KAMM Growing Up: 501 (c)(6) and Insurance

KAMM is coming up on its 6th year of existence. Over that six year life span KAMM has grown in leaps and bounds. Our growth has been tremendous. When our 25 founding members first met we knew this type of organization was needed in the State of Kentucky. Now, at over 100 members strong, we have proof that we are our own mitigation success story.

Of course with growth comes new responsibilities and new organizational needs. One of the current boards first tasks was to complete the application process started by our previous board in becoming a tax exempt organization.

As KAMM Chair, I am happy to say that KAMM received 501 (c)(6) tax-exempt status on January 26, 2010. Many thanks go out to our boards hard work and our accountant (Rebecca Frazier) for making this happen.

Another area of concern that this board had was the issue of liability. Given the various conferences, trainings and meetings that KAMM members attend the board felt it was time to research the idea of procuring liability insurance.

Again, I am happy to announce that on November 2, 2009 KAMM was granted Commercial General Liability Insurance Coverage. Many thanks to Board members, Shawn Moore and Louie Greenwell, for putting this together and to our insurance agent, Greg Souder.

These accomplishments are a sign of KAMM growing into a larger organization. Over the next year I hope to continue to promote KAMM’s growth and provide the leadership to take KAMM to greater mitigation success heights.

More Definition: Updating the BYLAWS

One of my first tasks I took on was defining and updating the Bylaws. As a founding member and member of the KAMM board since its inauguration it was brought to my attention that several board members had some questions about their duties.

So during my first board meeting I decided to review the Bylaws with the current board and make some addendums. Most of the revisions were to define the roles of the Executive Board and the Regional Representatives.

In summary, these changes included assigning the Vice-Chair the duty of coordinating the annual conference. The Secretary is now in charge of membership and the Treasurer’s role is clearer when it comes to membership and conference registration. The Regional and At-Large Representative were also given more defined roles.
Regional Conferences: Make a Splash!

KAMM has four regions and we invite you to attend your Regional meeting at the conference. During this year’s Regional meetings, new Representatives will be selected. Go to the KAMM website for a map of the regions.

For the first time in several years KAMM had two Regional Meetings. As a board we were very proud of this accomplishment.

Our repeat customer was Steve Sturgill from Region IV. Steve and Taylor Duncan have continued to prove their organizational skills in putting together Regional Meetings in Eastern Kentucky. This year Region IV had their conference at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park and about 20 people show up.

Steve Cummings from Region II showed everyone how to do it this year. Steve along with local board members Pam Moore and Josh Human put together our largest Regional meeting to date. Gresham Smith & Partners staff and UofL Center for Hazard Research staff assisted. Steve put together an event for nearly 90 people at one of Jefferson Community Technical College Systems campuses. This regional meeting, with its multi-disciplined agenda also setup a conversation between KAMM and the Kentucky Stormwater Association (KSA) about potentially joining forces in 2010.

KAMM Outreach

KAMM continues to step into the political realm when the cause is dear to our hearts. At the request of the ASFPM, the KAMM board put together a letter in support of the “Water Data and Science Program Funding Support for USGS Programs in FY-2011”.

In short this program implements the National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP) which funds streamgages throughout the nation. The data received from these streamgages are vital to local, state and federal agencies in order to forecast floods and coordinate flood-response activities. A big thanks go out to Pam Moore and Josh Human for putting this letter together and getting out the door.

KAMM steps up to sponsor HAZUS training in Kentucky. Recently KAMM was asked if they would be a sponsor for an incoming HAZUS training class occurring at the University of Kentucky March 23-25. KAMM gladly accepted the invitation to participate in this training opportunity.

KAMM: Doing Business On-line

KAMM moves into the digital world with on-line membership, conference and sponsor registration capabilities. We are thrilled to provide our members and sponsors the ability to register on-line.

These capabilities allow the KAMM board and conference team the ability to track what is going on with our KAMM activities with much greater ease. We hope to see an improved experience for our members with this on-line system.

The on-line system was designed with in Google docs for database tracking and through the creation of our own PayPal site for the capture of revenue.

This task was largely completed by KAMM’s Treasurer, Louie Greenwell and we are very thankful for his hard work on creating this system.

Please visit our website to register now “On-Line”!

Growing KAMM on a local level provides KAMM members the opportunity to be involved in training, networking and finding support in the local region.

As KAMM Chair, Josh Human is pushing KAMM to become more involved in outreach for mitigation activities. His vision is to use KAMM to promote Hazard Mitigation Planning activities and Risk MAP initiatives.

Growing KAMM on a local level provides KAMM members the opportunity to be involved in training, networking and finding support in the local region.
The Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers (KAMM) was formed in order to promote natural hazard mitigation and management in Kentucky. Our members represent local floodplain coordinators, planning and zoning officials, engineers, surveyors, GIS specialists, hydrologists, public safety and emergency managers.

2010 KAMM Conference: Building Partnerships with KSA

KAMM is co-hosting this year’s annual conference with the Kentucky Stormwater Association (KSA). The KSA is a new group formed that focuses directly on stormwater issues and EPA and KDOW stormwater permitting.

Representatives of the KAMM Board and KSA Board met in January to discuss the possibility of joining these two organizational efforts. In February, the conference Chairs began developing a conference agenda with the theme “Building Mitigation Partnerships for a Better Kentucky.”

We are excited to mentor a new association that has so much in common with KAMM. The 2010 KAMM/KSA conference will provide a forum for professionals involved in floodplain, stormwater, mitigation and emergency management to meet and share their knowledge and experience. The Boards believe we will double our attendance at this year’s conference.

The April 19—22, 2010 conference will be held at Lake Barkley State Resort Park which is the largest state park in Kentucky. As always, we will provide a diverse agenda covering multiple natural hazards and the EPA requirements for stormwater permitting in Kentucky.

Join us for a Golf Outing on April 19, or take the CFM exam. We have planned interactive social events every evening. Join us for a open house social on Monday evening. On Tuesday night will be back at the grill with Steve Noe and will have live music by Lindsey Williams. We are off for a Night at the Races on Wednesday evening with horse racing, betting windows, prizes and a chance to get to know other attendees.

Our keynote speakers are experts in the fields of emergency management, planning and federal regulations.

New to this year’s conference is a daily event to visit with Sponsors and Exhibitors. For the first time, we also are proving CEUs for PEs and GISPs.

Please go to our website www.kymitigation.com to renew your membership, register for the conference or to become a sponsor...using our new on-line capabilities.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the conference!