

Tentative Agenda for Meeting Regarding Possible Flooding
Monday, March 22, 2010
Johnston City Hall
6221 Merle Hay Road
5:30 p.m.

Purpose: To provide information regarding what the city is doing to prepare for possible flooding, to establish the process to communicate the latest flood-related information and to provide resources for property owners to be prepared should flooding occur.

According to the National Weather Service the greatest flood danger is mid-March to mid-April due to the large amount of snow that will melt into the Des Moines River basin. It is also important to keep in mind that the flood of 1993 occurred in July and the flood of 2008 occurred in June.

1. Discuss ways to access the latest information regarding flooding
 - a. National weather service (www.weather.gov/desmoines) – Updated probability outlooks around the first of each month throughout the year
 - b. City of Johnston website (www.cityofjohnston.com)
 - c. Beaver Creek Hydrograph (www.crh.noaa.gov)
 - d. The Corps of Engineers is deviating from the authorized Saylorville Lake Regulation Plan (the federally mandated lake level is 836 feet above sea level)
 - e. National Weather Service is updating over 90 data and forecast points for rivers in the forecast area (Polk County)

2. Review city's efforts to prepare for possible flooding
 - a. Worked with Polk County Emergency Management and other metro communities to prepare a list of assets available if a community needs resources to address flooding (i.e. sand, sandbags, Hesco barriers, visqueen sheeting, four-wheel drive vehicles, etc.)
 - b. Participated in county—wide emergency management meeting held March 9th. Staff is prepared to participate in the Polk County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) if it is activated
 - c. Acquired and filled sand bags in the event they are needed. Sandbagged a couple of public facilities; meter pit by Lithia Motors and the Beaver Drive meter pit
 - d. Obtaining permission from the Iowa Department of Transportation to complete inspections and routine maintenance on the levy along Beaver Creek (removing trees from the levy, making sure the flap gates are operating properly)
 - e. Updating contact lists for city staff and key organizations
 - f. Working with property owners to assure that flood water is able to flow to the existing pipes that drain the area east of NW Beaver Drive
 - g. Preparing maps that outline diversion routes around areas that flood
 - h. Placing additional staff gauges along Beaver Creek to monitor the creek level
 - i. Using Geographic Information System (GIS) to better predict areas that are subject to flooding as the water level rises
 - j. Staff is in contact with agencies that monitor conditions that contribute to flooding on a daily basis

3. Review city's effort to communicate with property owners
 - a. Provide updated information on the web site, information will be updated at least daily during periods of high water. Paper copies of updates will also be available at city hall
 - b. Develop a contact list of businesses/citizens that desire updates on information regarding flooding. Updates will be provided as they are available. Lists are being prepared for property owners that are in flood prone areas as well as major employers so they can notify their employees of road closures, etc.
 - c. Send information over the 'Code Red' system as appropriate. It is important to enroll in the 'Code Red' system with your contact information, especially if you do not have a land line - (polkcountyiowa.gov/ Emergency Management)
 - d. The e-lert system is available if the city needs to provide information to a broader geographic area

4. What can businesses/homeowners do?
 - a. Monitor conditions, remain alert
 - b. Prepare flood kits – what you need to take if you are forced to evacuate due to a flood (i.e. critical financial information, medications, important documents)
 - c. Create an evacuation plan and/or an alternate place to conduct business
 - d. If roadways are affected, businesses should stagger work hours to reduce traffic congestion on streets that are open to traffic
 - e. If appropriate, purchase flood insurance – most government help consists of loans, whereas insurance pays for the actual damage
 - f. Prepare a plan on what to do with your pets
 - g. If you have buildings that sustain damage due to flooding there may be permit and inspections required. Contact the Johnston Building Department (727-7778) to determine what is required

5. Additional Information/Resources:
 - a. Related Websites (see attached)
 - b. The following streets have historically been prone to flooding which will affect transportation and the ability for vehicles to move about the community:
 - NW 62nd Avenue @ Beaver Creek
 - NW Beaver Drive, just north of Interstate 35/80 (possibly including Johnston Drive)
 - NW 66th Avenue at the Des Moines River
 - Merle Hay Road @ Beaver Creek
 - NW 86th Street, north of NW 70th Avenue
 - NW 70th at Beaver Creek

Helpful Web Links

City of Johnston

<http://www.cityofjohnston.com/>

River Stage/Weather Related Links

National Weather Service

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/?mystation=KDSM>

River Gauge located on NW 70th Street

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=dmx&gage=grmi4&view=1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1>

Informational Links

Be Ready - USA

<http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html>

Be Ready Iowa

<http://www.bereadyiowa.org>

<http://www.bereadyiowa.org/kit.html>

<http://www.bereadyiowa.org/plan.html>

Des Moines Red Cross

<http://www.desmoines-redcross.org/>

Red Cross Pet Evacuation

<http://www.redcross.org/portal/site/en/menuitem.d8aaecf214c576bf971e4cfe43181aa0/?vgnextoid=0879a06d7565b110VgnVCM10000089f0870aRCRD&vgnextfmt=default>

Polk County's CodeRed

Register your unpublished or alternate phone number in database

<http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/EmergencyManagement/>

<https://login.coderedweb.com/codereddataentry/Default.aspx?groupid=gnCVZ%2fxEjvrxCYJpYWbGHw%3d%3d>

National Flood Insurance Program

<http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>