create a Disaster Resistant Community**

**Initiative:** Enforce the Land Development Regulations regarding flood management provisions and stormwater management.

**Status:** These regulations are strictly enforced. New construction must have the lowest elevated structural member at four feet over the BFE. All construction, regardless of being in a VE or AE zone, must have flood vents and break-a-way walls if the ground level is enclosed. The Town utilizes the most current edition of the Florida Building Code which has increased requirements for structural stability. For example, windows must be resistant to greater wind loads. The Town will continue to enforce the requirements of the most current Florida Building Code.

**Initiative:** Enforce Storm Water Management Requirements through the Site Plan Review process.

**Status:** All development is regulated with regard to surface water runoff. While the Town maintains its own MS4 system, it has the power to inspect privately owned drainage systems and remove, or cause to be removed, obstructions in any drainage system. The Town requires erosion/sedimentation control plans and drainage design and maintenance plans as part of the

Site Plan Review process and insures that these plans are implemented during construction. The Town has a Master Drainage Plan that has been implemented. Any new development or redevelopment in excess of 1 acre in size must obtain an environmental resource permit through SWFWMD. For property less than 1 acre in size, the Town requires stormwater treatment for the first 1" of rainfall on site which is greater than SWFWMD requirements.


Initiative: Provide flood related information to the residents.

Status: The Town maintains elevation certificates on all buildings built in the Town after 1986. The Town cannot verify that elevation certificates are available for all post-FIRM buildings within the Town. The Town also enforces the elevation of all new and substantially improved structures based on NAVD 88 elevations. This practice will continue. Technical service information and advice is available to residents and businesses regarding flooding and methods to prevent or reduce flooding. This technical service includes on-site visits.

### The Town's Action Plan

The following are actions the Town will take:

- 1) Continue the maintenance of the Town's MS4 drainage system. This includes routine inspection, removal of debris, and repairs.
- 2) Encourage the elevation/retrofitting of structures to the Town's FMP requirements through the enforcement of the 50/50 rule and through the distribution of information to repetitive loss areas.
- 3) Continue to provide FIRM and other map assistance to property owners.
- 4) Continue to maintain and publicize the Flood documents available at the Town's public library.
- 5) Continue to provide technical assistance concerning flood issues.
- 6) The Town of Indian Shores will continue to be an active participant in the Pinellas County LMS and will continue to require standards that provide reduced flood insurance.
- 7) The Town has adopted its own Floodplain Management Plan (FMP), which is more stringent than the LMS. This plan will continue in effect with proper enforcement.

  
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September 1, 2016

