



# MONROE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

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## **Climate Change Task Force**

**Friday, October 4th**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Monroe County Board Assembly Room**  
**(South Side/Oak Street Entrance)**  
**112 S. Court Street**  
**Sparta, WI 54656**

### **1. Call to Order/Introductions**

**CCTF Members Present:** *A. Elliot, C. Koperski, D. Pierce, W. Habegger, R. Anderson, T. Osterberg, B. Micheel, D. Pintarro, T. Townsell, J. Herricks, M. Luethe, B. Halfman*

**Absent:** *J. Noble, A. McCoy, J. Schroeder, D. Ohnstad*

**Others Present:** *J. Esterline, P. Mulvaney, L. Helgren, T. Welch*

### **2. Presentations: Monitoring Precipitation/Flooding**

National Weather Service – Todd Shea (Warning Coordination Meteorologist) & John Wetenkamp (River Hydrologist)

- Alert Areas – areas set up dense monitoring, sending real time info and systems will alert authorities once there is a certain level of rain. Normally they send readings daily, but during a warning real time readings are key.
- Flash Flooding can only be predicted about 3-6 hrs. out, they use radar data along with reports from their various partners to predict flash flooding.
- Use the crest max unit streamflow “flash data” to track and predict high flooding areas.
- They can see the weather patterns around a week out, but trying to dial in which exact areas will be hit is more challenging, but they are improving their processes, and they have a “mailing” list of people they send the information to, to put out to the citizens.
- USGS – gaging system: will include river levels, wind speed and precipitation. Ontario gauge moved. Fort McCoy has 4 Gauges. Cost of setup of these stations is \$11,000-\$12,000 for setup and maintenance, could potentially get a grant to fund these.
- The NWS monitors websites and monitors to make sure bad information/data isn't being put out to citizens as well. They will take in all info and summarize it before putting out to the public.

- United States Geological Survey – Zachary Scott (Hydrologic Technician)

Zachary canceled: Micheel provided information on existing gaging stations in Monroe County. One re-installed upstream from Ontario on the Kickapoo River and Fort McCoy has 3 or 4 their utilizing in the La Crosse River Watershed. Installation cost around \$12,000 along with maintenance & data processing cost estimated \$10-12,000.

- Monroe Co. Land Use Planner – Roxie Anderson – (Weather Underground)
  - Presented personal weather stations, for wind, rain or combo data. These devices are dependent on a Wi-Fi or a cellular connection. The higher quality ones will give you better readings and notice, and are solar powered versus the smaller ones presented today are battery operated.
    - The info will be can be viewed on a monitor & or uploaded online for other people to view your info and compare between areas. 250,000 people have registered their stations to Weather Underground weather. Shows all types of weather and you can see the stations data real time. The site also monitors these devices data, so if there is a problem they will take the monitor offline so it isn't feeding bad data.
    - Citizen Weather Observer Program – another option to check weather data online, or upload your own personal weather monitoring station data to.
    - These monitors are not really meant for extreme cold weather conditions, better for liquid vs snow. They said they should still work, as long as it's liquid.
    - Push this info out to the public so they know it is available and they can look at the sites themselves.

### 3. Implementing Monitoring Devices and Warning Systems – Type/Location/Cost

- Put map together for placing monitors in each basin, watershed would be ideal in our area. Isolate/Prioritize the highest basins, and the highest amount of affected people vs affected land.
  - *\*\*Homework on where to place monitors\*\* spring 2020 is goal for placement.*
- *Costs of the Davis monitors are around \$600-\$1300/each.*
- Watch Dog brand of the monitors may be another option, UW uses this brand for their measurement devices.
- Billings Creek (Cashton) is Ontario's priority, they are discussing involving the fire station with this project to help with costs, and maintaining/calibration.
- Weather stations virtually eliminate future costs, there is cost involved with implementation but then nothing following that.
- People would like to have citizens adopt these stations, have people volunteer to place stations to help eliminate costs for the county.
  - Have a group of people to maintain uniformity between types of stations, measurement dates and times, maybe have a "lead" person to keep this group up to speed.
  - Villages or towns could adopt these stations as well. (Wilton, Norwalk, Cashton)
  - *\*\*Homework on who would adopt, or who would be "weather watchers" to collect the info from these monitors.\*\* Maybe put out an announcement of some sort asking for volunteers in our mission to better collect weather data.*

- Plastic rain gauges are used the most commonly, \$30-\$50 and can measure very accurate (to the 100<sup>th</sup> of an inch). Todd Shae uses one of these. Then you can call in your information. Make sure to get the ones that can collect the higher levels of rain. These need to be brought in during the really cold days because they will break in the extreme cold.
- Need to have faster communication for extreme weather warnings, a lot of times people are affected before the warnings go out. Make sure not to overdue the notifications, people will opt out of notification system if they receive too much info.
- Discuss better ways of communicating weather, and a faster notification system.
  - Dispatch seems to be the quickest because they are 24/7.
  - Nixel system works well if we can get the people involved.
  - Develop signage for flooding areas, similar the fire hazard signs or something portable so you could move it around to gain the most attention.
- Group to look at: watersheds and costs to flush out ideas and create a plan.
  - ✓ Ron, Bob, Roxie, Jeremiah, John, Darlene, NWS – Todd Shae (send email out to remind about this additional meeting).

#### **4. Future Topics and Meeting Dates**

- Floodway codes and zoning that we have on the books today, discuss holes and weaknesses.
- **Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 9am at the Monroe County Board Assembly Room.**

#### **5. Adjournment – 11:05am**

PLEASE NOTE: A quorum of the Monroe County Board or other committees may be present at this meeting. No business of the County Board or other committees will be conducted at this meeting, only the business noted above.