

Fortified Task Force
April 2nd, 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 1:04 p.m.**

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

Members Present: Ms. Jackie Dadakis, Dr. Carol Friedland, Mr. Fritz Embaugh, Mr. Robert Carroll (2:00 pm), 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), Mr. Stephen Laughlin.

Members Absent: Mr. Zach Smith, Mr. Billy McShan

13 members present and 2 member absent constitute a Quorum.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

A motion was made by Mr. Fritz Embaugh to approve the minutes as presented. **The motion was seconded** by Mr. Ken Jones. **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 30th, 2024, via Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Ms. Dadakis, the Chair, gave a brief review and update to all those present on the zoom meeting. She requested that any guest that are attending would place their information in the chat so we can have a record of those from the public that attended.

Ms. Dadakis introduced Mr. Tom Travis, who is the Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Research for the Louisiana Department of Insurance. He is currently in charge of managing the Fortified Roof Grant Program for LDI. Mr. Travis gave a description of the grant program and how it works for homeowners to apply for grant money, to help with the reinstalling of a new fortified roof on their homes.

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The program was authorized two years ago and the money was appropriated this past year. The program was originally funded with \$30 Million. Mr. Travis then shared that they began the process of getting the word out to the industry and as of this date the list has grown to almost 150 contractors that are signed up and have received their approved roofing certification from IBHS. They are hoping to get more certifiers for the program, as well.

The homes that are available for the grants are homes that are in good standing and are not on a dry stack foundation. Mr. Travis explained the educational and training requirements that are required to be an evaluator, as well as, training, insurance coverage, and other items required from the contractors and roofers.

The process is a pre-site inspection from an evaluator, to make sure that the home is able to take a fortified roof. The evaluator then creates their evaluation form. The evaluation is then approved by LDI. Once that is complete the homeowner will have 90 days, from the approval date, to receive their bids from their top three roofing contractors that they choose from the site. LDI will then look at the bid sheets from those chosen by the homeowner. Once the bid sheets are approved by LDI the homeowners get to choose which approved contractor/roofer bid they want. LDI pays the contractor directly. The evaluator will then verify and issue the certificate.

Mr. Randy Noel, task force member, asked if LDI was collecting the data for the average of the bids that are being sent in by the contractors and roofers. At this time, LDI is not collecting the data. It is attainable though. Mr. Noel explained that having a low and high mark would help if there are other grants that can be applied for. Mr. Travis stated that many applicants are not reading everything and do not realize they have to pay for the permits, inspection, and other fees as well as the amount over \$10,000 (which is the award limit for each grant). At times they do not complete the process if the cost is more than they can afford.

Mr. Travis spoke on some of the discounts that homeowners are receiving. Ms. Nicole Barnes, Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Authority, spoke on the discounts and requesting consideration by the department for some uniformity of discount amounts by the insurance companies for installing the fortified roofing method.

Mr. Travis stated there have been over 394 grants approved and looking to top over 400 by the end of the current week. As for as the data and statistical data that is forth coming. The question was raised if this would go forth past 2024, Mr. Travis stated that would be determined by the Legislature each year, due to the dedication of budget dollars to fund the program. Next task force meeting was set for April 30th, 2024.

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 Randy Noel and several members seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

END OF MINUTES