

VOAD Meeting
September 19, 2007
Community Access Center
Independence, Kansas 10:00 AM

County wide VOAD coordinator, Phil Adams called the meeting to order at 10:03 and asked Pastor Richard Peckman to offer an invocation. He then asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. He also distributed two tablets to the group. One list to sign an attendance record and the other to sign up for the Long Term Recovery Committee. Twenty four people attended.

He announced the address on the internet where minutes from the previous meeting could be found. Carrie Bacon has volunteered to be the new County VOAD coordinator because Phil Adams will be the chair of the Long Term Recovery Committee. Cathy Shepherd will be the new Independence VOAD Coordinator. The number to reach them both is 620-331-5115 at the Community Access Center. Jim Hendrix is the Coffeyville VOAD Coordinator and his number is 620-870-0660.

Proposed Long Term Recovery Bylaws: Phil distributed copies of the Long Term Recovery proposed bylaws to those who have signed up to serve on that committee and at the next meeting October 3rd at 10:00 in Coffeyville at the First United Methodist Church, those bylaws will be discussed and amendments will be offered before any vote is taken. In the meanwhile, there is another meeting of the LTRO Executive Committee scheduled for 10:00 September 26th at the First United Methodist Church in Independence. This meeting is only for the Executive Committee. Those five board members will try to develop a workable plan.

Phil spent some time to explain how the Regional Long Term Recovery Committee (Region Two) will work to meet the needs of flood victims who have not received adequate assistance from other sources. The Region Two Long Term Recovery Committee, comprised of six counties in southeast Kansas, will be composed of two members from each county who will make decisions about unmet needs of flood victims from the six counties after the resources of their local county have been exhausted. The FEMA Sequence of Assistance will be followed to avoid duplicating services. These determinations will be made by the case managers that will be trained to follow up on the assistance flood victims have received by working with them person to person. The reason for the need of a six county LTRO is that many larger charitable organizations will only donate funds to larger, well organized LTROs that are several counties wide.

Flood Zone A: Phil also urged all members of the group to continue to explain to flood victims that they cannot rebuild their homes and businesses if they are in flood plane A unless they elevate that building above the flood plane. Previous to the 1986 flood, that determination was not enforced but it is being enforced today. They will also need a building permit to get their utilities turned on. If they do build without the building permit, they will not be able to obtain flood insurance and there is a possibility their home will be demolished. They will need a Letter of Determination before any rebuilding

can be done. Those letters went out Saturday in this county. Most homes built in flood zone A are older homes. The new flood plane maps are currently being drawn because cities maps do not match the county map. It appears that at least in Coffeyville, the flood victim residents who are displaced are still in the area because at school enrollment, it was learned there are 50 more students enrolled than last year.

Flood Zone B: Those flood victims who are not required to carry flood insurance but who may if they wish, will be located in flood zone B. They will still need a building permit to rebuild. The building permit and regular inspections will allow them to get their utilities hooked up and turned on. Residents in both Coffeyville and Independence may be their own contractor and do their own work if the work can pass the inspections. Most independent volunteer agencies will not work on rental property however. John Collins announced that Umcorp will but will require a document from the homeowner that the rent will not be raised for a period of several years.

Case Manager Training: Larry Belmont announced that there would be region wide training for six county case managers on Monday, September 24th in Parsons from 9:00 until 5:00 at the Wesley United Methodist Church located at 500 Leawood Street. That is located ¼ mile north of the Brahms store in Parsons. Julie Pfl and Cheryl Brekke will be conducting the training.

Larry also announced that he would be leaving and Lacey McDaniel would be taking his place and would be involved for the long run. Cheryl Brekke will also be staying. The DRCs in both Coffeyville and Independence will be closed at the end of the business day on Saturday, October 6th.

Larry mentioned how impressed he was with the volunteerism in the county. The next VOAD meeting will be held in Coffeyville at the First United Methodist Church at 10:00 AM on October 3rd.

Margie Miller
VOAD secretary