

**Lutheran Disaster Response Connection**  
**June 25<sup>th</sup> – June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

June 29, 2007

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Re: Progress report for the week of June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

This is my first official report for preceding events for the week. I plan on having one of these each week to keep you all informed of the progress Greensburg, Lutheran Disaster Response, and I have made.

The format will be simple. I will begin with Greensburg updates, then Lutheran Disaster Response and then a section on myself and needs or comments about the report. I hope this will be a good tool for communication. Please feel free to make any suggestions to improve this report or let me know if there is another entity that needs to be included.

Please never hesitate to e-mail or call me directly. I have a business phone number but for now and always if you cannot contact me at the business phone; feel free to call my personal cell phone. I will be available all hours of each day as I feel it is necessary at this stage of recovery.

**Greensburg Progress:**

Relevant information from SCKTRO Meeting on 6/26/07 –

- *Kansas All Hazards* will be available for mental health counseling.
- *Lighthouse* will have a room set up especially for children. There will be stress and peer training available. *Salvation Army* will lead this effort.
- *FEMA* holds a mental health contract and will be hiring local people properly trained to aid in mental health counseling.
- *Jack Schultz* will be leading a community focused counseling session on July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- *Americorps* will be leaving July 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a new volunteer committee in place possibly coordinated by local *Matt Deighton*.
- SCKTRO will be using the Lutheran Response Database.
- *Habitat for Humanity* has provided house plans. *Miller Home Builders* will be involved.
- All building permits set at \$35.00.
- Water and gas utilities are moving right along.

**Lutheran Disaster Response Connection**  
**June 25<sup>th</sup> – June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

- Need name for case work intakes.
- Funds needed to work cases will be issued through SCKTRO to avoid overlapping of payments to cases.
- *Mennonite* Disaster Services are donating \$1,000 toward the purchase of a safe room in new housing. Mennonite only.
- Greensburg still needs donations of both items and monetary.
- Questions were raised about unsolicited volunteers versus solicited affiliated volunteers and how to coordinate their efforts and legal waivers.
- Volunteers are needed at the warehouse in Pratt for *Salvation Army*. This is a place for victims to pick up anything they need for free.
- Charitable and free food services will completely cease next week. A new catering business is starting and food will cost. They offer discounts to volunteers.
- Hydration will continue to be available.
- There are heavy equipment needs as there are many lots that have not been cleared.

Relevant information from Greensburg *Council Meeting* on 6/26/07 –

- Senior and multi-family housing asked for support.
- Greensburg contracted *Kansas Electric Sunflower Co-op* for city electrical restoration. Time for finishing is undetermined.
- Moratorium has been extended another 14 days.

Relevant information from Greensburg *Planning Commission Meeting* on 6/27/07 –

- Surveys must be conducted for both residential and business before permit to rebuild begins.
- If there is an approved site plan on file for businesses then a permit will be issued, if not a professional site plan must be submitted for approval by the commission for a permit to rebuild.
- There are monuments being strategically placed throughout city to aid in surveys.
- Buyer beware notice will be placed in public places for awareness of making sure buyers have the title change correct and the description of the property. One instance had happened that left a new owner unable to build since he was not aware of the underground utilities on his newly purchased land.
- Anyone has a 14 day window in which to file a protest to any item passed by the Planning Commission but the proper channels must be followed. There is an official form at the City of Greensburg.
- Proposal was passed that *Temporary businesses* will no longer have to be approved by the Planning Commission (which takes 45 days) as they are

**Lutheran Disaster Response Connection**  
**June 25<sup>th</sup> – June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

now being treated as a *Special Event* case and will be passed case by case administratively to speed up process. This is not applicable for zoning or re-zoning.

Relevant information from *Greensburg Town Hall Meeting* on 6/28/07-

- This was a community gathering for residents to meet in groups and FEMA organized a useful tool for ideas. There was a subject in each group and each member of the group (residents) was asked to suggest one hope or dream in that category.
- This was inspirational and uplifting as there was a sense of unity and participation.
- I was on hand reaching to those for possible casework for the SCKTRO long term recovery effort. Good networking opportunity.

Relevant information from *FEMA Incidence Command Meeting* on 6/29/07 –

- Generators for hospital and Sherriff's office are being worked on.
- Sirens will be in place July 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Clean up of town is going well.
- 1,000 people expected at 4<sup>th</sup> of July event in Greensburg. Governor of Kansas will be attending. Starts 2:30pm.
- North landfill is closing July 15<sup>th</sup> and will only be accepting concrete thereafter. South is still operational.
- Gas lines will be in final stages of purging on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Relevant information from *Building Committee* on 6/29/07 –

- Price comparisons for building supplies came to table for Home Depot, Fisher Lumber and True Value in Manhattan, Kansas.
- Cox communications possibly offering free internet and phone connection in Greensburg for modules.
- Safe rooms were discussed to include in houses built as a standard safety measure.
- Wheelbarrows and other clean up items may be available through City of Greensburg after Americorp is finished.
- Insulated concrete foundation (ICF) blocks introduced as a good volunteer effort to install. Easy to install. Little more expensive but no insulation needed.
- Committee would like to see completion of rebuilding finished in 12 – 18 months.
- Suggestion for a clause to continue residence upon completion of home.
- Suggestion of a set number of plans for homes for residents to choose from.

**Lutheran Disaster Response Connection**  
**June 25<sup>th</sup> – June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

**Lutheran Disaster Response Progress:**

- *Orphan Grain Train* has two water tankers in place in Greensburg.
- *Vern Steinman* of Orphan Grain Train visited Greensburg June 27<sup>th</sup> and offered continued services for our relief effort.
- *Rev. Glenn Merritt* of LCMS World Relief visited Greensburg with continuing efforts for relief.
- *Dan Baker* of Laborers for Christ visited Greensburg offering services for the relief effort.
- *Pastor Tim Henning* of Peace and Our Savior Lutheran Church is assisting with relief efforts as well.
- *Roger Kruger* of Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska visited Greensburg offering support.
- *Dan Glamann* of ELCA Central States Synod visited Greensburg offering support.

**Comments by Julie Hillshafer:**

- I am a local Greensburg resident so I will not be leaving this community and I have a passion to see it grow through God's help.
- I feel Greensburg progress is speeding up and I will continue to attend all meetings.
- Meetings I will be attending on behalf of LDR:
  - FEMA Incident Command Meetings – Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
  - Greensburg Council Meeting – Mondays
  - SCKTRO Meeting – Tuesdays
  - Case Management Meeting – Tuesdays
  - Committee Meeting “Town Square” – Wednesdays
  - Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesdays
  - Town Hall Meeting – Thursdays
  - Volunteer Committee Meeting – Fridays
  - Building Committee Meeting – Fridays
- I have met with many members of the community, the committees and businesses in this effort and all is moving in a positive direction.
- There will be a need for volunteers starting July 9<sup>th</sup>. Main goals for this group will be to help clean up the remaining debris for new homes to be built. Please contact me for details.
- Heavy equipment volunteer needs for big clean ups are also a goal to have come and help at this time of July 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact me for details.
- I will need volunteers for the world renowned NOAH Vacation Bible School. This is a special session for children that are victims of a disaster. I will need volunteers for set up prior to August 6<sup>th</sup> and then August 6<sup>th</sup>

**Lutheran Disaster Response Connection**  
**June 25<sup>th</sup> – June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

through August 10<sup>th</sup>. The place for this event is still being decided as the hope was to have this event held in Greensburg. Volunteers must be able to attend coordination meetings approximately 2 weeks prior to August 6<sup>th</sup>. This will be a success with your help.

- I will be visiting local church groups and community gatherings asking for volunteers. Each volunteer will be required to fill out appropriate paperwork.
- I realize I have some giant shoes to feel but with God's help and the support of all of you, we will be successful.
- The presence of the Lutheran church will be strong from this time forward in Greensburg as well as in surrounding areas.
- Please never hesitate to make suggestions, comments, or if you have any questions, I will do my best to improve or help in any area.

*But those who wait on the LORD will find new strength. They will fly on wings like eagles. They will not run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint. Isaiah 40: 31*