

# Central Kansas Wetlands Subarea Committee Meeting

Hutchinson Community College, Fire Science Building

Hutchinson, Kansas – July 31, 2018

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The Central Kansas Wetlands (CKW) Subarea (SA) Committee convened at 1 p.m. on July 31, 2018 at Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson, Kansas (KS). On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Randy Brown 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 Brown and recorded the minutes. Telephone and video conference lines were established for the meeting, and three SAC members participated remotely by phone. A list of meeting participants is on page 3.

Brown began by introducing himself and welcoming the group. After self-introductions, Deselich reviewed the agenda and asked for correction to the last meeting's minutes. He also indicated that updates to some contact information in the CKW SA Contingency Plan were needed and the plan would be distributed to the group to review their respective agency's information.

**Exercise Discussion.** Deselich reported that several SA member agencies expressed continued support for a field data collection and land-mobile radio (LMR) communications (coms) exercise that had been discussed in May 2017 by the group. He explained that uncertainties in various agencies' work schedules prohibited exercise conduct in Fall 2018.

The following lists items discussed and tentative decisions made concerning the exercise:

- The exercise date was set for October 22, 2018.
- Exercise activities will be conducted within the boundaries of the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (QNWR) and avoid private lands.
- Both LMR radio coms and field data collection using various types of mobile devices will be tested.
- Just-in-training in the use of mobile apps and radio protocols will be provided the morning of the exercise.
- Exercise field activities will occur over five to six hours with lunch and refreshments provided on site.
- Participation of local agencies in Rice, Reno, and Stafford County is essential. Stafford County, not in attendance at the meeting, would be contacted to gauge their interest in the exercise.

**Note:** Deselich contacted Davin Graves of Stafford County Emergency Management who indicated that himself and three to five volunteers would participate.

- The exercise scenario would involve large-area assessment of simulated oil release in the QNWR resulting from a pipeline discharge to Rattlesnake Creek after a moderate flooding in the area.
- A representative of Jayhawk Pipeline LLC would be contacted to gauge their interest in exercise participation.

**Note:** Deselich contacted Bill Patton who indicated Jayhawk Pipeline would participate but the level of participation (e.g., scope of personnel/equipment deployment) will be determined in the coming weeks.

- At the start of the exercise, local coms assets (i.e., radio caches) will be deployed; however, state-level coms equipment may be requested and used later in the day. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) coms equipment will also be deployed with field teams, as available.
- Local agencies will develop a coms plan and USFWS will identify frequencies/channels to be used on their system.
- Verizon Wireless would be contacted to gauge their interest in exercise participation and/or provision of certain equipment.

**Note:** As of 1/09/2018, no progress had been made to contact the appropriate individuals at Verizon.

- Participation from remote locations (e.g., home agency offices) by some SA member agencies will be pursued to demonstrate near-real-time data sharing capabilities with off-site partner agencies.

- An exercise registration website may be established to track participation and provide basic information to potential participants.

**ESRI Collector Application (App) Overview.** Deselich presented information on various ESRI mapping and field data collection apps that have been deployed by EPA during real-world incidents involving extended assessment and response operations. Collector and a suite of integrated ESRI add-ins will allow responders in the field to collect oil spill data. Provided cell coverage is adequate, exercise participants will also have abilities to receive/accept mission assignments and track team locations in real time.

**Training Discussion.** Deselich had previously toured the fire training area of Hutchinson Community College and met with Fire Instructor Jason Holland. During the meeting, Deselich and Brown commented on the new facility as an ideal training venue. Todd Strain of Reno County Emergency, Brown, and Deselich then discussed potential training opportunities where EPA may partner with Reno County and Fire Science Program Managers to deliver hazardous materials and/or oil spill response courses in the future. Brown and Strain indicated that further discussions were needed to determine the type of training desired by local agencies and timetables for potential delivery. Deselich said that he would stay in contact with Strain and report any developments to Brown for consideration.

**Reports on Other Local Incidents.** Several tank battery fires had occurred in recent months, including a fire in Reno County that threatened a nearby structure. Chris Neeley of the Kansas Corporation Commission and Strain knew of no specific factor that would account for the spate of tank battery fires.

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

- Region 7 Regional Response Team Meeting – September 12-13, 2018 in Kansas City, MO

**Next Meeting.** The next SAC meeting and exercise planning session will convene at QNWR at a date to be determined.

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

Meeting Follow-up Item	Lead SA Member
1. Identify potential exercise participants within your agency and among partner agencies; and raise general awareness of the event.	All
2. Contact Stafford County and Jayhawk Pipelines LLC to garner exercise participation and possibly assistance in exercise planning. – DONE	Deselich
3. Contact Verizon to identify potential services and equipment available for exercise conduct.	Deselich
4. Establish an exercise registration website. – DONE	Deselich
5. Coordinate with the Kansas Office of Emergency Communications on possible deployment of the “PIG” Emergency Response Support Vehicle for the exercise.	Strain / Stewart
6. Identify local coms assets available for the exercise and develop a draft coms plan.	Strain / McCauley / Kline / Graves
7. Develop a draft exercise plan and distribute to the larger group as information becomes available.	Deselich

## Meeting Attendee List

Name	Organization	Phone	E-mail
Brown, Randy	EPA Region 7	913-551-7978	<a href="mailto:brown.randolph@epa.gov">brown.randolph@epa.gov</a>
Deselich, Eric	Tetra Tech, Inc.	816-665-9088	<a href="mailto:eric.deselich@tetrattech.com">eric.deselich@tetrattech.com</a>
Hoover, Courtney*	DOI	303-445-2503	<a href="mailto:courtney_hoover@ios.doi.gov">courtney_hoover@ios.doi.gov</a>
Klein, Greg	Rice County EM	620-257-5200	<a href="mailto:gregk@ricecountyeys.com">gregk@ricecountyeys.com</a>
McCauley, David	USFWS – Quivira National Wildlife Refuge	620-486-2393	<a href="mailto:david_mccauley@fws.gov">david_mccauley@fws.gov</a>
McCormick, Luke	Great Bend Fire Department	620-793-4140	<a href="mailto:gbfd430@greatbendks.net">gbfd430@greatbendks.net</a>
Miller, Amy	Barton County EM	620-793-1919	<a href="mailto:emermgnt@bartoncounty.org">emermgnt@bartoncounty.org</a>
Neeley, Chris	KCC	785-259-0180	<a href="mailto:c.neeley@kcc.ks.gov">c.neeley@kcc.ks.gov</a>
Sloan, Ryan*	DOI	303-445-2502	<a href="mailto:ryan_sloan@ios.doi.gov">ryan_sloan@ios.doi.gov</a>
Strain, Todd	Reno County EM	620-694-2975	<a href="mailto:todd.strain@renogov.org">todd.strain@renogov.org</a>
Suleiman, Gibran*	USFWS – Ecological Services Field Office	785-539-3474	<a href="mailto:gibran_suleiman@fws.gov">gibran_suleiman@fws.gov</a>

Notes:

\* Participated remotely by phone  
 EM Emergency Management  
 EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 DOI U.S. Department of Interior  
 KCC Kansas Corporation Commission  
 USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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