



FEDERAL ECONOMIC

# RECOVERY & RESILIENCY

WORKSHOP

A workshop to discuss OUR region's projects needed to recover from Hurricane Ian.

**MARCH 14, 2023 • 9 AM - 3 PM • THE HEIGHTS CENTER**  
**15570 HAGIE DRIVE, FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33908**

The Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) together with several Federal and State agencies are holding workshops to discuss Recovery and Resiliency projects for the Supplemental Funding that will be released soon. This Workshop is being held to discuss OUR region's projects needed to recover from Hurricane Ian.

## PROJECT DISCUSSIONS

The agencies would like projects from our region presented at this Workshop resulting in **4-5+ PRIORITIZED** projects to be submitted for implementation. The four breakout sessions will focus on the following categories:

1. AGRICULTURE AND RELATED ISSUES
2. INFRASTRUCTURE
3. WORKFORCE
4. BUSINESS RECOVERY

## PRESENT YOUR PROJECT

If you would like to present a project at this workshop, please contact:

**MARGARET WUERSTLE**  
**239-281-6978 OR**

[mwuerstle@swfrpc.org](mailto:mwuerstle@swfrpc.org)

We hope to see you on March 14th.  
An agenda will be sent out at a later date.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE HEIGHT FOUNDATION FOR HOSTING THIS  
WORKSHOP AT THE HEIGHTS CENTER**



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**9:00 AM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

A WORD ABOUT DISASTER IMPACTS: A REGIONAL CONTEXT

Margaret Wuerstle – Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

Jaha Cummings – Disaster Recovery Coordinator

Greg Vaday - U.S. Economic Development Administration

**9:30 AM PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP**

INTRODUCTION OF STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS

Greg Vaday - U.S. Economic Development Administration

Milton Cochran - Economic RSF and Federal Partners

**9:30 AM SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING**

Laura Curvey, FEMA Community Assistance

**10:00 AM SESSION 1 – AGRICULTURE & RELATED ISSUES**

FACILITATOR: MEGAN GREER

- Food Insecurity
  - Potential Panelists
    - Joe Woody, USDA
    - USDA FSA
    - USDA Food Nutrition Service
    - USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
    - USDA Risk Management Agency
    - FDACS Agriculture and Aquaculture Divisions
    - Christina Court, UF-IFAS

**11:00 AM SESSION 2 – INFRASTRUCTURE**

FACILITATOR: MARGARET WUERSTLE

- Water Quality
- Punta Gorda Stormwater Management Project
- Clewiston WWTP Upgrades and Expansion
- Civic Infrastructure
- Flood Protection and Drainage
  - Potential Panelists
    - Dave Apple, U.S. Army Corp of Engineer
    - Rick Durbrow, EPA
    - Dan McGoldrick, U.S. DOI
    - Pam Swingle, U.S. DOI
    - Greg Vaday, EDA
    - Collin Kenline, Florida Division of Emergency Management
    - USDA Rural Development

**12:00 PM      WORKING LUNCH WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

KEVIN L. ERWIN CSE PWS

Kevin L. Erwin Consulting Ecologist, Inc.

Graduate Faculty, The Water School at Florida Gulf Coast University

**1:00 PM      SESSION 3 – WORKFORCE**

FACILITATOR: JAHA CUMMINGS

- Housing, Transportation, Childcare
- Apprenticeship Program
- Entrepreneur Training

Potential Panelists

- Joe Woody, USDA Rural Development
- HUD
- Mary Williams, FDEM
- CareerSource Florida
- USDOL, ETA
- Greg Vaday, EDA

**2:00 PM      SESSION 4 – BUSINESS RECOVERY**

FACILITATOR: JIM BURCH

- Coastal Resiliency
- Working Waterfront
- Economic Analysis and Impacts
- Housing

Potential Panelists

- DEO
- Greg Vaday, EDA
- Mason Alford, DEO (SSBCI, Bridge Loan)
- Sasha Jones, DEO (Business Damage Assessment)
- Dave Apple, U.S. ACE
- Rick Durbow, EPA
- DEP, Office of Coastal Protection
- Dan McGoldrick, DOI
- Pam Swingle, DOI
- Andrew Ropicki, UF Sea Grant
- Randy DeShazo, Tampa Bay RPC
- Harry Walsh, Tampa Bay RPC

**3:00 PM      CLOSING & ADJOURNMENT**

Greg Vaday - U.S. Economic Development Administration

Margaret Wuerstle - SWFRPC

**SESSION PLANS**

- Each session will have about 20 minutes of brief presentations from subject matter experts with state and federal partners for the topic area.
- Each table will have about 20 minutes to have a small group discussion about priority projects. Table leads will ask participants to complete a “tear sheet” (up to one-page summary) for their project idea(s).
- Each table lead will highlight projects discussed at tables to the IRC team during a 20-minute recap. Q&A for each topic can also take place during this time.