Town of Ponce Inlet

TO: Town Council

FROM: Hank Baker, Chief Building Official/Floodplain Manager

SUBJECT: Volusia County Floodplain Management Plan Progress Report - 2022

Background

Staff has prepared this report for submittal for continued certification under the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) program. The NFIP provides federally supported flood insurance in communities that regulate development in floodplains. The Town of Ponce Inlet voluntarily participates in the NFIP Community Rating System (CRS) program which qualifies property owners in floodplains for reduced rates on flood insurance. Under the CRS, flood insurance premiums are discounted to reward community actions that: 1) Reduce flood damage to insurable property through planning and outreach; 2) strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP; and 3) encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management. FEMA recognizes Ponce Inlet as a Class 5 CRS community which means that new and renewed flood policies in the Special Flood Hazard Area qualify for a 25% discount. This amounts to an annual savings of $117,953.00 New and renewed flood policies outside the Special Flood Hazard Area qualify for a 10% discount.

Floodplain Management Plan

On August 23, 2018, the Town adopted the 2018 Volusia County Integrated Floodplain Management Plan. The plan is designed to encompass a snapshot of floodplain hazards throughout the county and also provide individual jurisdictional plans. The Volusia County Integrated Floodplain Management Plan follows the format and outline of the CRS requirements and is integrated with the Volusia County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) recently updated in 2020.

The Town has been a participant in the Volusia County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) initiative since 1998. The LMS was created and adopted to more effectively plan disaster related responses and provide mitigation initiatives designed to reduce hazards and/or to protect people and property when hazards do occur. The Volusia County Multi-Jurisdictional LMS recently was updated and found in compliance with the federal hazard mitigation planning standards. On January 21, 2021, by Resolution 2021-01, the Town Council formally adopted the five-year update of the Volusia County LMS which includes the Volusia County Integrated Floodplain Management Plan and the County’s Flood Response Plan.

To continue participation in the NFIP and fulfill the CRS criteria, an annual progress report on the status of the project implementation is required. There are eight countywide goals adopted in the Integrated Floodplain Management Plan and nine separate objectives established by the
Town to minimize the effects of flood events in the Town of Ponce Inlet, with the status of each goal and objective’s implementation provided.

Availability

Copies of the 2018 Volusia updated Integrated Floodplain Management Plan, the 2020 Volusia County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and this report can be obtained from the Town of Ponce Inlet Planning and Development Department or on the Town of Ponce Inlet Floodplain Management website http://ponce-inlet.org/154/Flood-Management-Information In addition, this report was provided to the Town of Ponce Inlet Town Council on August 23, 2022 and as a public document is posted to the Town of Ponce Inlet website and the Ponce Inlet Community Center, 4670 S Peninsula Drive, Ponce Inlet.

Status of Plan Implementation

The 2020 Volusia County Multi-Jurisdictional LMS was updated and found in compliance with the federal hazard mitigation planning standards. The Town Council formally adopted the five-year update of the Volusia County LMS which included the Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) pertaining to the Town and the County’s Flood Response Plan. There are eight countywide goals adopted in the Integrated Floodplain Management Plan and nine separate objectives established by the Town to minimize the effects of flood events in the Town of Ponce Inlet, with the status of each goal and objective’s implementation provided:

1. **GOAL** – Develop a Program for Public Information (PPI) in accordance with guidance provided in the **Community Rating System Coordinator’s Manual**, 2017 edition.

   Status: Initial meetings of the PPI Committee were held in March and June of 2016. The Committee established public outreach goals and developed a flood information brochure that has been distributed throughout the County. The PPI Committee met again in March 20, 2018, March 20, 2019, March 23, 2020, October 07, 2021 and February 24, 2022 to discuss PPI status and to discuss ways to improve public outreach.

2. **GOAL** – Provide advice and assistance to property owners concerning the protection of their properties from flooding, local drainage and sewer back-up problems.

   Status: Information is available and is provided to property owners by Planning & Development Department, libraries, public presentations, mail-outs, and the Town website.

3. **GOAL** – Continue the flood hazard mitigation program to identify and obtain funding for both pre-and-post disaster residential mitigation projects.

   Status: Volusia County Emergency Management, Building & Zoning, and Public Works Department continues to identify cost beneficial residential units for various flood mitigation grants. Currently, 41 of the 87 repetitive flood loss properties in unincorporated Volusia County have been mitigated against future flooding through acquisition/demolition, elevation, or mitigation reconstruction projects.
4. **GOAL** – Prioritize capital projects that will mitigate flood impacts in those areas of the County that have experienced significant flooding problems.

Status: Stormwater and drainage system improvement projects continue to be implemented on a regular basis by Planning and Development Department and Public Works Department.

5. **GOAL** – Utilize “Volusia Prepares” countywide Local Mitigation Strategy to guide and assist the County in establishing priorities for flood hazard mitigation projects.

Status: The LMS Steering Committee meets quarterly to review and prioritize mitigation initiatives and identify potential funding sources for flood impact reduction projects.

6. **GOAL** – Review the locations and effects on areas that experience flooding and determine what steps, if any, the County can take to alleviate future impacts.

Status: Public Works conducts regular inspections of flood prone areas in Ponce Inlet to determine the best and most cost effective mitigation activities.

The recommendation is to revise Goal 1 with the deletion of “Develop” and addition of “Continually enhance the Program for Public Information”.

Cc: Jeaneen Witt, Town Manager  
Michael Disher, Planning and Development Dept Director