

Commission on Emergency Planning and Response

Minutes Thursday, December 3, 2009

Call to Order and Roll Call:

John Prather Vice Chair

Jack Taylor, chair, is unable to be here today so John Prather is acting chair today.

Members Present:

Josh Svaty, acting Director of Agriculture
Catherin Patrick, represented by Mark Krentz, Kansas Department of Transportation
Col. Terry Maple, Kansas Highway Patrol
Dan McLaughlin, represented by Karl McNorton, State Fire Marshall's office
Dr. Lyle Noordhoek, Business & Industry
Elizabeth Ticer, Public Health
James Heitschmidt, Law Enforcement
John Prather, CEPR Vice-Chair, Transportation, Trucking and Rail
Karen Schuyler, represented by John Conard, Business and Industry
Ken Keller, Emergency Medical Services
Ken Schremmer, Counties
Maj. General Tod Bunting, Adjutant General
Melissa Dinsmore, Hospitals
Mindee Reece, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Pat Eakes, represented by Martha Gabehart, Disabilities
Randy Duncan, County Emergency Managers
Robert Blecha, represented by Rick Sabel, Kansas Department of Investigation
Steve Hedges, represented by Richard Flannigan, Energy
Warren Porter, Public Works

Members Not in Attendance:

Carole Jordan, Department of Commerce
Clayton Huseman, Agriculture, Crop or Livestock
David Kerr
George Teagarden, Animal Health Department
Jack Taylor, Fire Fighters
Jim Ogle, Broadcasters
Pat Collins, Regional Councils
Paul Sasse, Cities
Roderick Bremby

Request to limit comments and reports to short periods of time (3 minutes).

Consent Agenda Review

John Prather Vice Chair

Minutes of previous meeting
County Emergency Plans (CEOP) report
State Hazard Mitigation Committee Report
LEPC Appointment Committee Report
HLS Working Group Committee Report
Spill Report

Randy Duncan requested that the County Emergency Plans report be removed from the agenda to have discussion later. John Prather granted that request.

Terry Maple moved, Randy Duncan seconded and the commission passed approving the consent agenda.

Randy Duncan requested a change in the County Emergency Plans report indicating that Sedgwick County had turned in its report as of November 24, 2009. It was moved and seconded and the commission approved the updated report.

Remarks from Committee Members/Public

John Prather Vice President

John Prather, Transportation, Trucking, and Rail: The transportation sector is being reviewed. Things are going well while a lot of things are going on. The commercial trucking industry is trying to mirror the private sector, trying to work at a higher degree of safety. Cell phones can cause bad habits and distractions and those in transportation are trying to get a handle on it. Our whole society, operators and all transportation sectors are trying to address all distractions.

Major General Tod Bunting, Adjutant General: Introduced some new staff including Bob Starnie new in Corp services, Jesse Smith as a GI specialist, Brenda Kindle in fiscal department, and Michael Pastoris, Exercise Specialist. We have already had another storm hit and want to have no more. Everyone is working through the budget with its challenges.

Karl McNorton – lot of activity in the State Fire Marshall's office. Number of attrition taking place due to retirements next month.

Mindee Reece, Department of Health and Environment: focus is on H1N1. Tomorrow the city of Topeka officially goes smoke free.

Warren Porter, Public Works: They have only had one mutual aid case, so a mild year from that standpoint.

Ken Keller, Emergency Medical Services: Lots of flu issues even though overall flu cases are down right now. EMS is seeing more domestic violence and need to be vigilant in that aspect. It could be a worse Christmas than we have seen. A few paramedic departments have been closing down which causes some concern.

Melissa Dinsmore, Hospitals: She submitted a three page written report and will forward those to public representatives for their review. Hospitals are trying to address the H1N1 to health care workers and general public.

Elizabeth Ticer, Public Health: While she is from Johnson County is only representing 1 of 105 County Health Departments. She has nothing to say but H1N1! From a local perspective, all she has been doing since April is addressing H1N1. They actually have larger doses finally, and are just now where they should have been a month and a half ago. Many people are still wanting the vaccine, but aren't qualified to have it.

Mark Krentz, KS Dept. of Transportation: Budget issues are huge: They had to cut \$45 million out of the Highway Department. KDOT will have less money to use for road maintenance which will affect wear and tear on vehicles and the trucking industry. We hope the winter is halfway decent to reduce the need for snow removal, etc. Private industry isn't paying as much for salt. Friday the 13th, Mark went to Washington to a convention on All Hazards Report. There were 8 good proposals for special needs.

Martha Gabeheart, Dept. of Disabilities: Not handling the 4 "P"'s, still have emergency preparation. KCDC.com link has checklists for people with disabilities and emergencies.

John Conard representing Business and Industry for Karen Schuyler: A big change in business and industry is a focus on using international standards, not just complying with Federal and State standards, but ones accepted across the world.

Ken Schremmer, Counties: Health Departments are doing a lot with H1N1. They are getting good responses from schools, getting more students vaccinated than anticipated. There has been an increase in flu prior to Thanksgiving and had to send children home from schools. Ken attended a meeting in Kansas City a couple of weeks ago where concern was expressed about budget cuts. We will see counties looking at consolidation. Funding is affecting the schools as well. There is drastic pressure on schools to consolidate. Consolidation is more difficult out in the West, which puts a heavy burden on the counties. Also concerned about the cattle and affects and how it would affect the whole nation. There are lots of concerns out there.

Dick Heitschmidt, Law Enforcement: like all others law enforcement is fighting budget issues. They are also seeing an increase in domestic violence and other crimes.

Richard Flanigan, Energy, wolf creek: They experienced an outage last week where they entered into the first lower level of the plan and appreciate the support they received. Now they are out of their outage.

Josh Svaty, new acting secretary of Agriculture: Sandy Johnson is usually here with reports. KDA had a statewide event on Oct. 22nd at Sitka and Turpin where they simulated a foreign animal disease and how you would stop all the movement of animals across state lines. There were people from 11 other states watching. Thanks to the Highway Patrol who helped set up a good simulation.

Terry Maple, Highway Patrol: Eric Pippin does emergency management. John Eickhorn is here also. They have worked on providing security for transporting H1N1 vaccines and are working on an inner operability survey. A lot of progress is being made. Sitca was a good experience. There is a new video downlink system for helicopters now being used. Numerous aircraft callouts and night vision is also being used .

Rick Sable, KS Bureau of Investigation: He agrees with others that there is a higher number of reports of more crimes and violence, more than any other year since 1991. Had involvement with KSTICK, Cyber crimes unit, and others, participating in Homeland Security Conference. The unfortunate tragedy in Osage is requiring a lot of time and effort for that.

Randy Duncan, County Emergency Managers: He is working with emergency local managers across the state and is active in Federal Government affairs as well. Randy expressed a concern in reporting burden with cost capabilities. Tracy Trapman says C2C is dead and will not be proceeded forward. The Integrated Planning System which would require a plan for emergency preparedness is also dead as conveyed by Andy Mitchell. Federal Fiscal year 2010 will be released perhaps next week. Joint planning issues are beginning to be discussed.

John Prather commented on how many of the agencies overlap. It is very good to know each other and what each area is working on – they are all related. John reminded all to not leave the Federal level out of this. We have some leadership involved in National levels which is helpful Col. Maple worked on National level of NFCSA where he advised the director of Federal Motor Carrier system on safety. The leadership provided from Kansas is a great testimony for how things are working here in Kansas. Maj. Gen. Bunting serves as chairman of the National Guard Association of United States.

Jessica Fry Adjutant General's Office – Announced that a tool for weather feeds and other feeds for emergency response is available. There is a link to a beta version which will be out soon. It comes through KDEM from servers here in the agency. She is also working with Homeland Security to do data exchanges that will help reduce cost and enable communication with each other.

Committee Reports:

Public Assistance/ Disaster Update

Steve Harsha

Steve reported a continued a pattern of having a weather disaster every 4 months. The Federal program allows states to recoup some of the costs from the Federal Program. Sometimes it is difficult, but every dime is helpful as we are aware of the budget issues everywhere.

DR-1808-KS last year had significant flooding and tornados, disaster declared Oct. 27, 2008.

Currently have 3 presidential declarations out of Wichita. DR-1848-KS Declared June 24, 2009, severe winter storm. Funding may come close to a \$20 million disaster.

DR-1849-KS Declared June 25, 2009, which had flooding, storms, straight line winds in 28 counties. This is a \$16 or \$17 million disaster.

DR-1860-KS Declared September 30, 2009, hailstorm in Wichita, tornados in four Eastern Kansas counties. It is a unique disaster because have several not for profits (ie Friends University) involved that provide a critical service.

November 16th had a weather event, a snow storm with no ice or heavy wind, but the snow was so heavy it plummeted the rural electric up in Northern Central Kansas. Damage assessments are being completed. It will be about a \$12 million disaster.

FEMA has finally pushed out a nationwide damage policy. All are happy that this is completed.

Steve praised the continued support that his program gets, and reports that he couldn't do this job without Mark Krentz, the Highway Patrol and many others. Applicants are really hurting and they are trying to do everything that they can to provide assistance.

Randy Duncan gave context that closing a case in two years is very rapid. A disaster in California has been open for 15 years. There is a push on hazard mitigation and to close disasters quicker.

Comment from Melissa Dinsmore representing Hospitals – We appreciate help with paperwork and all from Steve Harsha. This was echoed also by Mark Krentz.

John Prather said for the layman's knowledge, DR-1849-KS was the Mother's Day storm. It is still in the process of being cleaned up. This is the strength of our economy. Weather disasters affects crops; nature infrastructure issues are very disruptive. We are always thankful for the ability to meet these needs.

Public Private Partnership/Recognition

John Prather

There is continued work toward the integration of private and public sectors in transportation. John talked with Jim Ogle, Broadcasters, and he had a board meeting and is unable to attend today. John reported that the first Thursday of each quarter is the standard meeting date and we will get them out in the minutes. Please mark your calendars.

A Business and Industry Forum for 2009 was held in Salina, KS in June. There is a developing inter-relationship between business and private industries. It seems to be getting better each year. The next forum will be in June again. CEPR representation is significant, but the private sector representation is opening up and putting together innovative things. This was the first time a representative from an Ethanol Plant attended and really caught on to what we are doing. She started to think about how could local government agencies and responders better interface with their procedures and plan. John received a call from this plant person who wanted to brainstorm about possibilities. Calls were made and activity began. This has reached other Ethanol plants on a national level. John introduced Jennifer Diller and Bruce Bentley, maintenance manager, from the Ethanol plant, are here. A video was shown.

John called on Jennifer to make some comments. They have had several safety drills at the plant. Plant workers asked how the Fire Department knows what to do if they come to an Ethanol Plant for an emergency and so they have come to work together. Novacool is now endorsed from this simple burn and better understanding of how fire starts and can be controlled. Thank you to everyone who helped. As a small business, they look forward to the next forum.

John Prather also expressed thanks and how helpful it was to work together and set this up. It is testimonial to being on the right track. Thank you to Colonel Pippin and crew in their help as well.

Centralized Spill Database

Kim Nettleton

From the last meeting, as per request, they have been putting together a centralized spill database. CEPR oversees the responsibility for gathering all spill information. That is part of Kim Nettleton's job and then she gets the spill reports to each agency represented here.

Kim's presentation included going over the current status. She first reminded us of how things used to work. Information was passed manually, Kim would go through and manually figure total amounts. There was a lot of duplication.

KCC is under contract. The slide presentation went over details beginning with what would be ideal: Real time access to needed data, pool funding, customize extraction of data, reconcile reports about the same spill, single point of contact for public to report a spill, etc.

Barriers: funding, no primary key or interface, access to other agency's systems, KCC Contract scope of change, etc.

Solution: Utilize a web-based service to share data, identify common fields and primary key, push the information from KDHE to KDEM, KCCC push information also to KDHE and KDEM, use an e-mail trigger when a spill is reported.

Their next meeting is December 14th at 1:00pm. The purpose is to identify business data needs for each agency and develop a general outline.

John Prather asked if the private sector is represented on the team? Kim said that they have thought of it, but right now they are not. They are trying to figure which information can or needs to be shared with all. It may not be needed yet to include the private sector.

Randy Duncan asked as a general rule, how does the state level handle technical information and getting to all the state agencies. Dan says they are very silent.

COOP Working Group Committee Report

Brandt Haehn

COOP has identified a standardized approach, trained people then provided written plans and look at challenges faced. They are working toward getting right answers to the questions they face. COOP is looking at all the phases of emergency management and getting information to the right places at the right times.

The Situation Assessment Working Group is looking at how to disseminate information to all who need it at the same time.

The Communications, Notifications and Evacuations Working Group is working on developing a list of key stakeholders and identifying alternative communications capabilities and strategies.

Finance Working Group, says no action, but they are currently looking at questions and getting information to answer the questions they have.

Training – maintain a system to keep continuity in training, to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Human Resource Policies – review current human resource policies and recommend areas that require standardization.

County COOP Project – have had 190 plans created from 69 agencies. Attendance has gone down. In order to keep current, they will begin having quarterly meetings rather than monthly, and convey the need for attendance to get answers from people involved.

Brief how they have come from the beginning and achieved to today.

At KDEM, they looked at a standardized approach to COOP planning at the state level. It was decided that if we don't have planning at a county level, we have a gap. They have taken the same project from the State level and brought it down to the county level. Seven subregions are ready for training at this time. There has been a lot of development at the county level on planning.

Randy Duncan shared that Sedgwick County has had some of that already in place using a different approach – operated out of a county manager's office. They put together a centralized review committee. So even though they don't show up on this COOP map, they already have a plan and don't want to tear that apart. They will use it and communicate together.

Maj. General Bunting supported getting plans done. Brandt said there is a need to keep the momentum going.

Deployable Resources Report

Bill Brubaker

Bill Brubaker with KDEM, reported on Deployable Resources.

Incident Management Teams – they had 18 students go through course. Eleven members attended the All Hazards Incident Management Team Conference in Houston, Texas, November 3-6. There were over 400 at this conference compared to only 100 a year ago. There was lots of interaction with various teams from different states. They have also completed 7 of the 9 command position classes.

IMT: Long term goals include completing the planning process for training and initiate a strategic plan for the future IMT process. Concerns: Sustainment due to funding, and Goal: complete the All Hazards Incident Command Class.

Search and Rescue: Purchased 8 search cameras for distribution to the regional teams and KUFST. Six task force members attended team manager position training in North Carolina. A Task Force committee has been appointed to develop the training plan for team members. There will be a position specific training at Crisis City in first quarter of 2010.

Deployable Resources: Thanked Jessica for helping process gaining funding for resources through an INK Grant to further the credentialing process for Kansas. Two accountability systems and two command modules have been received by KDEM and exercised during the stop movement exercise.

OLD BUSINESS:

Charter Review

John Prather

The Charter Review is ongoing. In 2009, the executive committee was created. They are starting to understand some of the mission roles. John requested to stay with the agenda and all would take home work. We will continue looking at how the charter is working and how agencies are relating to it.

Break for Lunch

NEW BUSINESS:

Vigilant Guard Report

National Guard

Lt. Kade Garst of the National Guard gave the following report:

A 7 day exercise took place this past June. Iowa was the host. Kansas participated in four main venues: FAD (Foreign Animal Disease), JTF (Joint Task Force), COOP (Continuity of Operations), and the Crisis City Scenario. The slide show handed out give the specific objectives for each of the venues and objectives were all met.

The Vigilant Guard did an outstanding job in public repairs and notifying the public. KDEM helped out a lot.

Well over 400 people participated in the training event and had no incidents. The Vigilant Guard has been a huge success in training.

John asked if this is an annual event. It is as a National Guard (nationwide). Region 7 has this event about every three years. The next one will be hosted by Missouri in the Fall of 2011 or 2012. Our region is a four state region: Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.

Pan Flu/H1N1 Update

Mindee Reece

All but 15 counties in Kansas have confirmed cases of H1N1 virus. Probably all counties really have H1N1, but they only check people at the hospitals for confirmed cases. The median age of Kansans having H1N1 is 19 years. Hospital activity has stabilized. The “Influenza like Illness” slide showed current activity of different kinds.

We are currently on the downside of wave two of a pandemic and wave three is expected to come. Seasonal flu numbers are starting to increase, which is normal.

School absenteeism percentages have continued to decrease. The second wave of influenza peaked in October and that is when school absenteeism was up as well. It all correlated.

Twenty one deaths due to H1N1 have been confirmed and reported in Kansas. Nineteen of the 21 deaths have occurred among persons under the age of 65. More than 25% of those who have died did not have previously identified risk factors to increase the risk of death from influenza.

The slide show also gives information about Antiviral Medication Sites. Major General Bunting questioned about trying to collect the \$5 administration fee for each antiviral prescription filled. WWW.KDHEKS.GOV/HNI is a website to find places for participating pharmacies.

Uptake of vaccines are lower than expected at some places, but higher at other places. The website will tell where you can get the H1N1 vaccine.

A big priority is messaging to the public that there will be another wave of the flue and to encourage the public to get vaccinated. A public service announcement has been filmed. They are also using facebook, twitter and other new ways to communicate. They have a “1 Bad Bug” logo to use as an educational tool.

Someone asked whether there has been mutation of the virus yet. Experts are watching and at this time it is not mutating.

Elizabeth Tycker added that in Johnson County they are looking at who is recommended to get the vaccines, who wants it, and who is qualified. Availability is different than in rural areas. They may open up to more people before rural areas just due to availability. The largest provider of vaccines at this time is the schools (5-18 year old age group). Any support to public health agencies is appreciated because of the overload and work entailed. Johnson county has partnered with businesses with medical staff, expansion is taking place.

Melissa says that the big challenge for hospitals is for respiratory infections and having pediatric beds available. This will be a national issue.

John Prather added that the information is getting out to the public to educate the difference between cold and flu symptoms and H1N1 virus. Great public service is being done in educating the public. Sedgwick and Harvey county have opened up today to anyone. Shawnee County will open up next week to anyone wanting the vaccine. Johnson County will be there soon.

HMEP Grant Report

Swapan Saha

HMEP distributes fees collected from shippers and carriers of hazardous materials for planning and training activities. It also provides financial and technical assistance to enhance State, Territorial, Tribal, and local hazmat emergency planning and training.

The slide presentation included the Grant Process, Funding – which we received \$391, 846 over \$230,885 in previous year, HMEP 2010 Awards planning, Exercise and Training, Planning Objectives, Planning Grant Examples, Training Objectives, Training Examples, Prevention Objectives, Examples of Prevention, Grant Closing including the need for a 20% match from cash, inn-kind, volunteer time, anything. Finally, Regionalization was explained.

Randy Duncan mentioned that Sedgwick County has utilized HMEP a number of times successfully. It helps with funding, which is a big issue with the current economy. As John said, this is about shared preparedness.

Dick Heitschmidt moved, Colonel Terry Maple seconded and the commission approved the report for CEPR. Randy Duncan did not vote because Sedgwick County has an application in this.

State Strategy Grant

Capt. John Eichkorn, KHP

Kansas State Homeland Security Strategy process 2009

There has been a need to update the strategy since it was last addressed in 2003 and 2006. The slide show presented the strategy including providing a blueprint for comprehensive planning for homeland security efforts. It also provides a strategic plan for the use of related Federal, State, local and private resources before, during, and after threatened or actual domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

An initial meeting to kickoff the process took place and about 80 federal, state, local and private industry partners attended. They had even further help putting this on. A website was available for input from all partners to comment on the process. www.datacounts.net/hsgp09/ The website is really helpful.

Strategies need to be a clear, focused guide to action, fit into long-term State planning, include multi-agency, organization-wide, be aligned to the National Priorities and mission areas (prevent, protect, respond, recover), written with a 3-5 year “shelf-life” in mind, and not be viewed as investment justifications.

Influences of a strategy:

Captain John Eickhorn mentioned that the C2C is probably on hold but not yet dead.

Capability Assessment requires the participation of all key stakeholders and relies on accurate, objective data and information. Kansas began development of a comprehensive capability assessment in January. They found that during this assessment, they have been more aware of what agencies have and what their abilities are. This leads to how to strategize to fix areas needing to build up. Collaboration taking place was more than expected.

The Kansas Vision Statement is: Kansans preparing for all hazards, through collaborative efforts and diverse partnerships.

Goals have been reduced from 18 to 6. There are objectives under each goal, which are measurable and attainable. Under each objective are implementation steps to be able to see if goals are being achieved. An example is given in the slide handout.

There is a requirement for an Evaluation Plan to review the steps being taken to achieve the goals and objectives. The hope is to review ESF leads biannually and ensure the goals and objectives are on task. Evaluate annually the TAG, KHP, and KDHE to ensure that the agencies are on task.

Contact Captain John Eickhorn anytime at the Kansas Highway Patrol, 122 SW 7th St., Topeka, KS 66603, 785-296-5985 office, 785-296-3552 cell.

John Prather thanked Captain Eickhorn for all his work and his office and all they have done with this.

John Prather passed on some comments from Jack Taylor:

Thanked Major General Bunting for the presentation to the State Fire Chiefs meeting. On Oct. 27th, chairman Taylor and John Prather made a brief presentation to a committee. He also attended a Ribbon cutting at Crisis City this Summer.

Major General Bunting concluded with a thankfulness to a wonderful team here.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2010

Future meetings will be:

June 3, 2010

Sept. 2, 2010

December 2, 2010

Randy Duncan brought up for consideration before the commission the frequency of occurrences of disaster in Kansas. He expressed a need for an Issue of alert and warning to the public of disasters. The Emergency Alert System has been in use for things the president may alert us to,

but it is also useful to us with disasters. IPAWS is another system. HAZCollect is another system.

The key is to make the Emergency Alert System plan available. Randy would like to see this topic put on the agenda for discussion in the future. He asked the executive committee to address this issue. John is working on this with Jason Moses. They are aware of these different possibilities and it is being met with about. They are also working with weather cooperating offices and recognize that it needs to be revised and re-written. John will continue to meet with the original EAS group and they want to discuss it further before making a formal presentation to this group. They are cognizant of and working on this issue.

Randy added his reason for mentioning this is two fold. They are doing massive updating of the emergency system in Sedgwick County, and also the changing technology that is occurring.

John said they will put this in the “parking lot” of issues.

Karl McNorton moved, Dr. Noordhoek seconded and the commission passed for the meeting to be adjourned.