

2022 KAMM REGIONAL TRAINING

KAMM REGION II AGENDA

MARCH 23, 2022

KIPDA, 11520 Commonwealth Drive, Louisville, KY 40299

9:00 AM – NOON

MORNING SESSION

9:00	9:45am	Registration - Coffee and donuts	
9:45	10:00am	KAMM Welcome	Joe Sullivan, Region II Representative
10:00	11:00am	December/January Tornado Events Review	Mike Kochasic, NWS Louisville
11:00	12:00pm	Risk Rating 2.0 – What you Need to Know	Alex VanPelt – KY Division of Water
12:00	12:30pm	KAMM Lunch	

12:30 PM – 3:45 PM

AFTERNOON SESSION

12:30	1:30pm	WARN - Weather Awareness for a Rural Nation	Jane Marie Wix, NWS Jackson and Jason York, Bath Co. EMA
1:30	2:30pm	Utilizing the Kentucky Mesonet in the Emergency Management Cycle	Megan Shargorodski, KY Mesonet
2:30	3:30pm	Operationalizing Weather & Emergency Management Services for Incident Management and Response at WKU	Dr. Josh Durkee, WKU
3:30	3:45pm	Wrap-up	Joe Sullivan, Region II Representative
3:45pm		Adjourn	

Speaker Bios

Mike Kochasic, NWS Louisville

Mike Kochasic is originally from Pittsburgh, PA. He went to school at California University of Pennsylvania for his B.S. in meteorology and Iowa State University for his M.A. in meteorology. Now in his 9th year in the NWS, Mike currently serves as the Warning Coordination Meteorologist for NWS Louisville.

Before Louisville, Mike spent nearly 3 years working for the NWS office in Wilmington, NC working several tropical events, including hurricanes Dorian and Isaias. He also spent some time in Sacramento, CA providing support for some of the largest wildfires in state history, including the Thomas and Carr fires. Kochasic started his NWS career in Kansas, working many severe storm events in the summer and blizzards in the winter.

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Alex VanPelt, Kentucky Division of Water

Alex VanPelt is the Commonwealth of Kentucky's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator at the Kentucky Division of Water. His primary responsibilities include assisting communities in the commonwealth with managing their flood risk, administering state & local floodplain development requirements, ensuring compliance with NFIP regulations and standards, as well as providing technical assistance to communities regarding floodplain management. He also serves on the Kentucky State Hazard Mitigation Council and is the Region III Board Representative of the Kentucky Association of Mitigation Managers (KAMM). Alex received his Master of Science degree in Geography and Environmental Resources from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC) in 2013, a Bachelor's of Science in Forestry from SIUC in 2010. He has been with the Kentucky Division of Water since 2015.

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Jane Marie Wix, NWS Jackson

Jane Marie Wix is a Brandenburg, KY native, and went to school at Western Kentucky University, a member of the very first graduating class of Meteorology. She is now the Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the NWS office in Jackson, KY, serving 33 counties across eastern Kentucky. She works as the liaison between the NWS and their partners, including emergency management, media, and other county and state agencies. She is also devoted to education and addressing the needs of underserved communities in an effort to help build a more weather-ready and weather-resilient population, which lead to the creation of the WARN (Weather Awareness for a Rural Nation) Task Force. The WARN Task Force is currently tackling the large gap in weather information for the Amish communities both in Kentucky and across the U.S.

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Jason York, Bath County EMA

Jason York has been the Emergency Management Director in Bath County Kentucky for 8 years. In Late April of 2020, a pregnant Amish mother and her 5 children were washed off a low water bridge during a severe storm. Director York was the Incident Commander for the event that utilized 36 agencies and gained international attention. This event is one of the catalysts for the WARN program.

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Megan Schargorodski , WKU, KY Mesonet

Megan Schargorodski is the interim Director of the Kentucky Climate Center and State Climatologist for Kentucky. Schargorodski has nearly 20 years of experience in working with weather networks, including 15 years with the Kentucky Mesonet at WKU. Her research interests lie in meteorological instrumentation and applied climatology/meteorology with applications in disaster science and the emergency management process. In addition to her professional duties with the Kentucky Climate Center, she is also an advocate for citizen science and public outreach. She is the state co-coordinator for CoCoRaHS and serves on the board of directors for the Sky Science Festival.

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Dr. Josh Durkee, Director WKU White Squirrel Weather

Dr. Josh Durkee is a Professor in the Meteorology Program at WKU and serves as the University Meteorologist. Dr. Durkee is the Director of White Squirrel Weather, the official WKU meteorological decision-support service for all WKU operations and events. He is also the Faculty Director for the WKU Disaster Science Operations Center (DSOC), the Program Coordinator for the Emergency Management Disaster Science (EMDS) undergraduate and graduate certificate programs, and Faculty Advisor in the Master's program in Homeland Security Sciences. Dr. Durkee maintains the appointment of Vice Chair to the Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences and works as a consulting meteorologist in the private sector.

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