

## Lake Asbury Municipal Service Benefit District

### April 2010 Chairman's report

#### Local Bill 1547:

Vice Chairman DeAnn Bjornson continues to do an outstanding job on the passage of our local bill. The bill has passed unanimously through several legislative committees. She has also received word the Governor Crist will have no problem with the bill if it includes a referendum.

#### Grants & Loans to help reduce any future assessment:

The Board continues to research a variety of grants & loans. We have had and continue to have conversations with FL Pre Disaster Mitigation (FEMA), FL Dept of Community Affairs( Block Grants), HUD, St. John's Water Management District, Florida Dept of Transportation, US Corp of Engineers and USDA Rural Development to name a few. We are keeping all avenues open to find ways to reduce future assessments.

**The USDA Rural Development** has advised us we qualify for a USDA Loan. The conditions & the type of down payment required are unknown at this time. This issue will receive the upmost attention. USDA has 100% loans to loans requiring 5% to 25% down.

USDA approval for a grant or 100% loan depends on the medium income for Lake Asbury. U S 2000 Census data puts the Lake Asbury area (not just the Lakes) at approx \$58,900, which is above the USDA base line of approx \$40,000. We are trying to find a way to determine the LAMSBD medium income to see if we qualify. Note, we qualify population wise.

#### Mike Kelter, Legacy Civil Engineers, Inc, Green Cove Springs, FL:

Mike continues to work extremely hard for his \$1.00 a year pro bono fee. He is developing a **LAMSBD Public Facility Plan** for us. This will be needed to support any potential loan or grant. We appreciate his fine efforts.

#### Clay LMS (Local Mitigation Strategy) Committee:

Bob Rumble, LAMSBD district member, Ken Pelfrey, LALLOA representative and the Chair serve on this committee. The South Lake Asbury Spillway Project of \$1,080,000 was approved and ranked Sept 2009. The Lake Asbury Dams Project of \$5,800,000 was approved and ranked March 2010.

What is LMS? The FL Dept of Community Affairs (DCA) in 1988 initiated a program to assist local governments to reduce or eliminate risks to people & property from natural & man made hazards. Since post disaster recovery costs are rapidly increasing, this system tries to reduce these costs. LMS systematically categories and prioritizes projects for developing Pre & Post Mitigation plans increasing the likelihood for Federal & State grants.

#### Henley Road Expansion:

No additional news but we await the final plans to be reviewed by Mike Kelter.

#### Lake Asbury Watershed & Flooding Study:

The study is currently in the sediment phase and then later the flooding phase.

#### South Lake Asbury Valve:

The approx 20 foot valve reach rod is bent. We are obtaining a proposal to replace the reach rod and possibly the valve bushing. This needs to be replaced before hurricane season.