

## Kalkaska County Hazard Mitigation – 4.26.22 Public Input Meeting via Zoom

### Notes

Attendee	Representation
John S. Rogers	Kalkaska County Road Commission Manager
Mike Cox	Kalkaska County Road Commission
Mike Thompson	Kalkaska County Emergency Management
Jodi Magee	Kalkaska Council on Aging
Aaron Popa	Village of Kalkaska – Manager/Chief of Police
Todd Jones	Garfield Twp. Supervisor
Bob Dixon	Bear Lake Twp. Trustee
Eric Hendricks	Orange Twp. Clerk
Dave Witek	Boardman Township Trustee
Stephanie Loria	Networks NW Community Planner
Jennifer Neal	Networks NW Community Planner

### Zoom Poll – Top Hazards of Concern

1. Thunderstorm/Wind
2. Extreme Winter Weather
3. Wildfire
4. Excessive Rainfall

### Group Discussions – Impacts on People, Economy, Natural Environment and Built Environment

#### Thunderstorms/ Wind Storms

- First responders to wind/tornado – EMS, police, fire, road commission – have the burden of rescues and damage cleanup
- Loss of power has a wider range of impact on people
- Property damage/debris cleanup impact is county wide
- More potential for huge population injury is a large outdoor event like the Trout Festival EM dept. has to think about evacuation plans, routes to move people, shelter locations.
- Road Commission – large volume rain events washout culverts. Not that culverts are undersized, but they are aging – get oxidated with rust, holes, weakened material. On both paved/unpaved roads. Washouts of gravel undermine the road bed. 2014 spring flooding resulted in \$250,000 in culvert replacement. Will provide me a list of repair costs. Turned in request for FEMA to fund cleanup of \$140,500 in washout/culvert repairs but was denied.
- Dutch John Rd. in Garfield Twp., near Manistee River closed for a week in early April 2022. Golden Road (in Orange Twp.?) and Tyler Roads (in which Twp.?) also recently failed.
- Always washout issues with spring runoff and rainfall on gravel roads that are hilly.
- August 2015 windstorm caused \$43,500 in cleanup costs – trees in road R.O.W. Cleanup done between 8/3/2015 and 8/20/2015
- Beaver dam activity also plugs up culverts
- Boardman Twp – road/culvert impacts fairly regularly with spring rains

## Winter Storms

- Emergency Management – concern with how to shelter people short-term. Want to utilize ARPA \$ to update/retrofit buildings for shelter use (need kitchen/dining area, bathrooms, generator, heat/AC, WiFi)
- Dave Witek – Boardman Twp. hall is not equipped to house people. It has 2 bathrooms but no showers, kitchen or generator).
- Winter weather slows down EMS/Fire/Police response times
- Using ARPA \$ to evaluate deficiencies in emergency shelter availability
- Extreme cold – not so much a risk for most people unless it's a long-term type of event, but definitely an issue when it occurs for the very poor who may live in houses without proper insulation/construction; their furnaces don't work and they heat their house with the oven. Pipes in their homes may also freeze.
- Freeze/thaw cycle wreaks havoc on roads, as well as heavy snow and ice.

## Extreme Heat/Drought

- Depending on the time of year, fire danger can be high. Can have a dry spring or fall, combined with high temps and/or winds. These times are when Fire Depts. get the most calls for wildfires.
- Lack of A/C in homes of elderly or those with disabilities
- Boardman Twp. Hall does have A/C, but facility is limited in size.
- Privately owned buildings like churches, event centers, warehouses, VFW halls might be good alternative cooling sites – possible partnership opportunity.
- Jodi – The COA has helped purchase fans for seniors in the past. We also promote our local senior center as a site for seniors or anyone to come hang out in during the day when it's very hot. We can still purchase fans too if needed.
- COA has 5 building they can use for seniors
  - Kalkaska (can use for heating/cooling center; getting one generator)
  - Bear Lake Twp Hall
  - Garfield Twp Hall
  - S. Boardman Senior Center
  - Clearwater Twp. (Rapid City)
- Kalkaska Memorial Assisted Living Facility by the Hospital – hospital has a generator
- No known issues with impacts to agriculture industry. People in the county often pride themselves on their independence, and get help from neighbors if in need.

## Vulnerable Populations – Group Discussion

- Aged population and extremely poor; those with physical limitations; also those very young under 2 years of age who do not have coping mechanisms to cold and heat
- Add lists of these people when they can to 911 dispatch but there are many more other people that do not want to share their information
- Remote populations – who live out in the woods, do not associate with public much in general. Don't know what their situation is. General resistance of these people to sharing their info. With the government. Resist outside government intervention.

- Get a lot of blight complaints and have a sheriff with them on blight inspection calls. Might be able to gather their information this way.
- Strategy is needed to conduct outreach efforts about available community assistance
  - COA has a newsletter sent out about who to contact about what;
  - Newsletter in Boardman Twp. sent out with tax bills, but this will not reach renters
  - Rarely have more than 1-2 people in attendance at Boardman Twp. meetings; little citizen interest in governmental participation
  - Also older population may have a general aversion to using computers
  - Postal mail is probably the best option to send information out.
  - Need to send out information to community members on shelter locations, too.
- County uses “Rave” for EM notification. Started it in 2020. It’s an opt-in system and hard to get people to opt in. EM will be having an informational meeting with CODE RED to see if that would be a better system to use.
- Federal, state, local, tribal and territorial [public safety officials](#) can send Non-Weather Emergency Messages (NWEMs) through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [Integrated Public Alert and Warning System \(IPAWS\)](#) to the National Weather Service (NWS) for broadcast over [NOAA Weather Radio \(NWR\) All Hazards](#) and other NWS dissemination systems.
- This capability was reintroduced in 2021 as a redesign of the previous enhanced NWEM dissemination functionality developed in 2006 as the All-Hazards Emergency Message Collection <https://www.weather.gov/NonWeatherAlerts/>

### **Invasive Species – Group Discussion**

- They stock many of their lakes with fish – aquatic invasive species could be a costly impact on their natural resources tourism industry. Waterways more of an issue in Boardman Twp. Want to keep and attract tourism to the lakes – a major sector in the county. Youngs Dam Pond is stocked with fish – costs a lot of money.
- Small lakes bring in big \$ in tourism
  - European Milfoil – can’t afford it to spread
- Spongy Moth – horrible last year; cyclical event. Ruins tourism, parks dirty from leaf litter/moths. Need to address the issue before it becomes a problem.
- CAKE – CISMA and EGLE – good resources to look at for public education on these issues. EGLE provided advice on what native plants should be present along the sides of the Boardman Dam. Mark at Soil Conservation District advised on what to use for shoring up the dam.
- Christmas trees – have some in the County. They are always susceptible to root diseases, fungus, etc.

### **Pandemic – Group Discussion**

- Overall, Boardman Twp. did not see a lot of impact to their regular government operations. Just switching to Zoom meetings. Volunteers in the Fire Dept. stayed on – participation stayed the same. No one is a full time employee with the Twp.
- Eric Hendricks – Orange Twp. – they continued to meet in person. Elections in 2020 had to use more caution with political divisiveness climate.
- Road Commission – loss of gas tax \$ to road commissions due to fewer people driving and buying gas.

- First responders – no impact/change in response times. Still retained volunteers/staff.
- Mostly a local economic impact to citizens with job losses, lack of childcare...
- Council on Aging – centers could not be open for a while. Difficult to keep up with changing policies – didn't know what to do so they did what they thought was best with their own guidelines. "Rules" were changing every day.
- Had good access to get the PPE they needed from the State, FEMA
- Learned that a pandemic CAN happen – not a distant possibility
- Hospital had their own PPE sources. Medical staff did a good job and did what they needed to do. Handled it as well as they could even as guidelines were constantly changing.
- People found a way to get things done and make the best out of the situation presented.
- EMS worked through the hospital for PPE supplies.
  - Have some staffing issues
  - Had a couple EMS in the county but it didn't affect response rates/volunteer force.

### **Dams**

- Youngs Dam in Boardman Twp. – 5 year inspection report revealed no structural issues but some maintenance needed – replace a pipe and shore up. Looking at using ARPA \$.
- Rugg Pond Dam Committee evaluating whether to fix or demolish it.

### **Wildfire**

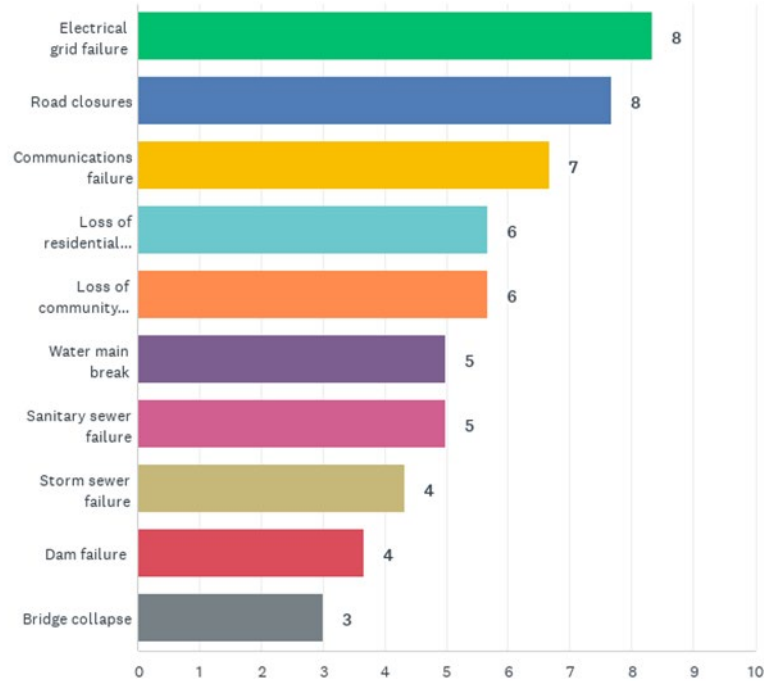
- Risk corresponds with MDNR fire risk map – southern areas of the county.
- Boardman Twp. is > 40% MDNR land.
- Twp. might have a brush truck from the 1980s.
- Few small fires in NW quadrant of the Twp. but usually nothing more than ½ an acre

### **Problematic Road Condition Locations**

- Clearwater Twp.: South side of Lake Skegemog, Holles Dr: lots of flooding near houses and yards
- Cold Springs Twp.: CR 571 between Starvation Lake Rd. and Twin Lake Rd. – Water was 18" on the centerline in 2021. Just got \$ to fix. New culverts to be installed underneath.
- Cold Springs/Blue Lake Twps: Twin Lake Road between the two Twin Lakes – had to close the road 2020-21. Road covered by water; groundwater table rose up.
- Cold Springs Twp: South side of Manistee Lake – Shore Rd. houses at lake level, yards flood, no drainage
- Bear Lake Twp: South shore of Bear Lake – combination of hill, houses, road and lake. Steep; erosion present here.
- Excelsior Twp: Grass Lake Road – area is all swamp and is one of the busiest connector roads in the county. Lost a few culverts.
- Excelsior Twp: Crawford Lake Road and Crawford Lake – hilly; houses in between road and lake get water in their yards

**Rank the infrastructure failures that would most concern you, with 1 being the most concerning and 9 being the least concerning.**

(3 surveys submitted)



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL	SCORE
Electrical grid failure	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3	8.33
Road closures	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3	7.67
Communications failure	0.00% 0	66.67% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	3	6.67
Loss of residential homes/businesses	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3	5.67
Loss of community facility (school, hospital, park, campground etc.)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	66.67% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3	5.67
Water main break	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	3	5.00
Sanitary sewer failure	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	3	5.00
Storm sewer failure	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	3	4.33
Dam failure	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	66.67% 2	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3	3.67
Bridge collapse	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	33.33% 1	3	3.00