

**FEAB Minutes**  
**December 9, 2016**  
**3:00 pm**  
**Conference Room, Public Works**

**Attendees:** Mike Shelton, Gary Gover, Ron Allen, Jeanine Normand, Tony Pritchett, Terry Hargroder, Rick Frederick

**Honored Guests:** Riva Fralick, Nicole Love

**City Representatives:** Kim Burmeister, City of Fairhope Planning and Zoning Department

**City Council Members:** Jimmy Conyers

Mike called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Everyone introduced themselves. Ms. Fralick is a resident of Silverhill; she is from Fairhope, and works with the Sierra Club and Citizens Climate Change Lobby and invited the group to become a part of the efforts. Nicole Love is a resident of Fairhope, and is involved in the Coastal Resilience Index Project. FEAB is excited about having new councilman Jimmy Conyers in attendance.

**Clean Marina:**

Mike gave a brief presentation on the Clean Marina Program for Councilman Conyers. Mike said that he has met with the Fairhope Harbor Board and also has sent Clean Marina information to the Fairhope Yacht Club for consideration. If Fairhope adopted this program, they would be first on the Eastern Shore. Other Clean Marinas near us are in Orange Beach (Zeke's), Stockton and the Dog River area. Most of Florida's marinas are Clean Marinas, and MS has an active Clean Marina program. Tony mentioned the urgency to get Fairhope in the program, as many of the storm water operations at the City owned marinas are not contained, such as discharge of boat rinsing, etc. Ron mentioned that now is the perfect time for Fairhope to adopt the program, since the lease (Fly Creek / Sea Cliff Drive) is coming up for renewal in 2017. Clean Marina language could be included in new lease. Question is: who would pay for upgrades (City or leasee?) Jeanine mentioned that City of Fairhope would be a beacon for the Eastern Shore if this program were adopted. Gary mentioned that at next Council meeting (Monday, December 12), there is an agenda item for Mayor to approve sea wall repairs at the Fly Creek marina, so now would be a good time to consider the Clean Marina program, which would include evaluation of storm water practices at the marinas. Councilman Conyers said he is meeting with the Harbor Board Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Sea Cliff Drive marina. Tony mentioned that FEAB would like to be a part of this meeting to discuss Clean Marina program/status. Councilman Conyers said it would be okay for FEAB representative to attend the meeting with him and Harbor Board at Sea Cliff Drive (marina).

### **Coastal Resilience Index Project**

Mike and Rick handed out information on the Coastal Resilience Index (CRI) project (information below) which is an opportunity for the City of Fairhope to evaluate its disaster preparedness for little or no charge. Also grant monies may be available to improve our preparedness. Mike said the Mayor has been left information on this project. Deadline for letter of commitment is Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Kim said the Coastal Resilience project fits in with NIMS (National Incident Management Systems) training, which is mandatory for all FT City employees. John Saraceno is the Emergency Manager for the City of Fairhope and coordinates the NIMS program for the City. He might have thoughts on implementation of the Coastal Resilience project as well. Kim said that Rick Frederick sent her the information and she in turn sent it out to the powers that be, and also to Nancy Milford (Planner). Nancy is in discussion with the Mayor about this project. Nancy contacted Rick and said the Mayor is interested in this project. Reva suggested that the City also consider sea level rise. Ron said that the Council/Mayor will likely need more information, such as costs involved, etc. before officially adopting the program. Councilman Conyers asked if this was a one-time opportunity. Mike said this may come up again in the future, but special grant funding was secured for this year's CRI opportunity. Mike made a motion that the FEAB recommend the City consider the Coastal Resilience program. Motion passed unanimously. Councilman Conyers will discuss this in the Council work session (Monday, December 12).

### **Watershed Management Plans (Weeks Bay and Fly Creek)**

Rick gave an update on the Weeks Bay Watershed Management Plan which is well underway. He said the Weeks Bay plan is 2/3 complete. Fly Creek Watershed Management Plan will likely begin in 2017. Mike has (6) water testing kits that the City of Fairhope purchased in the past, and these could be used for volunteer testing of the Fly Creek watershed. There are several assessable spots for water sampling of Fly Creek. Mike can provide the training. Volunteer water samplers are needed.

### **Beach Clean Up Stations / City of Fairhope Litter Program**

Rick congratulated City of Fairhope and the Recycling Committee for sponsoring the Beach Clean Up Stations which have recently been placed at city park locations to address beach litter. This fits in perfectly with the City of Fairhope partnership with Create a Clean Water Future (litter program). Kim also mentioned the Mandeville (LA) pole banner "litter" art program, and suggested Fairhope might be interested in partnering with schools on a similar program, utilizing Fairhope's pole banners spots around town (students compete for artwork placement on city pole banners, presenting anti-litter themes).

### **FEAB Assistance with Storm Water Projects / Tatumville Proposed Subdivision**

Gary mentioned the recent development proposal presented at Planning Commission for a small subdivision on Tatumville Gully, which had proposed a storm water facility in Tatumville gully, on City property. This project touches on several aspects of the Comprehensive Plan. Councilman Conyers said this project has been tabled for 120 days. Gary said the FEAB would be happy to review the submitted documents and offer an

opinion on the items presented, in regards to storm water, if Council would like them to. It is important that we protect our gullies. Mike mentioned that FEAB would be happy to provide opinions on any projects (upcoming subdivisions, etc.) the Council would like them to review. FEAB is here to assist. Councilman Conyers said he would get copies of submittal items for the Tatumville project for FEAB to review and offer an opinion on. Jeanine also mentioned the Parks Brochure. This document was produced by the FEAB a few years ago and is a valuable tool for identifying our City parks. Kim mentioned that the brochure is only available in e-copy (on-line) presently; City needs to reprint these if we want them in hard copy. Mike mentioned that FEAB would also like to look at the City LID ordinances and get a better understanding of how it's working and what's required.

### **FEAB Minutes**

Minutes from the October 2016 FEAB meeting were approved unanimously with note to remove the red line reference to next month's meeting. FEAB did not meet in November so there were no November minutes to be approved.

Next meeting will be January 13<sup>th</sup> @ City Hall, Delchamps Room.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

# Assessing Resilience

## Using the Community Resilience Index

By MIKE SHELTON, TRAINING AND WATERSHED PROGRAM COORDINATOR, WEEKS BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE, ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE LANDS DIVISION

**F**or coastal communities, “resilience” is the ability to prepare, respond, and recover from disasters. Over the last decade, the Gulf Coast has experienced both natural and technological disasters. In either case, a community needs to know how resilient it is or can be. It needs to assess challenges in a nonjudgemental way and to identify things the community does well or would like to do better. The Coastal Resilience Index, or CRI, is a tool communities can use to

examine the many elements that increase resilience. A large team of dedicated professionals guided by Gulf of Mexico Sea Grant Programs, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration developed CRI. Cities in all five Gulf States have tested and refined the tool.

Coastal communities are not handed the CRI and told to go at it without help. Gulf Sea Grant Programs trained qualified partners to assist cities in conducting the CRI and follow-up actions identified in the process. How does the CRI process work? CRI begins when a community works with a trained facilitator to identify a team of

community leaders from local government, emergency management, utilities, area businesses, civic organizations and church groups. Since response and recovery involve the entire community, leaders from many facets of community life are included in the CRI team. The team meets with the facilitator and assesses resilience based on six categories in the CRI: 1) critical facilities, 2) transportation, 3) community planning, 4) measures already taken to reduce damage, 5) business plans, and 6) social networks.

The team examines how different elements of the six categories survived the worst storm in recent memory and would fare in a future storm that is even worse. The team assesses elements like the effects of flooding on evacuation routes, downed

trees on roads, and power outages in key areas from City Hall to the local hospital. They answer questions about the preparedness of businesses and the speed at which they can resume operation. The CRI includes questions about integration of faith-based groups in recovery and about communication with non-English speaking populations. At the end of the assessment, a score is calculated. Typically, results are revisited about a year later to assess any additional needs. Regardless of the resilience score, communities can address identified challenges through partnerships, training, education, and other assistance.

In response to their CRI assessment, communities have improved critical records storage, tree removal plans, and generator maintenance programs. Communities have explored entering the Community Rating System, a program that can help residents save money on flood insurance. A Florida community developed a survey for local businesses to assess their resilience and help them create disaster plans. Communities in Mississippi and Alabama have collaborated with the Institute of Sustainable Communities ([www.iscvt.org](http://www.iscvt.org)) to identify better ways to plan for disasters and to communicate with their residents. A team of qualified CRI facilitators under the leadership of Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium exists to serve the assessment needs of communities along the northern Gulf Coast. CRI is a reliable, easy-to-use tool for assessing resilience to coastal disasters. It helps identify not only challenges, but also opportunities to be better prepared and able to respond.

