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Subject: Long Term Recovery Situation Report (SITREP #13)

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

1. Housing.

- a. We held a teleconference with New Jersey to discuss their mobile home strategy. They provided a number of lessons learned and considerations that we are analyzing for applicability to South Carolina. They left us with three "no fail" thoughts: Communication, Outreach, and Customer Service. They cautioned if we let any of these three slip, our job will become exponentially more difficult.
- b. We are developing recommended policies for the State that we believe should be addressed before we develop the contractor's proposed recovery standards. These policies and standards will address: Mobile Home policy; 'Make Liveable' standard for housing; Eligibility policy; Reimbursement policy; and Mold Abatement standards. These policy decisions will have a major impact on the State's recovery strategy.
- c. Dr Joe Bush, Director, Office of Disaster Management, National Baptist Convention, informed the SCDR that the Office of Disaster Management, National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. is planning a meeting and gathering the second weekend in March. He stated that representatives from his organization will be in attendance along with the NAACP, Rainbow PUSH Coalition (RPC) and the National Action Network. The purpose is to bring attention to the number of FEMA applicant denials and the unmet needs of people affected by the flood. He said CNN was interested in coming but the initial date could not be agreed upon because of scheduling conflicts.
- d. A member of the National Action Network (NAN) informed the Tri-County VOAD that NAN will organize a protest alleged inequities in the recovery process. This reportedly will occur on the steps of the State House on March 10th to coincide with the visit of the VPOTUS Biden.
- e. SCDR staff toured the most vulnerable and hardest hit areas of Lower Richland County including Eastover, Gadsden, and Hopkins where mobile homes made up

a large majority of the dwellings impacted in these communities. The Tri-County VOAD (Sumter) also discussed the challenges of fixing mobile homes. They used one example where a trailer has a leaky roof, loose flooring and possible mold for a woman where this is her only residence.

- f. The SCDR team toured the impacted areas along the Edisto, Combahee, and Ashepoo Rivers and saw many homes still needing repairs, particularly for roof damage, currently with tarps covering their homes to keep the rain out. We spoke with several people in these areas and many had issues with their private water wells, septic systems, and water in the crawl space of their home.

2. VOADs (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster).

- a. SCDR participated in the South Carolina Repair and Rebuild VOAD meeting at the Francis Burns Church on February 17. We presented the SoVI analysis, and several VOADs expressed a desire to receive a personalized briefing for their particular areas.
- b. There are eight volunteer organizations working in the Georgetown/Williamsburg areas: All Hands, Mennonites, Southern Baptists, Samaritan's Purse, National Baptists, United Methodists, Presbyterians, Habitat for Humanity, and The Church of Sandhurst. The Jerusalem Center is now 90% ready to host Volunteer Groups; expected to be fully open by March 1st. Capacity will be 120 people per night and will provide 3 meals/day at a rate of \$15/person/day.
- c. During the Tri-County VOAD (Sumter) meeting, the American Red Cross informed the team that a volunteer group call "Volunteer Collaboration Corp" from Ohio due in on the March 4th until roughly March 16th. Right now its 60 unskilled personal willing to work, effort to find qualified construction personnel to supervise is ongoing. They are currently planning Taw Caw Community Center.
- d. We have requested that all SCVOAD organizations provide updated work locations. Samaritan's Purse provided information for Andrews. All Hands reported their intention to begin work in Darlington this week and we are awaiting their location information. The Southern Baptists stated they were ready to bring in a crew to the Tri-County Area (Sumter, Clarendon, Lee) given 3 weeks' notice and a place to house volunteers. The Baptist are also offering multiple shower trailers to facilitate the Methodists moving to support more rural/austere locations.

3. LTRGs (Long-term Recovery Groups).

- a. SCDR staff attended the first Richland County "Blue Ribbon Committee meeting". Richland Co. is seeking to buy out 63 structures/houses totaling \$6M. Their top five priorities are:
 - i. Residential Property / Buyouts;
 - ii. Storm Water Drainage Management;
 - iii. Housing Reconstruction/ Rehab;

- iv. Non-Residential Prop. Acquisition/Buyouts;
- v. Data/Offsite IT Infrastructure;
- b. The SCDR participated in the Tri-County (Sumter, Clarendon, Lee) VOAD meeting. Case Management continues to be a systemic issue. They have compiled list of cases to be worked in both Sumter and Clarendon Counties and are now finding and waiting for Case Managers. One possibility was for United Way to pass money to the Salvation Army and to look for previous qualified Case Managers to begin work.
- c. The Edisto Regional LTRG continues to be dysfunctional. Since there has been insufficient representation of local faith-based organizations, we are facilitating a meeting to engage the local faith-based organizations.
- d. SCDR is working with the SC Dept of Commerce to promote increased business participation in Long Term Community Recovery Committees (LTCRCs). The SCDOC is coordinating with each County Economic Development Organization (EDO) to develop new strategies for gathering more accurate information on local businesses should they be impacted in a future emergency/disaster event.
- e. Colleton County is moving forward with developing their own LTRG, separating from Jasper, Hampton, and Beaufort Counties. We provided assistance on how to develop the LTRG and 501(c)(3) and on case management training and oversight.

4. Funding.

- a. Dana Bruce Fulmer (One SC) reported that the foundation has given out \$1 million in grants and the next round for applications opens on March 7, 2016 and closes on April 8, 2016. She stated that the primary focus for awarding grants continues to be repair and rebuild and that grants aren't being awarded to cover costs for administrative personnel, licensing & permitting fees, etc.
- b. SCDR staff attended the Midlands Long Term Recovery Group's Volunteer Sub-Group meeting held at the United Way in Columbia. The greatest concern of this group continues to be whether enough resources will be available for volunteers to complete their projects.
- c. SCDR personnel conducted site visits in Florence County and attended LTRG meetings in Florence and Darlington. This group expressed frustration that the grant for recovery funds that they submitted to the One SC Fund was denied (largely because they were poorly written, provided no specific goals that would single out the most vulnerable). They, too, have little in immediate funding to gainfully employ volunteer organizations.

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

- a. The Corps of Engineers has received approximately \$16 million to renourish Myrtle Beach Reach 3 (From Myrtle Beach State Park through Garden City). Construction is expected to start in the fall of 2016 and take approximately 4 months to complete.

- b. Met with the City of Columbia (Feb 17) to discuss potential project on the lower reaches of Gills Creek.
- c. Infrastructure is coordinating with SCEMD to contact the PA counties in an attempt catalog any outstanding unmet Infrastructure needs. Planning to talk to the County Engineers, Public Works Directors, EM Managers, and District Conservationists. Contact will either be in person or by phone (whatever the county wants).
- d. The Corps will meet with SCDHEC Dam Safety Program personnel to gather DHEC's perspective regarding impoundment regulatory needs.
- e. SCDR members visited Clarendon with the County Maintenance Manager. They viewed a number of homes that continue to experience residual/repeated flooding since the October storms. Much of the county's flooding issues, especially on properties adjacent to County maintained roads, are due to poor/nonexistent upkeep of drainage ditches, creeks and streams. County maintenance resources can only be brought to bear on the roads themselves since they are not allowed to maintain anything beyond the road boundary. These concerns are similar to those issued by Dr. Allen James, Professor of Geology at USC, in a recent WLTX report. <http://www.wltx.com/story/news/2016/02/15/leftover-flood-debris-leaves-potential-problems/80032034/>
- f. The SCDR team has been tracking the status on the Williamsburg Regional Hospital. The insurance company has paid out \$3.5 million to date, but the hospital also filed a \$40 million claim on February 19th. FEMA is in the final stages of reviewing the reapplication for damage by the hospital. Early indications are that the damage may be tied to "pre-existing conditions" which means they will have significant problems rebuilding their hospital

6. Barriers to rebuilding efforts. None to report.

7. Legislative issues. None to report.

8. Concerns/Issues.

- a. Our major immediate concern continues to be mold (upper respiratory conditions) and mosquitos (Zika virus). As the temperatures warm over the next months, these two significant issues will become more prevalent and has the potential to create serious widespread health concerns.
- b. The lack of Case Managers is hampering an effective recovery. Counties are doing their best to fill needs, but without dedicated personnel to diligently prioritize, track and resource unmet needs, this problem will only continue to exacerbate the issues.
- c. The New Jersey team indicated that one of their biggest lessons learned were the criticality of effective: "Communications, Outreach, and Customer Service".

Respectfully,
Kevin

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