



South Central KEMA Regional Meeting
February 1, 2018
McPherson Public Utilities, 401 W Kansas
McPherson, KS

Attendee

Mike Loreg
Amy Miller
Keri Korthals
Doreen Johnson
Brian Stone
Chris Cintron
Gary Denny
Skip Cowan
Jim Leftwich
Fred Simon
Andrea Taylor
Randy Frank
Julie McClure
Tim Hawkinson
Jeff Deal
TJ Wyssmann
Jeff Hutton
Chance Hayes
Adam Weishaar
Todd Strain
Greg Klein
Keith Vagts
Keith Haberer
Cody Charvat
John Crosby
Danelle Beale
DeAnn Konkel
James Fair
Collette Pottier
Randy Duncan
Mark Stump

Representing

Barber County EM
Barton County EM
Butler County EM
Butler County EM
Cowley County EM
Harper County EM
Harvey County EM
Harvey County EM
KDEM
Kingman County EM
Kiowa County EM
Marion County EM
McPherson County EM
McPherson County EM
McPherson Fire Dept
McPherson Fire Dept
National Weather Service
National Weather Service
Reno County EM
Reno County EM
Rice County EM
Rice County EM
Russell/Ellsworth EM
Sedgwick County EM
Sedgwick County EM
Sedgwick County EM
Sedgwick County EM
Sumner County EM
Sumner County EM
Paradigm Liaison Services
United Way of the Plains

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Cody Charvat at 0930 hours.

2. Approval of Minutes

Randy Frank made a motion to approve the December 7th, 2017 minutes. Motion was seconded by Brian Stone, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Membership/Guest Comments

- Chris Cintron, the new Director of EM and 911 for Harper County introduced herself

4. KEMA Board Report – Cody Charvat

Cody passed out Certificates of Appreciation to the region members who had served on KEMA Committees. There had been no formal Board meeting to report on since the last regional meeting. Through an email vote, the Board decided to send a letter to the KAC Governing Board asking them to allow us an exemption to the term limit requirements that would force us to remove Hannah Stambaugh as our representative at year's end; we have not yet heard back.

Keith Haberer told the group that the NC region had drafted a letter to send to KDHE voicing their opposition to the proposed change of regional boundaries for the Health Care Coalitions. DeAnn Konkol made a motion, seconded by Gary Denny, that the South Central Region do the same; motion carried on a voice vote.

Gary Denny, Nominating Committee Chairman, reminded members to be thinking about elections that will need to be held this year; we will need someone to run for KEMA President-Elect, Secretary, and South Central Vice President. Self-nominations are highly encouraged; contact Gary Denny if you are interested.

5. Old Business

a. Training Opportunities in the Region

- Feb 13 – Basic Wildland grass fire class, Mulvane FD
- Feb 20 – Infectious Disease VTTX, ICT & Pratt, Ks Train
- Feb 28 – ESF 8 Symposium, ICT – KS Train
- Mar 6 – Task Force/Strike Team Leader (1-day version, NOT official FEMA course) – Mulvane FD
- Apr 3-4 – Essentials of Cyber Sec. & Comm. Prep for Cyber Incidents, ICT – Ks Train **#1074207**
- Apr 18 – Psychological 1st Aid, Wesley Medical Center – Train **#1054375**
- Apr 24-25 – Emergency Response to Biological Incidents, ICT – Train **#1074250**
- Save the Dates: ICS 300/400 in Cowley County, May 29-30 and June 5-6

b. Other Old Business - None was presented.

6. New Business

a. NWS Discussion on multiple topics

Chance Hayes and Jeff Hutton offered information and answered questions about the GOES 16 Satellite and hotspot notifications. There was follow-up discussion from the IWT meeting regarding the proposal from NE counties to designate one particular statewide channel for severe weather-related communications with the NWS; the general consensus in the room was that the group was opposed to the idea for various reasons. There was an acknowledgement of the need to see info from neighboring counties who might be covered by a different NWS office than you. This led to discussion of the All Chat window in NWS Chat Live, and it was discovered that those accessing Chat via Pidgeon did not have this feature. Cody was asked to send out an email to the region detailing how to log in and use the All Chat function. Chance was given the responsibility at the IWT to form a team to discuss the single radio channel for weather and will be sending out invitations. Next was a discussion about what model (if any) would become THE STANDARD for NWS to use for fire weather; some offices in the state use Grassland Fire Danger Index, some use Rangeland Fire Threat Index, while at the IWT Chip Redmond said the new standard is expected to be the National Fire Danger Rating System. Chance indicated this discussion is on-going and for now there will be no change.

b. Wildland Fire Task Force Formation and EM coordination with FORCE

This discussion covered a wide range of topics and was primarily facilitated by Chief Jeff Deal of the McPherson Fire Department. FORCE is still in the process of being reborn, and at the same time, the State Fire Marshall's office has notified all departments across the state of their desire to have a wildland fire task force in each county, either completely pre-determined, or to be drawn up from a list of willing/available departments in the moment. In the SC Region, the hope is to tie together FORCE and the task force formation, but FORCE would still be about more than just wildfires. The next step for FORCE is to draw up a list of primary, secondary and tertiary contacts in all 19 counties; the people on this list would be the single POC for the FORCE duty officer to call with a resource request, then the POC would be responsible for immediately finding out what their county could send, then calling back the Duty Officer with an update. Some counties in the room wanted the primary to be the EM, while others wanted it to be Fire or dispatch, who would also notify local EM. Each county will have to decide this for themselves; Bryan Ellis will be responsible for contacting each county and drawing up the list for FORCE.

c. State Update – Jim Leftwich

A lot of what Jim had from KDEM was FMAG related and covered during the wildland fire discussion. There are triggers associated with FMAG's including dollar figures: around \$200K for an individual fire, or something north of \$600K for cumulative State wildfire damage over time. Other critical components for receiving an FMAG are that there must be a related disaster declaration, it must be while the threat is in progress and a population center is threatened, and the fire has to be ZERO-percent contained at the time of the phone call. The KDEM Duty Officer is required to ask a lot of questions; Mike Loreg said he would provide the checklist KDEM gave him and Cody would distribute it to the region. Cody would also send a request to Mike Selves for a breakout session on FMAG's at KEMA.

d. Other New Business

None was presented

7. Report from Members

Not given due to time constraints

8. Next Meeting – April 5th in BUTLER County, exact location TBD. This is a change from the original schedule which listed Barber County

9. Adjournment – Cody declared the meeting adjourned at 11:35.