

Central Kansas Wetlands Sub-area Committee

Meeting Minutes For November 9, 2015

Lyons, Kansas

The Central Kansas Wetlands (CKW) Sub-Area (SA) Committee convened at 1 p.m. on November 9, 2015, at Rice County Emergency Service, at 1488 West US Highway 56, Lyons, Kansas (KS). On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Todd Campbell of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 convened the meeting, and Eric Deselich of Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech), a contractor for EPA Region 7, assisted Campbell and recorded the minutes. Telephone and video conference lines were established for the meeting, and four SAC members participated remotely by phone. A list of meeting participants is on page 4.

Deselich began by introducing himself and welcoming the group. After member self-introductions, Deselich and Campbell explained recent challenges to maintaining outreach to SAs, and indicated that these issues seemed to have been addressed. Consequently, the EPA looked forward to supporting the group's efforts and renewing partnerships with CKW SA member agencies.

Sub-Area Purpose, Objectives, and History. Deselich overviewed the origin and purposes of SAs in EPA Region 7. He explained that SA outreach activities and area plans are mandated by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). SAs in Region 7 are composed of counties, municipalities, and organizations surrounding a specific sensitive area/environment where cross-border coordination has been deemed critical for effective emergency response operations. Deselich also described the role and authorities of the Region 7 Regional Response Team (RRT) in SA activities. While the RRT serves as the umbrella organization over the SAs, the group is largely self-governing and has authority to make most decisions—including the makeup of its membership and projects initiated by the group. While the SA's primary focus involves oil and hazardous materials (hazmat) response readiness, Deselich indicated that exercises and training have taken on an all-hazards approach in recent years.

Deselich stated that the CKW Sub-Area Contingency Plan (SACP) last had been revised in 2010, and that Tetra Tech soon would begin an update of the plan. Deselich said the SACP and the larger regional contingency plan maintain legal significance as guidance documents that must be considered by regulated facilities and pipelines required to develop and submit emergency response plans.

Deselich then demonstrated a web-based geographic information systems (GIS) application that had been developed for the CKW SA several years ago. The group viewed various data layers and discussed needs to update information and migrate the map viewer to a new technology that would allow the application to run on smart mobile devices. Several committee members stated that it would be useful to have access to the planning data via mobile devices in the field. Deselich said that custom content (i.e., staging areas and access points in protected areas) developed for the old viewer would be moved to the new format.

Cheyenne Bottoms Overview. Karl Grover, Area Wildlife Manager for Cheyenne Bottoms, described the geography, purpose, and general operation of Cheyenne Bottoms. Grover provided handouts of the Cheyenne Bottoms Quarterly Newsletter, a Wildlife Area Factsheet, and a map of Barton County depicting wildlife areas throughout the county. He also provided information about the Federal Aid Wildlife Restoration Act that distributes cost reimbursement funds to the states based on the number of state hunting licenses sold. Grover said that this funding mechanism had been utilized by the State of Kansas to establish Cheyenne Bottoms in 1956, and is still used today to fund park operations.

Grover stated that most people do not realize that much of Cheyenne Bottoms would be dry land in two of every five years if managers did not have the means to divert water to certain areas. These diversions and gates, both open ditch and a new concrete pipeline, are used to replenish the wetlands with water, when needed. Grover indicated that this capability was important in the event of an oil/hazmat discharge when the system could be used to limit the extent of, and prevent contamination of, certain areas.

Grover said that no oil production occurs within the wildlife area, but that oil activity occurs north of Cheyenne Bottoms. He also reported that no railroad tracks are present on their grounds, and the closest tracks outside the wildlife area are used primarily to transport grain. When asked whether a worst-case spill scenario had been developed for the area, Grover replied that none had been developed due to the low probability of such an event. Amy Miller of Barton County Emergency Management stated that the most probable spill scenario would likely involve a spill from an over-the-road semi-truck.

OSC Randy Brown of EPA Region 7 asked about testing of wild fowl for avian influenza (AI). Grover stated that sampling had been ongoing for several years and that no issues had been reported. Grover and Mike Oldham, Refuge Manager at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), reported that Cheyenne Bottoms does not maintain a site-specific contingency plan, but U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Kansas Department of Agriculture maintain plans designed to address an AI outbreak in/near Cheyenne Bottoms or the Quivira NWR.

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Overview. Next, Oldham overviewed important aspects of the refuge and provided handouts describing the mission, purpose, and management challenges associated with refuge operations. Oldham highlighted the refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Plan approved in fall 2013 that will be in effect for the next 15 years (see https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/planning/ccp/ks/qvr/documents/qvr_final/qvr_ccpfinal_all.pdf).

Oldham went on to describe state- and federally-listed species found on Quivira NWR and the makeup of critical habitats within the refuge. He emphasized that several threatened and endangered species do not live at the refuge year-round. Most are there only during the migration period of their species. Oldham noted that some of the greatest challenges for Quivira NWR management are: (1) sustaining water resources in the Rattlesnake Creek watershed, (2) controlling invasive species, and (3) balancing multiple public uses with wildlife conservation objectives.

Oldham provided a map depicting oil and gas activities in the area, including nearby pipelines maintained by Jayhawk Oil and TransCanada. He discussed the fire zone program that has improved communications and emergency response capacity in the area. Quivira NWR has also established mutual aid agreements with multiple fire departments in Stafford, Reno, and Rice Counties. He stated that land-mobile communication issues have been encountered among local, state, and federal response agencies within the SA. The group discussed needs to develop a communications section/appendix within the SACP to identify systems, resources, and personnel available to the SA during an emergency response.

Cheney Reservoir Discussion. Dan Pugh, Sedgwick County Emergency Manager, led a discussion on the importance of Cheney Reservoir as a water source for the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County. Because the City of Wichita does not have an alternative drinking water source, and several neighboring smaller towns purchase drinking water from Wichita, an oil/hazmat discharge to the reservoir would create a critical situation for several jurisdictions. Pugh indicated his awareness of Sedgwick County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) members and environmental groups that would be interested in the SA's planning efforts. Based on the importance of Cheney Reservoir and need to coordinate with Sedgwick County agencies, the KCW SA Committee determined that Sedgwick County would be added to the SA. The group also decided that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation would be contacted to gauge its interest in attending future meetings of KCW SA because of the Bureau's management role at the reservoir.

Project Discussion. Deselich began by showing a list of past projects completed in other EPA SAs, and then opened the floor to identify potential projects that may be of interest to the group. Amy Brown, Barton County Emergency Manager, said she was planning a mass casualty/fatality exercise at the Great Bend Airport for next year. Dan Wells of Kansas Department of Health and Environment reminded the group that Jayhawk Pipeline conducts deployment exercises every couple years, and the SA inquired about the next event. Doug Brown, Stafford County Emergency Coordinator and Police Chief, indicated that a communications exercise among SA agencies would be beneficial. The group cited several communication assets that could be exercised, including the Public Information / Geographic Information Emergency Response Support Vehicle

(PI/GI) maintained by the Kansas Adjutant General's Department. Campbell said that involving the EPA's mobile command post in the exercise would be worthwhile. Todd Strain of Reno County Emergency Management supported the idea and said he could assist with development of a basic communications plan for the exercise and a frequency/channel list that could be added to the SACP. Deselich said he could assist Strain in starting the list. The group reached consensus that a communications exercise would be pursued and some work would be done before the next SA meeting, with additional exercise planning among the larger group at the next meeting.

Reports on Other Local Incidents. David McCauley of Quivira NWR reported on a brine (saltwater) spill at an oil battery that had occurred the previous winter. Brine was released on consecutive days at the Jayhawk-operated well, with an estimated 200 barrels of saltwater leaving containment during the second-day incident. A response trailer was deployed to address potential impacts on wildlife, and the product was successfully contained. McCauley explained that at the time, the ground was frozen and water was not flowing at Quivira NWR, limiting spread of the brine.

Upcoming Events. The following events were cited by SAC members attending the meeting:

- Inter-agency Workshop on Chemical Facility Inspection Programs – December 17, 2015 – Lenexa, Kansas

Note: For workshop details, go to <http://www.ttemidev.com/r7eo13650/workinggroup/>

Next Meeting. The next SAC meeting is scheduled for late February 2016 at Quivira NWR. Deselich will distribute an on-line poll to identify the most suitable date/time for the meeting. Several members expressed interest in a tour of the refuge before the meeting, weather permitting.

Follow-up Items. Follow-up items generated during the meeting are as follows:

| Meeting Follow-up Item | Lead SA Member |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Initiate update of the SACP, to include Sedgwick County; distribute draft plan to members for review by mid-December; incorporate requested revisions and re-distribute plan to members by mid-February; and finalize the plan at the next SA meeting scheduled for late February. | Kari Valentine |
| 2. Develop a list of shared radio systems and shared frequencies/channels in use in the SA; initiate efforts to validate the list among cooperating agencies; and add the list to the SACP after vetting process. | Deselich / Strain |
| 3. Migrate the CKW SA web map viewer to java script; concurrently update data layers within the application; add National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) layers; do not migrate layer describing private land leased for hunting near Cheyenne Bottoms; and notify the group when complete and gauge interest in webinars to train members in its use. | Deselich |
| 4. Contact Wells to obtain contact information regarding Jayhawk Pipelines LLC representative, and inquire about exercise activities. | Deselich / Wells |
| 5. Locate electronic files for detailed SA maps (dated October 18, 2012); review for accuracy; and distribute to members, if desired. | Deselich |
| 6. Provide Bureau of Reclamation contact information to Deselich. | Strain / Deselich |
| 7. Contact Chris Neeley to check availability of up-to-date GIS data regarding oil wells in the SA. | Deselich / Neeley |
| 8. Distribute an on-line poll to members to identify the most suitable date for the next meeting. | Deselich |

Meeting Attendee List

| Name | Organization | Phone | E-mail |
|-------------------|---|--------------|--|
| Brown, Doug | Stafford County EMA | 620-549-3765 | stafford_pd@sbcglobal.net |
| Brown, Randy | EPA Region 7 | 913-551-7978 | brown.randolph@epa.gov |
| Campbell, Todd | EPA Region 7 | 913-551-7115 | campbell.todd@epa.gov |
| Deselich, Eric | Tetra Tech, Inc. | 816-665-9088 | eric.deselich@tetrattech.com |
| Forbes, Kim * | Hutchinson Fire Department | 620-694-2870 | kimf@hutchgov.com |
| Graves, Davin | Stafford County EMA | 620-549-3765 | dgraves@gbta.net |
| Grover, Karl | KDWPT | 620-793-3066 | karl.grover@ksoutdoors.com |
| Hanen, Doug * | Hutchinson Fire Department | 620-694-2872 | dough@hutchgov.com |
| Klein, Greg | Rice County EMA | 620-257-7848 | gregk@ricecountyeams.com |
| Lanterman, Jeff * | KS Division of Water Resources | 620-234-5311 | jeff.lanterman@kda.ks.gov |
| McCauley, David | USFW – Quivira National Wildlife Refuge | 620-486-2393 | david_mccauley@fws.gov |
| Miller, Amy | Barton County EMA | 620-793-1919 | emergnt@bartoncounty.org |
| Neeley, Chris | KCC | 785-625-0556 | c.neeley@kcc.ks.gov |
| Oldham, Mike | USFW – Quivira National Wildlife Refuge | 620-486-2393 | mike_oldham@fws.gov |
| Pugh, Daniel | Sedgwick County EMA | 316-660-5959 | daniel.pugh@sedgwick.gov |
| Sloan, Ryan * | DOI | 303-445-2502 | ryan_sloan@ios.doi.gov |
| Strain, Todd | Reno County EMA | 620-694-2974 | todd.strain@renogov.org |
| Suleiman, Gibran | USFW – Ecological Services Field Office | 785-539-3474 | gibran_suleiman@fws.gov |
| Valentine, Kari | Tetra Tech, Inc. | 816-412-1756 | kari.valentine@tetrattech.com |
| Wells, Dan | KDHE | 785-625-5663 | dwells@kdhe.state.ks.us |

Notes:

- * Participated remotely by phone
- EMA Emergency Management Agency
- EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- DOI U.S. Department of Interior
- KCC Kansas Corporation Commission
- KDHE Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- KDWPT Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism
- USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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