

## **Formation of the Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) forming the Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition, promoting a collaborative partnership within the seven counties of the Heartland Region will be considered.

### **Background:**

On September 8, 2021, the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) adopted Resolution 2021-9B authorizing the Executive Director to develop and execute the formation of the Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition to promote a collaborative partnership within the seven counties of the Heartland Region focused on the resiliency goals for the future. The Resolution authorized the CFRPC to serve as the organizational and administrative entity of the Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition to secure funding and lead programs for the benefit of the Region.

CFRPC staff facilitated a Regional Resiliency Summit on Monday, January 31, 2022, to discuss a collaborative approach to position the Heartland Region, local governments, and agencies to better plan for resilience, meet new and changing state and federal regulations and guidelines, and enable greater access to resources for projects. There were 80 registered participants. One hundred percent of the participants stated through polling that a Regional Resiliency Coalition would be of benefit to the Heartland Region.

The Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition will provide a formal platform for local governments to: work together to create guidelines for the development of resilient communities; learn "Best Practices" from each other and from other regions; and, leverage regional resilience efforts to enhance funding and increase competitiveness for securing grants. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed which includes the following key points:

#### **Regional Cooperation**

- Identify vulnerabilities in their communities
- Identify common vulnerability assessment methodologies
- Plan for mitigation and adaptation actions and pursue public private partnerships

#### **Regional Resiliency Action Plan**

- Develop an Action Plan with strategies for coordinated regional preparation for and adaptation to a rapidly changing environment.

#### **Basis of Planning**

- Base strategies and actions on commonly accepted and valid technical data and identify experts for guidance, use recognized and consistent projections to assess vulnerability and inform planning efforts.

#### **Strategy**

- Develop strategies which recognize region-specific vulnerabilities of the Heartland to the impacts of extreme weather and climate and include recommendations for the pursuit of state and federal resources.

**Community Involvement**

- Recognize, engage the regional community, involving a diverse stakeholder representation in developing policies, recommendations for implementation of Regional Resilience Action Plan.

**Intent:**

- Coalition Members each join the Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition as expression of intent and commitment to work together on a regional level to identify and address the effects of but not limited to flooding, wind damage, and extreme weather.

The MOU is to be entered into by the 7 counties of DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, Polk, Glades, Hendry, and up to 28 municipalities in the Heartland Region as well as government agencies and entities serving the Heartland Region.

**Actions Requested:** Approval of MOU by the Spring Lake Improvement District

**Exhibits:** Draft Memorandum of Understanding

# **The Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition Memorandum of Understanding**

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is entered into among the undersigned Members of the Heartland Region. All Parties are collectively referred to as Members.

On September 8, 2021, Central Florida Regional Planning Council's Board affirmed by unanimous decision to support the creation of a program to convene stakeholders in the seven-county Heartland Region to develop the framework for a regional resiliency coalition, herein including the undersigned local governments and government agencies and entities serving the Heartland Region.

**WHEREAS**, the Heartland Region including the counties of DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Okeechobee and Polk is home to more than 1,015,841 residents as of 2020, approximately 4.7% of the 2020 population of the State of Florida, and includes recreational spaces, state parks, wildlife preserves, protected natural areas, significant agricultural lands as well as a military installation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Heartland Region of Florida consists of seven inland counties, five of which are rural, one of which is large urban and one of which is small urban and all of which contain an economy that is driven by natural resource-based industries including forestry, fishing, and agriculture; key industries such as aviation, manufacturing, logistics; academic institutions and government services; and businesses large and small which anchor the communities of the Heartland; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update for the Central Florida Region, the industries that employ the greatest number of people include government; leisure and hospitality; professional and business services; trade, transportation and utilities; education and health services, manufacturing, financial activities, and construction; and

**WHEREAS**, additional regional approaches building on the Heartland 2060: Building a Resilient Region plan are critical to supporting ongoing local efforts to increase adaptive capacities to improve resilience in confronting shocks and stressors to both the natural and built environments; and

**WHEREAS**, Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition is being formed to advance local and regional responses to significant economic, community, and natural system disruption, provide technical assistance and support, and pursue collaborative solutions in addressing these effects on our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Counties of Desoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Polk and the municipalities within as well as government agencies and entities serving the Heartland Region (the "Members"), share a sense of community, economy, and critically important environmental resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Heartland region is known for its beautiful rivers, lakes, and wildlife habitats which are central to the quality of life, tourism industry, and economic vitality of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, extreme weather events can impact the lives of residents, damage property, disrupt businesses, increase crop damage, and degrade natural systems. Such impacts result in disruptions to

local economies, lost revenues for the private and public sectors, loss of employment opportunities over time, and extreme demand for governmental resources to combat and recover from those events; and

**WHEREAS**, the region is particularly vulnerable to adverse impacts from flooding resulting from increases in frequency and duration of rainfall events, wind damage from severe weather systems, and extreme temperature variations; and

**WHEREAS**, a coordinated approach is necessary to maximize the benefit of efforts to address such impacts and to improve the region's resilience to such events; and

**WHEREAS**, to most effectively address these challenges, the Members are committed to being resilient to a changing environment, and will consider adaptation and risk reduction strategies intended to ensure public safety and safeguard critical infrastructure, property, environmental assets, and basic quality of life for current residents and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, while many counties and cities in the Heartland have independently identified and undertaken activities to address vulnerabilities, they recognize the value of a collaborative commitment to build resiliency in the region, foster best practices, and benefit from cross jurisdictional initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Members have joined in formation of the Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition to coordinate their efforts and enhance their abilities to identify, plan, and implement sustainability and resiliency measures to guard against threats and protect our natural environment and our communities, for the health and safety of the region; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF THE COALITION MEMBERS THAT:**

**SECTION 1. Findings** — The findings set forth above are adopted and set forth as the reasons and statement of purpose for the formation of the Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition.

**SECTION 2. Regional Cooperation** — The Members shall work together to maximize their efforts to mitigate and adapt to various identified effects by: identifying vulnerabilities in their communities; identifying common vulnerability assessment methodologies; planning for mitigation and adaptation actions that will enhance the resiliency of their communities; learning from each other through sharing their knowledge from prior efforts and planning documents; leveraging their opportunities; and pursuing public private partnerships.

**SECTION 3. Regional Resiliency Action Plan** — The Members shall develop a Regional Resiliency Action Plan which shall include strategies for coordinated regional preparation for and adaption to a rapidly changing environment.

**SECTION 4. Basis of Planning** — The Members will base strategies and actions on commonly accepted methodologies and valid technical data while working together to use recognized and consistent projections to assess vulnerability and inform planning efforts.

**SECTION 5. Strategy** — The Members shall develop strategies which recognize the region-specific vulnerabilities of the Heartland to the impacts of extreme weather and climate and include recommendations for the pursuit of state and federal resources.

**SECTION 6. Community Involvement** — The Members shall work collaboratively to recognize and engage the regional community, involving a diverse stakeholder representation in developing policies and recommendations for implementation of the Regional Resiliency Action Plan.

**SECTION 7. Collaboration** — The Central Florida Regional Planning Council shall serve as the entity to provide a collaborative platform to seek resources and projects, on behalf of the Coalition in furtherance of the efforts of the Coalition in coordination with Members and other stakeholders.

**SECTION 8. Intent** — The Members each join the Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition as an expression of their intent and commitment to work together on a regional level to identify and address the effects of but not limited to flooding, wind damage, and extreme weather. Coalition Members do not hereby commit local resources or staffing and acknowledge that the governing body of each Member retains those powers and authorities.

**SECTION 9. Additional Members** may be added to this MOU without additional action and signing by all Members.

**SECTION 10.** This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect on April 1, 2022.

Approved for signature by the \_\_\_\_\_ at a regular meeting on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2023.

**(COALITION PARTNER NAME)**

**CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL  
PLANNING COUNCIL**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(TITLE)

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
WITNESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
WITNESS

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PARTNER ATTORNEY, IF REQUIRED)

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNCIL ATTORNEY

## FW: Participation Requested - Military Installation Resiliency Review

Sheila McNamara <smcnamara@cfrpc.org>

Thu 12/28/2023 11:01 AM

To: Joseph DeCerbo <jdecerbo@springlakefl.com>; Israel Serrano <iserrano@springlakefl.com>; Kay Gorham <kgorham@springlakefl.com>

Cc: Jennifer Codo-Salisbury <jcodosalisbury@cfrpc.org>

It was a pleasure meeting you all today!

Joe, here is information regarding the MIRR. We are excited to add your presentation to the agenda.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has expressed concern over the damaging impacts of natural and man-made hazards and threats posed by the increasing frequency and magnitude of tropical storms, flooding, and extreme rainfall to military operations. Through funding provided by the DoD's Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), the resiliency review will identify and work to address community challenges that also negatively impact the military mission and operations at the Range, enabling a "one community" response through a collaborative Federal, state, local, and private effort to optimize the capacities and resources each party can bring to the effort. This project, to be completed by January 2025, will be led by the CFRPC, building upon strong relationships with Range personnel, military leadership, municipal and county governments, economic development organizations, Sentinel Landscape partners, and the State of Florida.

The Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) is dependent upon critical infrastructure provided by the community including transportation infrastructure and utilities such as potable water, wastewater, natural gas and electricity. This project will improve the integration of the region's primary military installation while strengthening military-civilian engagement. Resilience investment decisions must consider the immediacy of each threat, the unique conditions at the site, and the importance of infrastructure to national security. This will include natural hazards such as extreme weather events, flooding, and other risks involving infrastructure and critical support services.

With collaboration from key stakeholders, this MIRR project will include:

- A comprehensive review of present and forecasted natural and man-made threats and vulnerabilities;
- Table-top exercises with local military and community leadership to review capacities of hard infrastructure such as transportation networks, electricity, communications, and water supply and management, and the public services necessary to respond to natural and/or man-made disruptions.
- Community partnerships development;
- Modeling of impacts from potential threats and geospatial mapping; and
- Development of a cost-benefit analysis and prioritization of implementation options.

The meeting will be held **January 24th** from **9:30 am to 1:30 pm** at the **Avon Park Correctional Institute's Training Center** located within the Range and will provide an overview of the grant with project tasks and deadlines, discussion of community vulnerabilities, identification of Steering Committee and Technical Committee members, and tours of impacted areas of the Range and the Correctional Institute's facility and wastewater treatment plant. An agenda will be sent separately.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Appreciatively,

Sheila

**Sheila McNamara, SFP**

Regional Resiliency Manager &

Avon Park Sentinel Landscape Coordinator