

submitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Mitigation Planning Section within the timeframe outlined in the statute.

If in the event a disaster should occur, or other type of emergency in the county, the LMS Working Group may chose to meet early in the recovery and then redevelopment phase, soon after damage assessments are conducted. At this point, the current strategy will be reviewed and necessary changes made based on lessons learned from the response and recovery phase of the disaster. Also, new mitigation projects might be identified as a result of the disaster event and will be considered and added to the mitigation project list if deemed viable.

The LMS Working Group will begin the 5-year update process as close to the 18-months prior to the expiration of the LMS Plan. The plan update will be based on an evaluation and analysis of the risk and vulnerability assessment. The intent is to incorporate any changes in the estimate of replacement costs, new scientific data on hazards, the affects hazards have on the communities, changes in growth patterns, and if there are any reductions in vulnerability due to completion of mitigation projects.

Once the risk assessment is updated, the Working Group will utilize this information and evaluate the goals, objectives, and actions contained in the LMS to determine if they are still applicable.

Also, the Working Group will evaluate whether or not the communities have the resources available to implement current and new programs and projects. The updated LMS will also capture the planning process followed during the update of the Plan.

During the 5-year LMS evaluation and revision process, at least one public meeting will be conducted and include elected and appointed County officials, each participating municipality, and the general public, for consideration of the proposed comments or changes. Upon final coordination between these groups and formal approval from FDEM, the updated Local Mitigation Strategy will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners and the governing bodies of the municipality for their approval and adoption.

Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms

When feasible, the local governments should incorporate the requirements of the Local Mitigation Strategy into their comprehensive plans and land development regulations. The process for amending local government comprehensive plans is specified by Florida law, Section 163.3191, Florida Statutes, which requires local governments to prepare Evaluation and Appraisal Reports of their comprehensive plan at least once every seven years. The purpose of the process is to consider changes to comprehensive plans that reflect new information, comprehensive plan successes and failures, changing conditions and trends, as well as changes in state policy on planning and growth management which may have occurred during the prior seven years. Local governments will consider new information and policy guidance provided in