

Northwest Kansas Regional Homeland Security Meeting
February 22, 2008 Sheridan County EMS Building, Hoxie

Keith Haberer, Region Chair, called the February 22, 2008 meeting of the Northwest Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council to order at 10:00. Introductions were made.

Members Present:

Doug Janssen, Russell FD
Bob McLemore, Colby FD
Gary Rogers, CH/RA/SH Co. EM
Deb Kaufman, Region I EMS
Gary Winter, Region I EMS
Tami Wood, NW Kansas Hospital
Jason Moses, TAG ICC
Kari Gilliland, Cheyenne Co.
Addie Homburg, Ellis Co.
Patti Skubal, Decatur Co.
George "Pappy" Lies, Gove Co.
Cindy Mullen, Logan Co.
David Snyder, Ness Co.
Jim Schroeder, Rawlins Co.

Keith Haberer, Russell Co.
Jim Fisher, Rush Co.
Crissy Conger, Sherman Co.
Mike Albers, Thomas Co.

Toby Prine, NWK Homeland Security
Kerry McCue, Fiscal Agent
Ella Vajnar, KDHE
CPT Kelly McGuire, KHP
Dr. Hallie Hasel, DVM
Dave Cuthbertson, KAHD
Scott Mentzer, National Weather
Al Pietrycha, National Weather
Susan McMahan, Thomas Co EM
Mickie Helberg, Graham Co

The minutes of the January 14, 2008 meeting were presented as emailed previously. Corrections were called for. Bob McLemore motioned for minutes approved without correction. Jim Fisher seconded. Motion passed.

Leadership Conference: Keith Haberer, Addie Homburg, and Toby Prine attended the Leadership Conference on February 11 - 12, 2008 in Wichita.

- A fact sheet concerning the Eisenhower Center for Homeland Security Research, Evaluation, and Education in Topeka was circulated. A grand opening will be held on March 19, 2008.
- A copy of the CEPR Charter and House Bill No. 2152 was circulated. Pat Collins, Riley County Emergency Management has been appointed to the Commission on Emergency Planning and Response representing the Homeland Security Regional Councils. Jason Moses is also a CEPR member.
- The Homeland Security Grant Program and the health and medical preparedness funding was also discussed.
- Addie Homburg will be participating with a group to re-work the state capabilities assessment. She reported they have not met but will do so to update and streamline the capability assessment that was prepared by the groups that met in Wichita in prior years. The funding for Kansas has decreased and will need to be matched with risk and vulnerability.
- Because of the potential competitive nature and possibility of soft match in future years, the Council would like to keep track of the round trip mileage and time being spent to attend meetings and participate in Homeland security committee activities and

projects. Please record that mileage on the roster as you sign in or report time and mileage to Deb Kaufman.

- The Salina Crisis City flier was circulated.
- The networking was very beneficial and attendees felt it was a productive conference.
- North Central Region Kansas Homeland Security produced a written synopsis of Regional projects and activities that was very impressive. We are exploring replicating the idea in our Region and publishing those for our county commissions and associations.

Council Appointments: The Council is still in need of written appointments for representatives from Graham, Norton, Phillips, Rooks, Trego, and Wallace Counties, and a law enforcement member. Our By Laws require that appointment in written form. For the last 2 years Jason Moses has been an appointee to the Council as a member at large. Bob McLemore moved Jason Moses be re-appointed to the Council as appointee at large. Cindy Mullin seconded. Motion passed.

Toby Prine / Deb Kaufman will get a reminder letter to Keith Haberer to sign and will send it out to those entities not represented.

National Weather Service: Mike Albers reminded the Council of the discussion at the last meeting regarding the possibility of funding for expansion of the digital amateur radio network, the Automated Positional Reporting System (APRS), and how it interacts with the weather service. There are currently digipeaters in Hays, Ellis, Hoxie, Colby, and Goodland. The remainder of the Region is without coverage. The program interacts with the weather service in that it helps them with their mission and assists the local area with enhanced information.

- Albert Pietrycha, National Weather Service in Goodland, Kansas, emergency coordinator for amateur radio emergency communications for Sherman County, and a member of the search and rescue in El Paso County, Colorado presented.
- APRS is a packet communications protocol for sharing live data on a network real time, globally. It provides real time tactical communications and a display system for emergencies and public service applications. It utilizes amateur radio frequencies. The military and national space station also utilizes the technology. With the addition of GPS, it is possible to track or locate. It provides 2- way messaging and text to send out or receive bulletins is possible. It can receive weather station watches or warnings, has weather station reporting capabilities, new telemetry capabilities for SARS, and has other capabilities. It nests in with ICS/NIMS quite well. It is not extremely vulnerable and has multiple usages already running in the area. Slides showing the digital data system network, internet gateway, map examples, and scenario examples were shown. There are a lot of data holes in our Region. Building this network would give the weather services the ability to quickly and easily receive reports and requests from the area emergency personnel from the area of the scene and surrounding area. It would serve storm spotters and storm spotter safety. It could be used to enhance EOC capabilities and resource management.
- The program also involves commitment from the Region and individuals who would certify. The Southwest Region has put a system in their hospitals and has individuals

who are licensing. Storm spotters, Salvation Army, Red Cross, and other systems are interested in the infrastructure.

- Bob McLemore shared experiences where he has used this system during grass fire responses to get point forecast; short term, mid term and long term. During hazardous materials releases it is possible to pinpoint where the plume will move. During storm spotter responses it is a safety mechanism to increase spotter safety.
- Tami Wood reported the hospitals are considering putting the system in hospitals with some staff agreeing to become licensed.
- Mike Albers stressed this is not a replacement system but rather facilitates communications should you need assistance. Amateur radio operators are licensed over a wide number of frequencies.
- Al Pietrycha reported this is not voice but rather a digital data system. This system could be used as a county EOC resource and IMTs could utilize it if the infrastructure is in place.
- A site survey has not been done to pinpoint needed sites. A high estimate would be \$3000 - \$3300 per digipeater site. The user would need the amateur radio license, radio attached to a tracker/GPS \$300 - \$400 per vehicle. The EOC could be placed as an object on the map and would not necessarily have to have equipment set up there.
- A licensed individual has to be present to use. The best answer is to have staff maintain their own licenses.
- This system is interoperable throughout the various weather services. It is possible to monitor this system on internet at any time. Beginning with the digital data system, there are various system levels possible that can be built depending on investment and resources.
- Future funding is risk associated. For the national weather system, we are the weakest system showing high vulnerability in our area. 50% of our top risk is weather related. We have lack of capability. This project would serve as mitigation for that vulnerability. It would also support communications.
- Jason Moses will evaluate the MOCOM project to see if there are funds available and what other purchases are necessary.

NW Hospital Report: Tami Wood reported they have 2 medical surge response trailers. An executive summary and itemized inventory of the trailers was circulated. They are currently writing SOG/SOP's for deployment for an event stressing hospitals or counties in our Region. The trailers will be stored in Hays and Colby and will be available for hospitals to request. Radios have been added to each trailer. The hospitals are gathering frequency information to facilitate radio programming. Once placed, they plan to drill the SOG's with other agencies also involved. They plan to maintain perishables with future grant dollars. A truck has been outfitted at each location to pull the trailer. They are also purchasing a National oxygen kit with 81 E tanks, and 40 regulators. SOPs will also have to be written for deployment. At the last meeting, hospital representatives were urged to contact their local emergency managers to request representation on LEPC meetings. They discussed WebEOC and EMSsystem which will be used in the drills they will be doing in the next two years.

Dave Cuthbertson, Kansas Animal Health Department and Dr. Hallie Hasel, DVM USDA/APHIS reported Karen Domer, Kansas Animal Health Department, has as her responsibility the foreign animal disease plans and to assist the counties with those plans. She has asked the USDA Vet Service and the Kansas Animal Health Department field personnel to ask a set of generic questions about the county FAD annexes for your plans, if you have your supplement books, how your county has prepared for an Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak, if they are equipped to respond, and if so, what equipment they have. The meeting with the emergency managers should take between 10 and 15 minutes.

Project Overview: Keith Haberer reported our next Homeland Security meeting will be Monday, March 10, 2008. We will meet with Connie Satzler, Kansas Highway Patrol, to define our investment justifications, vulnerabilities, capabilities and strategy for the next grant cycle. We need to set aside 4 to 5 hours for this meeting. If you are a functional representative, please meet with your discipline and bring back feedback. Likewise, the county representative should assess their county's vulnerabilities. The Regional assessments will be assembled to complete the State plan. The base figure for funding is half what it was in 2007.

Fiscal Report: Kerry McCue circulated the 2006 and 2007 budget reports. The activity will be presented with the project reports.

Regional Coordinator Report: Toby Prine reported he has been doing ICS training. He held ICS 300 courses in Goodland and Stockton, and ICS 400 in Hoxie. He has an ICS 300 course coming up in Norton, ICS 400 in Stockton, a full scale exercises in Russell and Rooks counties, and a tabletop exercise in Rush County. They are working on a state exercise plan. The duties of his position will be trending toward response rather than just planning and exercising. Following the April course, we will have had 13 - ICS 300 and 400 Courses. Keith Haberer and Jim Engel have been assisting with those courses.

We have two new emergency managers in the Region. Susan McMahan is the Emergency Manager for Thomas County and Mickie Helberg is Graham County Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, and Fire Services Director.

NetEOP: Gary Rogers reported the company has met with most of the counties. Kerry McCue reported we have allocated \$103,500 on this project. We have made the first payment to NetEOP and they have requested the 2nd phase payment. Kerry McCue has made that request and payment should be made within 30 days. The check will have to be cut within three days of receipt of payment. The contract was read. If you are an emergency manager, please contact Gary Rogers with progress in your county on the project. Gary Rogers will contact NetEOP and visit with them regarding interpretation of the contract and request a progress report. Emergency Managers please let Gary Rogers know when you have a printable copy of your plans as well.

MOCOM: MOCOM is operable in the Region. Ness County has had some issues with phone lines but they may have been resolved. We have had some generalized usage of the system. Jason Moses is almost finished with the SOPs and has a call in regarding

training materials. He is finishing the work on the radio stockpile. He will have pricing for the 800 MHz radios by the next meeting.

Kerry McCue reported the 2006 report circulated shows everything, including the radio stockpile has been paid for. Rooks County and Thomas County had no costs in this project. He needs serial number information from the Graham County equipment and the physical location and GPS coordinates. The GPS coordinates are listed on the license with the address. Ness County, Norton County, Phillips County and Thomas County (for the radio stockpile) need to report the physical location. Sheridan County: Kerry McCue has no information on the project in this county and will need to know the kind of radio, serial number, and location. The WinLink equipment location is needed. Reception of that information will finish the documentation for that project.

Technical Rescue: In the absence of a report, Kerry McCue stated the tools have been purchased and bills paid. The 20 foot trailer was ordered yesterday from Advantage Glass Plus. 5 bids were received. The pickup truck RFPs have gone out and are due Monday. Kerry McCue sent it out via Toby Prine. (There are still issues with emailing to ruraltel addresses and these individuals did not receive the RFP. The email issue will be addressed once again with ruraltel.) The pickup truck and trailer will be titled to the City of Hays.

Cross Match: Rich Schneider was unable to attend today. Toby Prine reported installation has or is occurring: Graham Co. Jan 29, Thomas Co. Jan 30, Decatur Co. Feb 19, Rawlins Co. Feb 20, Phillips Co. Feb 19, Rooks Co. Feb 20, Sheridan Co. Feb. 26, Trego Co. Feb 27, Russell Co. Feb. 27, Sherman Co. Mar 4, Norton Co. Mar 5, Ness Co. Mar 4, and Ellis Co. Mar 5. Equipment identification, serial numbers and locations will need to be reported to Kerry McCue. Kerry McCue anticipates no balance after these locations are complete. Jason Moses, Cindy Mullen, and Pappy Lies voiced concern regarding this project and the possibility of expansion of this project to include the jail located in the city of Oakley. The cost per unit is approximately \$22,000.00. The Sherman Co. upgrade did not include a trade-in arrangement. It would be an avenue to explore to consider moving that unit. Toby Prine read from the November 13, 2007 Council minutes regarding the Council approval of the project. Funding was sufficient for thirteen county jails and those were funded as per approved grant criteria.

EOC upgrade: Addie Homburg will chair the committee. No expenditures have been made. \$80,171.00 has been set as the budget for the project.

IMT: Bob McLemore will chair the committee. \$29,000.00 has been budgeted for equipment, and \$71,000.00 for training. Documentation for training will be recorded on the document Kansas Highway Patrol has provided. Checks will be issued to individuals for personal expenses based on receipts presented. Backfill or overtime would also be eligible for reimbursement. Receipts and paperwork will need to be completed at the end of each training period. Jason Moses reported the State communication equipment will be available at each IMT training site. It will also be available for tour and frequency check to the rest of the Region at certain times that will be announced prior to the event.

New Business: We had a Grants Committee, Training and Exercise Committee, IMT Committee, and Communications Committee during the last grant period. Keith Haberer asked the Council input on committees needed and membership. Toby Prine envisioned the Communications Committee continuing and being a conduit between the State and Region with Jason Moses, Crissy Conger, and Deb Kaufman involved at both levels. Jason Moses asked if the members of the Committee would need to be Region Council members. The Council did not address this question at this time. The Training and Exercise Committee likewise can serve as a conduit between the State and Region with Keith Haberer and Toby Prine being members of both. He also sees the need for an oversight group for the fiscal agent and would like the Grant Committee to serve this purpose as well as providing project review and coordination. The IMT Committee will be chaired by Bob McLemore and needs to stand. Toby Prine will make up signup sheets for committee membership for the next meeting.

- Formal presentations for future projects will need to be drawn up and submitted. Functional groups and county representatives need to consider vulnerabilities and needs and submit projects including costs and justification.
- Keith Haberer reported the Kansas Highway Patrol disseminated a copy of the statewide Regional projects from the last grant cycle. The Council is interested in reviewing those projects. Keith Haberer will try to locate an electronic copy.

Old Business: The tabled motion from Kerry McCue requesting an 800 MHz radio on behalf of the MERGe team and Med 7 repeater for Hays hospital was addressed. Kerry McCue reported on the MERGe team efforts. Region III and VI have purchased radios for the team members in their Regions. There is no current funding for MERGe. MERGe recruitment and membership in Northwest Kansas was questioned. Shortage of personnel and the member paramedic level certification requirement have stalled expansion into Region I.

With monies becoming short and a variety of requests being suggested for the remaining MOCOM dollars, Jason Moses will prepare solid pricing quotes for those proposals and report back at the next meeting. Gary Winter moved to again table the motion. Motion second provided by Mike Albers. Motion passed.

The next meeting will be March 10, 2008 beginning at 9:00 at Sheridan County EMS in Hoxie.

Addie Homburg moved to adjourn. Jason Moses seconded motion. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 12:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Kaufman, Secretary