

Quarterly Emergency Management Commission Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Story County Emergency Management Commission was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chair Rick Sanders

Attendance:

David Thom-Cambridge	Dennis Clatt-Colo
Jon Popp-Gilbert	Craig Henry- Huxley
Chris Erickson-McCallsburg	Steven Gast-Maxwell
Brett Barker- Nevada	John Kahler-Slater
Mike Jensen- Story City	Paul Fitzgerald-SCSO
Rick Sanders- BOS	Keith Morgan-EMA Coordinator
Melissa Spencer-Deputy Coordinator	

Consent Agenda

- Consider approval of April 2018 Meeting Minutes
 - Consider approval of July 2018 Agenda
- Motion by Henry, 2nd by Fitzgerald to approve the Consent Agenda, MCU

Old Business

Hazard Mitigation Plan Revision

At the last planning meeting on June 27, packets were handed out with requests for information. The deadline for submission of the information is July 18 the Coordinator will be following up with the communities who have not provided the documentation. Without this information, communities will not be included in the plan. The first draft is due in September and will be provided the Planning Committee and public for review. Feedback from the review will be incorporated into the final draft, which will be sent to the State and FEMA for review and approval. In May of 2019, the Board of Supervisors will be the first jurisdiction to adopt the plan with other Story County jurisdictions to follow.

Commodity Flow Study

Using grant funds from the Hazardous Materials Preparedness Grant, the Story County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) contracted with Candess Consulting to study the quantity and risk associated with HAZMAT flows on rail, highway traffic, and to/from TierII facilities. The results of the study will assist communities and first responders with planning, response, and training for hazardous material incidents. The LEPC will approve the plan in August.

Command Vehicle/Trailer

The purchase and outfitting of a mobile command and control vehicle to be utilized countywide will be a beneficial capability for response and recovery from a disaster or emergency. The Story County Coalition for Disaster Recovery (CDR) applied for a \$35,000 grant from Prairie Meadows for the purchase of a Command & Control trailer but was not awarded the grant. The Commission has the option to use the \$20,000 donation from DAPL to meet this capabilities requirement:

- A. Winneshiek County has a trailer outfitted with most of the required equipment to include radios and antennas. They are asking \$35,000 for the trailer. They only use the trailer a few times a year and would like to dispose of it. EMA staff have evaluated the trailer in person and it appears to be in good working order.
- B. Develop a shared agreement with ISU and Ames for the outfitting and use of the motor home purchased with federal buffer grant money. Currently ISU is the only agency authorized to drive the motor home.
- C. Purchase and retrofit a 23' trailer from Mary Greeley. It is not in good shape and would take a considerable amount of work and money.

Motion by Fitzgerald, 2nd by Jensen to allow Coordinator Morgan to make an offer and purchase the trailer in Winneshiek County for \$20,000 using the donated funds from DAPL. Discussion centered on the need for access and control of a command and control trailer by EMA staff at a moment's notice. There are not clear assurances that EMA staff would have access to the ISU/Ames motor home when needed. If additional funding would be needed the Sheriff may be able to assist. MCU

New Business

Approval of ESF 7- Resource Management

No significant changes to the plan this year. Updated common language. Motion by Thom, 2nd by Henry to approve ESF 7 Resource Management as presented. MCU

Review of June Severe Weather Events and Public Assistance Process

The EMA has been focused on response and recovery activities from severe weather events since June 14. The cities of Ames, Collins, Kelley, Maxwell and unincorporated Story County were effected by heavy rains and flash flooding. Chair Sanders signed a local disaster declaration for the entire county since in involved multiple jurisdictions and no emergency powers would be needed for any jurisdictions. Through the local disaster declaration, the Iowa Individual Assistance Program was activated. It will be administered by Mid Iowa Community Action (MICA) in Ames for families and individuals at or below 200% of the poverty level, for example, the threshold would be \$45,160 for a family of three. Those that qualify can receive up to \$5,000 reimbursement for uninsured recovery cost. MICA also provides disaster case management to help families develop a recovery plan, even if they do not qualify for Iowa

Individual Assistance funds. As of this meeting, MICA is assisting four (4) families or individuals who met income guidelines.

The City of Kelley requested assistance removing flood water from the west side of the city. The Emergency Management Coordinator worked with Iowa Homeland Security for the deployment of a 6” trash pump. Star Equipment in Ames assisted Kelley by providing additional lengths of hose needed to move the water. The Army Corps of Engineers responded and made suggestions on how to move the water from the community. Their recommendation of cutting a drainage path to move the water east of the city was not feasible. After the water was drained, it was found that blocked drainage tiles may have contributed to the flooding.

Morgan briefed the Commission on the use of the STAR 1 drone to capture images of inundation in Kelley. Drone imagery and LIDAR data may be useful for future planning efforts to mitigate the impact of potential flash flooding. The Army Corps of Engineers will also provide a report on options for future planning. In the future, use of GIS data for emergency planning, response, recovery and mitigation will likely grow. The Story County GIS Coordinator, Matt Boeck, has increased his office’s ability to map critical infrastructure. He encourages communities to work with him to map jurisdictional infrastructure and processes to integrate it into future response operations.

On June 26, Story County and Iowa Homeland Security (HSEMD) conducted a preliminary damage assessment of public infrastructure in the City of Ames, Story Conservation, Story County Secondary Roads and Iowa State University. It was clear Story County would meet the \$329,000 threshold required for activation of FEMA public assistance. On July 18, EMA staff, HSEMD and FEMA conducted an official joint damage assessment of the public infrastructure that confirmed Story County had met the threshold. Unfortunately, FEMA’s Individual assistance for homeowners will likely not be activated for this disaster. At a minimum, 500 homes have to be judged to have sustained major damage or be destroyed by FEMA’s damage assessment standards, for activation of the FEMA IA program.

Iowa Homeland Security launched a new public damage assessment reporting tool for individuals and the public. The public reporting application captures very basic damage data, allows the person to upload picture, and then geo-locates the report based upon the GPS in the phone or the entered address. Story County has a total of 32 public reports through the portal starting with the June 14 rain event. The program also has a GIS Collector app that guides trained damage assessment teams, using phone or tablet wireless signals, to conduct more detailed damage assessment. This information can then be cross loaded into Story County GIS databases to provide more rapid situational awareness.

EMA staff assisted the Polk County EMA in their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for a total of five days. During that time, multiple ways to potentially improve Story County response and recovery operations were identified. They were:

It is essential for communities to develop emergency operations plans (EOP) and procedures to ensure good coordination of decision making between unified commands and city

administration. Community emergency planning was highlighted as part of the Training Exercise and Planning Workshop (TEPW) conducted this year.

Good damage assessment processes are very important. Additionally, it's important for city staff to understand the difference between damage assessments and building inspections and to ensure the public understands these differences. Building inspection determines if the building can be reoccupied and damage assessment is the process to categorize damages for HSEMD and FEMA. Authorities or ordinances for the post disaster building inspection process and damage assessment should be part of the community EOP.

Debris management plans are critical when communities and the county have multiple vendors who may be picking up storm debris. Each community needs a well-defined plan as part of the community EOP that can be activated immediately after a disaster. Consideration also needs to be made for the timing of pick up with the timing of volunteers assisting those impacted. Some places in Polk County had quit picking up storm debris before volunteer could assist getting debris moved to the curb.

The coordination of volunteers and having a robust volunteer management program is key during disaster recovery. Communities EOPs should have processes to gather information on potential missions/needs that volunteers can fill, processes to set priorities for volunteers, and ways to notify residents when assistance will be coming. Long term need for volunteers beyond the first week of the disaster was an issue in Polk County. Communities should address immediate versus long term need for volunteers.

Observations from Polk County made it clear that the Story County EOC will need to have a Deputy Director to manage internal operations. The Deputy Director will be responsible for the EOC staff and internal operations while the EOC Director interfaces with outside agencies and jurisdictions. GIS support was essential to EOC operations, especially with damage assessment. Time spent in Polk County also reinforced the need for EOC staff training. Well trained staff will help operations to be rapidly established.

Quarterly Report

EMA staff have been very busy even without the disaster with higher level responses. Both Morgan and Spencer have been attending the FEMA Basic Academy in Des Moines for one week out of each of the last three months.

Morgan facilitated the first of three Continuity of Operations (COOP)/Continuity of Government (COG) training sessions for Story County. A prolonged power outage scenario was used to push Story County staff to apply the concepts of the COOP/COG to a realistic situation. The next training will be August 29 at 9AM. It is open to Commission members to come and observe.

EMA staff participated in training and exercises with foreign animal disease, cyber threats and missing persons with the Sheriff's Office.

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management conducted a grant audit. Story County received the highest rating possible and personnel conducting the audit complimented the Story County Auditor on their procurement procedures.

Morgan and Sanders presented at the annual Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) University of Okoboji conference on the relationship between the Board of Supervisors and Emergency Management. It was so well received they are presenting at the Iowa Association of Counties (ISAC) fall meeting to the Supervisor and EMA affiliates.

Other:

Sanders reported on a meeting with DuPont where they provided an update of current and future plans for the plant. There are three companies interested and they hope to have an agreement to sell the plant soon. DuPont has also been negotiating with farmers who have stover storage sites for the management and disposal of the stover bales.

Sanders provided an update to the 911 system update. The Sheriff has done a great job leading the team working on the 911 system update. The total cost for the radio update is approximately 9 million dollars. Ames, ISU and the BOS are working together on the funding for the project. There is a handshake agreement between Ames, ISU and the BOS to share the \$3.8 million dollar cost of the infrastructure. Motorola and Harris are the two top companies providing service in our area. It is still too early to tell final costs on radios and pagers. The current timeline is for the system to be built out in 2019. Jurisdictions are encouraged to budget for radio costs in FY 2020.

Sanders would like to have a discussion at the October meeting about the EMA Commission maintaining spare radios for distribution during emergencies where the impacted communities needs additional radios.

A RAGBRAI planning meeting was held on June 6. The meeting identified potential friction points as the ride crossed multiple jurisdictions, developed a common event timeline, and developed incident command system (ICS) forms for the incident action plan (IAP) that will be distributed on July 24th and 25th. Using ICS forms and principles for a large event has been good training for all involved as the same processes are used for actual disaster operations.

The October meeting will be preliminary budget discussions.

Next Meeting: October 17, 2018.

Adjournment: Motion by Henry, 2nd by Jensen to adjourn. MCU Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.