

MINUTES

Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team

Date of Meeting

March 5, 2019

Attendees

See Sign-in Sheet

Introductions

Mr. Steve Samuelson, KDA Division of Water Resources, opened the meeting with introductions. Steve explained Mr. Jake Gray has taken a new job away and no longer works for KDEM. Ms. Jeanne Bunting will be the temporary replacement. Attendees introduced themselves around the meeting room. Ken Wade and Brian Rast, USACE, wrote minutes.

Presentation

Ms. Sara Wood, Office of State Fire Marshall and Mr. Eric Ward, Assistant Fire Management Officer, KS Forest Service presented.

- historic snap shot
- 22 years of data warmer winter more grass
- Kansas top state with most fires
- 4000 to 8000 fires a year
- 2006 10000 fires
- 2018 climbing
- Drought
- 700000 acres in 2016 burned
- 150000 to 200000 acres
- Feb to march 100 calls a week
- Grass fire season
- Get power point
- Red flag day
- Cold front 24 to 48 hours

Mr. Eric Ward followed with a presentation on Wild Land Fire Mitigation.

- Fire wise communities
- Wildfire community, preparedness day
- Ready set go
- Ember shower in high winds a primary factor

Discussion:

-A possible annual mitigation project: fuel reduction work, prescribed burns?

-A contradiction...the desire to manage vegetation...vs high cost

The Bark Beetles in Rockies were discussed and a lack of a plan to address the huge amount of dead wood that is another fuel risk. The response to a policy of “put out fire by 10am next morning” means, when we immediately put out a fire, and never do a prescribed burn or otherwise clear the fuel, we interfere with the natural process of wildfires to clear out the dead vegetation. Overtime, that knee jerk response to put the fires out quick results in a larger and larger accumulation wood that is a source of for the next huge wildfire. In Kansas, Eastern Red Cedar is now a fuel challenge risk.

How does ecological succession factor in to the amount of fuel in urban areas?

Flood debris collected in channels as a fire hazard.

Wyandotte County Lake brought in California Hot Shots to aid maintaining overpopulation vegetation fuel near homes.

A guide is available for burn piles. For example, winter burning with snow on ground.

-Mr. Allen Chestnut, USACE, excellent question, building code restrictions, answer very much home rule state, CA too many homes close together

-Ms. Michelle Wolfe, FEMA, thought on evacuation vs fight it, the Australia Ready-Set-Go campaign is about mitigating at property owner level and fighting til you know evacuation needed

-EAP collaboration potential exists.

KDA/DWR Update

Mr. Steve Samuelson briefed.

- Maps, flood maps a number of county levee issues. Gypsum, KS, is a current one.
- Community Assistant Visions: McPherson, Medicine Lodge, and another, ...These are being done on purpose so we can get them into FEMA NFIP Community Rating System.
- Martin Koch, KDA DWR, is helping on audits, clean audits for national flood program

Hazard Mitigation Project Updates

Mr. Charlie McGonigle, KDEM, briefed.

- **HMGP** Open application Period DR
 - o **DR-4319**
 - o **DR-4347** \$1.5 million to \$830k
 - o **DR-4403** \$540k, (\$700k federal share)
 - o **FM-5170** \$2.3 million
- **PDM/FMA Funding FY18/19**
 - o Harper recreation Commission
 - o Grant, \$500k

Planning Update Jeanne Bunting

- Ms. Jeanne Bunting, KDEM, Starting in May, the eastern part of state, Regions E and F

Silver Jackets

Mr. Brian Rast presented.

- Old projects: Recurring Flood ID, Repetitive Loss Update, Historic High Water Signs
- New projects:
 - o Rossville Nonstructural Assessment: Leaves up to 5 benchmarks on private properties space throughout city to aid with property owner follow-up on Elevation Certificates.
 - o Ottawa Floodplain Management Plan
- Proposals
 - o April 4th by state for new projects
 - o EPA flood induced contamination, Coffeyville, Pitcher, OK, or anhydrous ammonia. Spill cleanup; Michelle Wolfe, FEMA, suggested FM email lists and EM lists tie to public works officials
EPA res flood induced flooding contaminates; Animal waste, HTRW chemicals; TIER-II over laying sites ID of concerns; Over flood maps TIER-II sites, flood hazard area, drilling sites, oil tanks flood plains, positive import; Federal side getting to come to these meetings region for this project
 - o Wildcat resiliency...and...add three maps...2d model...update Orion Wildcat creek flood 2d modeling
 - o Flood Forecast Inundation Map (FFIM) for new priority location, check WFOs capability but why not submit one every year?
 - o Risk Outreach Communication in Kansas (ROCK), being lead by Martin Koch, KDA DWR incentives for entering database; Levee signs application process; Educate the public about what you can do to keep from getting flooded
 - o Mulvane, Steve Samuelson, KDA DWR, and Bill Smiley, USACE Tulsa District 3 subdivisions flood often; evaluate FRM measures

Discussion:

Roadway flood mitigation priorities for Missouri: 38 flood death in 4 years; System that tracks emergency vehicles; National Weather Service or to public maps to show flooding; Reroute in flooding areas; helps MODOT and SEMA with actual mitigation priorities, not a true mitigation feature or culverts needing to be changed

Non-governmental groups to work together,

H&H modeling

Rossville flooding

Levee Private List for Emergency Mangers for Counties

New and Unfinished Business

- Charlie submitting grant application for Manhattan, KS, Garden Way Apartments, in next week, 200 units of low income housing, which is a challenge to address. A question was noted: Where will these folks go to?
- Sara has response record for Martin for recurring response polygon

- Ken Wade, USACE, mentioned the Levee Inventory and Review, Steve noted Jennifer Wood came to KDWR and collected information for coordination in state database March 27 FEMA Strategic Action webinar
- KS American Planning Assoc. 28th and 29th Spring Symposium in Manhattan resilience and mobility, cost low

Presentation/Training for next meeting

- State water shortages
- Watersheds to preserve water
- Think about what you want out of the next meeting (Presentation/Training)
- **June 18** next meeting date (a revised date)
- Dates for Sept and December
- Speakers what do you want to see
- HUD CDBG, buying out housing; Flooding and housing if you buy out where do they go? FEMA housing for replacement low income state plans; Economic development
- FEMA Region 7 webinars March 27 mitigation actions, stronger actions
- March 28 Kansas chapter of planning Manhattan KS