



**Stormwater Mitigation and Flooding Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2025
Daytona Beach International Airport, 700 Catalina Dr., Daytona Beach**

CALL TO ORDER – 10:00 A.M.

Those attending included the following Roundtable Subcommittee members: Jake Johansson, At-Large, Volusia County; Nancy Miller, Mayor, Daytona Beach Shores; Stacy Cantu, Commissioner, Daytona Beach; Andrew Holmes, Deputy City Manager, Daytona Beach; Carmen Rosamonda, City Manager, DeBary; Chris Cloudman, Mayor, DeLand; Santiago Avila, Jr., Mayor, Deltona; Doc Dougherty, City Manager, Deltona; John Penny, Mayor, Holly Hill; Lyn Donato, Commissioner, Lake Helen; Fred Cleveland, Mayor, New Smyrna Beach; Dale Arrington, City Manager, Orange City; Lori Tolland, Commissioner, Ormond Beach; Lois Paritsky, Mayor, Ponce Inlet; Robin Fenwick, Assistant City Manager, Port Orange; Junos Reed, City Engineer, Port Orange; Les Gillis, City Manager, South Daytona; Ben Bartlett, Director, Volusia County Public Works; Dona Butler, Director, Office of Recovery and Resiliency and Transform386; Clint Mecham, Director, Volusia County Emergency Management; Chris Ryan, Assistant County Attorney, Volusia County.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Nancy Miller, Mayor, Daytona Beach Shores, and Jake Johansson, At-Large, Volusia County, opened with introductions of new members and an overview of the agenda.

STORMWATER DATA CALL UPDATE

Ben Bartlett, Director, Volusia County Public Works, provided an update that his team is compiling a central source of stormwater projects in Volusia County, with an expected October rollout. The repository will be public-facing and have a dedicated page on the County Stormwater website. It will display project information, including location, funding, schedules, right-of-way issues, and property acquisition details.

Bartlett reported that stormwater projects are beginning implementation. Public Works is currently hiring staff to manage the stormwater program and is developing a newsletter that will include county and municipal updates. **Bartlett** commended cities for their responsiveness to data requests and their effective use of social media to share project updates. **Johansson** encouraged members to utilize the Volusia County Stormwater website for current project information.

TRANSFORM386

Dona Butler, Director, Office of Recovery and Resiliency and Transform386, provided updates on the operational Milton application portal, mentioning future training videos. She asked that each city promote the portal through social media and other communication channels.

Applications for the buyout program have already been submitted. Currently, 20% of applications request buyouts. **Butler** emphasized that each city must pass a resolution to participate in the buyout program. **Butler** also discussed property acquisition under infrastructure projects. She urged cities with infrastructure or mitigation projects to submit their applications promptly, as the next application round will open in October. **Butler** reported that 33 stormwater studies and 20 infrastructure projects are currently underway.

Butler emphasized that Transform386 is committed to helping cities succeed with their applications, encouraging them to schedule project discussion meetings. She noted that Round 3 of funding will be much more competitive. **Butler** stated she will distribute the buyout program resolution to all city managers and mayors.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

Clint Mecham, Director, Volusia County Emergency Management, stated that the Council adopted the Local Mitigation Strategy and Mitigation Plan, noting that Annex H is the Integrated Flood Management Plan, which focuses on vulnerabilities, strategies, and critical infrastructure. **Mecham** noted that four cities did not participate in strategy development. He indicated that staff are reaching out to each city to provide status awareness and a sample resolution.

Mecham provided updates on FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding for Hurricane Milton, reporting that Volusia County has been reduced to \$21 million. He provided an update on the Elevate Florida program, noting that only 16 projects were funded. Volusia County allocated \$1.25 million from HMGP funds to supplement the program. **Butler** added that Transform386 is coordinating with HMGP and Elevate Florida to provide match funding assistance to eligible Elevate Florida applicants. Regarding resilience planning, **Mecham** discussed vulnerability assessment tools and noted that FEMA data shows Volusia County ranks second in the most flood-prone.

Members discussed responsible development practices, noting that areas developed prior to current stormwater regulations present the most challenges. While new developments can be built to withstand 500-year events like Hurricanes Ian and Milton, costs would be prohibitive.

AMERICAN FLOOD COALITION PRESENTATION

Kate Wesner, Florida Director of the American Flood Coalition, presented on federal, state, and local funding opportunities. The national non-profit organization focuses on Florida, Texas, and the Carolinas. **Wesner** stated that every \$1 invested in pre-disaster mitigation saves \$6 in recovery costs.

She provided an update on Florida's 'Always Ready' Legislation, detailing that the Resilient Florida grant program has 346 statewide projects totaling \$1.5 billion in awarded grants, \$125 million in implementation projects, construction projects require a 50% cost share, and \$20 million is available in planning grants. She noted that planning grants can be used for vulnerability assessments, comprehensive plan amendments, and adaptation plans, while implementation grants focus on construction projects.

Wesner noted that vulnerability assessments must be underway to apply for implementation projects. The application deadline is in September, notifications in December, and funding by the budget year-end 2026.

Wesner discussed the Regional Resilience Entities program, highlighting the Florida Flood Hub. Additionally, **Wesner** mentioned the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Program. At the federal level, **Wesner** reported that the American Flood Coalition has been working with congressional leaders and the White House to improve FEMA programs, focusing on pre-disaster resilience. She noted that several of the coalition's recommendations have been included in the House Transportation Infrastructure Community Bill.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Nancy Miller, Mayor, Daytona Beach Shores, thanked presenters and encouraged attendees to share the information, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in addressing flooding and stormwater issues. **Miller** encouraged members unable to attend future meetings to send representatives to ensure information distribution to all cities.

Jake Johansson, At-Large, Volusia County, mentioned the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council as a resource for cities and encouraged participation in Council activities.

Members reported ongoing projects and recent easement acquisitions, highlighted the value of strong county relationships, and expressed appreciation for the subcommittee's evolution, information sharing, and Transform386 staff contributions.

NEXT MEETING

Jake Johansson, At-Large, Volusia County Council, stated that information regarding the next meeting will be distributed at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.