

MINUTES
Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team
December 10, 2019
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Kansas State Historic Preservation Office
6425 SW 6th Ave, Topeka, Kansas 66615-1099

Minutes by Brian Rast, USACE. A sign-in sheet is available. Handouts: Disaster Funding and State Management Costs Balances sheet, a KS hazard mitigation plan Goals and Mitigation Actions sheet, and a cover letter on Brian Rast's selection as USACE Silver Jackets Coordinator of the Year.

- **Introductions**

Steve Samuelson, KDA DWR, facilitated the kickoff and beginning of introductions. Multiple new faces from the federal agencies attended.

- **National Mitigation Investment Strategy Overview**

Joe Chandler, FEMA Region VII, as Lead Community Planner, presented on NMIS. This was prompted by a post Hurricane Sandy GAO report about the Nation not doing well on coordinated flood mitigation and bringing the information to the states. The federal partnering agencies are lead in Washington, DC, via the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG). The MitFLG developed a strategy to address expensive disasters averaging \$6.3 billion per year, now closer to \$10 billion. Last 5 years, averaging 12+ \$1B disasters. So far, 10- \$1B disasters for 2019. NMIS has 3 goals

- Show how they reduce risk,
- Coordination of investments,
- Show how to make them standard practice

- **Federal Partner Resources to Support Kansas' Mitigation Program**

- Michelle Wolf, **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**, Mitigation Planner, presented (Powerpoint file will be distributed by email) with focus on FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA). She mentioned 74 disaster since 1953. She showed a useful graphic to focus mitigation by counties, where it has counties darker shaded having >5 disasters.
 - HMA grants specialist, Kirsty Morgan, FEMA, presented the details below.
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), and HMGP Post Fire. State receives 15% of disaster cost. Normal cost share is 25% local-75% Federal. HMGP Post Fire is normally broken out.
 - Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) is competitive and annually appropriated, and the application period is open through end of January. Properties must have NFIP insurance, available \$160 million annual. Focus is placed on repetitive loss properties.
 - Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grants, application period is open too, but PDM is going away. \$250 million is largest ever, each state allocation \$575,000, state priority areas topics or eligible activities. States decide what projects are priority.
 - Disaster Recovery Reform Act 2018 (DRRA) is about mitigation before a disaster.
 - PDM transition to Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), program is developing, changes to NOFO, BRIC critical infrastructure emphasizing expected, BRIC will be bigger than PDM like \$300 to \$500 million, Lifeline considerations: safety and security; food, water, shelter; health and medical; Energy; communications; transportation; hazardous materials.
 - Public Assistance (PA), or 406 Mitigation, need to be "front loaded" Declared disaster only, public facility, must incorporate mitigation into repair. Front-load 406 opportunity, be ready if there is a disaster declaration.
 - High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) grant program, has to be classified high hazard per state program, rollout 2019, Kansas Water Office (KWO) 2 dams McPherson County and Sherwood. Rehab of High Hazard Potential Dams: Technical planning, design, and construction assistance. Must have an emergency action plan. Non-federally funded dams only. \$10 million FY19 funds. KWO had two dams funded, \$409,000.
 - Questions. Brian Rast, USACE, asked if any states are looking at changes to state definition of high hazard? Joe answered yes, as some dams in Missouri fell out because of the definition.

- Beth Held, **Department of Transportation (DOT)**, presented. She noted several useful items. One is program modes or sources like those under Federal Highways Administration, and are more guaranteed under a disaster, 2018 IA, KS, MO get Federal Transit Administration (FTA) assistance evacuation assistance communities can apply to get reimbursement...usually last Congress gets to but is turned on. On December 3, look for FTA in Federal Register. These are all on the post side of a flood event. But on front end, following the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on new construction projects. And transit is a nexus for sustainable communities, along with HUD. Transit is the overlooked catalyst. DOT Environmental Officers and mitigation opportunities, in review under their NEPA work, may open the door for possible mitigation. Also, keeping projects out of floodplain (Executive Order 11988) is part of the NEPA process. Examples like community rain gardens add to a project and are eligible under these efforts.
- Kevin Gustafson, **U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)**, State Conservation Engineer, presented. 830 dams in last 30-60 years in KS. Funding is available. The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program is a recovery program. But cannot rebuild or repair, rather remove debris. It can mitigate for future damage, dams that the NRCS installed with their funding. Their online tool, DamWatch, takes radar predicted rainfall in real time to see auxiliary spillway use then alerts go out to those signed up. Bruce Wells was the normal NRCS representative. Land conservation practices too but they don't fit in mitigation. The development of watershed benefits program, which applies damage curves and can give actual economic benefits of that dam for that rain event.
- Brian Kelly, **U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)**, presented (Powerpoint file will be distributed by email). Craig Painter the Data Chief for gages in KS. Many area centered on earth sciences, like seismicity. Several initiative, such as the Ecosystems Cooperative Research Unit in Manhattan has about \$300,000 and the Environmental Health \$1.4 million. Water is also a strongly funded, too. Wells and 216 gages in KS. Current studies: Kansas River time of travel of a dissolved contaminate.
 - Last year 34 funding partners
 - Climate change, rate of change changing
 - NWIS Mapper data web viewer WaterNow, WaterAlert which could be leveraged for EAPs actions, Flood Inundation Mapper, WaterWatch, StreamStats can delineate watersheds where we don't have gages, Partner Products
- Rick Shaw, **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**, Program Analyst, Office of Field Policy and Management, presented (Powerpoint file will be distributed by email).
 - Community Development Block Grant-National Disaster Resilience Competition (CDBG-NDRC) was held 2011-2013 and provided almost \$1 billion, 8 states 5 communities counties. A high profile example was the Iowa Watershed Approach, like Bee Branch \$23 million, including things like green allies, mold issues, healthy home initiative sump pump improvements.
 - Among some of the requirements needed are a Consolidated Plan, spanning a 3-5 year period, and includes affordable housing and the risks of natural disasters. Citys >50,000, Counties >200k. Grantees must evaluate vulnerability of housing occupied by low-moderate income households.

- CDBG-Disaster Recover (CDBG-DR) supplements or can be used and combined, but it cannot duplicate other federal funding.
- CDBG Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) is another, newer, grant that builds capacity and helps to analyze risk. It can help with updates of hazard mitigation plans but must address current and future risks, three national objectives, low to moderate income priority, buyout program in floodplains, Distressed Cities Technical Assistance ...requires criteria one of these... like population decline 5% or more 2010 to current, decline job rate of 9% or more , poverty rate of 5% or more. Must address risk, 7 critical service areas, 96 pages of eligible activities, Small business priority for economic development. Also, buyout program to reduce risk, floodzones, or disaster risk reduction areas. Distressed Cities Technical Assistance, unemployment >9%/population loss >5%/poverty rate >20%.
- o Jason Daniels, **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, presented (Powerpoint file will be distributed by email). He mentioned resilience focus now vs wetland 404, Standards and Water Quality Branch, Water Division
 - Regional Resilience Toolkit - five steps in the toolkit. Manhattan is one of applicants. Abby Hall is national POC
 - EPA Disasters Support Resources web page
 - Green infrastructure, Des Moines rain gardens is an example.
 - Healthy Soils, cover crops etc
 - Water qualityPlans will integrate plans and programs to achieve mitigation goals, CWA connections
 - Floodplain restoration
 - State revolving fund SRF is EPA funds for KS, essential infrastructure projects funded with low interest loans, ie. use this get reimbursed by FEMA later, see Intended Use Plan has a good cross walk to KS HMP: www.KDHEKS.GOV/MUNI/DOWNLOAD/2020_Final_IUP
 - AWIA water infrastructure act, communities must have a emergency response plans, risk assessments ?

- Brian Rast, **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**, as Lead Silver Jackets Coordinator, presented, and prior to that the group. He described the Silver Jackets Program as enabling the USACE to participate in state lead hazard mitigation teams, like KHMT. He explained that while during disasters, USACE is recognized for the Readiness Contingency Operations work, such as sandbags, pumps, and water bottles, the USACE has many other programs. First, he noted the Silver Jackets work in Kansas has a dedicated USACE web page: <http://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/State-Teams/Kansas.cfm> (for security reasons, the “.cfm” extension is temporarily in the URL). On the web page several useful, consolidated lists of information are available. The “honeycomb” icons help to easily locate these. For example, the KS HMP’s summary goals and mitigation actions under the Priority hexagon, or Top Team Priorities hyperlink. Also, past successes and even New Projects help other partnering agencies and the public to see what USACE Silver Jackets activities have provided technical assistance to agencies and communities in KS. He also noted several most useful programs for flood mitigation work, and he noted the handout booklet of the Silver Jackets The Buzz Special Edition newsletter. That addition comes out yearly and is on the web here: <http://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/Resources/Newsletter.cfm>. He explained the Special Edition is designed to summarize all federal partners hazard mitigation programs, as well as grants and special technical assistance. From USACE, the most notable are the Flood Plain Management Services program (Allen Chestnut, Program Manager, also present), the Continuing Authorities Program, Section 205 or Small Flood Control Projects program (that can implement a solution within 2-4 years), and General Investigations (which take special authorization from Congress) for large hazard mitigation solutions. Others are also available in the newsletter. Brian went on to note a web viewer that can serve, like GoogleEarth, to denote active projects at USACE: <http://maps.crrel.usace.army.mil:7778/apex/cm2.cm2.map?map=UOC>.
- Brian summarized status on several projects. The Rossville, KS project has the highest need of interagency coordination, and he shared a placemat handout with icons about the full menu of measures that should be told in every community’s story about flood mitigation, like Rossville which will be something he follows up about in the next meeting. Finally, he noted that USACE announced the call for new FPMS Interagency Nonstructural proposals, and he handed out a flyer.

- **New and Unfinished Business**

Steve Samuelson made a motion to accept the following as the list of the FPMS Interagency Nonstructural proposals for the Silver Jackets Program this year:

1. Risk Outreach and Communication in Kansas (ROCK). This involves signs for flood awareness and understanding of levees.
2. Gypsum. This leveed community need a better understanding of the risk management options tied to flood risk management.
3. Mulvane. This community needs a better flood risk assessment.
4. Ottawa Flood Forecast Inundation Maps (NWS AHPS at a forecast point with USGS gage). This is a recurring NWS/USGS/USACE partnership with communities with enhancing public understanding of flood risks at the center.
5. Salina Flood Inundation Mapping. This community needs a better flood risk assessment with said mapping on Mulberry Creek.
6. Abilene Flood Forecast Inundation Maps. See Ottawa, above, but for Mud Creek.

If possible, we will see about adding the following:

- Iola Flood Inundation Mapping. This community needs a better flood risk assessment with said mapping.
- Soil Health. In Marion County and Peabody a partnership with KDHE, where contact is Scott Satterthwaite, KDHE. Steve can do this through our mapping Tech Assistance stuff without it being a Silver Jackets effort, although SJ might contribute.

- **Presentation/Training for next meeting**

The next KHMT meetings are scheduled for March 3, 2020, and June 16, 2020.

Steve noted Terry Medley will present and recount the 2019 flooding as to how dams were impacted. Mike D'Attilio (KDEM GIS) will be presenting in March on HAZUS application.