



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Trustees
From: Dawn Baumhover
Community Center Coordinator
Date: 10/9/13
Re: Staff report

The past month has presented challenges for all mountain residents and the Community Center is no exception. The facility was activated as an emergency shelter in the early morning hours of September 12 and functioned as a shelter for 2 nights before officially closing at noon on Saturday, September 14. The intention of the Red Cross was to shelter displaced Jamestown and Fourmile Canyon residents; however, the conditions worsened rapidly and those folks were cut off, as we now know. The shelter did accommodate 15-17 folks, mostly those traveling and transient. Red Cross could not get supplies to us because of the scope and severity of the disaster. We were able to provide seven cots and used mats from the Fitness Place for folks to sleep on. Pillows and blankets were brought in by community members for use at the shelter.

Nederland Food Pantry generously opened their doors to provide food for those sheltering. Many thanks to Kim Culver, Donna Monacella and Julie Jondreau for their diligent work in the kitchen providing meals. Chris Current of the Food Pantry worked tirelessly to provide for those impacted and her efforts are tremendously appreciated.

Our situation was complicated when the power failed late on Thursday, September 12. The good news is that the built-in sump pumps in the first floor were almost holding their own with the influx of ground water, until the power failure. Once the power failed, ground water quickly flowed into the boiler room and the northeast areas of the lower level of the building (weight room, lobby, etc.). By daylight, the elevator shaft was full to floor level. We were fortunate to have the power restored

in time for the sump pumps to lower the water levels in the boiler room and save the boilers.

The Community Center does not have a full-building generator. A generator to run the sump pumps in such a situation would have averted the extensive flooding and man hours needed to deal with such a situation. After the storm, the Utilities Division purchased a mobile generator that will have with future power failures in the building, until a full-building generator may be specified and funded.

It should be noted that this is the fourth flood of significance in the past 5 ½ years. The damage is more extensive than in the past. The mitigation that has been done after previous flooding events was effectual. The Magnolia Schoolhouse did not flood, the West Wing stayed dry, and the Community Center did not take on significant water from Forest Road.

In spite of the impact to the lower level of the building, the activities and classes have been able to run as scheduled on the main (second) floor of the building. We were grateful to be able to host the community meeting on September 17. FEMA was quick to respond to the disaster and sent a team to assist those directly impacted by the flood on September 18. A Disaster Assistance Center was hosted on October 1, with Boulder County agencies, the Red Cross, Salvation Army and many other relief organizations on hand to serve impacted individuals. The Town has designated a room in the West Wing to house emergency supplies. There is currently a cache of water, meals ready-to-eat (MREs), batteries and other emergency and recovery supplies stored there.

As attention is turned to recovery and restoration, the current status of the building seems to change frequently. The gymnasium and cardio are currently open for use free of charge. The weight rooms will remain closed until the restoration is complete. Gilpin County Community Center has generously agreed to take our Fitness Place users at in-county rates until our facility fully reopens. Flood cutting, decontamination, mold and air testing has been done. More flood demolition will be required. The mold and air quality report revealed that flood damaged areas will need further remediation but there has been no cross contamination to other areas of the building. Scope of work has been put out and bids are being solicited.

The Intermountain Alliance (IMA) functioned as it was designed to do. Members were able to communicate through our Google group and within their own communities. It was reassuring to have real-time information when the media was misinformed. The Mountain Emergency Radio Network (MERN) of ham operators is credited with saving lives in the Raymond/Riverside community. The relationship

forged with the Boulder County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) over the past two plus years was very beneficial. Resources were shared and directed to the hardest hit areas and the moral support offered among the group (which includes Lyons and Jamestown) was invaluable.

On a lighter note, the Colorado Bead Retreat was successfully held September 27-29. This national event had been a year in the planning. Students from all over the country attended, lodged, shopped and ate in town.

Thanks

I would like to note my appreciation and special thanks to some folks. Mayor Joe, Randy Lee, Annette Croughwell, Alisha Reis, Dennis Whalen, Ned Fire, Ned PD, and Public Works for their presence and continual support throughout the crisis and beyond. Thanks to New Moon for bringing us coffee and goodies unsolicited, as well as Wild Mountain for providing lunch to the shelter. Many community members volunteered their time and services, giving staff a needed break. As always, B&F and Ace Hardware were there for us. Thanks to Eva Forberger for her ongoing efforts in managing the insurance while I deal with daily developments within the facility.