

Flood Planning Meeting
May 3, 2011

Those in attendance: Kyle DeMars – MDT, Rick Hagen – Columbia Falls Fire, Don Mills – Flathead Building & Maintenance, Chad Smith – Flathead Building & Maintenance, Jason Singleton – OES, Scott Sampey – OES, Jim Dupont – Commissioner, David Polansky – Eagle Transit, Craig Williams – Evergreen Fire, Ben Covington – Evergreen Fire, Mich Provo – 911, Lincoln Chute – OES, Ovila Byrd – Road & Bridge, Marc Pitman – DNRC, Ed Burlingame – NWMIMT/FSTS, Sherry Stevens – United Way, Mark Reasner – ARC of MT, Calvin Beringer – Sheriff’s Office, Donald Roe – Weeds/Parks, Hailey Meeker – Weeds/Parks, Gordie Jewett – Weeds/Parks, Jed Fisher – Weeds/Parks/Buildings, BJ Grieve – Planning, Bailey Minnich – Planning, Jim Atkinson – Agency on Aging, Bruce Gunderson – Mosquito Control, Jennifer Rankosky – Health Department, Wendee Jacobs – Health/Environmental, Cindy Mullaney - OES

Review Flood Potential Information – Cindy played a National Weather Service briefing on April 28th that discussed the potential for flooding in Flathead County. Cindy also distributed a flood projections document that provided information from the NWS briefing on April 14 and the 28th as well as the flood stage and flood impacts for each identified area.

Emergency Declaration – A declaration of emergency will be signed by the Commissioners at the point we begin utilizing manpower to respond to areas that are flooding as opposed to individual homes flooding. As needed, consideration will be given to a disaster declaration and levying of emergency mills.

Management Action Points –

Sandbags/Sand - The Commissioners have agreed that the County will provide sandbags and sand in those areas where flooding occurs. We will need to use judgment and flexibility as to when to provide these resources, but generally they will be made available just prior to the onset of flooding. We will not provide these resources in “just in case” scenarios.

Drop Locations for Sandbags/Sand – These will be identified when we know what areas are most likely to flood.

Call In Line – The United Way has a phone line that can be used to provide pre-recorded information with respect to flooding issues. This phone line will be activated at the point at which an emergency is declared.

Operational Issues

Evacuation Procedures – Evacuation protocols are in place. A meeting will be set up to ensure both fire and law enforcement are aware of the process.

Rescue Operations – Search & Rescue will be able to assist.

Water Operations – Search & Rescue will be able to assist.

Health Issues – Issues include food and water contamination, wells and septic. They are developing a brochure that addresses these issues. The brochures have been developed and are awaiting approval from Joe Russell. Jennifer Rankosky will coordinate with Joe to get approval. They will provide the brochure to OES for distribution.

Safety Issues – The Health Department will also provide information for responder safety related to working in flooded areas.

Damage Assessment – Cindy indicated a damage assessment annex has been drafted. The plan identifies a community damage assessment team as well as a damage assessment coordinator for each impacted agency/jurisdiction who will provide all information compiled to the EOC. There are 4 types of damage assessment: windshield surveys, initial damage assessment, preliminary damage assessment and detailed damage assessment. Copies of the forms were discussed. A meeting will be scheduled for ensure potentially impacted agencies/jurisdictions are aware of the process.

Resources

Aviation – DNRC, Sheriff's Office

Water – Sheriff's Office, Fish & Game, Search & Rescue, Parks & Rec/Planning and the Mosquito Control District has an amphibious-track vehicle

Long and Short Hall Equipment – Road & Bridge, Weed, Cities, Contractors

Other

Floodplain – Sandbagging is allowed in the floodplain. Putting in and compressing dirt is not. The Floodplain Administrator can grant emergency waivers for work done in the floodplain during emergencies. Please be sure waivers are requested prior to any work being done. Any homes that are damaged during flooding will need to comply with NFIP requirements. They need to obtain floodplain permits prior to beginning any work. They also have brochures on rebuilding and NFIP Compliance. They will provide brochures to Evergreen and to OES for distribution.

Agency on Aging – They have a vulnerable elderly list. Question as to how transportation for these individuals would be requested.

Mosquito Control – Please notify the Health Department when you come across standing pockets of water as they will need to take action.

Eagle Transit – They have buses to provide transportation. There will be a need to limit baggage to one bag per person. An additional consideration is providing transportation to area stores needed for items.

Health - They are working with IT on developing a database for people with functional needs.

Evergreen – They are identifying target populations (those with functional needs). They will be going door to door and would like to coordinate distribution of handouts.

Dispatch – When individuals call 911 related to flooding issues, they will page out the appropriate fire department and law enforcement.

NWMIMT – Need to determine legal stakeholders and command structure, Lincoln will work with Jason on maps, Brian Heino and Lincoln will run the rivers in the near future; Jordan and Lincoln will fly the rivers to check on debris, especially, logs; Ovilva and Lincoln will drive creeks east of town; recommendation for a checklist for chiefs be distributed at the Chief's Meeting next week on critical factors when responding to a flooded residence. Plans will need a list of critical infrastructure, at risk individuals and routes for conducting damage assessments.

Red Cross – It is difficult to identify potential shelters at this point in time due to the fact that the extent of flooding is not currently known.

United Way – Convergent volunteers will need to be registered and tracked. Responders need to know that if a volunteer doesn't have a badge they need to be sent to a site (to be determined) for registration.

Sheriff's Office – Need to make sure we have back up for the people who are answering phones; ensure that responders have plans in place for their homes and families.

Weed Dept. – They have Manpower, Boats, ATVs. The Equestrian Center at Herron Park is available for livestock and horses if needed.

Columbia Falls Fire – Utility companies need to be involved.

Building & Maintenance – They have manpower and vehicles

Mapping – BJ will discuss with County GIS as to whether they can provide real time mapping of flooded areas. Jason will send a pdf of the map showing historical flooding to the Planning Office as well as check with IT to see if we can get in on the webpage.