

**Fortified Task Force**  
**March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**1:00 P.M.**  
**Via Zoom Format**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The Chair welcomed all the participants and members of the task force. The meeting was **called to order at 1:01 p.m.**

The Chair, Ms. Jackie Dadakis, requested a roll call of the members which reflected the following:

Members Present: Dr Carol Friedland, Mr. Fritz Embaugh, Mr. Zach Smith (1:34), Mr. Robert Carroll, Mr. Randy Noel, Mr. Bill Pousson, Ms. Jill Maumus, Mr. Bobby Byrd, Mr. Kenneth Jones, Mr. Gary Hollander, Mr. Morgan Wood, Mr. Tom Travis (LDI Representative)(1:11), Mr. Stephen Laughlin and Mr. Bill McShan.

Members Absent: None

15 members present and 0 member absent constitute a Quorum.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Review and Adoption of the Minutes from the February 5, 2024 meeting.**

**A motion was made** by Randy Noel to approve the minutes as presented. **The motion was seconded** by Mr. Bobby Byrd. **There were no objections to the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.**

**2. Next Fortified Task Force Meeting TBD.**

The next Fortified Task Force Meeting is set for April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, via Zoom.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Review and discussion on IBHS program for Fortified construction methods.**

The Chair, Ms. Dadakis, opened the meeting. She asked that those participating from the public to please enter their name and affiliation in the chat box. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed the purpose of the Fortified Task Force.

Ms. Dadakis, the Chair, introduced Dr. Carol Friedland and turned the meeting over to her to start her presentation. Dr. Friedland thanked those who assisted her with the research and analysis of the data that she would be presenting. She provided Tornado and Hurricane Severity Scales during her slide presentation, along with other key wind damage information.

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Dr. Friedland provided information concerning the State Code vs Fortified Roof Cost Comparisons. There was an extensive discussion and answer/question session between those attending the meeting.

Ms. Dadakis then introduced Mr. Rick Foster, Building Official and Flood Plan Manger for the City of Denham Springs. He is also the current President of BOAL (Building Officials Association of Louisiana).

Mr. Foster spoke briefly to the task force members and those attending concerning the permitting of roofs, specifically voluntary and non-voluntary replacements. There are jurisdictions that do not require a re-roofing permits. Many times it is due to resources, manpower, etc. If roofs required permits at the time of replacement it would lead to inspectors being required to be on a roof to perform inspections during the replacement and then once completed. This would lead to a cost for the jurisdiction of increased manpower, training on how to properly climb/stand on the roof, as well as, safety equipment that would be required to be purchased/provided to each inspector.

Mr. Randy Noel spoke on the legislation that was passed during the last session that allowed for the use of GEO tagging photos to help with being able to look at roofs during the roofing process to verify compliance. In those parishes that are using the GEO tagging process for roofs, it is working well. One of the needs of a jurisdiction to use the GEO tagging process would be a web based permitting process. The installing companies would then submit the GEO tech photos of the roof nailing pattern, sealing of the roof, drip edge and other needed photos to show that the roof was installed per code requirements.

Mr. Bobby Byrd offered to contact a building official from the State of Alabama to provide a presentation to the task force. Alabama has already gone through the more resilient roofing standards and preferred methods that Louisiana is exploring and implementing. He could provide some information of how they worked through the process.

Mr. Mark Joiner updated the task force and those attending of a new BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) Grant application that has been submitted.

Discussion continued about LSUCCC Wind Mitigation Surveyor registrations and the Fortified Evaluators that are part of the LDI Grant program. Mr. Joiner stated that there have been discussions on providing an updated ICC Hurricane Resistant Residential Construction class.

Ms. Dadakis asked if there was any other discussion. With no other items on the agenda or discussion, a motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Randy Noel and Mr. Robert Carroll seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

END OF MINUTES