



Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor

John P. Melville  
Chair

## **DPC Meeting Minutes**

**June 30, 2015**

Commissioner Melville: Provided the Introduction and Roll Call:

DOT, DOH, DCJS, DFS, NYSED, ESD, NYSERDA, AG & MKTS, NYSHCR, OGS, DOL, DEC, OMH, Parks, OCFS, OPWDD, NYSP, DPS, DOS, OFPC, PSC, DMNA, ITS, OVS, Thruway, MTA, PANYNJ, Red Cross.

Commissioner Melville: Recognized and thanked NYSP Superintendent D'Amico for recent prison escape captures.

Superintendent D'Amico: Commented that thankfully no one got hurt, and this was a multi-agency effort.

Commissioner Melville introduced and welcomed the Vice Chair, Major Patrick Murphy, DMNA and acknowledged some DHSES Executive Staff members: Director Wisely, (OEM), Mike Perrin Deputy Commissioner Finance, Andrew Feeney Deputy Commissioner, Corey McClain Logistics Stockpiles/SPTC, and Frank Hoare, General Counsel.

### Agenda / Presentations:

Ray O'Keefe Hurricane/Coastal Storm Forecast Presentation: Lead Meteorologist with the National Weather Service. A Hurricane is defined as 74 mph winds or higher. Categories and intensities are based on winds (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5). Three and up are considered major, with a category 5 causing total destruction. There is a 70% chance of hurricane activity this year. There have been 6-11 named tropical storms this year already. There is a 92% probability of el Niño (an abnormal warming of the eastern tropic pacific) continuing through the hurricane season, (based on projection models). Although el Niño has negative impacts on hurricane speed and development, variables and weather patterns are difficult to predict. In 1992 there were only seven named storms which indicates a below normal hurricane season, however, it was not necessarily safer.

Questions?

Q: How are the storms named and why?

A: The World Meteorological Organization gets together and they are fixed and rotate in 2021. Some are retired such as: Andrew and Irene.

Q: What will this winter be like?

A: el Niño is expected to continue in the winter. It is too early to tell, however, el Niño favors warmer winters.

Q: What about the Gulf and Atlantic coasts?

A: Predicting 0-2

Flood Mitigation NYS Canal System – Water Management Program /Howard Goebel, Canal Hydrologist: The 524 miles long canal system is now in its 192nd year of navigation. The flood

warning system is limited in decision making. For example most recently assessing evacuation areas and getting public notifications for flood damage in 2011. In the past, closing roads, sandbags, etc., were done by the locals. The National Weather Service started AHPS – Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service in 1997. There were limitations, it was only offered in certain locations therefore limited situational awareness.

Therefore, we must get precipitation right to forecast, then deal with the hydrologic model and hydraulics, which is the DHI MIKE 11 model. For data processing and visualization, we will use MIKE. We will also have a public website for flood warning system for water levels and comparison points. Key features are: webcams, database management, NWS forecastings, presenting information, basin wide models, GIS based interactive mapping, dynamic flood inundation mapping and system optimizing. The goal is to provide operators, emergency managers, and the public with accurate information. The cost is 8.5 million, FEMA funded through a hurricane Irene grant. The benefits are: accurate flood warning, improved operational guidance, and flood mitigation. Collaborations include NYS Mesonet, as well as many smaller entities statewide. Completion is hopeful by the end of the year 2015.

Questions?

Q: Are the Mesonet system and flood system connected?

A: We have 125 stations now instead of 37. Precipitation is based statewide, flood mitigation only on our system. It is all going into the NWS and integrated.

Q: Is this only for canals?

A: No the entire Mohawk basin. 14,000 square miles, 1/3 of the state, and it serves as a model.

Foam Task Force – Chief James Cable, Special Operations OFPC: Crude oil preparedness for hazardous materials. The Objective is: *A spill is a fire, a fire is a spill*. A spill is a fire waiting to be ignited. Per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order #125, foam equipment will be pre-positioned with partner agencies. The Foam Task Force's goal would be to put one trailer on scene in 2 hours or less with local FDs, county Hazmat teams, followed by FTF assets and OFPC response. Drills and exercises, training and equipment will be provided statewide. (Virginia video used as a demonstration).

Questions?

Q: Does Water quality matter?

A: No – except maybe NJ NY.

Q: What about off road capability?

A: We look at risk vs benefit. Ex: metropolitan areas. We provide the plan with agencies, railroads etc., to coordinate best responses. Follow the GRP model – (Geographic Response Plan) to assess resources and actions.

Q: What about areas in higher potential for exposure?

A: Remove the hazard, follow the GRP, Pre identify what needs to be evacuated.

Q: What about Rail car owner responsibility?

A: We want to be realistic and work together.

Avian Flu Update – Kelly Nilsson and Dr. David Smith: Avian Influenza virus is similar to that in humans. (Low path and High path, LPAI and HPAI). In Asia conditions are conducive to the development of these strains. CDC now states it is not high risk to human health. It is affecting the poultry industry, (egg laying hens and turkey). Wild water fowl are very resistant and can spread fast. Based on migratory patterns, we worry about north, south and east west movement. It infected a turkey flock in Minnesota in March and by mid-April it was bad. Currently 21 states are infected, severely in the upper mid-west.

Two hundred and ten commercial premises are infected. The USDA and Department of Agriculture are working to get it under control. The virus is an envelope virus, susceptible to environmental conditions, (heat, and summer).

With the onset of fall weather, there may start resurgence. A major challenge is that backyard farms are unregulated. There are live bird market regulations, 72 hour shipment testing, or as close to the time of transport as possible. We are also currently planning and exercising with DPC functional branch agencies and OEM.

Questions?

Q: Are you planning to do outreach?

A: Yes, we are messaging through veterinary community, newsletters, direct mailings, cooperative extension, website, industry conference calls, USDA.

Q: Can DOH add to our website?

A: Yes, and we are also exercising together, and we jointly message the public etc.

Q: What is the main symptom of an outbreak besides deceased birds?

A: Birds will start to lay fewer misshapen eggs, significant mortality, respiratory disease, head swelling, etc. Farmers are instructed to call and confirm. It is critical to detect early or they may lose birds and lose government reimbursement. NY does a lot of Avian surveillance. (Cornell laboratory).

Q: What about sharing with the food distribution system? (eggs)

A: Yes, we do provide communication and data sharing. Distributors would know. Stamping out – interrupts business, interrupts food supply.

Q: Worst case scenario?

A: It does not appear to affect humans. Thoroughly cook poultry and eggs and wash hands and surfaces that come in contact with raw poultry. Safe handling practices.

Commissioner Melville, Closing: Can the presentation be emailed to all of us? Yes and thank you to the presenters. I would also like to mention the Citizen Preparedness Training which is a great training in collaboration with our Agency and the Red Cross. Also, please note the EOC Operations Center, if it opens its open for good reason. It is all of our EOC. We need people from your agency who can make decisions. We will not open for no reason. Please look for the OGS, Memo from Jim Malatras regarding Agency Emergency Procurement Teams. Please provide a new list, of 3 or 4 people per agency for EOC training. Please read the DPC Annual Report now on the website. The next meeting will be November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 10:49am.