Climate Change Task Force Meeting Minutes:
Wednesday, February 12th, 2020

1. Call to Order- Tina Osterberg called the meeting to order at 2:33pm

2. Welcome & Introductions

3. Monroe County Task Force Update-
    - Working with DNR on providing training for the county and towns to create a standard platform of inventorying crossings (culvert/bridge) information and to create a GIS layer to rank each site based on design failure, flood prone, etc. and ultimately to secure funding. Trainings dates and details should be established within the upcoming month.
    - Continuing to provide education through presentations to spread the word about the CCTF, Bob Micheel has been giving these presentations and getting the word out about Monroe County's efforts. Roxie and Bob will be attending Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission in April to present CCTF activities and objectives.
    - Roxie Anderson has submitted a pre-proposal grant application to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Resilient Communities Grants opportunity. The application is titled "Engaging Partnerships through the Monroe County Climate Change Task Force to Enhance Community Preparedness and Resilience by Establishing Real-Time Weather and Stream Monitoring Systems in Flood-Prone Watershed" and the funding request is for $200,000. The grant will require a 1:1 match which would hopefully be met with partnerships from state and federal partnerships.
    - Alison Elliot and Roxie Anderson are working on coordinating two grant applications for property acquisition and structure removal for voluntary buy-out properties in the Little La Crosse River Floodplain. A FEMA 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant application was submitted in late 2019 and was finalized earlier this year and a DNR Municipal Flood Control Grant will be submitted on March 16.

4. Spring Flood Outlook - John Wetenkamp (NWS) (608-784-8275 x493) –John provided a presentation on the Spring Flood Outlook for our area. Presentation has been posted on webpage. Highlights from presentation were:
    - The Kickapoo Watershed snowpack is nearly gone and there is a normal to minor threat of flooding because of the high level of ground saturation.
    - Snowmelt and levels of winter precipitation has been significantly less, decreasing chances of flooding. However the streamflow is above normal throughout Wisconsin.
    - 1-6" + of snow liquid is remaining in the northern portion of Wisconsin.
    - There is a 40% chance of above normal precipitation coming in March, however below normal temperatures. The National Weather Service updates their webpage with all the latest weather updates.
    - They did a study on the Rainfall Trend – "Recent Rainfall and River Trends over the Upper Mississippi River Valley" on the NWS YouTube Channel.

5. Implementation of Objective No. 1 – Monitoring devices (weather stations) and warning systems in real time.
    - Proposed Stations/Device for the Kickapoo River & La Crosse River Watersheds-
        - Recap the PowerPoint created by Roxie Anderson
        - Need to consider cellular service coverage when planning sensor deployment. Teaming up and forming partnerships with neighboring counties will cover more area for monitoring (Vernon, Crawford, and La Crosse). The Driftless Area as a whole should potentially team up. Multi-County resolution will gain more interest at the state-level and get more attention vs. one county.
        - Reviewed Iowa's Recommendations for the Kickapoo and Little La Crosse Watersheds. – Cashton is another potential hub for a weather/hydrologic station.

        - Plan to start with the local level plan and deploy commercial grade sensors (less cost) until the funding becomes available to Iowa Flood Center sensors and expand monitoring to a multi-county / regional / state-wide level.
    - Funding Update – Create a CCTF donation account through Kickapoo Valley Association (KVA) with is a Non-Profit.
        - Suggest letters from local (government) boards, committees, administrators sent to the Governor sometimes makes an impact with funding.
        - Roxie is putting together a 1-2 page proposal to approach other agencies to summarize project proposal for monitoring / flood warning system.
        - Monroe County Natural Resource & Extension Committee is forwarding a resolution to the County Board on 3/25/20 to establish a non-lapsing donation account. If approved Monroe County could accept donations to go into this fund. This will jump start the CCTF to be able to start implementing monitoring devices in key watersheds.
        - KVA, Driftless, and Hidden Valley or other non-profits could actively seek donations and then donate to the county. The county itself cannot ask for donations.
    - Schedule Watershed Meetings – Inform public and empower participation
        - Wilton – possibly hold meeting at the Legion and Leon Community Hall.
    - Implementation timeline-
        - The resolution for funding will be brought to the County Board on the 25th of March at 6pm, if approved the CCTF can move forward with putting donations in the fund and purchasing stations.
        - Need to update the board on what CCTF activities have been to date, public support received, and search for potential donations and other funding options.
        - Would like to implement stations within the next month or two – Need landowners/municipalities to adopt/manage stations.
    - Implementation Team – NWS, LCD Planner, LCD administrator, Designate - Watershed Point of Contact, determine other that could help with implementation.

6. Open discussion/questions –
    - Very important to keep talking about CCTF and recruit people/contacts you may have who could help the cause.
    - R. Luethe reported, Theisen Langer – working on an inventory of bridges and culverts in MC, they work with Survey 123 and a GPS for best resolution. Jeremy (Highway Dept.) is building an app and a GEO database that we could potentially use for this committee as well. July/Aug timeframe, this should be implemented, and it will help with his LIDAR data – hydro refinement.
        - Maybe inventory and build a workshop to go over all the culverts and bridges in the county but wait till the data is implemented before doing inventory and collecting data.
        - Planning for future culverts, and see what is already out there.

7. Future Topics and Meeting Dates
    - Topics:
        - Increase soil sustainability to mitigate intense rain events and manage flash flood events (beginning stages of flooding). Vernon County wants a specific person to do just this, design mechanisms to help with landscaping, sustainable land use processes and flooding. They are working on a Coon Valley/Coon Creek technician position to actively design and leverage funding.
        - Equipment Updates / County Board Resolution Results
    - Next Meeting Date: April 8th, 2020 at 2:30pm in the assembly room

8. Adjournment – Tina adjourned the meeting at 4:25pm

Monroe County Climate Change Task Force Meeting Date: 3/11/2020

Monroe County Climate Change Task Force Members

Name	Title	Agency
Bob Micheel	County Conservationist	Monroe County
Alison Elliott	Zoning Administrator	Monroe County
Roxie Anderson	Land Use Planner	Monroe County
David Ohnstad	Highway Commissioner	Monroe County
Jared Tessman	Emergency Management Coordinator	Monroe County
Wally Habhegger	County Supervisor, District 5	Monroe County
Al McCoy	County Supervisor, District 1	Monroe County
Dave Pierce	County Supervisor, District 2	Monroe County
Jim Schroeder	County Supervisor, District 15	Monroe County
Ron Luethe	Town Supervisor	Town of Ridgeville
Jack Herricks	Town Chair / MC Farm Bureau President	Town of Jefferson
Bill Halfman	Agricultural Agent	UW-Extension
John Noble	Fisheries Biologist	Fort McCoy
Tonya Townsell	Public Affairs Officer	Fort McCoy
Cindy Koperski	Program and Policy Analyst	WI Dept. of Natural Resources

RED = Absent

Additional Attendees

Name	Title	Agency
Mark Van Wormer	Public Works Director	City of Sparta
Gillian Pomplun	Reporter	Crawford City Independent
Marcy West	Executive Director	Kickapoo Valley Reserve
Abbey Nicewander	Planner	Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission
Joey Esterline	Resident	Monroe County
Mary Von Ruden	County Supervisor, District 7	Monroe County
Cedric Schnitzler	County Supervisor, District 4	Monroe County
John Wetenkamp	Hydrologist	National Weather Service
Ann Smith	Resident	Town of Wells
Tim Hundt	Representative	U.S. Representative Ron Kind
Mike Holland	Representative	U.S. Senator Ron Johnson
Gregg Wavrunek	Regional Representative	U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
Mary Henry	Board Supervisor	Vernon County
Ben Wojahn	County Conservationist	Vernon County
Robert Nigh	WI Farm Bureau Federation Board Director	WFBF Governor's State Task Force on Climate Change
Dan Baumann	Secretary's Director	WI Dept. of Natural Resources
David Vetrano	Sustainability Consultant	Wisconsin Green Fire
James Ebert	Resident	
Terry Hansen	Resident	