

March 2018

Economic Recovery and Resiliency Efforts Following Hurricane Irma Workshops



ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY EFFORTS FOLLOWING HURRICANE IRMA WORKSHOPS

“The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is thrilled to have had the opportunity to partner with EDA and IEDC on the Hurricane Irma recovery workshop. You and your team were able to pull so many federal resources together in such a short time which was much appreciated. Floridians are fortunate to have the professionals at EDA willing to help us as we recover from the worst hurricane experienced on the Florida peninsula in over a decade. You and your team continue to set an example of excellence in federal government service and when the need is greatest we know we can count on EDA.”

SEAN SULLIVAN

DIRECTOR, TAMPA BAY RPC

Local, Regional, State, National, and Federal Partners Work Together



ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY EFFORTS FOLLOWING HURRICANE IRMA WORKSHOPS

OVERVIEW

On September 10, 2017, Hurricane Irma began its strike on Florida as a Category 4 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 130 mph. That day, Florida received a major presidential disaster declaration (4337 DR-FL), which resulted in the activation of the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) coordinated by FEMA through six Recovery Support Functions (RSFs).

The Economic RSF, led by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), was activated in late September to serve alongside FEMA and the other RSFs in the Joint Field Office (JFO) in Orlando, Florida. From October 1, 2017, to March 3, 2018, EDA has worked with federal, state, and regional partners in the post-disaster recovery mission for Florida. The Economic RSF undertook three phases of development and delivery in service to the state: (1) the mission scoping assessment; (2) the recovery support strategy; and (3) economic recovery and resiliency workshops. These efforts have been led by EDA's field coordinator for the Economic RSF, Asa Williams.



Figure 1: Alana Kuhn, Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator, and Asa Williams, Economic Recovery Support Function Field Coordinator

The driving inspiration for the Economic RSF throughout our time of service has been one of economic resiliency, that is, how we help Florida and her communities *build back better*.

The final phase of Economic RSF's work took place in February 2018 through a series of seven workshops entitled "Economic Recovery and Resiliency Efforts Following Hurricane Irma" and designed to set the framework for implementation of the goals, strategies, and actions recommended for the state to pursue for achieving economic resiliency. These workshops were held in partnership with the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) representing the state's Regional Planning Councils (RPCs), Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), and federal partners.

This report provides a summary of the workshops.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the workshops was two-fold: (1) to share and discuss best practices for infusing resilience into economic recovery efforts to help Florida and her communities build back better and (2) to foster helpful connections among participants – representing local, regional, state, federal, and national interests – for working together to aid Florida communities in these efforts in the months ahead.

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AUDIENCE

Community stakeholders attending the workshops included elected officials, civic leaders, government administrators and staff, economic development executives and staff, business owners and managers, and leaders from other community-based organizations interested in learning more about how to foster economic recovery and resiliency. Together, the workshops collectively served 124 community stakeholders including those representing government, nonprofit organizations, and private sector interests. The audience also included 72 participants representing federal, national, state, and regional entities.

The workshops provided a helpful vehicle for the local, regional, state, national, and federal stakeholders to learn from each other.

WORKSHOP TEAM



Figure 2: Grey Dodge and Erin Gillespie (Florida Department of Economic Opportunity), Greg Vaday, and Asa Williams

Joining Asa Williams on the workshop planning team were: Isabel Cosio Carballo (South Florida RPC), Dana Crater (IEDC), Randy DeShazo (Tampa Bay RPC), Grey Dodge (DEO), Erin Gillespie (DEO), C.J. Kammerer (Southwest Florida RPC), Lynn Knight (IEDC), Curtis Knowles (Central Florida RPC), Shannon McPherson (Central Florida RPC), Natalia Neira (South Florida RPC), Daniel Samess (Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce), Pat Steed (Central Florida RPC), Sean Sullivan (Tampa Bay RPC), Greg Vaday (EDA's Economic Development), Joy Wilkins (contract support made possible through J&M Global Solutions),

Alyssa Wood (South Florida RPC), and Margaret Wuerstle (Southwest Florida RPC). The workshops were facilitated by Greg Vaday and Asa Williams and supported by Joy Wilkins.

WORKSHOP LOGISTICS

Six of the workshops were broadly focused on economic recovery and resiliency for community and business leaders, and one was more specifically focused on business continuity in the face of disaster recovery. The workshops were held in the regions most impacted by Hurricane Irma: Central Florida; Tampa Bay; South Florida; and Southwest Florida. Four workshops were held in counties selected by FEMA and the state as Tier 1 counties (highest priority counties) for support through the FEMA-led Coordinated Place Based Recovery Structure due to the impacts of Hurricane Irma and their lack of local capacity to recover effectively. Three additional workshops were held in two counties were selected in consultation with IEDC. Following is the full list of the workshops.

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Date	Location	Venue
February 12, 2018	Fort Myers (Lee County)	Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
February 13, 2018	North Naples (Collier County)	North Collier Regional Park
February 14, 2018	LaBelle (Hendry County)	LaBelle Civic Center
February 15, 2018	Sebring (Highlands County)	Bert J. Harris Agri-Civic Center
February 15, 2018	Winter Haven (Polk County)	Chain of Lakes Complex
February 16, 2018	Crystal River (Citrus County)	Citrus County Visitors & Convention Bureau
February 27, 2018	Marathon (Monroe County)	Faro Blanco Resort & Yacht Club

Most of the workshops were day-long workshops held from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, with one exception. The Sebring workshop was designed to be a smaller workshop for a business audience and was held from 6:30 AM to 8:00 AM.

OVERALL OUTCOMES

Overall, the team worked to impart themes of agricultural, business, and community resiliency through these workshops. Following are some key outcomes:

- Community stakeholders learned from federal, state and IEDC officials about specific programs and resources available through their organizations for addressing priority needs in their communities.
- Federal and state stakeholders learned more about the programs at each other's agencies which should aid future efforts to provide cross referrals.
- Federal, national, state, regional, and local participants exchanged thoughts and ideas on practical tools and inspiring examples for bringing about economic recovery and resiliency.
- The intention of federal, state, and regional partners to be a continual and long-term resource for Florida communities was successfully conveyed and the stage was set for doing so.
- The workshops became a proven tool for forming or strengthening relationships among the key partners at the local, regional, state, national, and federal levels who will play vital roles in collaboration with each other to bring about Florida's economic recovery and future resiliency.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY EFFORTS FOLLOWING HURRICANE IRMA WORKSHOPS

FIRST STOP: FORT MYERS, FL

February 12, 2018

AGENDA

8:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Welcome Margaret Wuerstle, Southwest Florida RPC Introduction to Workshop Speaker: Greg Vaday, EDA
9:30 AM	Tips and Tools for Business Continuity Speaker: Suzanne Specht, SBDC
10:30 AM	Break
10:45 AM	IEDC: Introduction to Community Resiliency and Economic Diversification Speaker: Dana Crater, IEDC
11:45 AM	Federal Partners Panel Speakers: Althea Harris, SBA; Mike Botelho, USDA; Blake Velde, DOI; Pam Swingle, EPA; Bob Cook, HUD
12:45 PM	Rotating/Networking Lunch with State and Federal Partners Organizer: Asa Williams, EDA
2:00 PM	Overview of State Resources Speakers: Erin Gillespie and Grey Dodge, DEO
2:30 PM	Break
2:45 PM	EDA Resources for Economic Recovery and Resiliency Speaker: Greg Vaday, EDA
3:15 PM	IEDC Creative Financing and Long-Term Revitalization Speaker: Gynii Gilliam, IEDC
4:15 PM	Closing Remarks Margaret Wuerstle, Southwest Florida RPC

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY EFFORTS FOLLOWING HURRICANE IRMA WORKSHOPS

The workshop in Fort Myers began with a welcome from Southwest Florida RPC director Margaret Wuerstle. It included a session from Greg Vaday who stressed EDA's interest in serving as a long-term partner for helping Florida not only bounce back but bounce forward through dedicated resources for economic recovery and resiliency. In addition, participants heard from Suzanne Specht (SBDC) on tips and tools for business continuity, Dana Crater on best practices for community resiliency and economic diversification identified through IEDC, and from Gynii Gilliam (IEDC) on best practices for creative financing and long-term revitalization. The speakers infused personal stories and examples of communities that have “built back better” during their presentations.



Figure 3: Greg Vaday, Margaret Wuerstle (Southwest Florida RPC), and Asa Williams

A dynamic federal partners panel, facilitated by Greg Vaday, featured insights from Althea Harris (SBA), Mike Botelho (USDA), Blake Velde (DOI), Pam Swingle (EPA), and Bob Cook (HUD) on federal programs and resources of relevance for addressing recovery needs in Southwest Florida. Participants also heard from Erin Gillespie and Grey Dodge on the many programs and resources available through DEO and other state partners. A networking lunch, organized by Asa Williams, was provided to ensure that participants would connect with the partners in the room. Participants were provided with a passport book and asked to have each partner they engaged with sign the book.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks by Margaret Wuerstle who rallied the participants to continue to work together for economic recovery and resiliency in Lee County and Southwest Florida as a whole.

This workshop was attended by 23 participants representing community, regional, state, federal, and private sector interests.



Figure 4: Participants learn from Suzanne Specht (Florida SBDC) on tips and tools for business continuity



Figure 5: IEDC volunteer Gynii Gilliam discusses ideas and resources for financing and supporting long-term resiliency

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SECOND STOP: NORTH NAPLES, FL

February 13, 2018

AGENDA

8:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Welcome Margaret Wuerstle, Southwest Florida RPC Introduction to Workshop Speaker: Greg Vaday, EDA
9:30 AM	Tips and Tools for Business Continuity Speaker: Cathy Haworth, SBDC
10:30 AM	Break
10:45 AM	EDA Resources for Economic Recovery and Resiliency Speaker: Greg Vaday, EDA
11:15 AM	IEDC: Introduction to Community Resiliency and Economic Diversification Speaker: Dana Crater, IEDC
11:45 AM	Federal Partners Panel Speakers: Ronald Brunner, SBA; Mike Browne, DOI; Pam Swingle, EPA; Bob Cook, HUD; Gary Karp, FEMA
12:45 PM	Rotating/Networking Lunch with State and Federal Partners Organizer: Asa Williams, EDA
2:00 PM	Overview of State Resources Speakers: Erin Gillespie and Grey Dodge, DEO; Twyla Leigh, University of Florida IFAS Extension
2:30 PM	Break
2:45 PM	IEDC Creative Financing and Long-Term Revitalization Speaker: Gynii Gilliam, IEDC
3:30 PM	Closing Remarks Margaret Wuerstle, Southwest Florida RPC

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Figure 6: Greg Vaday presents on the importance of fostering economic resiliency and the resources available through EDA to help

RPC director Margaret Wuerstle kicked off the workshop in North Naples with a welcome. Participants then heard from Cathy Haworth (SBDC) on tips and tools for business continuity, Greg Vaday on EDA's resources for disaster recovery and resiliency, Dana Crater on IEDC's identified best practices for community resiliency and economic diversification, and Gynii Gilliam (IEDC) on best practices for creative financing and long-term revitalization. As in Fort Myers, the speakers infused their presentations with examples of communities that have "built back better."

A federal partners panel, facilitated by Greg Vaday, featured insights from Ronald Brunner (SBA), Mike Browne (DOI), Pam Swingle (EPA), Bob Cook (HUD), and Gary Karp (FEMA) on federal programs and resources of relevance for addressing recovery needs in Southwest Florida. Participants also heard from Erin Gillespie and Grey Dodge on the many programs and resources available through DEO and other state partners. The networking lunch organized by Asa Williams helped to ensure that participants would connect with the partners in the room and each other through the "passport activity."

The workshop concluded with closing remarks by Margaret Wuerstle with the RPC who commended Collier County on its recovery efforts and urged everyone to continue to partner in such efforts for Collier County and Southwest Florida as a whole.

The workshop was attended by 33 participants representing community, regional, state, federal, and private sector interests.



Figure 7: DEO's Erin Gillespie discusses state resources to aid communities in economic recovery and resiliency



Figure 8: CareerSource Florida's Jim Wall discusses U.S. Department of Labor resources

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THIRD STOP: LABELLE, FL

February 14, 2018

AGENDA

8:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Welcome Margaret Wuerstle, Southwest Florida RPC Introduction to Workshop Speaker: Greg Vaday, EDA
9:30 AM	Tips and Tools for Business Continuity Speaker: Suzanne Specht, SBDC
10:00 AM	EDA Resources for Economic Recovery and Resiliency Speaker: Greg Vaday, EDA
10:45 AM	Break
11:00 AM	Overview of State Resources Speakers: Erin Gillespie and Grey Dodge, DEO
11:30 AM	IEDC: Introduction to Community Resiliency and Economic Diversification Speaker: Dana Crater, IEDC
12:15 PM	Rotating/Networking Lunch with State and Federal Partners Organizer: Asa Williams, EDA
1:15 PM	Federal Partners Panel Speakers: Tina Davis, SBA; Mike Botelho and Yashira Mendez, USDA; Blake Velde, DOI; Dave Apple, USACE; Pam Swingle, EPA; Bob Cook, HUD; Jim Wall, CareerSource Florida (USDOL); Bertiel Harris, FEMA
2:30 PM	Break
2:45 PM	IEDC Creative Financing and Long-Term Revitalization Speaker: Gynii Gilliam, IEDC
3:30 PM	Closing Remarks Margaret Wuerstle, Southwest Florida RPC

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The third workshop in LaBelle was also kicked off by a welcome from RPC director Margaret Wuerstle. Participants then heard from Suzanne Specht (SBDC) on tips and tools for business continuity, Greg Vaday on EDA's resources for disaster recovery and resiliency, Dana Crater on best practices for community resiliency and economic diversification identified through IEDC, and from Gynii Gilliam (IEDC) on best practices for creative financing and long-term revitalization. In addition, Steve Berk (FSA) shared insights on resources for agribusiness.



Figure 9: Bob Cook (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) speaks to workshop participants

A federal partners panel, facilitated by Joy Wilkins, featured insights from Tina Davis (SBA), Mike Botelho and Yashira Mendez (USDA), Blake Velde (DOI), Dave Apple (USACE), Pam Swingle (EPA), Bob Clook (HUD), Jim Wall (CareerSource Florida for USDOL), and Bertiel Harris (FEMA) on federal programs and resources of relevance for addressing recovery needs in Southwest Florida. In addition to sharing about the specialized programs and resources available through each agency, there was a discussion on creative ways to address the match requirement for federal grants. Stakeholders heard about different ways that the federal partners could assist with specific recovery needs. For example, the U.S. Department of Interior can be helpful to a local health department with the loss of birth certificate and other records due to flooding. Participants also heard from Erin Gillespie and Grey Dodge on the many programs and resources available through DEO and other state partners. As with the previous workshops, the networking lunch organized by Asa Williams and designed to ensure that participants would connect with the partners in the room and each other was a success in doing so.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks by Margaret Wuerstle with the RPC with a call for everyone to continue to work together for the economic recovery and resiliency of Hendry County and Southwest Florida as a whole. The workshop was attended by 50 participants representing community, regional, state, federal, and private sector interests.



Figure 10: Local, regional, and federal partners network over lunch



Figure 11: Participants network with each other during a break

FOURTH STOP: SEBRING, FL

February 15, 2018

AGENDA

6:30 AM	Registration
7:00 AM	Welcome Greg Harris, Highlands County Commission
7:15 AM	Tips and Tools for Business Continuity Speakers: Carl Hadden, SBDC; Laurie Hurner, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Science
8:00 AM	Closing Remarks Pat Steed, Central Florida Regional Planning Council



Figure 12: Florida SBDC's Carl Hadden presents tips and tools for business continuity

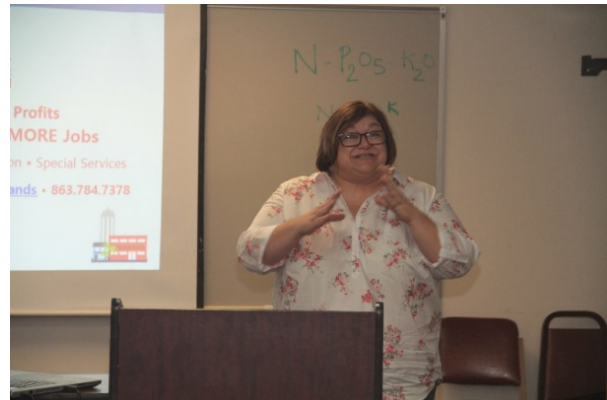


Figure 13: Laurie Hurner, University of Florida Extension, shares thoughts on impacts to agriculture

The fourth workshop was held in Sebring at the Bert J. Harris Agri-Civic Center. This early morning workshop was intended to be especially convenient for business owners and managers and focused on tips and tools for business continuity. The workshop began with a welcome from Commissioner Greg Harris with the Highlands County Board of Commissioners. Participants then heard from Carl Hadden (SBDC) on tips and tools for business continuity and from Laurie Hurner (University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Science) on considerations for agribusiness.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks by Pat Steed, director of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council. The workshop was attended by 13 participants representing community, regional, state, federal, and private sector interests.

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FIFTH STOP: WINTER HAVEN, FL

February 15, 2018

AGENDA

9:30 AM	Registration
10:00 AM	Welcome W. Patrick Huff, Bartow City Commission Introduction to Workshop Speaker: Greg Vaday, EDA
10:15 AM	EDA Resources for Economic Recovery and Resiliency Speaker: Greg Vaday, EDA
10:45 AM	IEDC: Introduction to Community Resiliency and Economic Diversification Speaker: Dana Crater, IEDC
11:30 AM	Break
11:45 AM	Federal Partners Panel Speakers: Lonnie Koyama, SBA; Latasha Thomas-Pace, USDA; Mike Browne; DOI; Dave Apple, USACE; Alesia Scott-Ford, HUD; Bronwyn Bethea Rowland, FSA
12:45 PM	Rotating/Networking Lunch with State and Federal Partners Organizer: Asa Williams, EDA
1:45 PM	Overview of State Resources Speaker: Grey Dodge, DEO
2:15 PM	Agricultural Impacts of Hurricane Irma Speaker: Sydney Stone Armstrong, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Nicole Walker, University of Florida IFAS Extension
2:45 PM	Break
3:00 PM	IEDC Creative Financing and Long-Term Revitalization Speaker: Gynii Gilliam, IEDC
4:00 PM	Closing Remarks Pat Steed, Central Florida RPC

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The Winter Haven workshop began with a welcome from the Bartow City Commissioner Pat Huff. Participants then heard from Greg Vaday about EDA's resources for economic recovery and resiliency, Dana Crater on IEDC-identified best practices for community resiliency and economic diversification, and Gynii Gilliam (IEDC) on best practices for creative financing and long-term revitalization.

A federal partners panel, facilitated by Joy Wilkins, featured insights from Lonnie Koyamo (SBA), Latasha Thomas-Pace (USDA), Mike Browne (DOI), Dave Apple (USACE), Alesia Scott-Ford (HUD), and Bronwyn Bethea Rowland (FSA) on federal programs and resources of relevance for addressing recovery needs in Central Florida. Carl Hadden (SBDC) also shared insights about SBA resources during the panel. While there were a number of points made, some highlights include learning about how SBA disbursed \$1 billion in loan funding in the first 100 days following Hurricane Irma and how HUD funding can be used for hospitals and other purposes beyond traditional housing. Sydney Stone Armstrong (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) and Nicole Walker (University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Science) discussed the agricultural impacts of Hurricane Irma and the assistance available through their agencies to help. Participants also heard from Grey Dodge on the many programs and resources available through DEO and other state partners. The networking lunch, organized by Asa Williams, ensured that participants would connect with the partners in the room and each other.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks by Pat Steed with the Central Florida Regional Planning Council who invited participants to stay engaged through the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process.

The workshop was attended by 60 participants representing community, regional, state, federal, and private sector interests.



Figure 14: Asa Williams, Pat Huff (Bartow City Commission), Pat Steed (Central Florida RPC), and Greg Vaday



Figure 15: Dana Crater (IEDC) talks on community resiliency



Figure 16: Dave Apple (USACE) discusses infrastructure

February 16, 2018

AGENDA

8:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Welcome Sean Sullivan, Tampa Bay RPC Ronald Kitchen, Chair, Citrus County Board of Commissioners Introduction to Workshop Speaker: Greg Vaday, EDA
9:30 AM	Tips and Tools for Business Continuity Speaker: Dr. Philip Geist, SBDC
10:15 AM	EDA Resources for Economic Recovery and Resiliency Speaker: Greg Vaday, EDA
11:00 AM	IEDC: Introduction to Community Resiliency and Economic Diversification Speaker: Dana Crater, IEDC
11:45 AM	Break
12:00 PM	Federal Partners Panel Speakers: Dr. Philip Geist, SBDC; Bronwyn Bethea Rowland, FSA; Mike Browne, DOI; Dave Apple, USACE; April Atkins, FDIC
1:00 PM	Rotating/Networking Lunch with State and Federal Partners Organizer: Asa Williams, EDA
2:00 PM	Overview of State Resources Speaker: Grey Dodge, DEO
2:30 PM	Break
2:45 PM	IEDC Creative Financing and Long-Term Revitalization Speaker: Gynii Gilliam, IEDC
3:45 PM	Closing Remarks Sean Sullivan, Tampa Bay RPC

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The sixth workshop held in Crystal River with a welcome from Sean Sullivan, Tampa Bay RPC director and Ronald Kitchen, chair of the Citrus County Board of Commissioners. Participants then heard from Dr. Philip Geist (SBDC) on tools and tips for business continuity, Greg Vaday on EDA's resources for economic recovery and resiliency, Dana Crater on best practices for community resiliency and economic diversification identified through IEDC, and Gynii Gilliam (IEDC) on best practices for creative financing and long-term revitalization.



Figure 17: Asa Williams, Sean Sullivan (Tampa Bay RPC), and Greg Vaday

A federal partners panel, facilitated by Joy Wilkins, featured insights from Dr. Phillip Geist (SBDC for SBA), Bronwyn Bethea Rowland (FSA), Mike Browne (DOI), Dave Apple (USACE), and April Atkins (FDIC) on federal programs and resources of relevance for addressing recovery needs in the Tampa Bay region. Of the many highlights shared during the panel discussion, the notion that economically distressed communities are often impacted the most significantly from disasters and what resources may be available to help them was an area of focus. Participants also heard from Grey Dodge on the many programs and resources available through DEO and other state partners. As before, the networking lunch organized by Asa Williams to ensure that participants would connect with the partners in the room and each other was successful in doing so.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks by Sean Sullivan with the RPC emphasizing his team's long-term commitment to Citrus County and the region to aid in both economic recovery and resiliency.

The workshop was attended by 29 participants representing community, regional, state, federal, and private sector interests.



Figure 18: A panel of federal partners discuss priority needs and resources for economic recovery and resiliency



Figure 19: DEO's Grey Dodge shares information on state resources

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SEVENTH STOP: MARATHON, FL

February 27, 2018

AGENDA

8:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Welcome George Neugent, Monroe County Daniel Samess, Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce Isabel Cosio Carballo, South Florida Regional Planning Council
9:15 AM	Introduction to Workshop Speaker: Greg Vaday, EDA
9:30 AM	Tips and Tools for Business Continuity Speaker: Kelly Penwell, Florida Keys SBDC
10:15 AM	EDA Resources for Economic Recovery and Resiliency Speaker: Greg Vaday, EDA
10:45 AM	Break
11:00 AM	IEDC: Lessons Learned from Other Disasters & Some Resources That Can Help Speaker: Lynn Knight, IEDC
12:00 PM	Rotating/Networking Lunch with State and Federal Partners Organizer: Asa Williams, EDA
1:00 PM	Federal Partners Panel Speakers: Ray Lewis, SBA; Mike Botelho, USDA; Blake Velde, DOI; Bob Cook, HUD; Paula Robinson and Nancy Mundo, FSA; Pam Swingle, EPA
2:00 PM	Break
2:15 PM	Agricultural Impacts of Hurricane Irma Speaker: Alicia Betancourt, University of Florida, IFAS
2:45 PM	Use of CDBG for Disaster Recovery Speaker: Sue Southon, ICF
3:30 PM	Overview of State Resources Speakers: Erin Gillespie and Grey Dodge, DEO; Steven James, FDOT
4:00 PM	Closing Remarks Isabel Cosio Carballo, South Florida Regional Planning Council Daniel Samess, Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce

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Figure 20: Monroe County Commissioner George Neugent welcomes workshop participants

The seventh and final workshop of the series was held in Marathon. South Florida RPC director Isabel Cosio Carballo offered opening remarks, followed by welcoming remarks by Daniel Samess, President & CEO of the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce, and George Neugent, Commissioner with the Monroe County Board of Commissioners. Participants then heard from Kelly Penwell (SBDC) on tools and tips for business continuity, Greg Vaday on EDA's resources for economic recovery and resiliency, and Lynn Knight on IEDC-identified best practices for community resiliency and economic diversification.

New to this workshop was the addition of Sue Southon with ICF who delivered a detailed session on the use of CDBG-DR funds in disaster recovery.

A federal partners panel, facilitated by Joy Wilkins, featured insights from Ray Lewis (SBA), Mike Botelho (USDA), Blake Velde (DOI), Bob Cook (HUD), Paula Robinson and Nancy Mundo (FSA), and Pam Swingle (EPA). Of particular interest to the participants at this workshop were the resources available through USDA and FSA for commercial fisheries and other aquaculture needs and the resources available through HUD for workforce housing and affordable housing. Alicia Betancourt with the University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Services presented on the resources available through the NOAA Sea Grant and Cooperative Extension. Participants also heard from Erin Gillespie and Grey Dodge on the many programs and resources available through DEO and other state partners. Capping of the discussion on state resources was Steven James with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) who discussed efforts through FDOT to assist with recovery and restoration of transportation assets. The networking lunch organized by Asa Williams was again successful in ensuring that participants would connect with the partners in the room and each other.

The workshop was attended by 51 participants representing community, regional, state, federal, and private sector interests.



Figure 21: Workshop participants listen to ideas for economic recovery and resiliency



Figure 22: IEDC's Lynn Knight discusses lessons learned from other disasters and resources that can help

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY EFFORTS FOLLOWING HURRICANE IRMA WORKSHOPS

NEXT STEPS

The workshops held in February 2018 built tangible momentum among federal, national, state, regional, and local partners for joining forces to help Florida build back better. Partners at all levels voiced their appreciation for the information and opportunities shared through the workshops. In follow up, the federal, national, state, regional, and local partners plan to build upon the relationships that were formed or strengthened to provide continued support in the days ahead.



Figure 23: Asa Williams, Dana Crater (IEDC), Gynii Gilliam (IEDC), and Greg Vaday

On a tactical level, communities that have identified specific recovery and resiliency projects can be matched with economic recovery experts who volunteer their time to serve over the next year through a program administered by IEDC and funded through EDA. These volunteers are being matched according to subject matter expertise ranging from agriculture and tourism to business retention and expansion.

On a strategic level, it is anticipated that some of the communities will be readily able to engage and forge ahead in their vision to bounce forward while others will need to first embrace the concept of planning for economic resiliency. It is anticipated that, whatever the case, many of the communities will want to move forward on the idea of economic resiliency and will need additional help – whether through additional training, capacity development, or grant writing, to name a few main ideas. Each of the RPCs can and should engage with their partner local governments in a de-brief conversation which would, among other things, highlight critical next steps for moving forward on critical regional and local economic resiliency planning, projects and programs and perhaps, more importantly, identify capacity/training gaps that need to be overcome and recommend possible resources to help fill these gaps. Whatever the case, EDA remains committed to supporting Florida in its efforts for economic recovery and resiliency over the long term.



Figure 24: Asa Williams encourages participants to network and get to know each other



Figure 25: Greg Vaday, Daniel Samess (Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce), and Asa Williams

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY EFFORTS FOLLOWING HURRICANE IRMA WORKSHOPS

MORE WORKSHOP PHOTOS



Figure 26: Blake Velde (DOI) discusses natural and cultural resources in Fort Myers



Figure 27: Workshop participant discusses her experiences in North Naples



Figure 28: Pam Swingle (EPA) discusses resources to help with sustainability in LaBelle



Figure 29: Alesia Scott-Ford (HUD) discusses the various ways HUD can be of assistance in Winter Haven



Figure 30: Citrus County Commission Chairman Ronald Kitchen discusses the importance of working together



Figure 31: Alicia Betancourt (University of Florida, IFAS) discusses resources for fisheries in Marathon

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY EFFORTS FOLLOWING HURRICANE IRMA WORKSHOPS

APPENDIX: WORKSHOP PARTNERS

The Florida workshops would not have been possible without the dynamic collaboration among several partners representing regional, state, national, and federal interests. EDA expresses our sincere gratitude for the dedicated individuals engaged in the successful development and delivery of the workshops.

First Name	Last Name	Organization Represented	Email
Dave	Apple	U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	david.p.apple@usace.army.mil
Sydney	Armstrong	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences	sydney.stone@freshfromflorida.com
April	Atkins	FDIC	aatkins@fdic.gov
Steve	Berk	USDA Farm Service Agency	Steve.Berk@fl.usda.gov
Michael	Botelho	USDA Rural Development	michael.botelho@fl.usda.gov
Mary	Bradshaw	FEMA	mary.bradshaw@fema.dhs.gov
Mike	Browne	U.S. Department of Interior	michael_browne@ios.doi.gov
Ronald	Brunner	U.S. Small Business Administration	ronald.brunner@sba.gov
Patrick	Clapp	IEDC	patrick.clapp@chmuraecon.com
Mary	Clarke	IEDC	mary.clarke@ontario.ca
Jennifer	Codo-Salisbury	Central Florida RPC	icodosalisbury@cfRPC.org
T. Allan	Comp	U.S. Department of Interior	allan@tallancomp.com
Bob	Cook	U.S. Housing & Urban Development	bob.w.cook@hud.gov
Isabel	Cosio Carballo	South Florida RPC	isabelc@sfrpc.com
Dana	Crater	IEDC	dcrater@iedconline.org
Tess	Crowder	FEMA (Close Captioning)	tmt.tess@outlook.com
Tina	Davis	U.S. Small Business Administration	tina.davis@sba.gov
Randy	DeShazo	Tampa Bay RPC	randy@tbrpc.org
Grey	Dodge	Florida Department of Economic Opportunity	Grey.Dodge@deo.myflorida.com
Donna	Doubleday	CareerSource Heartland	ddoubleday@careersourceheartland.com
Brian	Ellis	Tampa Bay RPC	brian@tbrpc.org
Marshall	Flynn	Tampa Bay RPC	marsh@tbrpc.org
Alex	Frane	FEMA	alexander.frane@fema.dhs.gov
Tracy	Garcia	Visit Central Florida	tracy@visitcentralflorida.org
Philip	Geist	Florida SBDC	sbdcoca@atlantic.net
Erin	Gillespie	Florida DEO	Erin.Gillespie@deo.myflorida.com
Gynii	Gilliam	IEDC	gynii@cdaedc.org
Carl	Hadden	Florida SBDC	carltonh@usf.edu
Bertiel	Harris	FEMA	bertiel.g.harris@fema.dhs.gov
Althea	Harris	U.S. Small Business Administration	althea.harris@sba.gov
Cathy	Haworth	Florida SBDC	chaworth@fqu.edu
Margreta	Herring	FEMA	margreta.herring@fema.dhs.gov
Donna	Horvath	Central Florida RPC	dhorvath@cfRPC.org
Steven	James	Florida Department of Transportation	Steven.James@dot.state.fl.us

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY EFFORTS FOLLOWING HURRICANE IRMA WORKSHOPS

First Name	Last Name	Organization Represented	Email
Philip	Jernigan	FEMA	phillip.jernigan@fema.dhs.gov
Lawrence	Jones	FEMA	lawrence.jones@fema.dhs.gov
C.J.	Kammerer	Southwest Florida RPC	ckammerer@swfrpc.org
Gary	Karp	FEMA	gary.karp@fema.dhs.gov
Lynn	Knight	IEDC	lknight@iedconline.org
Curtis	Knowles	Central Florida RPC	cknowles@cfrpc.org
Lonnie	Koyama	U.S. Small Business Administration	leon.koyama@sba.gov
Martha	Laboriel	FEMA	martha.b.laboriel@fema.dhs.gov
Rabon	Lewis	U.S. Small Business Administration	rabon.lewis@sba.gov
Ann	Martin	CareerSource Heartland	amartin@careersourceheartland.com
Bill	McKown	Florida SBDC	bmckown@usf.edu
Shannon	McPherson	Central Florida RPC	smcpherson@cfrpc.org
Yashira	Mendez	USDA Rural Development	yashira.mendez@fl.usda.gov
John	Meyer	Tampa Bay RPC	johnm@tbrpc.org
Nephthalie	Milfort	FEMA	nephthalie.milfort@fema.dhs.gov
Nancy	Mundo	USDA Farm Service Agency	nancy.mundo@fl.usda.gov
Kelly	Penwell	Florida SBDC	kelly.conklinpenwell@fkcc.edu
Paula	Robinson	USDA Farm Service Agency	paula.robinson@fl.usda.gov
Sylvia	Robinson	USDA	sylvia.robinson@fl.usda.gov
Bronwyn	Rowland	USDA Farm Service Agency	bronwyn.bethearowland@fl.usda.gov
Geralyn	Ryan	FEMA	geralyn.m.ryan@fema.dhs.gov
Jeff	Schmidt	USDA	jeff.schmidt@fl.usda.gov
Alesia	Scott-Ford	U.S. Housing & Urban Development	alesia.scottford@hud.gov
Brady	Smith	Tampa Bay RPC	brady@tbrpc.org
Jill	Smolen	U.S. Housing & Urban Development	jill.c.smolen@hud.gov
Sue	Southon	IEDC	sue.southon@icf.com
Suzanne	Specht	Florida SBDC	sspecht@fgcu.edu
Pat	Steed	Central Florida RPC	psteed@cfrpc.org
Pam	Swingle	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	swingle.pamela@epa.gov
Tami	Thomas-Burton	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	thomas-burton.tami@epa.gov
Latasha	Thomas-Pace	USDA Rural Development	latasha.thomaspace@fl.usda.gov
Greg	Vaday	U.S. Economic Development Administration	gvaday@eda.gov
Blake	Velde	U.S. Department of Interior	blake_velde@ios.doi.gov
Jim	Wall	CareerSource Florida	jwall@careersourcesouthwestflorida.com
Joy	Wilkins	U.S. Economic Development Administration	joy@servingcommunities.net
Asa	Williams	U.S. Economic Development Administration	awilliams@eda.gov
Margaret	Wuerstle	Southwest Florida RPC	mwuerstle@swfrpc.org
Heather	Young	Tampa Bay RPC	heather@tbrpc.org