

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Task Force to Study Maine's Homeland Security Needs  
From: Jane Orbeton, OPLA  
Date: September 15, 2006  
Re: Meeting Notes from September 13, 2006

Present were members: Chairs Strimling and Gerzofsky, Liebow, Tilson, Updegraph,, Hastings, Boothby-Ballanytne, Carr and Muttly. Also attending were staff: Leibowitz, MEMA, and Orbeton, OPLA.

1. The task force members met at 10:45am at York County Community College and went on a tour of areas of Wells affected by the Mother's Day flood. York Trolley Company provided transportation. Bob Bohlmann of York EMA provided information and commentary. The task force visited 1 bridge that has been temporarily reconstructed and is open, 2 bridges that area still closed and in need of replacement and 1 business, a bike and surf shop, that lost business due to the closure of Route 1 after the storm.
2. The task force members returned to YCCC for a picnic lunch and the afternoon session.

**Charles Jacobs, Interim Director of MEMA, and Steve Burgess, MEMA** addressed the task force and distributed handouts. They explained the rainfall handout and the timeline. The Route 1 bridge on the Ogunquit-Wells line was closed a week after the rain storm, as the damage from it did not mature and become apparent until then. The backup on the turnpike was 5 miles long in each direction. If this occurred in another situation it could have endangered transportation in and out of Wells and Ogunquit and the shipment of emergency supplies. Rain gauges are needed on streams and rivers for better information. The Seabrook evacuation plan needs to be refined. County EMA's would provide assistance to smaller communities in disaster situations. Roughly 6 county EMA's are well staffed, organized and coordinated.

**Jane Duncan, Wells Town Manager**, praised the State's response and communications with MEMA and DOT and emphasized the need to act quickly when the road situation became known. She mentioned the problem of unknown and overlapping jurisdictions, between towns and with the State and feds on roads. She mentioned that town personnel were spread thin. Wells has paid for the bridge repair and expects to be repaid in 1 to 3 years. The cost was about \$300,000. She praised private business for their work and contributions. She suggested that there be a way to certify private engineers to get them working with the towns quickly. Some people were lacking information. If the electricity had gone out the situation would have been much worse. The Chamber of Commerce got the word out to members about road closures. DOT informed turnpike users and trucking companies. Paperwork, jurisdiction and other delays in getting aid and rebuilding are frustrating. Simplify authority so that communities can respond. Improve road and bridge infrastructure.

**Police Chief Richard Connelly, Wells**, stated that communications with MEMA were smooth and efficient and that York County EMA was very helpful. Extra dispatchers and extra

personnel were used. Everyone worked hard and long hours. Concern regarding the law enforcement personnel needed to respond over a long time to a longer duration event.

**Fire Chief Daniel Moore, Wells**, stated that the Route 1 road closure required 4 roadblocks, calling for more staff than they had available. There was some confusion about the availability of the State Police and the National Guard. The County provided deputies (who were already doing extra patrols and surveillance) and the Guard provided personnel. He stated that 72-hour self-sufficiency should be expected to individuals and towns but this is difficult in situations of special needs and if the disaster covers a large area. Shutting down Route 1, and the turnpike, endanger the area's emergency operations and any evacuation. The flood showed the poor condition of some of the roads and bridges in the county. The Fire Dept. did a swift water rescue, provided assistance to persons with flooded yards and neighborhoods, provided sump pumps, secured propane tanks, provided water to some homes and distributed water tests. Perhaps all propane and gas tanks should be required to be attached to their buildings. Up to 200 homes were isolated, some for up to a week. They recommended evacuation for some people and provided information, going door to door. They did 10 evacuations. Shelters were open early, not used heavily. Some special needs people were housed in motels as the shelters would be difficult for them. Saco has a pet friendly shelter, which is a necessity. The county's roads and bridges need work. Develop an emergency funding process on the local level and develop a simplified process for change orders with FEMA or, better still, a contingency line.

**Gloria Layman, York County Commissioner**, testified that the county and she received many calls, that the emergency response was excellent, that responders were effective and kind, that staff and volunteers put in many hours of work. She said that they are still rebuilding roads. She said there were several gas tanks that got loose from businesses. Need for alerting communities as early as possible.

**Bob Bohlmann, York County EMA Director**, testified that all disasters start locally. He stated that 21 businesses in York were affected. There were excellent efforts locally from personnel and volunteers. MEMA responded quickly and effectively. Over 1000 wells were tested in 5 to 7 days, with test results confidential to the homeowner and MEMA, 14% of tests showed some contamination. Most people were able to correct their well problems promptly. The State Forest Service offered help. There is an aid agreement that enables counties to share personnel. DHHS drinking water program (DWP) and DEP provided effective assistance. They held a disaster town meeting, which was helpful and which he recommends. They used the FEMA mobile unit to reach out to the community and to rural areas. The Red Cross was ready immediately with clean up kits, temporary shelter, food and water. Long term recovery is lengthy and complex. Partnering with United Way and the faith community is necessary. He looks forward to the operation of the state Disaster Relief Fund to cover costs, after the Governor has declared a disaster, not covered by FEMA. York County EMA got 800 to 1000 calls daily. Media coverage was helpful, as was website posting and posting local notices. Volunteers are trained ahead of time, responsibility lies with their agencies. He used emergency channels for communication, not con-ops channels or satellite phones. York had 7000 sand bags and sent for 10,000 more when it was apparent more would be needed. York County has 80 shelters, of varying sizes. 16 shelters have generators. The major special needs shelter in Saco can accommodate 300 people. A coastal hurricane could require evacuation to Oxford County.

Concern regarding the need for training for smaller communities. The Coast Guard was in the office for daily briefings and provided a fly-over for DOT.

**Bill Bray, York Public Works Director, and York Police Chief Douglas Bracy (also York EMA Director)**, spoke of the city's response to the flood, in which there was 1 bridge collapse and 5 major road washouts. The cost will be about \$1million. Flood prevention, to prevent a 50-year event, would cost \$37million. An ocean storm surge would add substantially to the difficulty and cost. York provided bulky waste disposal (45 tons, \$18000) and hazardous waste disposal (\$20,000). York identified 120 locations with damage, probably many more unreported. Agency coordination included FEMA, MEMA, DOT, DEP, DHHS DWP, Governor's Office, York EMA, Maine Turnpike Authority, federal, state and local representatives, and other public works departments. Ideas: 1) develop a 1-page handout on hazardous waste and bulky waste, 2) maintain a list of trained solid waste contractors and volunteers to assist other municipalities with planning, 3) develop county EMA storage supply depot for barricades, signs and cones.

**John Carleton, FEMA**, spoke about FEMA's preparation process, monitoring the weather, preparing emergency response teams. This flood had disaster declarations in Maine, Mass and NH. Flood insurance may be required in certain situations (got SBA loan, got FEMA assistance already). FEMA is meeting regularly with state EMA's. Will provide firm numbers on assistance granted. Roughly \$5million (3/4 federal \$) provided in public infrastructure and debris removal and \$1million (3/4 federal \$) for individuals and households. SBA has provided \$4million.

3. The task force heard public testimony regarding homeland security and the flood.

**Kathy Wittenberg, Maine Citizens Against Handgun Violence**, testified against public access to 50-caliber rifles (cost \$2000) and displayed a picture and a bullet (cost \$2). She stated that individuals have access in Maine as state laws do not control sales.

**Don Ward, DHHS Division Director for Public Health Systems in Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention**, testified about the health risks from floods: injury, contaminated water, chemical exposure, bacteria and mold and interference with access to regular medicines for persons with chronic illnesses. Maine CDC expects to be more active in planning and response. There are no data on the health consequences of the Mother's Day flood. Maine CDC provided water test kits and did analyses, and tested mosquito pools for West Nile. No known incidence of disease resulting from the flood. Local health officers have a role, but not surveillance or epidemiology.

4. The task force discussed next meetings and the preparation of their report. The task force will meet after November 7 and before Thanksgiving to finalize its report and recommendations. Prior to the next meeting, members should send suggestions for recommendations to the chairs or to OPLA for distribution to the chairs. In particular the public health recommendations should be specific. Reports are expected from MEMA and Maine CDC by September 18, as required by the resolve establishing the task force. The chairs will send a letter to the Legislative Council asking for an extension of the reporting date to December. (OPLA draft letter). Meeting adjourned 7:30pm.

5. Submission from Department of Labor following the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting:

Marty Perlmutter's comments to the Homeland Security Task Force committee meeting on 9/13/06 at York County Community College:

"The Maine Department of Labor's Rapid Response program responded to this event based on a concern for any employees of businesses affected by the flood. Specifically, any employee who was temporarily or permanently dislocated by this event.

On Tuesday, May 16th, I called and/or sent emails to virtually all Town Managers and Chamber of Commerce offices in Southern York County. These emails outlined some services available through the Maine Department of Labor, including information about Unemployment Compensation, CareerCenter services, and health care options for dislocated workers.

As of Thursday, May 18th, I was not made aware of any job losses due to this event.

On Thursday, May 18th, I visited a variety of Chamber of Commerce offices (Wells, Ogunquit, & York), and spent a couple of hours in York Beach, meeting with available business owners.

No Chamber of Commerce representatives were aware of any job losses due to the event, but in meeting with York Beach business owners, I was made aware of one employee who would be temporarily dislocated. I left contact information for that employee.

Subsequently, no further job layoffs were reported to me in follow-up contacts.

Our CareerCenters in Saco and Springvale were also not aware of any individuals requesting services.

As a follow-up, I was present for the first day of the FEMA disaster center at YCCC. No one, on that day, approached our table to request Department of Labor information."



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CHARLES A. JACOBS  
ACTING DIRECTOR

September 12, 2006

TO: Homeland Security Task Force

FROM: Charles Jacobs, ~~Interim~~ Director, Maine Emergency Management Agency

SUBJECT: Material for TASK Force Hearing in Wells

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Attached please find material from MEMA for the hearing in Wells.

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# Heavy Precipitation Event May 2006, York County

Taken from National Weather Service Reports

A blocking pattern began to develop over the eastern United States early in the week of May 8, 2006. The block became fully developed by Friday, May 12. This blocking pattern in the upper atmosphere caused a persistent flow of moisture-laden air over portions of New England.

Rainfall amounts of 12 to 14 inches were common for the 72-hour period ending at 7:00 am, May 15. Eight-day precipitation totals for the period from 7:00 am May 9 through 7:00 am May 17 ranged from 15 to almost 17 inches in southern York County in Maine and coastal Rockingham County in New Hampshire.

The weather system had three separate parts:

**7:00 am May 9 through 7:00 am May 12:** The blocking feature developed. This first part of the storm helped to saturate the ground and raise river and stream levels.

**7:00 am May 12 through 7:00 am May 17:** Heaviest period of the rainfall, when the blocking pattern was fully developed.

**7:00 am May 17 to end:** The gradual break down of the block. Rainfall after this point prolonged the flooding in York and Rockingham counties.

Portland, Concord, and Portsmouth all broke monthly precipitation records for May. Portsmouth broke a record for any month as well, with 16.35 inches through the 17<sup>th</sup> of May. The previous wettest month ever was October 1996 when 15.20 inches fell; severe local flooding also occurred as a result of that system..

This appears to have been a 100-year event, which means that statistically, it would have a 1 in 100 probability of occurring in any given year.

## PRECIPITATION for the PERIOD May 9, 2006, 7:00 am to May 17, 2006, 7:00 am

**Maine:**

Andover	4.91	Norway	5.81	Barnstead	8.02
Bath	4.08	Poland	4.96	Bradford	8.92
Bethel	3.86	Portland (Deering)	7.71	Concord	8.93
Boothbay	4.32	Portland (Riverton)	6.88	Derry	7.09
Bridgton	4.48	Portland (Jetport)	7.04	Durham	12.68
Cape Neddick	15.96	Raymond	4.52	Epping	11.31
Durham	5.22	Saco	9.60	Exeter	10.95
East Hiram	5.78	Sanford	12.63	Hampton Falls	16.63
Eliot	14.10	South Berwick	12.46	New Durham	8.66
Gray	4.32	Turner	4.55	North Hampton	16.51
Hartford	4.59	Wells	13.97	Portsmouth	13.42
Hollis	9.83	West Buxton	8.30	Rochester	11.12
Kennebunkport	10.37	Westport Island	3.63	Salisbury	12.23
Lewiston	4.67			Tamworth	7.03
Limington	7.34	<b>New Hampshire:</b>		West Hampstead	10.95
Livermore Falls	3.02	Alexandria	10.01		
North Sebago	5.86				



# York Flooding – May 2006 – Response Phase Time Line

Friday, 5/12/06, 1543 Hours, NWS has issued flood watches for Southern NH. Nothing issued for Maine at this time.

Saturday, 5/13/06, 0854 Hours – Flood Watch in effect for York County

Saturday, 5/13/06, 1642 Hours – Flood Warning issued for York County

Saturday, 5/13/06, 1750 Hours – York County EOC Open

Sunday, 5/14/06, 0726 Hours – State EOC Open

Sunday, 5/14/06, 0900 Hours – Governor briefed at State EOC

Sunday, 5/14/06, 0927 Hours – Route 1 closed in Wells, Water over Turnpike north of York Toll. Reports of issues with several dams and sewer plants. Many reports of roads closed, washouts, and cellars flooded. Shelters open in York County

Sunday, 5/14/06, AM, Two MEMA staff including Dam Inspector dispatched to York County.

Sunday, 5/14/06, 1100 Hours – Conference Call – State and York Cty EOC's. DOT EOC opened in Scarborough. Barricades being provided. Need for temporary bridges being assessed.

Sunday 5/14/06, 1156 Hours, York Beach Square reported under water.

Sunday, 5/14/06, 1332 Hours, Milton Dam #3 on the Salmon Falls River overflowing. 50 homes below dam in Lebanon being evacuated. Shelter opened in Lebanon.

Sunday, 5/14/06, 1434 Hours – Governor declares a state of emergency in York County and surrounding areas.

Sunday, 5/14/06, 1500 Hours – Conference Call – State and York County EOC's, etal. Available state and county resources discussed. Two County Directors from unaffected areas sent to York County.

Sunday, 5/14/06, 1723 Hours, Shelters closed in Berwick and Ogunquit.

Sunday, 5/14/06, 1732 Hours, MEMA Dam Inspector reports on Milton Pond Dam #3.

Sunday, 5/14/06, 1800 Hours, Continued reports of washouts and houses impacted.

Sunday, 5/14/06, 1950 Hours, MEMA Dam Inspector reports on Spaulding Pond Dam.

Sunday, 5/14/06, 2032 Hours, MTA reports all lanes open on Turnpike.

Monday, 5/15/06, 0826 Hours, DOT transporting 10,000 sand bags to York County

Monday, 5/15/06, Lincoln County IMAT deploying 5 members to York County

Monday, 5/15/06, 0847 Hours, Shelters in Kennebunk and Sanford open pending evaluation of dams on Salmon Falls River.

Monday, 5/15/06, 0858, National Guard preparing to deploy 20 personnel to York County.

Monday, 5/15/06, 0918 Hours, Reports of damage from Kittery and Sanford Water districts.

Monday, 5/15/06, 0936 Hours, Agriculture reports dairy farms in York County OK.

Monday, 5/15/06, 1029 Hours, 3 bridges closed on Salmon Falls River.

Monday, 5/15/06, 1103 Hours, USCG reports creating safety zone around Cape Neddick Bridge.

Monday, 5/15/06, 1144 Hours – Maine Rural Water Assoc. assessing systems in York County and will report.

Monday, 5/15/06, 1239 Hours – NWS reports up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches expected in York County today.

Monday, 5/15/06, 1240 Hours, USCG will do over flight with MDOT on board of Salmon Falls River to assess damage.

Monday, 5/15/06, 1443 Hours – MEMA dam inspector reports situation at Spaulding Pond Dam is less critical but still serious.

Monday, 5/15/06, 1444 Hours – Wiggins Pond Dam reported in serious condition. MEMA inspector involved at Spaulding Dam, will ask DOT for engineering assistance

Monday 5/15/06, 1447 Hours, MTA is providing jersey barriers to Town of Wells.

Monday, 5/15/06, 1512 Hours – Small Business Admin. will meet tomorrow with FEMA. Red Cross working on special needs populations.

Monday, 5/15/06, 1657 Hours – MEMA dam inspector requested to respond to Goodwin's Mills Dam.

Monday, 5/15/06, 1828 Hours – National guard providing security at 3 bridges over Salmon Falls River.

Tuesday, 5/16/06, 1000 Hours – Governor has requested emergency declaration from the President. Preliminary Disaster Assessment requested from FEMA by MEMA Director.

Tuesday, 5/16/06, 1027 Hours – FEMA dispatches staff to York County EMA.

Tuesday, 5/16/06, 1030 hours – A bridge on Rt. #9 over Merriland River in Wells has pavement lifting. DOT will inspect.

Tuesday, 5/16/06, 1146 Hours – Maine Drinking Water Program instructed to coordinate water quality on private wells.

Tuesday, 5/16/06, 1225 Hours – Spaulding Dam debris removed. Top boards removed to expedite water flow.

5/16/06, 1459 Hours – USDA assessing crop damage countywide.

5/16/06, 1500 Hours – York County reports many homes impacted by flooding. American Red Cross has four teams doing preliminary damage assessments.

5/16/05, 1534 Hours – All evacuees from Lebanon returned home.

5/16/06, 1535 Hours – Water behind Milton and Spaulding Dams dropped significantly. All shelters are closed. As a precaution, DOT has 3 bridges closed.

5/16/06, 1746 Hours - Town of Wells requests two portable message signs from DOT. FEMA informed EOC preliminary damage assessment to start on May 19.

5/17/06, 0758 Hours – Traffic management request for the Town of Wells, National Guard troops being considered.

5/17/06, 0904 Hours – Reports of water behind Milton Dam down 24". York County staff, Red Cross staff and state staff performing damage assessments.

5/18/06, 1452 Hours – 200 water test kits being delivered to York County EMA.

5/19/06, 0915 Hours – Letter requesting Presidential Disaster Declaration signed by Governor and forwarded to FEMA Region 1.

**MAINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
AGENCY  
AFTER ACTION REVIEW  
YORK FLOODING - MAY 2006**

Summary - This was a major flooding event that impacted many roads and bridges and hundreds of homes. In our review we have found no major failures in how this event was managed. And the agencies and individuals involved in the response and recovery effort deserve our heartfelt thanks. However, the recovery continues, and there are still people who need assistance. FEMA, MEMA, York County EMA, and the volunteer agencies continue to work with these families. As discussed below, MEMA will have another tool to deal with these issues in 2007, the Disaster Assistance Fund. This Fund will assist in dealing with those cases that may fall through the cracks of existing programs. As we discuss this event, we must remember that even if there is only one family still without food, water or shelter, the disaster isn't over for them.

**What Went Well**

- A. Coordination between State EOC and York County EOC, especially the frequent conference calls.
- B. Sharing of resources from state and other counties to assist York County EMA. This included MEMA staff, Maine Forestry Service personnel, and staff from other counties. MEMA's dam inspector provided critical expertise to both Maine and NH officials. Note: This would be more difficult in a widespread event.
- C. York County EMA managed the event well on the ground.
- D. Coordination between Maine and NH on the Salmon Falls River. This was a complex situation involving bridges owned jointly by Maine and NH, and dams owned by NH and the private sector. York County's command van provided critical communications capability.
- E. Coordination between the Federal Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME). FAME provided bridge financing in cooperation with SBA.
- F. Non-governmental organizations (NGO's), United Way, Red Cross, 211 Maine, etc, were very effective and a critical part of the effort. The United Way coordinated the volunteer cleanup effort and is coordinating the Long Term Recovery Committee. The Red Cross opened and staffed

three shelters for 72 hours, one shelter being designated as "pet friendly." The Red Cross also coordinated with other local agencies to provide mobile feeding units and moved 500 cleanup kits into the region in 24 hours.

G. Responsiveness of FEMA throughout the event and during the recovery period, which continues.

H. Water test kits were made available to residents free of charge. Results were fast-tracked from labs to homeowners.

### **Issues To Be Addressed**

1. Lack of river gages in York and Cumberland Counties: Most of the gages in these two counties were removed for lack of funding in the late 1980's. With appropriate gages, NWS would be better able to predict flooding, DOT would be better able to size culverts, etc., and historical data would be available to support state requests for federal assistance. Response: US Geological Survey is now doing a FEMA funded flood study. MEMA will request funding from the Legislature for additional gages based on the USGS study.

2. Loss of transportation routes to the south: During this event Route 1 in Wells was closed; the Maine Turnpike came within inches of being closed and traffic on the Turnpike was backed up for miles; and several bridges between York County and NH were closed for safety reasons. Response: MEMA and York County EMA are working with local officials and NH emergency management staff to establish river basin management systems on the small rivers in York County. This will facilitate the sharing of information and the coordination of dam releases during a flooding event and thereby minimize the damage to critical transportation infrastructure. MEMA and York County EMA will also establish alternate routes should major arteries be closed in the future. It is important to understand that our vulnerability to severe weather events may be mitigated by these actions, but not eliminated.

3. This was a Presidentially declared disaster for both assistance to individuals (IA) and for assistance to local and state government (PA). In this case, the Federal government will pay 75% of the costs associated with damage to public infrastructure and certain other costs. With regard to individuals, FEMA will pay for housing assistance and repairs to homes within certain limits. The state is responsible for 25% of the cost of portions of this program. It is important to note that FEMA assistance is not designed to make people whole. For those who have needs, but do not qualify for FEMA assistance, a committee has been established to channel resources from charitable organizations. There remains a gap between needs and resources. Note: The Governor and Legislature have established a Disaster Assistance Fund which will be in place as of 7/1/07. MEMA will be writing rules to implement this program in the next few months.

4. Although the coordination between the volunteer community and the emergency management agencies worked well in York County, MEMA and the volunteer community need to review this issue statewide. EMA directors need to be able to make one phone call to activate the volunteer agencies and be confident they will be well coordinated.

Robert Bohlmann

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### COMMENTS REGARDING MAY FLOODING EVENT

In as much as Mr. Jacobs has covered the events of the early days of the May flooding event in sufficient detail that indicates the coordinated efforts of many agencies at Federal, State, County and Local. The outcome of these immediate and sustained efforts allowed for a rapid initial recovery to nearly normal community operations within one week of the event. This is a great credit to all agencies involved and to the citizens impacted. Notice I indicated nearly normal operations for communities, this is a critical statement. If your property was one of the nearly 1200 properties reported to FEMA as being damaged or impacted you were far from being returned to normal. I will devote my comments to the next critical period after a disaster the recovery period.

Recovery actually starts shortly after the first damage takes place; it is in concert with the continued response efforts. In this case recovery was underway by early in the week of May 15<sup>th</sup> in fact the Governor visited the York County emergency operations center late on Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup> and much of the discussion was how to commence the recovery effort. Within the next few days The Small Business Administration Maine office was on hand to plan for ways to offer services even before a FEMA declaration. A meeting was held for local businesses to learn what help was available now. FAME and SBA worked together with local bankers to make bridge loans available early on in the process. A major break for our business attempting to open for the short summer season. On May 25 the first Disaster Town Meeting was held in York with many relief agencies offering assistance prior to a declaration. In fact the announcement of the approved FEMA declaration for both individual assistance and public assistance was received during the town meeting. I highly recommend that the town meeting process be a key part of the recovery process in future events. Residents want to know what is being done and what can they do to recover. FEMA reacts rapidly but when you have damage to your home days seem like months. This process at least lets folks know that some help is available now.

Once the declaration was made FEMA reacted very quickly to set up a Disaster Recovery Center here at YCCC. In addition a mobile unit was made available and was used six days around the county to assist residents. This was an excellent concept bringing the recovery center to the residents locally. The response was quite heavy each day. A total of nearly 1200 individuals registered for FEMA assistance on the Individual Assistance side. The County provided a staff member at the DRC at all times to assist and insure residents received the assistance required. The American Red Cross was ever present to take care of immediate needs such as temporary shelter and clean up kits, food and water as required. This was a great asset.

The FEMA process went well, however FEMA under the Robert T. Stafford Act is not intended to make everyone whole it is intended to get individuals back to reasonable conditions. There are always cases of special need that arise in this type of an event, we are not exempt. Over the weeks since May our office in concert with MEMA have worked together to identify individuals with specific needs and to determine what resources might be available to resolve the issues. This is very time consuming and has to be handled in a confidential manner. It will tug at your heart strings regardless of how seasoned you are. We have had great success in most cases and the process is on going at this time.

We have been able to partner with United Way of Southern Maine as the lead agency and assemble a working group known as the York County Long Term Recovery Committee. Currently they are working on a list of about 30 individuals with specific needs. Many volunteer agencies such as faith based and service groups are involved and funding sources are being investigated. This group is charged with taking care of the unmet needs of our residents. This process is likely to continue for some time. I am very please that the agencies are so willing to come forward and offer assistance. This is part of the emergency management function that is often overlooked. We cannot stop recovery until every one of our residents has the basic needs of life. That is not considered in funding or staffing of agencies.

The last item I will comment on is the State Disaster Trust Fund that this Task Force was responsible for getting started to take effect next year. Let me commend your efforts and say that this is a major step forward in a recovery effort. For a moment let's step back to May 13<sup>th</sup> and change the damage level. If we had not sustained damage exceeding the FEMA required level, no Federal declaration would be issued. Let's say Wells sustained 500,000 in damages, who pays. FEMA is not involved, this where the State Disaster Trust Fund is critical. Now let's say even in this event we did not qualify for Individual Assistance who would help the hurting local residents. The State Disaster Trust Fund needs to be expanded and funded for the future. I can assure you that York County and the State of Maine will have a disaster that does not qualify for Federal Assistance but will greatly impact communities and residents. The Trust Fund is the answer

I will take any questions you may have regarding the County response to the May event. Thank you for the opportunity afforded me today.

Sept 13, 2006