

**LONG TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY**

**JOINT TASK FORCE**

Meeting Notes

September 20, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.

**ATTENDEES**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AGENCY &amp; INFORMATION</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>AGENCY &amp; INFORMATION</b>
Rocky Milliman	ADECA LTCR	Corlis Floyd	ADECA LTCR
Stephanie Southerland	ADECA LTCR	Amanda Phan	Witt Associates
Ken Hollingsworth	ADECA Workforce Investment	Lorilei Sanders	ADECA Workforce Initiatives
Mike Shafer	CAPNA	Brooke Mills	Serve Alabama
Jim Corcoran	FEMA (LTCR Branch Director)	Leslie Gettys	Serve Alabama
Antonia Martinez	FEMA	Benny Harris	AEMA
David Young	Alabama Housing Finance Authority	Becky Booker	United Way of AL
Jimmy Lester	ADECA Workforce Development	John Olsen	FDIC
Shannon Byrd	Mental Health	David C. Young	AL Housing Finance Authority
<b>Via telephone:</b>			
De'An Bass	FEMA (Holt Community)	Marian Wingo	FEMA (DeKalb County/Rainsville)
Pete Gozza	FEMA (Cordova)	Jonathan Corso	US EDA
William (Bill) Lokey	Witt Associates	Jo Ann Johnson	211 Alabama
Steve Pratt	Witt Associates	David Roarke	HUD Birmingham
Charlotte Koestler	Witt Associates	Allen Bowen	USDA RD
Jack Green	CAPNA	Joey Hester	NARCOG

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Welcome**

- Rocky Milliman, LTCR Coordinator, called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

**Accept Meeting Notes**

- The notes from the August 23, 2012, meeting of the Joint Task Force were approved as written.

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#### **Capacity Building Training Session**

- Plans are underway to offer training for capacity building in conjunction with the Alabama League of Municipalities' Annual Convention in May 2013. More specifics will be provided as the date approaches.

#### **FEMA Update**

- FEMA's LTCR Branch Director, Jim Corcoran, reported that he has received verbal authorization from FEMA that extends FEMA support through December 31.
- FEMA has also approved the hiring of a Recovery Manager to work with the towns of Phil Campbell and Hackleburg through the end of the year.

#### **Field Reports from RMs** (Current projects/activities include):

##### CORDOVA

- The Recovery Committee is doing a good job focusing on working to implement the projects set out in Cordova's Recovery Plan.
- The grocery store project is moving forward. The property for rebuilding has been purchased and is being re-zoned. The former owner of the grocery store has agreed to return to Cordova to operate the store. Cordova's Economic and Industrial Development Board will be the applicant for the funding to construct the grocery store and will serve as the lessor of the property.
- The City has been working with its attorneys to establish a tax increment financing district.
- Plans are underway for the City to purchase the former grocery store property, which was discovered to be in a 100-year flood plain. The intent is to combine this property with other property already owned by the City and build a downtown park.
- Lastly, approximately 50 acres located along the Warrior River is being considered for the development of a recreational area.

##### DEKALB COUNTY/RAINSVILLE

- Carrie Lea, Program Analyst for the Northeast AL CAA, has been designated as the individual that will assume the role of LTCR manager for DeKalb County. Ms. Lea is a longtime resident of Ider and is qualified, competent, professional and perfectly situated to lead DeKalb County's LTCR.
- DeKalb County's Emergency Manager has offered to send Ms. Lea to EMI (Emergency Management Institute) for two weeks of training for recovery, response and preparedness.
- The Northeast AL CAA Board will make her appointment official at their October Board Meeting.
- Ms. Lea and the Recovery Manager meet weekly and the LTCR group meets every other week and is energized.
- Approved bids have been accepted for community shelters that are to be built in 2013.
- The Economic Development Authority (EDA) continues to support the LTCR group and is sponsoring a first-ever "Made in DeKalb: Product & Service Expo" on Thursday, October 18. This event will promote local manufacturers and industries as well as other local businesses and companies doing business in DeKalb County. This event will provide an opportunity to distribute information on LTCR.

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#### HACKLEBURG

- The Recovery Committee in Hackleburg is doing a great job implementing the projects listed in its Recovery Plan.

#### HOLT

- Holt's LTR Committee---now a nonprofit known as, HOLT in Action
  - Board orientation completed on August 27, 2012
  - First half of a strategic planning workshop completed on September 15, 2012.
  - Monthly board meeting with officer elections and strategic planning on September 24, 2012.
  - Submitted form 1023 to IRS for 501(c)(3) designation in October 2012.
  - Board members are taking responsibility to organize and chair a committee until the committee is ready to stand on its own
  - Holt Community Cleanup Day was Saturday, August 25, 2012 – around sixty volunteers from the community and UA sanded desks at the high school and removed kudzu from the baseball field.
  - HOLT in Action continues to recruit recovery partners and Advisory Council members and reach out to the community.
- Economic Development - New Foundry Creative Center
  - Meeting with the School Board on Monday, September 24, 2012, to discuss use of old elementary school in North Holt.
  - Requested meeting with Shelton State Community College to discuss their role in the project. The University of Alabama's Division of Community Affairs has already committed to helping with the project and has created a program to that effect.
  - Cheryl Morgan of Auburn Urban Studios-Small Town Design Initiative will test the facility for uses and create preliminary designs.
  - Holt High School alumni may be able to help with structural analysis.
- Natural & Cultural Resources - Greening Holt
  - The new board has requested an extension of its \$8,000 grant from Tombigbee RC&D to allow for planting in the proper months of November, January and February. The request is pending – the Tombigbee RC&D Board meets again in late October.
- Housing & Human Services
  - HOLT in Action is exploring options for developing relationships in the local housing community as well as for potential projects.
  - The HOLT in Action board met with the West AL Long Term Recovery Coalition on September 18, 2012, to share information about HOLT in Action and request a collaborative relationship towards recovery where mutually beneficial. HOLT in Action will continue to encourage people to register with case managers.
  - Pam Dorr of HERO (Hale Empowerment & Revitalization Organization) will give a presentation on neighborhood revitalization and community development programs at the public community meeting on October 2, 2012.
- HOLT in Action "Be Ready" events in September:
  - A Be Ready Open House on September 4<sup>th</sup> – County EMA and Sheriff's Office, AL Dept. of Public Health, Compassion Coalition, Honorable Hardy McCollum, and Community Service Programs of West Alabama (CSPWAL) participated and provided information to attendees. Ten donated weather radios were given away as door prizes.

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- A Be Ready football game at the high school on September 21, 2012 – disaster preparedness information and case management registration information from CSP of West Alabama will be provided to attendees and ten donated weather radios will be given away.
- Be Ready Sunday events at participating local churches on September 23 and 30 - disaster preparedness information and case management registration information from CSP of West Alabama will be provided to members and visitors.

#### PHIL CAMPBELL

- A FEMA recovery manager to support the Phil Campbell and Hackleburg communities should be on-site within the next few weeks.

#### Witt Associates - Update

- Bill Lokey introduced the draft 5-year Strategic Plan Template and stated that the “rule” for successful planning is for people implementing the plan to be part of the development process. He described the plan as a ‘statewide plan’ focused on supporting local communities with recovery efforts. Rocky Milliman pointed out that the document is fluid and is meant to guide state agencies to support localities in recovery.
- Mr. Lokey asked the JTF to review the draft template and provide input to him at [wlokey@wittassociates.com](mailto:wlokey@wittassociates.com). (NOTE: Please courtesy copy your responses to Mr. Lokey regarding the plan to Rocky Milliman at [rocky.milliman@adeca.alabama.gov](mailto:rocky.milliman@adeca.alabama.gov) and Stephanie Southerland at [stephanie.southerland@adeca.alabama.gov](mailto:stephanie.southerland@adeca.alabama.gov).)
- Steve Pratt, chair of the Philanthropy Working Group, reported that he will be working within the group to ask organizations to assist with development of the plan by coming up with ways to implement the goals and objectives.
- The Alabama Recovery Coalition for the financial sector was unable to participate in today's meeting due to activities stemming from hurricane Isaac but plan to join the group for future meetings.

#### Housing Shortage – Rental Properties

Rocky Milliman stated that the housing shortage continues to be a priority and will be more apparent when FEMA’s individual housing assistance program ends.

#### Updates to Current Programs & Support Being Provided to the Communities

- Michael Johnson of AEMA provided a written PW Status Report with reference to public assistance (see attached).
- AEMA’s Benny Harris gave the mitigation status report.
  - EMA received approximately 4 to 5,000 applications for individual safe rooms, all of which have been processed and sent to FEMA. Many of the applications have already been funded.
  - In addition to the individual safe rooms, hundreds of community safe rooms are also being constructed across the state.
  - Back-up power generator applications and alert & notification system applications have also been processed and many have been funded. All of the funded back-up power generators are sewage treatment related. Many types of notification systems are being funded, i.e., sirens, reverse 911, weather radios, etc.

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- As an FYI, John Olson of FDIC provided the group with a copy of a 2006 letter from the Wisconsin Banking Association that sets out the industry definition of a “designated disaster area” and its support for adoption of “lag periods” (see attached).
- David Roarke of HUD stated that Alabama’s four grantees’ Action Plans have been received, approved, signed and loaded into HUD’s Finance System. The next step is for the grantees to upload their approved action plans into HUD’s DRGR System, which will be reviewed against a headquarters’ issued checklist for completeness. Finally, the local HUD office will send a recommendation to headquarters that the flags be lifted which allows the grantees to draw down funds.
- Mike Shafer of CAPNA expressed the continued need for operating monies to hire staff to manage the projects in the various communities.

#### **Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will most likely be scheduled for early November. A notice will be emailed to task force members approximately 10 to 14 days prior to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.