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Subject: Long Term Recovery Situation Report (SITREP #8)

Attachments: SC Forestry Commission.pdf
SAC Region SC Visit DRAFT Agenda_V3.doc
Cost Reporting 1.13.15.pdf

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

1. The Team met with the four FEMA Recovery Support Function (RSF) deployments which are comprised of numerous federal agencies (lead and support) and serve as technical experts to identify Mission Scoping Assessments (MSA) and support the State in developing a Recovery Support Strategy (RSS). These RSFs are: Economic; Community Planning/Capacity Building (CPCB); Infrastructure; and Housing.
 - a. Taken separately, each RSF identified the following priorities:
 - i. Economic RSF (Commerce-lead agency):
 1. develop Agriculture impact and Common Operational Picture (COP).
 2. Assess impact to small business.
 3. develop overall economic impact, COP, and recovery support strategy.
 - ii. Community Planning and Capacity Building RSF (FEMA-lead agency):
 1. assist in establishing local community Long Term Community Recovery committees.
 2. assist in development of Long Term Community Recovery Strategy.
 - iii. Infrastructure RSF (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-lead agency):
 1. dam infrastructure assessment.
 2. flood plain planning.
 3. watershed management.
 - iv. Housing RSF (HUD-lead agency):
 1. comprehensive assessment of housing impact (homes, mobile homes, apts., other).
 2. assist CPCB with development of "red tab/buyout" strategy, as well

as a strategy to address non owner occupied and abandoned properties.

3. assessing the impact of homes affected by the disaster due to "pre-existing/deferred maintenance" issues.

- v. All RSFs: Identify applicable additional funding streams for disaster recovery.

b. With each of these RSFs comes technical experts in assisting the State and local communities in focusing on a Recovery Support Strategy. Additionally, emphasis was placed on identifying all avenues of disaster recovery funding and grant programs beyond the typical HMGP and CDBG-DR grants. As an example of how these agencies can assist the State in "stretching the HMGP and CDBG-DR" dollars, the Army Corps of Engineers has funding through its normal mission in assisting local communities in flood plain and watershed management issues. As with most federal grant programs there is a cost sharing formula which the local government must decide on whether to pursue this funding. As reported last week, the Army Corps conducted a watershed assessment of the Kinley Creek area in Lexington County. This assessment and recommendation was initiated several months prior to the October 2015 flood. If the Army Corps program funding is utilized by Lexington County for this project (est. \$18M to \$22M) then this provides the ICC the opportunity to prioritize other HMGP projects with the limited resources it will have at its disposal (currently projected at \$36M).

c. However, there is a continuum of technical ability and some agency specific constraints which must be worked through. For example, frustration was expressed to the Economic RSF (Commerce) lead in the continuing inability to acquire accurate and timely data on State agricultural losses -- they can only tell us what they cannot get, instead of what they can provide -- we have only been able to get the Clemson Extension estimate. On the other hand, the Housing RSF (HUD) lead is constrained to a very large degree in assisting in the development of State action plans prior to the announcement of the CDBG-DR allocations because HUD also is the approving entity for the State allocations (this poses an "impartiality" conflict for HUD). As a result, we really expect no significant help from HUD (or others) in our most critical area until the CDBG-DR has been allocated.

2. We escorted the Economic RSF to Florence this week to engage participants in the SC AgriBiz and Farm Expo. She was able to discuss a wide range of topics and gain first-hand information from flood victims. Hugh Weathers was gracious enough to spend a considerable amount of time meticulously describing the challenges to the entire SC agribusiness ecosystem and has opened his staff at SCDA to the economic RSF's team to gain better insights to our unique challenges. She was also able to meet with the State Veterinarian to discuss specific impacts to animals and Clemson Extension

professionals to discuss crop issues. Additionally, she met with members of the SC Forestry Commission gaining an appreciation of the impact from the estimated \$65M in timber loss, fully understanding an updated estimate is being released in several weeks (see attached document).

3. Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) closures have been occurring steadily since the end of the Individual Assistance registration period occurred on 1/4/2016. To review the bidding, we do not approve a closure UNTIL the County Administrator either recommends or agrees with the proposal based upon fewer than 20 applicants per day (most are returnees). To ensure survivors are still receiving assistance, the county will depend upon its Long Term Recovery Group, the FEMA 1-800 Number, and the Disaster Assistance Website. Additionally, the SBA DRCs have also initiated closure procedures as its IA registration period has also ended. These closures are done in coordination and consultation between FEMA, EMD and the affected county. The most recent occurred in Darlington County. As in each case, support is still provided to the affected county (community) through the Long Term Recovery Group framework, the FEMA 1-800 number, and the Disaster Assistance website.
4. We've gained an understanding that the Volunteer Agency Liaisons (VALs) are reducing rapidly, losing another two personnel this week and will lose two more next week. By the end of the month, there will only be five VALs remaining in SC. Unfortunately, none of this has been synchronized with our team, so we are now conducting analysis of any potential gaps in coverage or critical shortfalls.
5. We are working diligently to gain full access to the Volunteer Organizations Crisis Cleanup database. We believe that this database is key to providing you the most accurate update on housing recovery operations, especially those in the most vulnerable areas – our focus.
6. Across the state as a whole, the long-term recovery groups (LTRGs), which focus on Volunteer Organizations prioritization and synchronization, are operational and mostly functional. The long-term recovery committees (LTRCs), which include the local government officials, small business, faith-based and VOADs, are in the infancy stage. We have numerous engagements across the state next week to further assess each area. To facilitate this crucial capability, we have training provided by FEMA experts utilizing our locally produced Community Recovery "How-To" Guide as the baseline for their instruction. To that end, we'll have participation from small and agri-business leaders, volunteer organizations, and community leaders from select locations across the state. Our teams will then offer our services to facilitate LTRC stand-ups across the state to expedite recovery. Your talk with the Administrators and Council Chairs provided the required emphasis – now we will reinforce. Thankfully, many counties are completely engaged with our team and are now viewing them as an asset to leverage.

7. The SCEMD received word Monday that staff members from the Senate Appropriations Committee will be in Columbia on 20 January to get briefed on federal/state disaster operations. FEMA has lead in coordinating and conducting this visit. The latest agenda is attached and key events include:
 - a. JFO meeting with federal and state personnel that focus on public assistance (infrastructure), individual assistance (individuals and businesses), and mitigation programs. My sensing is that they are interested in the programmatic and financial interface including how the funds are dispersed. FEMA will take the lead on the program area briefings, but we will have representatives in the room to handle questions on our end.
 - b. Damage tour in the greater Columbia area in Richland County.
 - c. Local officials meeting, in which the staff members meet with first responders (fire, EMS, law enforcement), local officials, and emergency managers to get their thoughts on response operations. Sounds like this discussion may not be limited to disaster operations but may include fire grants, EMPG, and other DHS grants. SLED will most likely have a representative present for this portion. Have not finalized anything yet in terms of attendees but working on representatives from both Richland and Lexington.
8. Attached are SCEMD's latest flood cost estimates. Costs on the public assistance side have jumped up to almost \$300M in the last week but I would not put a whole lot of confidence in them. I expect the numbers to continue to move around based on eligibility and actual project worksheet development. I am to understand that these numbers have been forwarded to Josh and will be provided to the Senate and House committees.
9. Outstanding issues:
 - a. REMOTE AREA MEDICAL™ (RAM™) would still like to provide free dentistry, vision care with eye glasses and medical consultations for individuals suffering economic hardship as a result of those floods. For RAM to accomplish such an event in SC they would require a waiver to SC state regulations that would enable RAM to bring volunteer physicians, dentists, eye specialists, and other providers to perform these services while holding a valid license in another state in the US, but who are not licensed in SC. We are working with Richele Taylor to see what can be done to make this a reality. Currently, LLR cannot actually waive the regulations for medical and nursing. There is an emergency provision for doing so, but DHEC has to call a state of emergency/health crisis in order for us to use it. I believe our only real option at this point is to prepare legislation that would authorize the Governor to immediately activate this capability at the moment of the Declaration of Emergency. There will be a lot of natural barriers to making this happen, but those same barriers will stop it when we need it for the next disaster!
 - b. (Tiny Home – Ben Kennedy at Brighton Builders in Bluffton) We are working

with the Long Term Recovery Committees in Georgetown and Richland Counties find the right family for the first home. I never thought it would be difficult to give away a home, but the "coding" issues create challenges. We will continue to work to find a suitable recipient.

- c. George Greene of Water Mission.ORG has created a proposal to "Pre-Permit Potable Water Treatment Equipment" for future Disaster Response in South Carolina – we are going to work with your office and the legislature to provide legislation authorizing this capability on Declaration of Disaster so we do not have to wait until the capability is no longer needed before we get the authority to use it.

On a personal note, we (the retired military community) appreciate you including the military retiree exemption in your budget plans!

Respectfully,
Kevin

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