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Attachments: 16-027.docx

[160303 - SCDRC Disaster Recovery Status Report.xlsx](#)

[Monthly_Crop_Production_MARCH_16.pdf](#)

Governor - this week's SITREP for your review and comments:

1. HUD awards \$157M in CDBG-DR (Press Release attached) – The distribution of funds is very interesting. The state (overall) received \$156.6M. Of that, 2 counties (of the 25 that were declared IA) received 38% of the entire pot (Richland County - \$23.5M @ 15%, Columbia (city within Richland County) - \$20M @ 13% and Lexington County - \$ 16.3M @ 10%). It is safe to say that those two counties did not have a third of the housing loss. My concern is that those three recipients may choose to focus on areas other than housing and hope to leverage money from the state pots to augment their “excessive apportionment” at the expense of those far more vulnerable in other parts of the state.
2. HUD briefed SDRC, Richland County, Lexington County and Columbia on expectations coming from the posting of the Federal Registry. Although it was very vague, it was clear that they would not post the Registry for at least 3-4 weeks. That it would be more restrictive in guidance to recipients (especially with regards to adding guidance on “resiliency” – almost appears to be a politically correct forcing function to force the state to accept the concept of global warming as a precondition of accepting the grant money. One of my greatest concerns is the amount of very expensive and time consuming “preconditions” in the registry that will reduce the amount of money available to recover more individuals. Assuming the Federal Registry is published on or about the first of April - - best guess for the Federal bureaucracy for release of money follows: 90 days to prepare and submit the Action Plan to HUD; 60 days for HUD to review and approve. RFP prepared while waiting for HUD to review so that it can be released IMMEDIATELY upon HUD approval of Action Plan. Fastest estimate of RFP award for a multi-million dollar contract being awarded is 90 days. Assuming no contestation of award – each contractor we’ve talked to suggest that it will take 90-120 days to hire a sufficient workforce to meet

the conditions established by the RFP. Initial requirements for contracted support will include Eligibility Verification, followed by EPA assessments of all homes eligible for support, followed by construction estimates – mold remediation, refurbishment, reimbursement, acquisition can then begin. Only mentioned here, because expectation management in light of local promises made by individuals (both local and “experts” throughout the area) for accelerated repair and acquisition will have to be dealt with!

3. Verbal requests for “benchmark” disaster information comparing our storm to others has been ignored to this point. We are following up with a formal request. We shared our concern about only about 28% of South Carolinians receiving support (of the 103K that requested assistance), as anecdotally compared to 50-70% in other similar floods. Our second concern was that the average amount received was right at \$3K, as compared to approximately \$6K (anecdotally) with other states. The FDO acknowledged that our anecdotal information was in the ball park, but has not provided the data to confirm / deny. The only plausible explanation we have at this time would be that our hazard was largely measured “from east to west” – flood waters; as opposed to including “north to south” – 27 inches of rain. It would appear that much of the “north-south” damage may have been captured as “pre-existing conditions”. That said, it is too early to know conclusively.
4. FEMA ceases operations in SC at the end of this month. They will augment the SDRC with 4 individuals to assist with RFIs during the preparation of the Action Plan. Marcia Adams is preparing work space on the 4th floor of the Brown Bldg to accept us before the end of March. A transition plan has been briefed to Josh Baker that will reduce the size of the organization by 11 individuals, but will recommend tasking authority that will authorize a “matrixed staff” relationship in order to permit tasking these individuals for short periods in areas related to their parent organization specialties. I would like to bring these great public servants by for a coin presentation and photo to thank them for their service. A draft proposal was also presented on the transition organization from “Action Plan” to “Contractual Response”.
5. Housing.
 - a. SCEMD awarded the Disaster Case Management (DCM) to Hearts & Hands Disaster Recovery. They will hire their staff over the next 30 days. Their plan is to significantly reduce Hurricane Sandy operations in New Jersey and relocating personnel and equipment to South Carolina. They will establish a central office in Richland County and then assign DCMs to LTRGs. We will provide them with the data 'client' list from most vulnerable to least.
 - b. The Mennonites conducted a dedication ceremony last Friday where they presented the owners with keys to their new homes, along with some housewarming gifts including a bible signed by the workers. The houses were prayed over and blessed. There was positive television and newspaper coverage.
 - c. The social vulnerability index (SoVI) was updated with the 2014 census data. The

update did change several Blue areas to Red and vice-versa. On the positive side, it is as accurate as we can make it. When paired with the final FEMA housing assistance claims, we will share with all requisite organizations to include the County leadership, volunteer organizations, and One SC.

- d. SCDR personnel met with the administrator and an investigator of the SC Manufactured Housing Board. Information was gathered concerning repair and replacement of Manufactured Housing, along with the licensing requirement for persons doing repairs. At least one additional meeting with the Manufactured Housing Institute director is being scheduled.
- e. The SCDR team did a recon of the flood damaged houses in Georgetown. Many of these houses appeared to be currently inhabited, but it was not obvious if repairs had been started or if they were complete. There were some homes currently under repair.
- f. SCDR made a recon trip to the northern edge of Williamsburg County, Marion County and parts of Horry County. The area around Hemingway in Williamsburg County showed an extreme amount of deferred maintenance as well as storm damage. In Marion County, it was difficult to determine if there was any flood damage at the sites that received FEMA money. Horry County showed some flood damaged areas. There was one site in Conway in Horry County where a VOAD was in the process of rebuilding a flood damaged home. The new structure will be approximately 14 feet above the ground level.
- g. SCDR personnel made site visits to Orangeburg, Bamberg, and Calhoun Counties. The sites visited were based upon information from the SoVI overlay. We were able to see examples of storm damage in the highest vulnerable areas, to include a completely burned out structure.
- h. In Bamberg County, SCDR personnel was able to speak with a homeowner who lives on the Edisto River and had 14 inches of water in the house. Homeowner received FEMA assistance and has nearly completed all repairs.
- i. SCDR personnel had a similar conversation with a homeowner in Calhoun County. This homeowner experienced significant roof damage and had to replace the kitchen and a bathroom due to the roof collapse. This homeowner also received FEMA assistance and has nearly completed all repairs to his house.

6. VOADs (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster).

- a. The Mennonite group is the only one leaving South Carolina in the next month in order to return to their crops. There is a possibility, however that they could return. I will work with your staff to schedule an opportunity for key Mennonite Leaders to come to the State House for Coin presentations and photos. Other volunteer agencies will have groups rotating in and out but should provide a steady stream of assistance as long as resources are available. The Presbyterians are considering setting up a mobile Village in Sumter. SCDR has asked for more details as this could be an option elsewhere in the state.
- b. An Ohio volunteer group called "Volunteer Collaboration Corp" is on the ground in Sumter working in close collaboration with the Baptist until roughly March 16th

with nearly 60 personnel.

- c. The case management report indicated that the Methodists, the All Hands, the Baptist E&M and the Mennonites are presently doing work in Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties. Also we had reports of the Lord's Builders and the Samaritan's Purse working in Williamsburg County.
- d. The Jerusalem Center is seeking donations of kitchen equipment and appliances for their cafeteria. SCDR will investigate the potential of getting them a refrigerator from the batch donated by Electrolux currently stored in the Winnsboro warehouse.
- e. Summerton has a team of Penn State students were restoring a mobile home damaged by the flood. It was learned that this was one team of 120 students from five (5) different college campuses who were volunteering in the area during their Spring Break this week. The schools represented were Penn State, Heartland, Cornell, Butler and Tarleton. They are being housed at Camp Robinson off of Potato Creek on Lake Marion and are sponsored by Community Collaborations International and supported by the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. SCDR members toured the Camp which is owned and operated by the South Carolina Pentecostal Holiness Conference, Inc. in Lake City, S.C.
- f. Richland/Lexington LTRG's Rebuild Work Group provided a report that 12 projects have been completed to date, 13 more projects are currently works-in-progress, and an additional 21 projects are scheduled for future repair work. These projects were being conducted predominantly by the Baptists and Saint Bernard. It was also reported VOADS are using the CAN system and Lake Murray Presbyterian Church has set up temporary housing for up to 30 volunteers who wished to work on one or more of the ongoing repair projects.

7. LTRGs (Long-term Recovery Groups).

- a. The Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester (BCD) LTRG expressed some challenges to the SCDR team regarding how to determine who really has storm damage unmet needs and who just has pre-existing conditions they're wanting repaired. The SCDR suggested the LTRC Board members need to come up with a questionnaire for the case managers to complete and the Board will be able to discuss and go from there.
- b. BCD LTRG volunteer management subcommittee announced the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance group is going to provide a paid general contractor for this LTRG to use. This person will be able to oversee all the work the volunteers are doing, as well as provide pre and post assessments of homes. This will help the construction management subcommittee in finding out what's needed. Also, the construction management team is looking for retired contractors who are willing to volunteer their time as supervisors over projects.
- c. Other concerns that the BCD LTRG expressed were mold remediation, the case management training from FEMA, financial resources available, and donations. It seems once the case management piece is in place, this group will be able to start moving on repairs and assistance for unmet needs.

- d. The Colleton County LTRG is having some trouble finding people to attend the meetings. It was recommended that the local chamber be utilized for building business interest and that finding leadership needs to be the first priority.

8. Funding.

- a. A SoVI presentation was given to a meeting of the Human Services Collaborative of the Bunnelle Foundation in Pawley's Island, S.C. The presentation was well received. It supported their research which designated their counties as having highly vulnerable populations.
- b. The Florence County LTRG Chair reported that they had received a \$5,000 grant from the Eastern Carolina Community Foundation and a \$20,000 grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation.

9. Other Recovery Support Functions (Economic, Infrastructure, Community Planning and Capacity Building) updates.

- a. The Low Country still has a lot of water still sitting in fields and woods. This will inevitably have a negative impact on field preparation and crop plantings.
- b. The SCDR team has been monitoring the status on the Williamsburg Regional Hospital. FEMA anticipated another 2-3 weeks before finishing their reviewing the hospital's reapplication. Director Farmer and DOI has lead with all interface between the hospital and insurance company.
- c. The farm equipment dealerships continue to struggle in this area. For example, the John Deere dealership in Manning stated that their business is down considerably. The Southern Region – South Carolina – Crop Production Report for March 2016 was released on March 9, 2016 (attached) and it indicates that when South Carolina producers were surveyed in December 2015 for end-of-year totals. There was significant unharvested acreage of cotton, peanuts, and soybeans due to excessively wet conditions. In February, NASS re-contacted respondents who previously reported acreage for these crops in order to revise 2015 production numbers (originally published on January 12, 2016). As a result of these re-contacts, cotton harvested acres are revised from 124,000 to 105,000 acres and yield from 581 to 686 pounds per acre. Peanut area harvested was revised from 83,000 to 82,000 acres and yield remains unchanged at 3,200 tons per acre. Soybean harvested acreage was revised from 405,000 to 370,000 acres and yield from 26.0 to 26.5 bushels per acre. These updates represent the lowest harvested to planted ratio on record for cotton at 44.7 percent. It also is the lowest ratio for peanuts (73.2 percent) since 1941 and soybeans (77.9 percent) since 1954.
- d. Businesses in many Low Country areas seem to be operating normally. A survey of several logging businesses demonstrated there were yards full of timber and full trucks pulling in to deliver more to the yard. The logging equipment dealer states that after several extremely slow months, they were beginning to see an increase in business. It was stated that it was so bad at one time that the Paper Mill was actually purchasing saw timber to use in the pulp production.
- e. SCDR staff has finalized a concept paper on a potential collaborative initiative with

County Economic Development Organizations (EDOs) for the Dept. of Commerce's consideration. If accepted, the Commerce staff already meeting with local EDOs would introduce and promote the concept of a mutually beneficial initiative where EDOs would collaborate with SCDR to facilitate the creation of Long Term Community Recovery Planning Committees (LTCRCs) contained and uniquely positioned within their organizations based upon their distinct organizational structure, needs and realities.

10. Barriers to rebuilding efforts. None to report.

11. Legislative issues. None to report.

12. Concerns/Issues.

- a. We are concerned about the "gap" in recovery assets between now and the time the CDBG-DR funds become available. Volunteer organizations remain our primary repair capability. Obtaining resourcing is a significant concern. For example, the Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester (BCD) LTRG expressed concerns that donations were harder to come by as most of the private businesses have stopped attending the LTRG meetings.
- b. It appears that individuals are moving out of homes provided by friends and family and are choosing to return to their "uninhabitable" homes, as they perceive they have no viable alternative lodging options. This issue seems to be appearing in nearly all counties in the impacted area, especially the more rural counties who have very limited transitional housing capacity.
- c. Mold and mosquitos continue to be a significant concern now that the temperatures are warming, which will only exacerbate the temporary housing shortage issues.
- d. A number of counties and volunteer organizations have commented on the news stories regarding the HUD distribution of CDBG-DR funding to South Carolina. Many counties have asked what their allocation is and questioned why they didn't receive their own allocations like Richland and Lexington. We take the time to discuss their special status as "Entitlement Communities".

Vr
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