

#2 Flood Mitigation Planning Meeting-Minutes (March 14, 2018)

Present: Florence Anderson, DES; Chuck Gameon, Choteau Supt. Of Schools, Lacey Orcutt, Farm Service Agency, Sherwin Smith, Teton Co. R&R, CVFD; Jack Conatser, Choteau Mayor, Brenda Johnson, Skyline Lodge; Jim Hodgskiss, County Commissioner; Joey Zahara, MT DES, Paula Jaconetty, Clerk and Recorder; Keith VanSetten, Sheriff; Phil Murphy; Benefis Teton Medical Center, Debra Coverdell, DES/EMS; Amanda Copenhaver, Benefis TMC; Rhea Brutosky, Teton County Road; Kyle Inabnit, Forest Service; Mike Leys, Farmers Ditch Co-op; Mark Korte, Teton County Weed/GIS, Cathy Sessions, PIO, Austin Moyer, Sanitarian; Melissa Moyer, Public Health; Jerry Stott, LDS.

Purpose of Meeting: The #2 flood mitigation planning is being held to continue planning efforts for the possibility of high water/flooding situation in Teton County.

Contact Information Sheets were updated.

Meetings: Wednesday, 10:00 a.m., Choteau Annex. The next meeting will be held on 3/21.

NOAA: Will have a flood outlook webinar on 3/15 at 2:00 pm. To register for the webinar:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/335374944800428034> call in 1-877-522-1538. Passcode -- 9553188#

Weather/Snowpack updates:

S N O W - P R E C I P I T A T I O N U P D A T E

Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites
As of WEDNESDAY: MARCH 14, 2018

BASIN Data Site Name	ELEV. (Ft)	SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT			TOTAL PRECIPITATION	
		Current	Median	Median %	Current	Average %

Avg

SUN, TETON AND MARIAS RIVER BASINS

Badger Pass	6900	-M	26.1	*	-M	28.5	*
Dupuyer Creek	5750	10.2	7.2	142	13.4	11.1	121
Mount Lockhart	6400	25.6	16.5	155	28.6	21.6	132
Pike Creek	5930	11.1	-M	*	36.2	26.0	139
Waldron	5600	14.5	9.5	153	21.5	14.2	151
Wood Creek	5960	13.3	8.0	166	19.5	13.0	150
Basin Index (%)				-----	154	-----	139

NWS Great Falls Email Notification: Winter Weather Potential, Thursday March 15 2018

Overview:

A large storm system currently located off the west coast will gradually move inland later this week, bringing a change to cooler and wetter conditions. The first in a series of weather disturbances rotating around the larger scale storm system is expected to track north through Southwest and North Central Montana Wednesday night through Thursday, bringing a period of widespread precipitation. A mixture of precipitation types (rain, snow, sleet, freezing rain) is possible at the onset late Wednesday night with a transition to all snow likely on Thursday. Significant accumulation of wet snow is possible Thursday, particularly across western portions of north-central MT. Multiple periods of wet snow are possible again late Friday through the weekend as additional disturbances associated with the storm system rotate through the region.

Impacts:

- Mixed rain, snow, freezing rain possible late Wednesday night leading to hazardous road conditions.
- Significant wet snow accumulation Thursday could weigh heavy on power lines and trees.

Cold/wet conditions could cause stress to newborn livestock.

Gauges-Manual, others-Paul Wick reported that the manual gauge at Pat Saylor's bridge is in place. The gauge on the South Fork of the Teton was turned on yesterday. The normal reading for today is 47 cfs. Today's reading is 50 cfs.

Public Information-Cathy Sessions/Melissa Moyer distributed the Teton County Flood Watch Public Notification Plan-Spring 2018 and a copy of the Teton County Flood Watch document that is being emailed and distributed to various locations in Choteau. The Choteau Chamber membership will be included in the contacts.

City of Choteau: Last week, Spring Creek was backed up due to ice jamming and blockage by downed trees. On Thursday, March 8, 2018 it left its channel and flooded the area west of the rodeo grounds and began flowing east of the Trap Club. The city obtained an emergency SPA 235 permit with 318 Authorization to remove two trees blocking the stream channel. City personnel assisted by Wayne Roth and Lyle Wiest removed the two trees. With the combination of de-icing due to warmer temperatures and the tree removal, the backed-up water receded, Spring Creek returned to its channel, and the creek is running about normal. City crews have dug and chipped free all existing drains located in the city and are trying to direct melt water to them. City crews have been trying to push the slush and ice off the roadways, as warming allows and have been moving slow to facilitate melt water runoff. Flows to the sewer plant are holding steady.

Sandbags—The sandbags which the County has on hand are for County property protection and are not for personal use. DES will contact Ace Hardware, True Value and Mountain View Co-Ops to see if they carry an inventory of sandbags. DES will check about availability/procedures to follow when obtaining bags through the Corps of Engineers and sandbag.com. Anderson will also contact Jane Wolery at Extension to see if their organization can provide training on how to use sandbags.

Additional Telephone Number-DES has contacted 3 Rivers Communication regarding installation of an additional phone line at the Annex. This number will be made public and it can be used by the general public needing information about the status of high water in Teton County. There will be a recording that is updated on an as needed basis or the individual can leave a message and their call will be returned.

County Commissioners: They have made road trips checking on road conditions and snow levels in Pendroy, Fairfield, and from the Belleview School-- south to Deep Creek.

Snow Pack. Jim Hodgskiss reported that there is 16" of water in the snow pack in the Sun River drainage and at Gibson Dam the outflows are equivalent to the inflows.

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