



Northeast KEMA

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NE KEMA Meeting Minutes

The NE KEMA meeting was called to order by Jillian Rodrigue, NE KEMA VP, at 10:00AM on December 15, 2015, at South 40 Café in Westmoreland, KS.

Those attending included:

Cortney Bartley – Coffey Co EM	Garry Berges – Geary Co EM	Heather Dunlap – KDOL EM
Cathy Ernst – Lyon Co EM	Tim Gibbs - Miami Co EM	Laurie Harrison – Riley Co EM
David Hogg – Douglas Co EM	Mathew Golubski – Red Cross	Natasha Hunter – Pottawatomie Co EM
Leslie Jeter – Marshall Co EM	Jeff Johnson – NWS Topeka	Chad Omitt – NWS Topeka
Jillian Rodrigue – Douglas Co EM	Bryce Romine – Osage Co EM	Steve Samuelson – KDA/DWR
Bill Schwindamann – Marshall Co EM	Zane Steves - KDEM	Amy Terrapin – Wabaunsee Co EM
Chris Trudo – Pottawatomie Co EM		

Minutes:

Laurie Harrison made a motion to approve the November 16, 2015 minutes with spelling corrections, the number of bids received for the KEMA Conference, and changes to the attendees. Bryce Romine seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with corrections.

Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

NWS Update (Chad Omitt and Jeff Johnson):

- Spotter Talks will be hosted from February 17th through early April.
- NWS and Forestry are teaming up for Wildfire Awareness Week which is February 22nd – 26th. The intent of the campaign is to educate and inform those who may conduct burns and help them better identify from where to get weather information.
- Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 14th - 18th. The Statewide Tornado Drill is scheduled for 15th, but it has been requested that the text be conducted at 6:30PM.
- NWS Topeka looks to host its annual IWT meeting on Feb 9th from 9AM to Noon at KDEM. The statewide IWT will be held in late January.
- Chad and Jeff thanked each person who provided feedback on the Thanksgiving storm. That feedback was shared with the forecasters for review and to gain a better understanding of how to better serve EMs and the community.

KEMA Board:

- The Conference Site Selection Committee received 10 bids for the 2017-2019 KEMA Conferences. The Committee will work to narrow down the locations, conduct site visits and provide a recommendation to the KEMA Board.
- Please take time to complete the EMPG Survey as it is vital to continuing to receive funds.

NERHSC Update:

- On December 9th, the Council met for its October, November and December meetings.
- Several projects were updated. Supplies for the RATT Trailer will be ordered soon.
- Topeka Fire Department brought a proposal to the group concerning equipping their fire personnel with tactical equipment and providing for several trainings and exercises. The Council requested TFD rewrite their proposal to include a more regional approach.
- The Accountability Drill was conducted on December 2nd. Each county with equipment should have participated.
- Contact Bill if anyone needs adapters for the cables for the generators.
- New projects should be submitted prior to the end of the year.
- Counties are asked to complete the Capabilities Assessment. If you don't have a login, contact Bryan Murdie. This will assist with next year's projects. The Council tried to make it as simple as possible to complete. It follows FEMA's THIRA. The goal is that once the counties are done here and across the state, we'll have a statewide assessment. This will help the Council make better use of appropriated funds. Please complete this by the 1st of March.
- Several individuals participated in a webinar outlining a Community Engagement add-on through Everbridge. The services include social media and Google alert capabilities as well as the option to set up event specific texting groups which don't count toward our overall allowed numbers.

KDEM – Zane Steves

- Jeff is attending the FAD, so he is unable to attend.
- The December 8th Wolf Creek exercise went well. No deficiencies were noted.
- Swapan attended the Northeast Region Council Meeting to talk about and encourage counties to apply for HMEP grant funds. Applications are due January 15th.
- The LEPC Conference will be held on July 19th – 20th in Manhattan. While there is not a conference fee, attendees must pay lodging and travel costs.
- Zane discussed some potential revisions coming to upcoming versions of the Capabilities Assessment Tool. Please send your suggestions to him.

Red Cross – Matthew Golubski

- Matt introduced himself as the new Disaster Program Manager. He has been with the organization for over 10 years and comes to the Topeka area from the Metro. His priority is to get back into the communities to gain a better understanding of their wants and needs. He has been busy working several emergencies, but he's looking forward to getting out to see and meet everyone soon.

Pottawatomie County – Chris Trudo and Natasha Hunter

- Hosted an ice storm communications tabletop exercise. Laurie and Pat assisted with the exercise.
- They will be presenting the AAR and IP on the ice storm to the Commission before the first of the year.
- Working on a tabletop exercise for the Wamego 4th of July celebration. The scenario will include a terrorist threat.
- Carol with Kansas State will be invited to attend the IWT as burn season is approaching. She has been the contact for the smoke management plan. State Forestry will also be invited.
- Chris provided some history of the area.
- Looking to host a PIO Course in February.
- They are working on expanding their communications capabilities.

Geary County – Garry Berges

- TEPW is completed.
- Working on year end reports and inventories.
- Still conducting safety days once a week at the local schools.
- The ice storm on Thanksgiving weekend left 4000 without power at one point. EM worked with the Red Cross to open a shelter. It was a great exercise. All power was back on by Tuesday afternoon.

Miami County – Tim Gibbs

- Conducted the last LEPC meeting of the year and are working to submit all final paperwork.
- Held an open POD exercise in October. 88 individuals went through. It went well. They also conducted a closed POD. They are working to move toward more distribution instead of PODs.
- Following the September tornado, Tim was able to convince Commissioners to send several individuals to EMI's Recovery From Disaster: The Local Government Role. They just returned, and it was a great opportunity to inform and engage local officials. One thing that came out of the course was to begin a debris management plan. He encouraged Chuck's course.
- They are starting over with FEMA meetings following the floods.
- Working on end of the year stuff.

Riley County – Laurie Harrison

- Hosted the ice storm communications tabletop in Riley County. The ice storm mimicked that exercise.
- During the ice storm, they set up a warming center. 1,800 were left without power. There were lots of lessons learned following the event. She hopes to conduct an AAR to capture the event.
- They are hosting the Check-in / Recorder Course in Manhattan February 27th and 28th. The course is not on KS-Train. If you want to attend and need the invitation, please contact Laurie.
- Fake Patty's Day is Saturday, March 5th. The RATT trailer and team will be requested.

Lyon County – Cathy Ernst

- She is working to learn the job as quickly as possible.
- They are starting the 2-year cycle for burn permits. She asked for ideas from those who have the same or similar process.
- Jack Taylor is the interim EM. The County hopes to have the position filled in February.
- Carrie, at ESU, has been hosting several trainings and exercises on campus.

Coffey County – Cortney Bartley

- Commissioners extended the permit for the wind farm since they won't be done by the end of the year. It is officially the Waverly Wind Farm, LLC.
- They have started building the containment ponds and will begin dredging at John Redmond Reservoir.
- FEMA was in town for the graded Wolf Creek Exercise. Preliminary results are that they passed. Accountability was utilized during the exercise. He thanked Osage County for assisting as well.

Department of Labor – Heather Dunlap

- KDOL completed their COOP which has been approved to KDEM.
- Working on an exercise to test the communications portion of the plans.
- Awaiting approval to send a survey to employees concerning an emergency communication service to better inform them of incidents directly affecting their work. They are looking at CallThemAll.

Osage County – Bryce Romine

- Participated in the Wolf Creek Exercise at the forward staging area.
- Has been working on the capabilities assessment, but it has been a slow process.
- Starting to work on a communications plan with EMS, fire and the sheriff's office.
- Franklin, Anderson, Coffey and Osage Counties put in for an HMEP grant for some exercise and HazMat IQ Training.
- Hosting an LEPC meeting this week at a local chemical distribution plants.

Marshall County – Bill Schwindamann and Leslie Jeter

- Conducted the TEPW last week.
- Had some flooding issues which closed several roads.
- Working with schools on some walk throughs and plans.

KDA/DWR - Steve Samuelson

- There is a FEMA rule about flood maps which has saved people some money on flood insurance, but that rule will sunset on April 1, 2016. If you have a citizen which has not taken advantage on that rule, please send them to Steve. He can help them.
- Taught the Post Disaster Responsibilities for Flood Plain Managers in McPherson. It went really well. A few city managers also took the course. It was also discovered that some individuals don't understand how to read and interpret stream gauges.

Wabaunsee County – Amy Terrapin

- Had some issues with the ice storm which included some power outages.
- Hosted an LEPC meeting a week ago. They are working on updating the by-laws.
- Working on an Ebola tabletop which is scheduled for February.
- The schools have two new superintendents. She is working with them concerning HMGP grants.
- Townships have been following up concerning disaster monies. FEMA has stated it won't come until after the first of the year.

Douglas County – Jillian Rodrigue and David Hogg

- The County is moving toward STAR certification. Staff met with the intern working on the documentation to discuss their portion of the program. This looks to be very beneficial to the department. It also encourages EMAP certification which Douglas County is working on.
- Participated in the Accountability training earlier this month.
- Hosting a Volunteer Recognition tonight. About 23 volunteers will attend. Volunteers vote on their outstanding volunteer group member and an overall outstanding volunteer as set by staff.
- Working through the EMPG survey which all receiving counties should complete.
- Sent out 2 RFPs for their HMEP grants. One is for a public private partnership exercise and the other is for a Commodity Flow Study.
- Timmy, Tina and Titus are continuing their adventures. That is the current social media outreach campaign. Staff reached out to additional agencies. This is a new way to reach people about preparedness.
- The Severe Weather Symposium will be hosted on Saturday, March 5th.
- November 25th was the McCollum Hall implosion. The MCV was deployed during the event. It was a great exercise for the vehicle. This was a great social media outreach event.
- The Debris Management Plan is essentially done. They used portions of Chuck's plan. Adoption by the City and County Commissioners/Councils will be after the first of the year.
- Hosting monthly an accountability trainings with CERT members.
- Working with the local high schools on a Teen CERT program. Staff hopes to begin this in January.
- The County has applied for IPAWS. Staff is working on the plan and communications committee.
- TEPW will be hosted in January.
- KU IT will be hosting an IT exercise which staff has been invited to.

A motion to adjourn was made by Laurie Harrison and seconded by Cortney Bartley.