



DOUGLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD

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July 3, 2019

Chair Mike Russell welcomed members and called the Douglas County Emergency Management Board/Local Emergency Planning Committee to order on July 3, 2019.

Those present in the meeting included:

Attending:

Porter Arneill
Joseph Baranski
Mike Baxter
Derek Bland
Steve Devore
Russell Epperson
Matthew Faulk
Tony Foster
Midge Grinstead
Kay Johnson

Stone Junod
Chris Keary
Chris Lamar
Gordon Leong
Chris Lesser
Cary Mans
Trent McKinley
Shane Munsch
Kim Murphree
Bob Nugent
Mike Pattrick

Nicole Rials
H. Wayne Riley
Mike Russell
Lane Sekavec
John Stipetich
Bud Waugh
Sarah Wickham

Others attending: Erik Stewart, Kevin Oneslager, Jim Cessna, John Harris, Bryan Nowlin, Erin Riley

Emergency Management staff present: Joe Hoelscher, Jillian Rodrigue.

Preparedness Partner Awards:

Preparedness Partner Awards are an opportunity to highlight the significant contributions of individuals and organizations in support of emergency management. This year's recipients were:

- **Douglas County Amateur Radio Club:** The Douglas County Auxiliary Communications Team (ACT) Repeater took a lightning strike and stopped functioning in November. DCARC stepped up to offer their back up repeater to us at no cost. Not only did they offer it up, several members donated their time to get it setup to ensure our capabilities remained intact during the transition to a new repeater.
- **KU Emergency Management:** Andrew Foster and John Stipetich have been an incredible partner for many years, but this year they have taken that to a higher level to ensure Douglas County as a whole is ready for any emergency. Andrew and John participated and provided expertise during each ESF Meeting. Additionally, on May 28th they activated with our EOC. They assisted in being EOC Support for documentation and updating WebEOC to ensuring coffee was fresh, phones were charged, copies were made, lunch was ordered, provided accountability support – basically any task that was needed. Their presence was greatly appreciated and aided in the success of the EOC's mission.

Reorganization:

Chair Mike Russell provided an overview of the purpose, roles and responsibilities of the LEPC. He encouraged members to reach out to the Executive Committee with any concerns or questions.

The schedule of the 2019-2020 LEPC Meetings was provided to all members. A nomination of approval for the new LEPC Membership and Executive Committee was made, seconded and approved by the membership. The 2019-2020 Executive Committee members are as follows:

- Chair, Mike Russell, University of Kansas
- Vice Chair, Kay Johnson, PROSOCO
- Nicole Rials, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center
- Joe Baranski, Hallmark Cards
- Trent McKinley, Lawrence Police Department

Mike Russell agreed to serve a second term as Chair to support the ongoing transition in Emergency Management.

Minutes – Mike Russell

- Entertained a motion to receive the April 3, 2019, minutes. Gordon Leong made the motion which was seconded by Bud Waugh. All members voted in favor to approve.

Presentations:

- Bryan Nowlin of Westar presented on mutual aid procedures in the private sector and the Kansas Electric Utility Taskforce which includes private sector, municipal and Co-op entities. Additionally, Bryan played a video highlighting the combined efforts of utility companies across the county to support the infrastructure rebuild in Puerto Rico following the 2018 hurricanes. While Westar did not deploy to Puerto Rico, they provided mutual aid support to Oklahoma following an emergency when their crews were deployed.
- Joe Hoelscher and Jillian Rodrigue provided an overview of the May 28th Tornado response and recovery efforts. It was highlighted many times the coordination between agencies during and following the tornado. Efforts of the Long Term Recovery Committee were provided.

Grants Update – Joe Hoelscher

- HMEP Grant – Two ToxMedic courses have been completed with final closeout paperwork to be submitted to KDEM. For 2020, we have submitted an application for additional HazMat IQ courses.
- HMGP Grant - WTFD generator grant has been closed out with KDEM.

Siren Replacement Plan –Joe Hoelscher

- As a part of the budget process, EM is beginning plans for replacement of siren poles, electronic equipment and equipment boxes. The sirens are functioning as designed, and the replacement is a proactive approach to ensuring this continued functionality.

Mitigation Plan – Joe Hoelscher

- The final meeting for the Region K All Hazard Mitigation Plan was conducted and the plan was reviewed. There will be an opportunity for public comment before KDEM submits to FEMA for approval. Each participating agency must promulgate the plan. Promulgating the plan provides those agencies the opportunity to apply for and receive grant funds to implement the projects.

Community Outreach – Jillian Rodrigue

- Numerous presentations and walk throughs on severe weather safety were provided including for Douglas County Sheriff's Office, independent living facilities, Cottonwood, LKPD's Police Camp and the American Legion. Kate provided a session of Until Help Arrives for LMH. Staff and volunteers manned outreach booths at the Wakarusa Township Fire pancake feed and the Haskell Safety Fair.

Volunteer groups – Jillian Rodrigue

- The Spring CERT Course graduated over 20 individuals. Kate is working on scheduling a course in October.

- ACT conducted training on the use of ICS 213s for message passing.
- Volunteers will be supporting participant accountability at Eudora's Great Kaw Adventure Race in September.
- The incredible efforts of emergency management volunteers during and following the tornado were highlighted. Volunteers provided accountability support and assisted in the running of the Volunteer Reception Center (VRC).

Information Sharing:

- ICL and Chemtrade (Gordon Leong and Cary Mans) – With the early warnings, they were able to shut down the plants well ahead of time. Their plans worked well during the event.
- DCARC and ACT Repeater Trustee (Kevin Oneslager) – Power was lost to the tower south of town. He noted it would be beneficial to separate the DCARC and ACT repeaters. DCARC is an ARES net which means they don't have a "served" agency. They are happy to support any non-profit or community agency as a resource.
- UP Railroad (Lane Sekavec) – Invited members to attend the 2019 Region 7 LEPC Conference August 8 - 10, 2019, in Omaha, NE.
- KU Emergency Management (John Stipetich) – Caught up on work following the tornado. Introduced Erin Riley, Intern. Working on a process and data management in CRMCS. Equipment tags are being developed and printed.
- DCARC (Jim Cessna) – Hold meetings the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Fairgrounds Flory Meeting Hall at 7PM if anyone wants to join.
- American Red Cross (Sarah Wickham) – Busy month in addition to the tornado. Operations were setup for the flood (covered 30,000 sq miles for flooding), so manpower was ready to go. One shelter was opened but closed quickly. Deployed ERT (clean up kits) in to the disaster area and gave out 300-400 items. Opened and operated a service center. Less than 10 cases for management. People from all over the country came to support operations. Trying to get volunteers rested and shelter trailers restocked.
- KDEM (Erik Stewart) –EMAC included 15 liaisons, 6 EOC Support personnel and a 3 person A-Team. Individuals came from Idaho, Ohio, North Dakota, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Dakota and the Nebraska and Kentucky National Guards. Additionally, consider mitigation actions as another grant opportunity will be opening up.

Director Search Update – Mike Russell

- The Search Committee, which includes several members of the Board, is actively searching for the new Director of Emergency Management. Interviews begin on Monday.
- Interim Director Joe Hoelscher was thanked for his time, dedication and leadership of the department especially through the May 28th Tornado.

Close:

A motion was made by Wayne Riley to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned.