

July 25, 2007
First United Methodist Church
Great Bend, Ks

New persons attending:

Mike Lake United Church of Christ national
Dwight Young The Center Great Bend
Sister Malachy Stockemer Dominican Sisters Convent
Jerry Harfoot FEMA
Susie Calvert FEMA
Greg Klein Rice Co Emergency Management
Darla Hesse Red Cross, Wichita

Also

Cheri Baer, Andra Tracy, Betty Clark Keenan, Richard Heaton, Wayne Flanders, Gary Brooks, Vernon Maelzer, Amy Miller and Mary Lou Warren

The meeting was opened with a pray by Rev. Wayne Flanders. Cherri Baer led the discussion She announced that Church World Service would provide seed money. Flanders said that the United Methodist Church area Committee on Relief would also be able to provide some funds. Golden Belt Community Foundation also has funds, which have been donated locally. Others thought they might be able to access additional funds if needed. Some felt the need might be more for volunteers than for financial assistance. Cherri had thought there was a contractor in Pratt who might be able to assist with assessments, but he is too busy. He suggested Doug Clark of Parr Construction in Great Bend.

Greg Klein gave an update on damage in Rice County. Most of the flooding was along Cow Creek in the rural areas. Three houses were totaled and several homes plus a Christian Church camp receive damage. There are two older couples in Saxman who had damage, but choose not to relocate. FEMA had 51 persons in Rice County who registered for assistance. They reported a 61% eligibility rate for housing assistance. Thirty-one percent of the applicants are eligible for some type of assistance. Harfoot emphasized that in order to be eligible, applicants must fill out and return the SBA packet. SBA does the loan applications for individuals as well as for businesses. Applicants must be turned down for a loan, because they have no resources to repay a loan or have bad credit before they are eligible for a grant. Qualifying renters may receive some rent assistance if they have to move and help with personal property. The FEMA representatives said applicants are always free to make an appeal, but they have to have new information. Appeals may be made up to 60 days after the first inspection.

Dennis Flom with Salvation Army said they have a warehouse set up in Prat. He gave phone numbers for persons who need assistance for Phase I and another person in Pratt for Phase II.

Garry Dassow moved and it was seconded to accept the Mission Statement. To Strengthen the community wide disaster recovery coordination from spring/summer 2007

storms in Barton/Rice and Ellsworth counties by sharing information, assisting residents and jointly resolving cases with unmet needs.

Andra Tracy will type the by-laws that were presented.

Future meetings

August 1 at First United Methodist Church in Great Bend organization of committee

August 15 (tentative) workshop for helping agencies from 9-3 with lunch provided.

Training will be done by CWS, FEMA Kansas VOAD

Case workers are needed and will receive training. Richard Heaton volunteered.

We need to be thinking about fundraising and resources.