

THE BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the FDEM Mitigation Bureau



This Issue:

Silver Jackets Update
PAGE 01

FDOT and BIL
PAGE 02

SFWMD Tool &
Risk Rating 2.0
PAGE 03

New Employee Spotlight
PAGE 04

Mitigation Spotlight &
LMS Updates
PAGE 05

Mitigation Outreach
& Contact Info
PAGE 06

What's the Buzz? A Silver Jackets Update

By: Kristin Lentz

The Florida Silver Jackets Team is off to a great start in 2022! The team is preparing for the upcoming Florida Coastal Resilience Workshop, continuing work on the Immokalee Regional Water Plan, and finalizing proposals to submit for Fiscal Year 2023.

The Florida Coastal Resilience Workshop is an initiative designed to aid planners and engineers in increasing community resilience to coastal storms and sea level rise. The workshop will educate participants on various state statutes, and requirements, and provide hands-on training with tools developed by state and federal agencies to assess, communicate, and address risk to Florida communities. Participants will also be able to receive training credits for ASFPM Certified Floodplain Managers and AICP Planners. The workshop will be held over two weeks based on two location specific regions (Gulf Coast and Atlantic Coast). A third technical training will be offered and focus on publicly available tools. The workshop will be held on:

- April 19-21 (Gulf Coast region)
- May 24-26 (Atlantic Coast region)
- June 7 (Technical workshop)

At the start of the year, FDEM staff traveled to Immokalee to meet up with partnering agencies and research existing area conditions. The Immokalee Regional Water Plan project continues to hold solution sessions with local, state, tribal, and federal partners to identify a number of opportunities to increase flood resilience in the area.

The Silver Jackets Team has also been working to identify a number of project proposals for FY2023. Potential projects include an H&H study for the Astor community in Lake County, guidance on how to best utilize the International Guidelines on Natural and Nature-Based Features for Flood Risk Management, and a joint project with FDEP to help standardize vulnerability assessments. For questions or updates about the Florida Silver Jackets team, please contact Kristin Lentz.





Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

By: Florida Department of Transportation

Florida's long-range transportation plan, the Florida Transportation Plan, establishes goals for our transportation future. These include improving safety, mobility, and accessibility, while strengthening Florida's economy, communities, and environment. Our ability to efficiently and safely move people and goods directly affects our everyday lives.

The recently signed Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, commonly called the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), has important implications for Florida and its communities. Like previous federal surface transportation acts, the BIL provides direct funding to each state, as well as opportunities to compete for discretionary grants. Florida will continue to leverage our bottom-up planning process beginning with our metropolitan planning organizations (MPO's) and counties to build our work program and identify opportunities to compete for discretionary funds.

Florida is estimated to receive a direct allocation of \$16.7 billion in formula funds for transportation, with FDOT receiving \$13.5 billion and other recipients, like airports and transit agencies, receiving the remainder. Federal funding accounts for about 25 percent of total transportation investments in Florida and the federal resources in the BIL will continue to augment Florida's transportation investments.

It is worth noting the BIL reverses the trend in recent authorizations to streamline programs, expand program eligibility in lieu of creating new programs, and provide greater flexibility. The BIL creates new programs, including new discretionary programs which place federal control over funding decisions. The BIL adds 21 new competitive programs on top of 13 existing transportation-related competitive discretionary grant programs, totaling \$187 billion in potential funding. These grant programs do provide new funding opportunities to not only FDOT, but also cities, counties, metropolitan planning organizations, and transit agencies. Four focus areas emerge from the BIL: safety, equity, resilience, and modernization. Some key points of interest to Florida communities include:

- **Safety.** The BIL provides \$11 billion in transportation safety programs, including a new \$5 billion Safe Streets and Roads for All program.
- **Equity.** Multiple programs include considerations for rural and underserved or disadvantaged communities. The Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program provides \$2 billion nationally for surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas.
- **Resilience.** Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) will provide \$7.3 billion in formula funding to states and \$1.4 billion in competitive grants to eligible entities will augment ongoing state and local efforts support the resilience of our transportation system.
- **Modernization.** The BIL includes \$39 billion of new investment to modernize transit and improve accessibility for the elderly and people with disabilities. \$7.5 billion will be available to build a national network of EV chargers and \$1 billion is included for the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) program to advance smart city or community technologies and systems.

While new discretionary funding programs expand opportunities for local projects, these new programs also require local resources for planning, grant writing, project development and delivery. Implementation of the BIL will require enhanced collaboration with federal, state, regional, and local governments, as well as modal and private partners. FDOT will continue to provide input to USDOT to reflect Florida's unique needs, as USDOT develops implementation guidance. Through our continued investments, we are planning for the future to ensure that all Floridians and visitors have a safe, secure, and reliable transportation system.

For more information on the BIL, visit [fdot.gov/planning/policy/legislation/Bipartisan-Infrastructure-Law-\(BIL\)](https://fdot.gov/planning/policy/legislation/Bipartisan-Infrastructure-Law-(BIL)).



SFWMD-FIAT

By: Carolina Maran, South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District, as part of its Resiliency and Flood Protection Level of Service initiatives, has developed a Flood Impact Assessment Tool (SFWMD-FIAT) to support the District's Resiliency Program. SFWMD-FIAT helps support recommendations for flood mitigation and adaptation measures by providing cost benefits of implementing priority infrastructure investments. These recommended strategies are supported by advanced hydrologic and hydraulic modeling tools and assessments being implemented by the District's Flood Protection Level of Service Program and are incorporated into the District's Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan. The tool provides the ability to perform future flood damage cost estimates using multiple flood elevation/inundation scenarios developed as part of future conditions modeling efforts, for various return frequencies, to calculate an expected annual flood damage estimate.

The Tool is capable of quickly producing flood damage cost estimates for district-wide basins using simulated flood elevations, exposure data for buildings, roads and selected infrastructure components, and associated flood damage functions. Further, the Tool provides a standardized and systematic economic analysis necessary for developing objective assessments, and determining cost-benefits, for different flood mitigation alternatives in any of the District's basins.

SFWMD-FIAT can calculate the flood damage costs for building structures and their contents as well as roads and other selected infrastructure components, for multiple flood inundation scenarios. The user can run damage calculations for multiple flood inundation scenarios, and return periods using a single desktop tool. The output includes post-processed tabulated damages and risk by sub-basin. Scenarios include the following: current conditions and no mitigation, future conditions and no mitigation, and future conditions with mitigation implemented.

Visit <https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/district-resiliency> for more information about the District's Resiliency Program.

Risk Rating 2.0

By: Kristin Lentz

Beginning April 1, FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program and the new risk rating methodology, Risk Rating 2.0, will enter Phase 2 of its roll out. Phase I began October 1, 2021 with all new policies utilizing the new rating methodology. For Phase 2, the new methodology will be applied to all remaining policies as they are renewed.

According to FEMA, Risk Rating 2.0 is an approach to leverage "industry best practices and cutting-edge technology to enable FEMA to deliver rates that are actuarially sound, equitable, easier to understand and better reflect a property's flood risk." Allowable rate increases are set in statute and rate increases for primary residences may not exceed more than 18% per year.

Affordability concerns have been raised since the new rating methodology was announced. These concerns further highlight the need for implementing mitigation measures to help policyholders reduce their costs. States and communities play a vital role in leading mitigation efforts through prioritizing flood mitigation projects, reducing the number of vulnerable structures within flood risk areas through mitigation planning, and through the adoption of building codes and zoning regulations.

For more information on Risk Rating 2.0, visit <https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/risk-rating>.



New Employee Spotlight

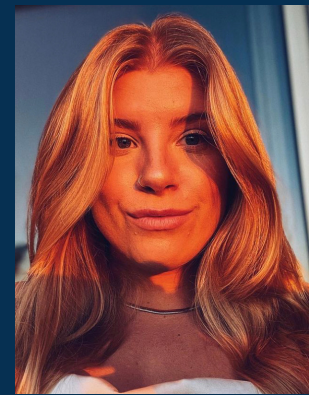
We are excited to welcome our new employees to the Mitigation Team in the Floodplain Management, Finance and Technical units!



Armani Arellano
Floodplain Management Specialist



Travis Mitchell
Floodplain Management Specialist



Cheyenne Young
Grants Specialist V



Eva Colona
Grants Specialist V



Evan Jenkins
Grants Specialist V



Caleb Brady
Historic and Environmental
Preservation Specialist II



Mitigation Spotlight



Jared Jarowski presents during FEPA Workshop
Source: Laura Dhuwe, FDEM



Laura Nelson presents during FEPA Workshop
Source: Eve Rainey, FEPA

"Facing the Future Together" was the guiding theme for the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association's (FEPA) 2022 Annual Meeting in early February. This year, FDEM staff presented at two workshops during the Annual Meeting: *HMGP Application Training* and *Successfully Managing Your Mitigation Project from Start to Finish*.

In the *HMGP Application Training*, Jared Jaworski provided a step-by-step training of the HMGP application and grant management process in the new FDEM Portal. *Managing Your Mitigation Project* was led by FDEM staff Laura Dhuwe, Holly Swift, Claudia Purser, and Kayla Born, in coordination with St. John County EM staff Laura Nelson. This workshop was developed to help participants understand the role of the local and state project managers, understand the resources available to them, and to be able to recognize common pitfalls and best practices.

The Bureau continues to be committed to helping our subapplicants and subrecipients understand the complicated grant process and overcome challenges in the grant process.

The Cyclone of LMS Updates!

We are in a Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) update cycle. Each plan must be updated every five years and we only have a few plans left. Keep track with us as we finish up this cycle!

County Congratulations!

We want to congratulate Gilchrist, Nassau, Putnam, Washington counties on completing their update cycle!

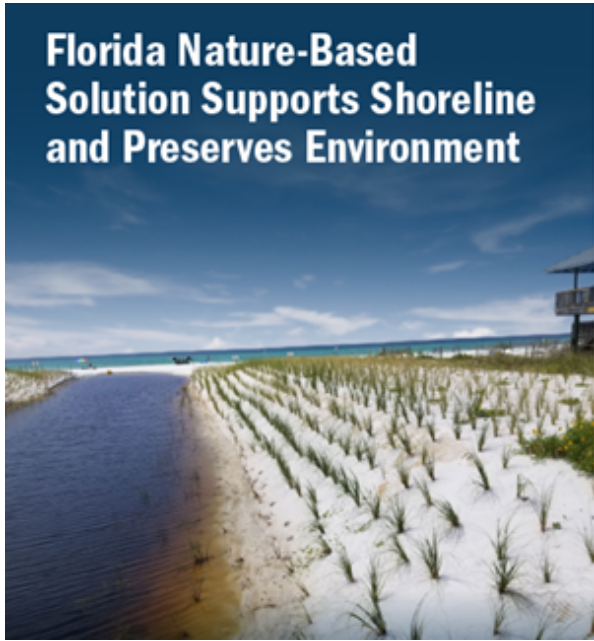
- 0 Under Review
- 1 In Revisions
- 0 Approved Pending Adoption
- 12 Approved
- 52 Cycle Complete
- 0 Expired



Mitigation Outreach

FEMA's *Mitigation Action Portfolio* is a great tool for those seeking best-practice examples of mitigation projects. Projects vary by project type and hazard. The latest update highlights nature-based solutions that address flooding and hurricane threats in Walton County.

Florida Nature-Based Solution Supports Shoreline and Preserves Environment



Oyster Lake is a coastal dune lake, which creates a unique interchange between a natural storm water lake and the Gulf. When a dune lake reaches a high water level, flow breaks through the system forming a channel between the lake and the Gulf. Oyster Lake's outfall is critical for regulating water levels and mitigating flooding. This outfall became severely degraded over time and the overall health was strained from major storms and urban growth.

More than 2,000 square yards of an Engineered Earth Armoring System consisting of High Performance Turf Reinforcement Mat (HPTRM) and Engineered Earth Anchors was installed along the channel. This system was selected because it provides slope stabilization and erosion control, while promoting vegetation growth. During installation, 2,000 sea oats were planted within the HPTRM.

After installation, Hurricane Michael (Category 5) made landfall 60 miles east of Oyster Lake, causing winds up to 80 mph, storm surge, and significant rainfall and flooding at the project location. The vegetated slopes of the outfall withstood the extreme conditions, protecting several homes, Highway 30A, and a bridge.

Need More Information?

Kristin Lentz

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The Bureau of Mitigation

Mitigation is an integral part of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). Mitigation actions reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Due to Florida's weather, geography and miles of coastline the state is highly vulnerable to disasters. Disasters can be very costly to both the citizens and government.

Under the direction of Division Director Kevin Guthrie and State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Miles E. Anderson, the Bureau of Mitigation administers several federal mitigation grant programs including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program, and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. The Bureau also administers a state funded mitigation program called the Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program.

If you would like to know more about mitigation in Florida please visit:
www.floridadisaster.org/mitigation.

