

**OSCEOLA COUNTY
LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY WORKING GROUP
Quarterly Meeting
March 12, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.
Kissimmee Utility Authority (KUA)
1701 W. Carroll Street, Kissimmee, Florida 34741**

In accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Emergency Management Office, 2586 Partin Settlement Road, Kissimmee, Florida, 34744, telephone (407) 742-9000, not later than five (5) days prior to the proceeding.

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order- Mr. Robin Hinson called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.**
2. **Attendance – Mr. Hinson conducted the roll call. Quorum present.**

Chris McCullion, Chief Financial Officer for Orlando Utilities Commission shared a few words of praise and support for the LMS Working Group.
3. **Approval of Agenda (Action Item) – Motion carried unanimously (Crandell/ Altrui).**
4. **Membership Updates**
5. **Approval of Minutes from December 11, 2026, LMS Working Group Quarterly Meeting (Action Item) -Ms. Nicolle Masters (SFWMD) suggested a revision/ correction to item 8 (a), regarding the South Florida Water Management District Project. The revision was to remove the line stating the project is included in the long-term budget. Motion carried unanimously with the revision (Lawrence/ Napier).**
6. **Hear the Audience**

Except for those matters specifically exempted under the State Statute and Local Ordinance, the Working Group shall provide an opportunity for public comment prior to the undertaking by the Working Group of any action on the agenda. The Working Group will not vote on any item during this portion of the meeting. Rather, this portion of the meeting is to allow for public comments to be heard on items that are on the agenda for that meeting.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - A. Substantial Damage Subcommittee - *No update. No meeting was held. Mr. Hinson did discuss the possibility of planning a meeting in the future.*
 - B. Public Involvement Subcommittee *Mr. Hinson provided a summary of the January meeting highlighting the public messaging planned for 2026.*
 1. Hurricane Expo 2026 (May 2) – Before the storm – Flood Mitigation Panel - *Mr. Hinson provided an overview of the event and a highlighted the event is open to the public and encouraged the LMS Working Group to share the event information. Mr. Hinson explained the event is usually capped off with a panel of weather experts, state representatives and the local media. Mr. Hinson advised that Osceola County Emergency Management is planning to include three additional panels this year and highlighted the flood mitigation panel. Mr. Hinson explained that we will be reaching out to members of the group for participation in the panel. Mr. Hinson informed the group about the upcoming STEM Day event, open to the public and requested the group's support in spreading the word.*
 2. Flood Awareness Week public messaging campaign – Flood Alert Test – *Mr. Hinson provided a summary of the campaign and highlighted the flood alert test and Osceola Counties shift from December to March to align with the states 8-day flood awareness week messaging campaign. Mr. Hinson thanked the partners for their support in sharing the campaign message.*
 - C. Project Evaluation Subcommittee
 1. Report from February 12, 2026, meeting (1 new project reviewed)
 1. Osceola County Environmental and Public Lands – BVL Pipe Improvement Project – *Mr. Hinson provided a summary of the Project Evaluation Subcommittee February meeting. Mr. Hinson highlighted the one new project that was presented which will be discussed in further detail later in this meeting.*
8. **Project Priority List**
 - A. Updates/Revisions/New Projects
 1. Review of all current funded projects – *Mr. Hinson opened the meeting for discussion of any current projects. Mr. Robert Pelham (TOHO) provided an update to TOHO grant applications. Mr. Pelham explained the Hurricane Ian grant is pending approval and they are responding to an RFI on Hurricane Milton. Mr. Cameron Crandell (City of St. Cloud) provided an update to the Esprit Pond improvement project (HMPG Hurricane Irma). Mr. Crandell explained the first phase of the project is nearing completion and they will not be seeking additional funding for phase two; they are opting to fund phase two internally. Ms. Masters (SFWMD) provided a summary of the change in project costs for projects S-57, S-60 and S-63 during a recent RFI. Ms. Masters explained the cost was adjusted since the application was submitted, however SFWMD is going to cover the additional costs to allow the state to move forward with the review.*

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Ms. Karla Sartin (OUC) advised she did receive RFI's from the state for the Osceola Generating System Project (HMGP Hurricane Milton). Mr. Hinson provided a summary of the importance of submitting projects at every available opportunity to include tier three projects

2. New project approval (**Action Item**) – **Motion carried unanimously (Napier/ Crandell).**
 1. Osceola County Environmental and Public Lands – BVL Pipes Improvement Project – *Dr. Liuliu Wu (Osceola County) provided a summary of the BVL Pipes Improvement Project. Mr. Hinson advised the project was previously scored at a 44.5 during the Project Evaluation Subcommittee. Mr. Napier motioned to include the project on the priority list and Mr. Crandell seconded the motion.*

B. Approval of Project List (Action Item) – *Mr. Hinson invited discussion on the prioritization of the projects on the list. Mr. Napier (City of Kissimmee) proposed moving the new BVL Pipes Improvement Project higher up on the list because it's a shovel ready project. The suggestion was to place it behind any other shovel ready projects but above non-shovel ready projects. Mr. Hinson explained any list changes are up to the LMS Working Group but reminded the group that placement on the list does not determine its selection for funding. Ms. Kimberly Lawrence (Public at Large) suggested the BVL Pipes Improvement project appears to be more of a maintenance project than an improvement project. Ms. Lawrence explained that she views an improvement project to be an addition like pond expansions or new structures which should take priority for HMGP funding. Dr. Wu (Osceola County) explained that the BVL Pipe Improvement project, specifically lining the pipes, reduces the friction and increases the capacity for water flow improving the process. Ms. Lawrence agreed it's a much-needed project but wasn't sure if this was the proper funding channel for what appears to be a maintenance project. Ms. Nagel Altrui (City of Kissimmee) suggested maybe some revisions to the project's description of work to highlight the improvement aspect of the project itself before moving it up on the prioritization list. Mr. Hinson suggested to the group that the BVL Pipes Improvement project could remain at the bottom of the list pending updated information from Osceola County. **Motion carried unanimously (Acosta/ Hambley).***

C. Other Community Mitigation Projects

1. Osceola County Fire Mitigation *Mr. Hinson provided a summary of the volunteer group Team Rubicon. Mr. Hinson highlighted the upcoming partnership for a Wildfire Mitigation project planned for March 28-29 with Osceola County Environmental and Public Lands and the Osceola County Sheriffs Office at Lake Lizzie Preserve.*
2. FDEM Watershed Planning Program *Mr. Hinson mentioned the program and the short application period to submit a project, we did not have any applicants from the group.*
3. Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program (HLMP) FY 2026-2027 *Mr. Hinson provided an overview of the program and highlighted the one submission from Osceola County. Mr. Hinson explained based on past trends this is a program that may come available yearly and encouraged the group to explore suitable programs for future submissions.*

9. Discussion Items

A. Plan Updates

1. LMS plan review *Mr. Hinson explained the LMS plan is in the final stages of review with the state, a few new requirements are being addressed and once approved, the anticipation is to have it adopted by local agencies in early May.*
2. LMS annual update

B. Program Updates *Mr. Gary Lewis gave a brief introduction to the LMS Working Group as the new program coordinator. Mr. Hinson gave a summary of the hazard analysis portion of the LMS plan. Mr. Hinson highlighted the hazard dashboard project that's soon to be completed and its benefits.*

C. Meeting Updates

1. Silver Jackets (March 24) *Mr. Hinson advised the next scheduled meeting date and summarized the hope of finding a project that fits well to allow a partnership in the future.*
2. FDEM Mitigate FL (June 9) – *Mr. Lewis provided a summary of the meeting and highlighted the current constraints for projects moving forward regarding FEMA and the current Government shutdown.*
3. Next LMS Working Group General Meeting- June 11, 2026 – *Mr. Hinson opened the meeting for any updates or discussions. Ms. Michelle Acosta (City of St. Cloud) provided a CRS update and suggested adding a standing agenda item for CRS to help meet all the requirements. Mr. Hinson explained we will add an agenda item to the committee reports section going forward. Ms. Karla Sartin (OCU) mentioned the FTEM symposium, June 1-5 in Orlando as a good training opportunity for members of the group. Ms. Nicolle Masters (SFWMD) mentioned SFWMD's scheduled field training day May 12.*

10. Adjournment (Action Item) – Motion carried unanimously (Crandell/ Altrui).

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(Previous and upcoming LMS Working Group meeting dates, materials, minutes, and recordings are available on Osceola County's website at <https://www.osceola.org/about-osceola-county/county-meetings/local-mitigation-strategy.stml>)