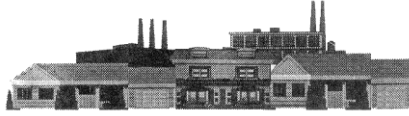


KANAWHA PUTNAM EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE



Managing our Risk Together

General Committee Meeting

March 29, 2017

Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center
South Charleston, West Virginia

In the absence of Krista Farley, Chair, John Dearnell, Vice Chair, called the KPEPC General Membership Meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Keith Hobbs moved that the minutes of the January 25, 2017, meeting be approved; David Hoge seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Attendees introduced themselves and gave the name of their company / organization.

PROGRAM: National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Ready Presentation –
Discussing Severe Weather & Flood Awareness Program; NOAA/NWS
Weather-Ready Ambassador Program

PRESENTER: John Sikora, Senior Service Hydrologist/HPM/Meteorologist - NWS

John Dearnell introduced John Sikora Senior Service Hydrologist/HPM/Meteorologist – NOAA/NWS. John Sikora reported that the NWS has introduced a new program-Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors (WRN Ambassador Initiative). The program is a tool for the NWS to get important information out to the public by various means.

The goal of the WRN Ambassador Initiative is to collectively engage with external organizations that are committed to creating societal response that is equal to weather, water, and climate risks.

John Sikora explained that the WRN Ambassador Initiative Benefits to WRN Ambassadors provides:

- Good business practice having employees & stakeholders more resilient to impacts from extreme events.
- Highlights their contributions as a recognized Ambassador
- Interaction with NOAA in easier ways on data access, data formats, and new products/services
- Foster innovative opportunities with NOAA
- Receive email notifications of events, safety campaigns, feedback opportunities

WRN Ambassador's contribute by being a part of the echo chamber, helping to make preparedness a priority. They connect to social media followers, engage their employees, and participate in community events.

John Sikora invited the members to become WRN Ambassadors. To sign up or gather additional information, log onto www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation wrn.feedback@noaa.gov.

John Sikora reported that Governor Justice declared the week of March 19-25, 2017 as Severe Weather & Flood Awareness Week in West Virginia. Many weather emergencies were focused on during that week with full media coverage. The NWS urged families, schools, and businesses to practice severe weather safety plans. Also, a state-wide tornado drill was held March 22.

Flood Awareness Program: John Sikora reported that flash floods are the number one threat for West Virginia. West Virginia was 2nd in the U.S. for the number of flash flood fatalities overall; 1st when normalized for population.

A flash flood is usually caused by heavy or excessive rainfall in a short period of time, usually 3 hours or less. West Virginia's steep, mountainous terrain contributes to flash flooding. As evidence of the terrible floods last June 23, 2016. John stated that 2 inches of rain an hour will cause flash flooding. The important message is not to drive through water – Turn Around-Don't Drown.

Flash Flood Ingredients include: Abundance of atmospheric moisture; High rainfall rates; Large storms or storms of long duration; Previously saturated or frozen soil; Topography and terrain; Dam failure.

Flood Products/Messages: What They Mean:

- Special Weather Statement or Flood Advisory – Minor nuisance flooding, blocked culverts, poor drainage, low lying areas and blocked ditches.
- Flood / Flash Flood Watch – Conditions are favorable for flooding to occur. Keep an eye out (watch) and start preparing for a possible flood or flash flooding.
- Flood / Flash Flood Warning – Flooding is occurring or is imminent. Take action now.
- Flood / Flash Flood Emergency – Catastrophic flooding with significant, widespread damage and a high likelihood of numerous fatalities is expected to continue. An emergency is not a new warning product, but a new visible and high impact call-to-action. Doom and Gloom.

Helpful Links for weather information are:

www.floodsafety.noaa.gov

Telephone 1-800-401-9535 – To Report Flooding

www.weather.gov.rlx

<http://mobile.weather.gov> – Mobile Widget

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Chair

Not Present; No Report.

Krista Farley

Vice Chair:

John Dearnell reported that Brad Stewart is no longer with the KPEPC; Jacque Gumm is now the KPEPC Administrator. We will be looking for an assistant at a later date, to assist Jacque.

John Dearnell

Secretary/Treasurers Report:

Janet Briscoe provided the members with the Financial Reports through March 31, 2016. The 2017 contributions are gradually coming in.

Janet Briscoe

KPEPC Committees / Committee Chairs

**Business, Membership & Community Outreach
Communication Systems Committee**

**John Sikora
Doug Hodges
Nanci Keenan**

**Drill Planning, Exercise & Training
Finance Committee**

**Keith Hobbs
Janet Briscoe**

**Hazard Assessment, Planning & Mutual Resources
Plan Implementation & Evaluation**

**Keith Vititoe
Tim McDaniel**

Business, Membership & Community Outreach

No Report

John Sikora

Communication Systems Committee

No Report

**Doug Hodges
Nanci Keenan**

Drill Planning, Exercise & Training

No Report.

Keith Hobbs

Hazard Assessment & Planning/Mutual Resources

Not Present-No Report.

Keith Vititoe

Plan Implementation & Planning

No Report.

Tim McDaniel

NEW BUSINESS:

Seth Staker of Kanawha Charleston Health Department (KCHD) reported that the KCHD is holding a Medical Counter Measures (MCM) Full-Scale Exercise April 20th, along with WV Bureau of Public Health, Center for Threat Preparedness, Kanawha County Department of

Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Law Enforcement partners and tentatively many other partners. This exercise will be held April 20th between approximately 8:00am and 1:00pm and is related to a simulated Anthrax bio-terrorism attack. The location of the exercise will be provided at a later date. We will be exercising dispensing medication to the population and measuring how quickly we can accomplish this task. Therefore, we will need volunteers to serve as part of our Point of Dispensing staff as well those to assist as “walk-through” volunteers, so that we can measure our throughput. If anyone is interested they can get in touch with myself or Janet Briscoe at KCHD (304) 348-1088 to volunteer or to find out more information.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:33 p.m.