

Commission on Emergency Planning and Response Minutes

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Member Attendees:

Mr. Jack Taylor, Chairman, City of Emporia Fire Chief
Major General Tod Bunting, Adjutant General's Department
Ms. Jessica Bowser, for Mr. Adrian Polansky, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Ms. Mindee Reece for Mr. Roderick Bremby, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
Ms. Carole A. Jordan for Mr. David Kerr, Department of Commerce
Mr. Dan McLaughlin, Kansas State Fire Marshal
Mr. Warren Porter, Public Works
Mr. Patrick Collins, Homeland Security Councils
Mr. Stephen Hedges, Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Center
Ms. Melissa Dinsmore, Hospitals
Ms. Elizabeth Ticer, Public Health
Mr. James Ogle, WIBW
Mr. John Prather, Vice-Chairman, Transportation, Trucking, Rail
Mr. Mark Krentz for Ms. Deb Miller, Kansas Department of Transportation
Capt. Eric Phippen for Colonel Terry Maple, Kansas Highway Patrol
Ms. Patricia Eakes, Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns
Mr. James Heitschmidt, City of Hutchinson Police Chief
Mr. Clayton Huseman, Kansas Livestock Association
Ms. Karen Schuyler, ICL
Mr. Bill Guy for Mr. Randall Duncan, Sedgwick County Emergency Management
Mr. Ken Keller, Emergency Management Services

Members Not In Attendance:

Dr. Lyle Noordhoek, Central Plains Laboratories
Mr. Ken Schremmer, Barton County Commissioner
Mr. George Teagarden, Kansas Animal Health
Mr. Robert Blecha, Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Paul Sasse, Independence City Manager

Meeting:

Call To Order and Roll Call:

- Mr. Jack Taylor called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Tina was asked to call the roll.
- Ken Schremmer called and had a family emergency, so unable to attend today. He sent regrets.

Consent Agenda Review

Minutes of Previous Meeting

County Emergency Plans (CEOP) Report

LEPC Appointment Committee Report

Spill Report

- Pat Collins asked to remove (or correct) the Minutes of previous meeting. His name was not included in the minutes as an attendee of the last meeting. The correction will be made. The consent agenda is adopted as corrected.

Remarks from Committee Members/Public

- Carol Jordan introduced herself and said represents the Department of Commerce
- Karl McNorton expressed their busyness
- Steve Hedges informed that Wolf Creek is preparing for practice exercises
- Pat Collins, Regional Councils, stated that grants have been submitted, that the Regional Councils have been getting white paper put on KS ready.gov site; each region is working on a capabilities assessment.
- Karen Schuyler, very busy figuring out strategy in business and industry
- Jessica Bowser, it's been dry and hoping for moisture.
- Mark Krentz, filling in for Katherine Patrick, next week is a conference for Emergency Management, being held at the Great Wolf Lodge
- Major General Bunting summarized activities including opening grocery store at Greensburg, desire for a common sense director of emergency services. Craig Frigate has been nominated for FEMA director, from Florida, second annual business day coming up.
- John Prather, private sector rail & truck, it's low out there. Delay of Gardner, KS intermodal display. Transcare (Community Awareness Training) are excited about aspects of crisis city coming together.
- Liz Ticer, public health: 1) Due to the economic downturn and huge increase in demand, the caseloads have doubled since August of last year, and public health is significantly behind in many services from WIC to prenatal services. They are also restricted by budget issues within the county and unable to fill vacancies. Decrease in number of staff to deal with it. 2) Flu season has been relatively mild, but it may be April before we see end of it. 3) Federal assessment was done, and Public Health is writing a rebuttal from issues that resulted.
- Melissa Dinsmore, hospitals, remarked that major initiatives include standardized emergency codes and integrating activities with emergency responders. There is a strategic planning session coming up on Tuesday.
- Pat Eakis, Disabilities, continuing with setting up workshops between emergency responders and public and Emergency planners. Has come up with desktop cards that could be given to consumers or resources for those with disabilities. Asked about campus shooters. She would like help with that.
- Jim Ogle, representing broadcasters, busy time with digital conversion. Most people had not problem, just a few.

- Mindee Reece, KDH & E, update on preparedness, States will need to match federal funding. They are asking for hard matches. Changing scores for responding to emergency needs from 69 to 79 in public health. Building a broader input base.
- Clayton Huseman, KS Livestock Association, ammonia and hydrogen chloride emissions need to be reported.
- Ken Keller, not a lot going on, trying to pull responders together across state
- Angie introduced Jonathon York, Brandt Haehn, both new staff members.

Invited any comments from the audience

- Fatima from EPA, clarification about the K-4 rule. Confusion between farmers and new rule. The larger farms don't have to report anymore to federal, but do have to local and state. They don't understand how rule applies to them, but it is the same, report the same ways that they have in the past.
- Jack talked about struggles with attendance at meetings and reaching a quorum. He explained that they have created an executive committee who will meet as needed at least once between regularly scheduled commission meetings. Goal is to maintain contact with the Adjutant General's office and intent is to provide the commission with a productive two hour meeting and then have lunch and move forward. You should receive agenda packet about a month ahead of time via mail. There is a registration form to return ahead of time letting us know who will attend and who is not able to. We would like to know who is coming and know if the replacement person has an official appointment. A proxy form can be filled out ahead of time so that we know there is an official voice here for the vote. This is a statutory request. This is not to embarrass anyone, just want commissioner representatives to sit at appropriate seats. Lunch is provided for everyone today, the recommendation is with budgets as they are that in the future, lunches are for commission members & KDEM staff only. The goal is to make the commission run more professionally. John Prather added that the spirit of the expansion of the CEPR commission is to be inclusive of both private and public sectors. That is more recognized now and is a good thing. John applauds Jack's leadership in this plan.

Any questions:

Mark Krentz asked if a permanent proxy can be given to someone who regularly represents someone else. Jack responded that as long as we have an official document, sent to Tina, that is fine.

COOP Working Group Committee Report

Brandt Haehn

- Brandt gave a slide presentation addressing the Project Organization, Project Specs and Looking Ahead for COOP.
- Pat Collins asked if the two major universities fit into the agencies represented? Information has been supplied to as many as possible.
- When will this information be available to the counties? The teams are trying to divide up the counties so that the technical assistance teams can address the needs.

State Hazard Mitigation Committee Report

Jake Gray

- February 5, 2009 (Meeting)
- Went over Chapter 4 (Risk Assessment) of State Mitigation Plan, Discussed priority of flooding in County Plans, Chairmen (Tom Morrey) attending Statewide County Clerk meeting...plans status/importance, Discussion of Measurable Goals and Objectives. Next meeting is March 31, 2009
- December 2008-March 2009
- Currently working on DR-1741 (Severe Storms)
- Approximately \$38 Million in mitigation
- Went over Local Mitigation Planning Status

HLS Working Group Committee Report

Bill Chornyak

- Met last month, USDA Barry Pitman reported that he will work with the Missouri conference,
- Dr. Hull has been hired fulltime to work on safe schools initiatives. National preparedness for children in schools. KS schools have no preparedness program.
- The fusion center is working forward with crisis city and venues out there.
- From Homeland Security perspective, looking at a one day briefing for staff, capabilities assessment, working on a conference scheduled for December 2009 in Wichita. 14 of 16 speakers have accepted invitation to speak.
- National budget for 2010 calls for a 6% increase in spending, listed priorities: cyber security, bomb disposal, border security in emergency response.

Pat Eakes asked about active shooter training, thinking that it's not an approved project. Bill says it is and has been discussed and they are attending instructor classes to be able to train others here in conjunction with Law Enforcement. They want to bring practical exercises out to crisis city.

Interoperability Committee Report

Jason Moses

- Outreach: to many including Vendors, FEMA region VII RECCWG, Telenet Course (from Hutchinson, a new realm)
- Projects: Interoperability channel standards, Digital Channel Template, Shared Users Agreements, Motobridge SOP'S, KDEM/Races, COM-L Training, and Wolf Creek/Coffey County, 17 Open Grant Projects (Pre-2009 and EMPG).
- PSIC Grant Update: provided KS with \$10.6 million
- Motobridge Schedule
- Statewide System: Grant projects include continued progress for: PSAP's, hospitals, EOC's, Conventional Channels--agreement between KBMS and Tag
- 2008 IECGP: Training and Exercise Project, Specialists have been hired: Scott Ekberg at Great Bend (2/23), and J.L. Ellis at Colby (3/9)
- FY2009 Interoperable ECGP
Total Allocation \$398,560,000 – up slightly

Planning, Training, Development and SOP Documents along with Technical Support from staff

Chairman Taylor asked how grants are funded. Auction generated money for the grant, just being put off for a couple of months. Also working with KDEM and KS Association of Broadcasters and waiting for FEMA to update EAS to Common Alerting Protocol (CAP). They have to do this; just don't know what it is yet.

Pat Collins asked how will the Sprint/Nextel rebanding affect everything? Per Jason, radios will need to be reprogrammed.

Bill Guy asked with the rebanding Plan, they are still waiting on some 800 radios that have been pushed back, equipment that has been sitting in boxes for 3 years, collecting dust. What will force the issue to get it done? Per Jason, it's currently tied up in court, that's the hold up. It's in the purview of the attorneys now.

John Prather would like future presentation with public and private sector, because this in an ongoing development.

IEMC Training Report

Terri Ploger-McCool for Paula Phillips

- Integrated Emergency Management Course for States
- Kansas is the 3rd State to Highlight this new course
- Purpose was to look at how to coordinate response operations with counterparts from local state, Federal, private sector, and nongovernmental agencies
- To Make critical decisions based on an accurate common operating picture
- Operate in a dynamic EOC environment
- Manage resources
- Participate in short-term recovery operations
- Participants included TAG, Board of EMS, KDHE, Forestry, Agriculture, KS Municipalities, KDOT and others.
- Discussed the course format, how state and local agencies integrate, risks, vulnerabilities, common operating picture, resource management
- Everyone had the opportunity to participate
- Visiting dignitaries show support – Governor Sebelius came, among others
- The target Capabilities exercised: Communications, SEOC Management, Mass Care, Citizen Evacuation and Shelter in Place, Planning, Emergency Public Information and Warning, Critical Resource Logistics and Distribution, Search and Rescue, WMD and Hazardous Materials Decontamination, Medical Supplies Management and Distribution, Emergency Triage
- Successes/Accomplishments:
 - Implemented New Approaches
 - SEOC work station packets – protocol,
 - Briefing Protocols – Branch Chief Concept
 - Sustain – Common Operating Picture
 - Plans section – staffing enhancements
 - Communications Unit

- Excellent Training Opportunity
- Improvement Areas:
 - Re-visit SEOC layout – positioning
 - Conduct a communications assessment
 - Switchboard system (technology)
 - Comms “in”/ Comms “out”
 - Enhance linkages between two rooms
- Joint Information Center requires personnel
 - KDEM liaison to JIC (Joint Information Committee)
 - Augment phone team
- Displays/status boards
 - Common operating picture
- Documentation
 - WebEOC protocols/guidelines
- Logistics/mission assignments
 - Automated/paper systems
 - Closing the loop
- Accomplishments:
 - Simulation Center – Eisenhower Center
 - Involved local emergency management
 - Boundaries don’t exist
 - Augment the workforce/on-going training
 - Prefer exercises over real events
 - Dedication of staff

Chairman Taylor applauds everyone who took part in this, lots of time and commitment, very good training. About 75 people or more took part.

Pat Collins mentioned the switchboard issues are a part of this. Do we ever hire people to solve this issue? Terri explained that we are doing a communications assessment.

Liz Ticer asked for an update on Training and Exercise workshop looking at multi-year strategies. Did anything come out of the meeting? Per Terri, yes, but final is not completed yet.

Bill Guy echoed that it was a great course. KDEM is doing a great job and headed in the right direction.

Pat Eakes shared a comment that someone told her: “I don’t have time to deal with emergency services stuff, nothing is going to happen anyway.” So we still need to meet this attitude and be advocates.

Deployable Resources Report

Bill Brubaker

- Met January 22, 2009, in Emporia. About 45 attended.
- Review the capability assessment and target areas to focus on
- Establish communications within functions
- Then group will reconvene. Sgt. Oscar Thomasin was elected chair.

- Bill was selected as chair for another group.
- Position specific training. All 7 regions have bought into the concept.
- Three training management courses
- Deploying 3 teams for exercise in Salina, Symphony on the Plains in Chase county
- KS Task Force, Deputy Leewood is chairman, Training entire task force
- Doing equipment inventory
- Three 80 hour trainings scheduled

Bill Guy asked to share about capabilities assessments

EPA Report

Fatima Ndiaye

- Overview of clarification that farmers reporting to EPA still use the same rule as before except those with cattle don't have to report to the federal level anymore. The EPA has received several calls since January 20th responding to the new regulation with EPA, Fatima clarified that farmers still have to report to the state, not federal.
- Domain of Chemical Preparedness
- Fatima is visiting locations to clarify new updates. She also explained that there is new software to submit information. You can still use the paper submission, but they are working on electronic submission procedures.

Introduced new staff member Dr. Robert Hull

Break for Lunch

Major Bunting recognized Capt. Ray Gonzalez is retiring so Capt. Eric Pippen is replacing his position.

Public Private Partnership

John Prather

- Observation of way States interact with their agencies
- There will be a 2nd annual Business and Industry forum
- Randy Mettner talked about the Business and Industry Forum
 - Utilities, Transportation and Communication was addressed last year. This year, Agriculture is being looked at. Look at the State, local levels and emergency preparedness on May 20-21, in Salina. Crisis City, look at venues, and then on the next day will be the event itself.

Public Assistance Update

Steve Harsha

- Showed slides on various disaster statistics
- Disaster 1741 has had some developments as well as accomplishments
- Currently dealing with 1500 applicants before they close out
 - About a year ago, there was quite a disagreement between FEMA and the State

- Weeks and months of discussion, but now everything has been reviewed and looked at. The increase in help allowed us to refund and rebuild the system. There is about \$380
- Disaster policy that any applicant in this State of KS can use to submit to
- FEMA when needed. Hopefully that policy will be available the next time we million needed to meet applicants for rebuilding/repair.
- Nationwide meet.
- Disaster 1579 in Wichita: Very impressed with Wichita staff and city that they did a great audit. Huge compliment for an excellent job.
- Pat Collins asked about threshold to give to a disaster. Per Steve, it changes every October 1st. The County has to meet it based on population and also the State has a threshold as well. Dan Hay asked if any utilities go bankrupt because FEMA didn't pay right away? Per Steve, that information has not been shared with him, so he doesn't know, but would suspect it. Many municipalities' entities were knocked out.
- Major Bunting wanted to compliment Steve and his people for working on this. Timeliness does not always equate to effectiveness or cost, there has to be a balance and the timeliness factor wasn't good in this case. But it got worked out due to the wonderful work that Steve and his counterparts performed.
- Jim Ogle mentioned that broadcasters contribute to this problem of meeting health needs along with financial. Suggests there needs to be the kind of overt announcement of aid and financial help. It was a real challenge to meet both.
- Bill Guy mentioned people being upset about rates being doubled in order to pay for fixing the problems due to FEMA's delay in paying the RECs.
- ❖ Jack thanked Tina for her efforts. People put lots of work into reports even though we do consent agenda, so Jack thanked Tina and all for the work involved. Commission members need to be respectful of efforts of staff, and get registration in on time.
 - There is an email in from Dr. Noordhoek, for everyone to read.

NEW BUSINESS

Federal and State Budget Update

Major General Bunting

This is all still in process and don't have more details yet.

HB 2634 Policy Update

Karl McNorton

- Non fuel chemical facilities have to have a threshold of 10,000 gallons or more to be in compliance with combustible liquids code, and conduct inspections along with report by next session of legislature in 2010. There is no money and no personnel. There is already authority to deal with flammable liquids, but don't know where everything is at. The

regulation process has changed a lot in the past couple of years. So they are trying to get regulations adopted.

- The House and Senate are talking about rescinding this legislation, but won't know anything until at least May.

John Prather talked about wanting to work together with the Fire Marshall to help with this issue.

❖ The next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2009.

❖ Pat Eakes moved that the meeting be adjourned, Pat Collins seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:03pm.

