

## Teton County Flood Mitigation Planning Meeting-Minutes (March 7, 2018)

**Present:** Debra Coverdell, DES, EMS, Florence Anderson, DES; Jim Hodgskiss, County Commissioner; Joe Dellwo, County Commissioner; Rhea Brutosky, Road Department, Cathy Sessions, County Public Information Officer; Lacey Orcutt, Farm Service Agency, Phil Murphy, Benefis TMC, Amanda Copenhaver, Benefis T. M.C., Paul Wick, Planner; Cody Molden, NWS, Jason NWS, Camron DeBruycker, FSA; Arin Peters, NWS; Mark Korte, Weeds/GIS; Pete Rasmussen, JP; Keith VanSetten, Sheriff; Shelby Majors, USFS; Mike Maples, Public Works-Choteau, Jack Conatser, Choteau Mayor; Sherwin Smith, CVFD. TC R&R; Paula Jaconetty, Teton County C&R; Melissa Moyer, TC Public Health; Melody Martinsen, Acantha.

**Purpose of Meeting:** The #1 flood mitigation meeting is being held to continue planning efforts for the possibility of high water/flooding situation in Teton County.

**Resolution 2018-04 Emergency Declaration:** The Board of Commissioners passed Resolution 2018-04 on 1 March, 2018. This was passed as a result of the heavy snow storms that have occurred through the months of January and February. Teton County is expecting to need assistance in opening up county roads and with the excessive snow amounts Teton County anticipates flooding within the County. The declaration allows the county leeway in conducting business.

**Contact Information:** Material was reviewed and updated by meeting participants

**Incident Command** will be in place for flooding event should it occur.

**Meeting time frame/agenda for future meetings:** Future meetings will be held on a weekly basis at the Annex in Choteau beginning on Wednesday, March 14, at 10:00 a.m. Agenda will include weather, snowpack updates and updates from agencies involved in the situation. Meeting frequency will maintain flexible and be subject to change.

**Gauges** – Existing water gauges on the Teton River aren't operational at this time because of weather conditions. They will be monitored as weather changes.

**Sandbags-** The County has 8,500 sandbags in storage at the Choteau Fire Department. The County Road Department has adapted a sand truck that can be used for filling. DES has scoops that are kept in the former S.O.

**NOAA-Arin Peters,** presented a power point program on the current weather situation and projections for coming weeks and months. Slides of his presentation are attached.

**Paul Wick:** Flood Plain Manager discussed mapping. Local knowledge of past high-water events will be important to use again this year. He encouraged the use of the collector application for recording location of damage, photos of damage and comments.

**Cathy Sessions:** Stressed the importance of keeping the public informed of the weather and water situation in the County and the proactive planning that is underway by agencies in Teton County. Future news releases will include information on social media sites as well as in newspapers and at various sites in the Choteau area.

**Jim Hodgskiss:** Reported that members of the road department have been working throughout February and into March in efforts to keep the roads maintained. This includes working on holidays and week-ends. The county purchased a rotary snow plow that is currently being used in the Fairfield area.

**Lacey Orcutt/Cameron DeBruycker, USDA Farm Services:** Their agency provides assistance After a resolution is made and an emergency declared. They have specific funding for livestock feeding and indemnity programs.

**Jack Conatser/ Mike Maples, city of Choteau:** City personnel are continuing to plow and relocate snow. The City Crew is monitoring Spring Creek, and sewer drains. There is concern about ice jams on Spring Creek. Personnel are currently trying to open natural flow patterns and storm drains. The City personnel are familiar with using the collector app and Survey 1,2,3.

Arin Peters: Encouraged frequent reporting to the NOAA when storms hit.

**Documents-** The following documents were distributed.

Montana Water Supply Outlook Report, 3/1 2018---USDA NRCS (guide)

State of Montana Emergency and Disaster Fund Handbook for Applicants

Disaster Documentation Handbook—Anderson stressed the need for complete documentation. Reimbursement will be based on that documentation