

MINUTES

DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY SPECIAL COMMITTEE

August 22-23, 2007
Room 313-S—Statehouse

Members Present

Representative Lee Tafanelli, Chairperson
Senator Ruth Teichman, Vice-Chairperson
Representative Louis Ruiz, Ranking Minority
Representative Dennis McKinney
Senator Janis Lee
Senator Roger Pine
Senator Derek Schmidt
Representative Richard Carlson
Representative John Faber

Staff Present

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Gordon Self, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jim Wilson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Judy Swanson, Committee Secretary

Conferees

Adrian Polansky, Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Bill Fuller, State Executive Director, United States Department of Agriculture
George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Animal Health Department
Steve Weatherford, President, Kansas Housing Resource Corporation
Leo Haynos, Chief of Natural Gas Operations, Kansas Corporation Commission
Dan Jacobsen, President, AT&T
Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office
Joan Wagon, Secretary, Kansas Department of Revenue
Michael Hayden, Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Glenn Deck, Executive Director, Kansas Public Employees Retirement System
Lori Maach, IA Branch Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Janet Lamb, Mitigation Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Chuck Banks, State Director, United States Department of Agriculture

Wally Kearns, State Director, Kansas Small Business Development Centers
Richard Good, Director of Distribution and Substation Construction, Westar
Edward McKechnie, Vice-President, Watco
Sharon Powell-Quincy, Former Divisional Disaster Services Director, American Red Cross
Dee Smith, Divisional Disaster Services Director, Salvation Army
Kevin Wynne, Communications Specialist, United States Small Business Administration

Others Attending

See attached list.

August 22 Morning Session

Chairman Tafanelli called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

A memo was presented from Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department, which provided an overview of all the legislation enacted in Kansas since 1951 that was a direct result of a natural disaster or that pertains to natural disasters ([Attachment 1](#)).

Following-up on a Committee request, a memorandum was received from Barbara Conant, Director of Public Affairs, Kansas Department on Aging, regarding the relocation of nursing facility residents in the event of a disaster ([Attachment 2](#)).

A letter from Governor Kathleen Sebelius was received requesting the Committee review current state housing policies and work in coordination with the special group focused on housing issues to make recommendations for comprehensive affordable housing legislation ([Attachment 3](#)).

Adrian Polansky, Secretary of Kansas Department of Agriculture, provided a PowerPoint presentation ([Attachment 4](#)). The Department is the lead coordinating agency for food safety and consumer protection programs following a disaster. He reviewed the Kansas agriculture infrastructure for in-state-produced agricultural commodities and the Kansas agricultural disaster declaration process. He focused on what the Department learned from the December 2007 winter storm. The connection and timing among different federal declarations was unclear to state and federal agencies during and immediately after the winter storm. Specific protocols for interagency notification and activation for severe weather events that directly impact agricultural areas of the state need to be further developed. In addition, it was pointed out that the Small Business Administration (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loans program does not include agricultural enterprises, but does include small nurseries, small agricultural cooperatives, and producer cooperatives. The Committee members expressed concern with this ineligibility for agriculture enterprises.

During the Southeast Kansas flooding, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) initially would not allow discarding of food by the Department of Agriculture; however, the Department, in cooperation with FEMA, did proceed in a reasonably speedy fashion to discard the food which was a health hazard. Discarding of the food eliminated the liability for store owners.

Secretary Polansky said the biggest challenge is to find the best way to collect information in a timely manner so response can be done in the best way possible.

During discussion, Senators Lee and Pine pointed out an inaccurate statement on page 19 of the presentation that "agricultural businesses in Kansas are tax exempt." Secretary Polansky said that the statement would be removed. Agriculture producers, in all three disasters, expressed frustration with the inability of programs to accept farming and ranching as a business, and the farmers and ranchers have access to aid programs.

Chairman Tafanelli said there must be integration between state and federal governments in getting information out to the agriculture community. Secretary Polansky said FEMA must understand USDA's role, and he wants to communicate with the federal government as to how agriculture can be better served in a disaster. The Committee report will include these concerns, and the resulting report will be provided to FEMA. Senator Schmidt said business assistance structure is almost non-existent at the federal level. Agriculture is not uniquely shortchanged; it is all business. There were several questions concerning what is included or excluded in rebuilding grants. Secretary Polansky will research and report his findings to the Committee.

Dam inspection was discussed, and Matt Scheer, Kansas Department of Agriculture, said approximately 450 out of 6,000 high-end dams have routine inspections. There is no funding to repair dams because of excess flooding. The Corp of Engineers does not get involved in providing resources for repair of levees. Under the USDA Emergency program, the NRCS program could potentially be used for repair; however, the program lacks proper funding.

Bill Fuller, State Executive Director, United States Department of Agriculture, and former state legislator, started his presentation with a compliment to the Committee members on the work being done with the Capitol. He reviewed USDA Kansas Farm Service Agency (FSA) disaster relief programs ([Attachment 5](#)). In Fiscal Year 2006, there was \$128,000 in emergency conservation payments, over \$89 million in new farm loans, and only \$34,000 distributed in emergency loans. To date in Fiscal Year 2007, 67 emergency loans have been approved for \$2,963,077. Between \$4 and \$5 million will be needed in 2007 for emergency conservation payments. The dilemma is that the federal disaster bill passed a few months ago is a three-billion-dollar package, with only \$16 million for emergency conservation payments nationwide. Over \$39 million has already been requested for that \$16 million allotment and at this time, funds for Southeast Kansas are not promising. Mr. Fuller feels the Kansas delegation is doing all they possibly can for Kansas, but the situation is grave. In 2007, every Kansas county is named a primary disaster county for at least one disaster designation. The federal Emergency Loan program requires a disaster declaration.

FSA of Kansas organized four Southeast Kansas disaster assistance meetings and had between 70 and 150 people in attendance. Another example of FSA assistance was the need for a burn pit after the Greenburg tornado, which required federal approval and which Mr. Fuller was able to secure. Chairman Tafanelli asked Mr. Fuller if he could possibly find a better way to integrate efforts among state, federal, emergency management, and victims so there would be one agency that could provide complete information. Fuller said Adrian Polansky has done a good job, and he hopes there will be a directory of everyone and what is available. Senator Pine requested Mr. Fuller get the word to Washington, D.C. that agriculture is a business.

George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department, introduced Debra Duncan, who reviewed the Department's emergency management activities ([Attachment 6](#)). The Department did not provide assistance during the January snowstorm. After the Greensburg

tornado, the Department helped coordinate disposal of dead animals and the establishment of the emergency small animal shelter. The Department provided one veterinarian, six field staff, and two office staff workers, full time, at the Greensburg emergency shelter for ten days. The cost (excluding salaries) was \$16,544. FEMA will reimburse for 100 percent, less 72 hours.

The Department, at the same time was required to issue an emergency order of seizure on the Pratt Shelter. Animals were transferred to other shelters. The Pratt expenses were \$80,498 (excluding salaries) and will be shared by FEMA. In Coffeyville, the Department condemned the city shelter and assisted with large animal disposal. Discussion was held on the breakdown of the costs.

There is not a Kansas Response Plan to deal with small companion animals. Mr. Teagarden said he thought this Committee could address that issue and make recommendations. Chairman Tafanelli asked Mr. Teagarden to also look at other committees requesting legislation in this area.

The Committee recessed the meeting until 1:30 p.m.

Afternoon Session

The Committee reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

Steve Weatherford, President, Kansas Housing Resource Corporation, began his testimony with a short film, "Planet Green, Eco-Town," about Greensburg, which was narrated by Greensburg City Manager Steve Hewitt.

Mr. Weatherford summarized the efforts of the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation in response to the housing needs of Greensburg, Kiowa County and Southeast Kansas residents displaced by the tornado and floods (Attachment 7). They joined forces with numerous local, state, and federal agencies in responding to these disasters. Less than a week after the tornado, they announced a multi-pronged, long-term strategy to help the community rebuild. Housing assistance programs involved tenant-based rental assistance, rental property development, new home construction, etc. They partnered with the Ford County Housing Authority to provide families impacted by the tornado with rental assistance for up to six months. A special allocation round was opened to accept applications from developers to build new affordable rental housing units in Greensburg. They hosted a special meeting for affordable housing developers in Greensburg, with over 15 developers in attendance.

They are accepting applications for KHRC's New Home Construction program. Also, families affected by the tornado wishing to buy existing homes may take advantage of down payment and closing cost assistance through KHRC's First Time Buyer Program.

Soon after the tornado, KHRC housing experts traveled to the region to help affected families find housing. Nearly 100 available housing units within a 100-mile radius of Greensburg were located for temporary housing. The rental properties included HUD Section 8 properties, federal low-income housing tax credit apartment complexes, and properties operated by community housing development organizations. KHRC drafted the "Greensburg Housing Resources Guide," which is attached to Mr. Weatherford's testimony. They partnered with FEMA to organize a three-day resource fair on energy efficient construction methods. (Fair agenda attached to testimony.) Public

Square meetings were utilized to help residents of Greensburg develop a long-term vision for the community. KHRC staff participated in green sector committee meetings and weekly conference calls to develop strategies to educate Kiowa County residents on benefits of rebuilding using energy efficient, sustainable technologies. The Public Square process included business, education, government, and health and human services. Senator Teichman said schools from all over Kansas donated money to Greensburg schools. Chairman Tafanelli suggested the Committee invite Greensburg to share their new community plan with this Committee. There are over 60 different projects within the community, including the design of the downtown, school, and hospital locations.

Mr. Weatherford said KHRC immediately identified available housing units in the region of the Southeast Kansas flood to help residents find temporary housing. The Southeast Kansas Housing Resource Guide is attached to his testimony.

In closing, Mr. Weatherford gave special thanks to his staff for their hard work and sacrifices during the disasters. Committee discussion followed. Housing was a problem before the disaster, and the disaster moved the problem to the crisis level. State funds when compared to federal housing funds are considered discretionary. The only program being made available in Kiowa County is the new construction program that is being funded with non-federal money. The KHRC is trying to utilize other resources available from the Department of Energy and Federal Home Loan Bank. He said there is no cap on home price for the down payment waiver to be used. Chairman Tafanelli suggested KHRC be listed in the long-term recovery plan, as it is not currently listed.

Leo Haynos, Chief of Gas Operations and Pipeline Safety for the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), discussed the role of KCC when planning for or responding to emergency situations (Attachment 8). He noted the KCC has very limited jurisdiction over municipally operated utilities and electric cooperatives, and no jurisdiction over propane, motor fuel supply, interstate transmission of energy, or telecommunications. Within the four operating divisions of KCC, their role in emergency management is mainly concerned with preparedness. Events over the past eight months demonstrate that response and recovery of the utility sector is a vital part of a disaster recovery effort, and that the approach to emergency response that the KCC has adopted works well. As a participant in ESF12 of the Kansas Response Plan, the KCC continues to work with public utilities to ensure they have developed and exercised their emergency response plans.

In response to Senator Lee's concern about an oil well being covered by water in the Cheyenne Bottoms area near Great Bend, Mr. Haynos said the KCC will check on it to see if it is contaminated.

Dan Jacobsen, President of AT&T, described the impact the tornado had on their telephone plan, the efforts that were made to provide emergency service, their plans to rebuild the Greensburg telecommunications infrastructure, and their approach to addressing customer service issues (Attachment 9). The company was fortunate that their central office building withstood the tornado, but most of the above-ground customer lines and inter-office cables were destroyed. AT&T staff received an automatic alert message indicating there were problems as soon as the storm hit. Only a few hours after the tornado, the company was contacted by Alltel and Sprint wireless, and was able to run lines to temporary antennas set up behind their office. In order to support customers and workers who did not have cell phones or access to their landlines, AT&T brought in a bank of public phones and configured them so that local and long distance calls over these phones would be free. The telephone infrastructure will be restored to the level it was before the storm.

Telephone customers are billed for monthly service, even if they cannot use their phones because their house is gone. Because billing does not stop if the customers do not use their service, AT&T is taking steps to address that situation. They have specially trained customer service representatives to assist these customers.

In Southeast Kansas, flood waters threatened four of AT&T's central offices. The small green boxes that are throughout neighborhoods are designed to resist water, such as rainfall and winds. They are not designed to be submerged in water, so many had to be replaced or refurbished.

In closing, Mr. Jacobsen complimented the employees of AT&T who assisted with recovery efforts. During discussion, he said Lucent manufactures much of their equipment. Their customer service calls are domestically routed. Several Committee members stated they were impressed with AT&T's performance during the disasters. Over \$1.5 million is the cost of the Greensburg disaster, and he estimates over one million dollars for Southeast Kansas. He said his biggest frustration was untrained customer service representatives early in the disaster period. They now have a dedicated Customer Service Representative for Greensburg who can be reached at 1-866-490-0499. The deployment of new technology in Greensburg will have to be based on economics, which makes it difficult to provide TV service. He stated he did not know how many customers will come back as they rebuild, but they are keeping the customers' phone numbers in reserve. He said they will look at the opportunity to access Universal Service Fund money.

Tracy Streeter, Director of the Kansas Water Office (KWO), testified the KWO provides a support role in disasters, most notably water marketing and assurance, water-conservation planning, drought monitoring, and lake level management (Attachment 10). As it pertains to recent disasters following the Greensburg tornado, the Office provided 670 man hours of technical assistance to help restore public water supply capabilities. The Southeast Kansas communities are also receiving technical assistance. The goal is to ensure a safe and reliable source of water. The KWO is charged with coordinating releases of water from federal reservoirs.

Joan Wagon, Secretary, Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR), updated the Committee on the progress implementing 2007 HB 2540, the Kiowa County Business Restoration Assistance Program (Attachment 11). To date, KDOR has pre-approved \$2.1 million in investment assistance for applications from 58 businesses proposing to invest an estimated \$21 million to rebuild in Greensburg/Kiowa County. The agency has pre-approved \$1.2 million for restoration assistance for projected jobs of 267 full-time, 66 part-time, and 17 seasonal. To date, 56 businesses have applied for and been awarded project exemption certificates (sales tax exemption) for rebuilding projects in Kiowa County with total estimated project costs of \$14.5 million.

Following the initial deadline of September 30, KDOR will review and pre-approve the applications received and send out letters to businesses stating the pre-approved assistance amounts. They have received two assistance applications to date, but expect to receive many more.

During discussion, Secretary Wagon said sales tax exemption cannot be used for housing. In regard to businesses rebuilding, she said in Kiowa County there are 56 applications from approximately 70 destroyed businesses. There were 85 businesses eligible in the Coffeyville and Independence area, but none have applied yet. She said the turn-around time to get funds to approved applicants is approximately one week. She said the biggest problems seem to be businesses were underinsured and the construction costs are high.

Mike Hayden, Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), discussed the Department's involvement in disaster relief and recovery (Attachment 12). The primary responsibility for KDWP during and following a disaster is in the area of law enforcement and rescue efforts. The agency can also assign personnel to assist in recovery efforts. The agency had two officers on the site of the Greensburg tornado within hours after the event. In addition, the Department provided 30 AMERICORP workers who assisted in clean-up efforts, and received permission from the federal program managers to convert unfilled AMERICORP positions to one-quarter-time positions that were filled with young residents of Greensburg, allowing them to receive a stipend and also clean up their own town. KDWP is concerned with the lack of coordinated communications during the first eight hours of the tornado event. Different radio bands and frequencies could not efficiently provide emergency services. The Secretary stated that everyone needs to be on an 800-megahertz system, but that is not cost effective.

In Southeast Kansas floods, KDWP responded to numerous requests by providing boats and personal watercraft. KDWP is a first responder to emergency events and a support agency, as required by state and local emergency plans. It is trained and committed to assisting the public in disaster events.

During discussion, Chairman Tafanelli requested staff get an update of 800-megahertz equipment from Kansas Department of Transportation. Secretary Hayden said there will be no federal reimbursement when it is on land owned by the federal government, but managed by KDWP. Outside of federal land they will get a reasonable reimbursement. AMERICORP employees are usually seasonal, work 999 hours or less, and do much of the state park maintenance.

Senator Teichman moved to amend the Committee meeting Minutes of July 13-14 to reflect Representative Ruiz as ranking minority member, and then approve the Minutes as amended. Representative Ruiz seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Being no further business the Committee recessed at 4:10 p.m. until August 23 at 9:00 a.m.

August 23 Morning Session

Chairman Tafanelli called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

Glenn Deck, Executive Director, Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS), testified on the effect on KPERS-eligible employees who transfer to grant funded positions and the impact on their benefits (Attachment 13). If a governmental entity has affiliated for KPERS coverage, then membership is mandatory for all employees in covered positions. A position is a "KPERS covered position" if (a) the position is not temporary or seasonal; (b) the position requires at least 1,000 hours of work per year for non-school positions; and (c) the position is covered by Social Security. The source of funding for a position does not impact whether a position is a KPERS-covered position. If an employee does not "transfer," but terminates employment with a KPERS-affiliated employer or takes an unpaid leave of absence from this employer to take a position with a non-affiliated employer funded by grant money, then the employee's membership with KPERS becomes inactive.

Mr. Deck agreed to provide Senator Teichman with a list of KPERS affiliates, and the Senator asked that it also be sent to Greensburg entities. When asked if he would be agreeable to a change in the statutes that would allow, in the cases of disasters, that KPERS benefits follow the employee rather than the government entity, he suggested using an inter-agency instead. The Revisor's Office will work with Mr. Deck on draft language to go with the inter-agency piece. He did not know if FEMA would pick up reimbursables on KPERS. The Committee requested he find out. Staff will check to see if there is a statute that covers agency loaning of employees in a disaster.

Lori Maach, IA Branch Director, FEMA, gave an overview of FEMA's part in the disasters. Out of 3,900 registrations, \$13.8 million in housing assistance has been given. They have the following available:

- Rental assistance;
- Repair and replacement funds (they cannot put a house back to pre-storm condition); and
- Alternative homes.

The insurance coverage on homes in the tornado was for less than repair costs. There was not much flood insurance in Southeast Kansas. Greensburg has a mobile home park. Housing has started in Southeast Kansas. She said under rental agreements, the funds will last up to 18 months or \$20,200. FEMA trailers are for 18 months, and then they can collect fair market amounts. If a person receives a maximum insurance payment of \$28,200, then FEMA does not supplement. If someone previously has been flooded and collected funds, they would have to have flood insurance to be covered again. Ms. Maach provided Committee members with a packet of FEMA information concerning the agency ([Attachment 14](#)).

Janet Lamb, Mitigation Officer for FEMA, and Ms. Maach answered questions and addressed concerns of the Committee:

- Flood zones are mapped out by FEMA, and the local flood plain manager has maps;
- Representative McKinney said this is NOT the way it is in the Greensburg area, and requested his frustrations be communicated with Washington, D.C.;
- No one in Greensburg can find when, how and by whom these maps were accepted (it appears no city or county officials approved these maps);
- FEMA will find the most recent maps for Kiowa County and provide them to Representative McKinney;
- Chairperson Tafanelli requested the flood plain chronology in Kiowa County and Greensburg, including signatures, be provided to the Committee;
- FEMA said it expanded the flood zone in Kiowa County recently, and it was requested to check on this and verify;
- FEMA uses a 1 percent chance of a flood occurring in a year as the guideline for its 100-year plan;

- FEMA is updating its flood plain maps, and this is being done out of the Kansas City FEMA office (the updating of these maps is not mandated, but only done on an “as needed” basis.);
- It takes a year for a community to have its flood maps updated;
- All assistance is available, with or without regard to whether they have purchased insurance, from FEMA if they are not in an identified flood plain;
- It benefits people to be in a flood plain because additional programs are available, plus they can get insurance coverage up to the cost of their losses and FEMA has restricted funds;
- Within 24-48 hours FEMA has rental assistance checks to victims;
- FEMA inspectors are out within 48 hours;
- FEMA will provide the Committee with the number of communities involved in the flood insurance program, and the number of insured;
- If there is sufficient money left after flood plain purchases, FEMA will buy out homes that are flooded and are not currently on the flood plain map;
- The accuracy of the Community Status Book Report, which is included in the attachment, was questioned by Committee members; and
- Chairman Tafanelli asked for complete definitions of the Summary in the report, which FEMA agreed to provide.

Chuck Banks, State Director, United States Department of Agriculture, said USDA Rural Development is the lead federal agency responsible for supporting community and economic development programming for rural America (Attachment 15). It covers: (1) rural infrastructure/utilities; (2) rural affordable housing; and (3) rural business development/financing. It has delivered over \$1 billion in agency program funding to Kansas over the past five years. He reviewed the agency’s key Greensburg-related actions and efforts. He said USDA Rural Development will continue to deliver federal programs within its scope of authority.

Committee discussion followed Mr. Banks' testimony. He said a specific plan will be done to get information out to individuals who have lost their homes. Mr. Banks said the agency had relied on the media for information early in the disaster, and he suggested it should be on the initial contact list. Under USDA supplemental funding, up to \$40 million could be used for housing programs.

Wally Kearns, State Director, Kansas Small Business Development Centers (KSBDC), said staffing the disaster recovery centers and responding to the needs of both home and business owners continue to be KSBDCs top priorities, and take precedence over counseling with current clients (Attachment 16). He summarized actions taken by KSBDC which included attending meetings, organizing a conference call, and providing Kansas Department of Commerce \$50,000 additional FY 2008 funding for the new Greensburg economic development position. Mr. Kearns

made a few recommendations, including developing a Kansas Business Ready Contracting program that pre-certifies vendors in a statewide database; developing an emergency bridge loan program for immediate use after a declared disaster; conducting a Disaster Relief and Recovery conference to discuss communications, command, and control among all Kansas public sector programs; and collaborating with other resources and conducting workshops.

Richard Good, Director of Distribution and Substation Construction, Westar, gave a PowerPoint presentation concerning Westar Energy's Disaster Planning ([Attachment 17](#)). He said electric utilities are exposed 365 days per year to tornadoes, ice storms, thunderstorms, and flooding. Advance planning is essential. Westar has a good solid plan for disasters and unfortunately, it has been well tested. The company uses a comprehensive storm manual which outlines responsibilities and maintains a list of essential customers (911 centers, police, fire, EMS, hospitals, life stations, municipal water sources), e-mail notification (all team members carry Blackberries), and conference calls. In a disaster, the company looks first to internal and local resources, then to contractors and Westar retirees. In addition, the company has access to personnel and resources from other utilities because Westar belongs to Midwest Mutual Aid Group, which is composed of 62 utility members from the Rockies to the Appalachians.

Westar collaborates and cooperates with KCC and local emergency management personnel. The State Legislature has removed roadblocks, and the hours-of-service legislation provided relief prior to congressional action. When asked if the Legislature could be of further assistance, Mr. Kearns said it also involves the federal government, but they would like to utilize National Guard equipment. Chairman Tafanelli suggested the Kansas congressional delegation may want to revisit this recalculation with the Department of Defense.

Ed McKechnie, Vice-President, Watco, gave the history of events as far as the railroad damage and service in southeastern Kansas ([Attachment 18](#)). He illustrated the damage with a slide show of the recent disasters. The South Kansas and Oklahoma Line suspended service to customers due to flood waters over the track in June; nearly 35 miles of track were underwater. Hazardous materials were of great concern during the flooding. The company has 2,000 employees in 23 states, so they were able to respond to the disaster. He said the company will be ready for fall harvest, and anticipates a good harvest. Post coordination of services seems to be a challenge. Accessing federal money in non-traditional ways is a problem. If everything goes well, full recovery could be made in two years. Railroads are available for FEMA sources, but they can get better terms from the Federal Railroad Commission.

Mr. McKechnie listed the repair plan, timeline, and cost in three phases.

- Make emergency repairs so track is in minimal operation (June 30-July 23, 2007) \$981,413;
- Make repairs to allow limited daily operations (July 23-October 15, 2007), \$1,817,240; and
- Complete all repairs and clean up (October 15, 2007-end of construction season 2008), \$1,764,864.

The railroad can be rebuilt by using existing federal, state, and railroad dollars over a period of seven years and because it would be rebuilt versus patched, it can be rebuilt better than it was.

He requested the Committee recommend to the Kansas Secretary of Transportation matching dollar for dollar in the form of a grant for reconstruction of railroads damaged by the flood.

The Committee recessed at noon for lunch.

August 23 Afternoon Session

Chairman Tafanelli reconvened the Committee at 1:38 p.m.

Sharon Powell-Quincy, former Divisional Disaster Services Director, American Red Cross, presented a slide presentation on the role of the American Red Cross in the three Kansas disasters ([Attachment 19](#)). During a disaster, the Red Cross provides initial sheltering, initiates fixed and mobile feeding, is present at government emergency operations centers, initiates disaster assessment, and tells the Red Cross story of response and need. It also provides basic need items, disaster mental health, and disaster physical health. Following a disaster, it provides an internal review of possible long-term needs of disaster victims, transition to the local Red Cross Chapter, and serves on long-term recovery committees. In the winter storm, it had ten shelters, served 1,337 meals, opened six food cases, and used 129 paid and volunteer staff. In Greensburg, it had 11 shelters, served 110,060 meals, opened 1,073 cases of food, had 1,956 health services contacts, had 1,616 mental health contacts, and used 821 paid and volunteer staff. In Southeast Kansas, it had nine shelters, served 89,442 meals, opened 1,42 cases of food, had 2,504 health services contacts, had 3,327 mental health contacts, and utilized 452 paid and volunteer staff. The Red Cross can procure names from hospitals, sometimes, because they have entered into a memorandum of understanding with certain hospitals to get victims' names from disasters. Chairman Tafanelli asked staff to get background information on how patient information can be given and how it applies to HIPPA. There is no case cap on the debit card amount they give victims, but there is an item cap. Some screening criteria is used for debit cards, such as drive-by of the disaster or picture ID. Red Cross never charges for its services.

Dee Smith, Divisional Disaster Services Director, Salvation Army, made a PowerPoint presentation on the Salvation Army ([Attachment 20](#)). She said volunteers are the backbone of their organization, and they offer material comfort, physical comfort, and spiritual comfort to victims. In Greensburg they had 109 volunteers for a total of 8,154 hours. Mobile feeding was provided throughout the town. Communication is a big part of a disaster recovery. She is advocating for the amateur radio folks to be involved. Donations management is a huge part of their services. Counselors, ministers, and crisis response teams are available during a disaster. They use vouchers, not debit cards, for victim assistance. Ms. Smith said that Ms. Powell-Quincy is President of Kansas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

During discussion, Ms. Smith said there was no actual coordination for people who showed up in Greensburg to volunteer. Getting information out to those who volunteer is a problem. The Salvation Army's goal is to have a volunteer coordinator. The Salvation Army programs are not just available to state and nationally-declared disasters. To assist in better integrating non-governmental organizations and voluntary organizations, education has to happen.

Kevin Wynne, Communications Specialist, United States Small Business Administration (SBA), distributed the SBA Disaster Recovery Media Guide and other disaster assistance information (Attachment 21). He said in Greensburg, there have been 3,552 applicants for loans and to date, 511 have been approved. Greensburg residents have applied for over \$41 million in loans, and Coffeyville residents have applied for \$19.5 million in loans. The fact that farming is not a business according to SBA is distressing to Committee members. Following the meeting, SBA provided a list of approved loans by county (Attachment 22).

Chairman Tafanelli announced the next Committee meeting will be September 6, and Committee members will visit the disaster area in Southeast Kansas, departing the Capitol at 8:00 a.m.

He announced that the Kansas City Chiefs' football team is honoring the Greensburg football team and cheerleaders at this evening's game.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Prepared by Judy Swanson, Committee Assistant
Edited by Kathie Sparks

Approved by Committee on:

September 24, 2007
(date)