2013 Southern Alberta Floods
“Worst in Alberta’s History”

- 10,000 homes evacuated
- 985 km roads closed
- 100,000 people evacuated
- 3,000 businesses affected
- 30 bridges damaged
Impacted Communities

2013 Alberta Flood Recovery Canmore
Highly Impacted Communities
Recovery Status

• **Affected communities status summarized according to four elements:**
  – People, Economy, Reconstruction, Environment

• **Indicators are measured by the amount of support they require for recovery by the Government of Alberta.**
  – GREEN: minimal support required by GoA for recovery
  – YELLOW: moderate support required by GoA for recovery
  – RED: significant support required by GoA for recovery
Example: Bow Valley West Recovery Status

PEOPLE
- 68 evacuees moved into Wesley interim housing site; Chiniki and Beampaw sites to be ready mid to late March 2014
- Psycho-social requirements e.g. addictions and mental health counsellors, recreation for all ages, programs and resources for NTN’s are under review
- Food bank still in temporary location while review of proposed updates to permanent building is underway

RECONSTRUCTION
- Advance DRP payment issued
- MOU signed with GOA on December 18, 2013 to bring houses up to provincial standards. Significant repair and reconstruction effort is required
- Inspections and assessments continue to update status of all impacted homes
- Inspections: 408 basements, 369 full houses
- Bighorn inspections to begin next week
- Transportation sending an inspection team to review the road construction work that was completed at Eden Valley
- Contaminated septic system needs work to provide proper sewer services

ECONOMY
- Human Services approved funding for Stoney FN and Siksika (approx. $9.75M) for training and employment initiatives
- Funding approved to develop an employment plan and a business procurement
- Hiring an employment and training coordinator
- Second employment and training workshop held

ENVIRONMENT
- 2 FREC projects approved totaling 3,352,500
- Serious erosion of Bow & Ghost Rivers (Morley)
Lessons Learned
What we learned

• 2013 floods
  – Commitment of the public sector to achieving positive outcomes
  – People are *the* most important resource
  – Plan for employee care
  – We discovered our limitations and local knowledge matters
Decision Making Model

Premier

Ministerial Task Force

Cabinet

Treasury Board
Provincial Recovery

2013 Flood: Before and After from Bow Habitat Station in Calgary
Provincial Recovery Framework

1. Response
   - Local Community (lead)
   - Enable Support
   - AEMA/POC

2. Stabilization
   - Local Community (lead)
   - Enable Coordinate Support Fund
   - Cross-GOA Recovery Coordination Group e.g. Task Force

3. Intermediate Recovery
   - Local Community (lead)
   - Support
   - PSC / Recovery Coordination Group

4. Long Term Recovery
   - Local Community (lead)
   - Business As Usual
   - Local Community

Pre-emergency Support
- Emergency Support
- Transition and Intermediate Recovery Support
- Long-Term Recovery / Enhanced Ministry Support
- Routine ongoing Support
Provincial Recovery Framework

• What are the outcomes?
• How will we be accountable?
  – How will we know we have ‘recovered’?
• When do we leave?
Policy - Opportunities and Challenges

• Rapid policy development cycle
  – Cross-Ministry policy development
  – Ministerial Task Force-empowered decision-maker
  – Short term decisions to enable Albertans to recover
  – Mid to long term policy decisions to enable effective, sustainable development

• Policy and plans need to be aligned with GOA Strategic Priorities
What are we here to do?

• What is the role of government
  – Identify values
  – Is this about doing recovery? Or facilitating recovery and achieving long term outcomes for the municipality and/or the province

• Take time to think
• Appreciate
What we learned

• Don’t wait to ask for help – challenges are not unique
• Other municipalities have tackled challenges – build on relationships
• Find opportunities to practice
• Training matters – this is what people fall back on in disasters
Questions Going Forward

- What is the role of the provincial government?
- What opportunities do we see for alignment/collaboration?
- What are the competing priorities?
- When does it make sense to accelerate regular business timelines?
- Flood Recovery Task Force transition of flood related programs to individual ministries?
• It is essential to develop a map for how you plan to achieve the desired outcomes
Thank You

Trish McOrmond – The Alberta Emergency Management Agency
Trish.McOrmond@gov.ab.ca