

JUNE 14, 2005-WORKSHOP

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held a Workshop on Tuesday, June 14, 2005 to discuss the Hurricane Evacuation Study at 1:00 p.m., and for the State Emergency Management Office to conduct a Senior Leadership Briefing at 2:00 p.m., at the Walton County Courthouse.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, Chairman, Commissioner Scott Brannon, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Cindy Meadows, and Commissioner Rosier Cuchens. Mr. Ronnie Bell, County Administrator, and Attorney David Hallman, Director of Legal Services, were also present.

Chairman Pridgen called the meeting to order to discuss the Hurricane Evacuation Study.

Mr. Bob Collins, Post, Buckley, Schuh and Jernigan, presented the Board with the Walton County Abbreviated Transportation Model. He discussed the purpose of the model in regards to the hurricane evacuation clearance times. The Abbreviated Transportation Model contained maps that illustrated the evacuation zones and routes. He stated that it had been decided to keep the standing evacuation zones and routes that were approved in 1997. Mr. Collins stated that there were fourteen (14) traffic evacuation zones, including four (4) primary evacuation zones and ten (10) sub-evacuation zones. He stated that the data regarding the zones had been reconstructed from the 2000 census data. A growth factor was applied to the 2000 census data, to accurately represent the population of Walton County at this time. Discussion was held regarding roads being added as evacuation routes. Commissioner Meadows expressed her concern regarding the information from 1997 being used for the maps

representing the evacuation zones and routes, and questioned whether it had been updated recently. Discussion was held regarding the impact of tourists on evacuation routes.

Mr. Collins discussed the ability to change the variables in the study to represent the change of impact on evacuation routes. He stated that the model illustrates the behavioral characteristics of individuals regarding participation rates, permanent resident destinations, vehicle usage, and tourist destinations; which are all important factors on the impact of evacuation routes. The model also illustrated Scenario XX, which is way of altering data in the study to affect the behavioral characteristics.

Mr. Collins discussed the following variables that impacted the results of the study: the percentage of citizens that would evacuate during a hurricane, public shelter demand, and the percentage of vehicles that would be involved in an evacuation. He discussed the out-of-county route assignments in regards to the percentage of vehicles that would be evacuating out of Walton County. Discussion was held regarding the usage of US Highway 98 as an evacuation route. Additional discussion was held regarding the difficulty of crossing county lines during an evacuation. Mr. Collins discussed the critical roadway segments used by evacuating vehicles, along with the components impacting clearance times for the normal and reverse lane contingency plan. He discussed the other planning considerations for protective action decision making; such as determining when to issue an evacuation order, adding extra lead time to the clearance times may be required in order to account for hours of darkness, the middle of a normal weekday, adverse weather conditions, and other difficult circumstances.

Mr. Bell encouraged the Board to adopt this Transportation Model when it is presented to them during the regular meeting, and to have it sent to the county's Congressman and Senator. Commissioner Meadows requested that a summary letter of the study be drafted

to include a statement regarding the portion of the Highway 331 evacuation route that exposes citizens to danger from an incoming hurricane. Mr. Bell suggested that the letter address the hazards of the increased evacuation time in Walton County, and the hazards that are along the only evacuation route that Walton County has out of South Walton.

The Board recessed briefly.

Chairman Pridgen called the Senior Leadership Briefing to order.

Ms. Marsha Chericos, and Mr. Quinton Williams, representatives of the State Emergency Management Office, presented the Board with an overview of Florida's 2004 Hurricane Season in regards to evacuations, sheltering, fatalities, power outages, boil water orders, debris removal, and school closures. Ms. Chericos discussed the usage of tarps, temporary housing, travel trailers, and mobile homes. Ms. Chericos stated that the estimated cost for the 2004 Florida Hurricane Season was \$42 billion dollars and that it was estimated that one (1) in every five (5) Florida homes had been impacted by a hurricane in 2004. She presented the Board with a list of the following critical facilities that were impacted by the 2004 hurricane season: hospitals, mental treatment facilities, nursing homes, fire stations, and law enforcement facilities. Photos were presented of the Emergency Management Center, including photos of the agency heads who were involved in the decision making process during the 2004 hurricane season. Ms. Chericos discussed the process of requesting emergency management and assistance through the chain of command. She also discussed the following standing orders of the Emergency Response Center: 1) reestablish communication with the impacted areas, 2) initiate search and rescue, 3) meet basic human needs: medical, water, food, shelter, and ice, 4) restore critical infrastructure, and 5) begin the recovery process. Statistics were presented to the Board regarding volunteer work, volunteer

workers, and funds that were donated during the 2004 hurricane season. Disaster Logistics were discussed regarding county staging areas and the use of PODS (Points of Distribution) that distributed the following items: water, food, ice, sand bags, and generators. Ms. Chericos discussed the Temporary Housing Pyramid in regards to the following items: emergency shelters, tarps, intermediate shelters, temporary roofing (blue roofs), emergency group sites, travel trailers, mobile homes, and special need shelters. The following Critical Indicators of Response were discussed: 1) red representing the greatest impacted areas, 2) yellow representing the minor impacted areas, and 3) green representing the low impacted areas. Ms. Chericos discussed Citizen Corp in regards to the education, training, and volunteer information it provides, stating that it could be modified to meet the needs of the county.

Mr. Quinton discussed the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding that allows the county to use federal dollars to rebuild and reconstruct areas that have been damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster. He stated that the funds are available in the case of a natural disaster, and encouraged the Board to submit an application if the county receives substantial damage during the 2005 hurricane season.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

APPROVED: _____

Kenneth Pridgen, Chair

ATTEST: _____

Martha Ingle, Clerk of Court