

Racine County Office of Emergency Management



2014 Annual Report

**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
2014**

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"Building a Disaster Resistant Community-Making Disaster Resistance a Way of Life"

A Letter from the Emergency Management Coordinator

December 2014

Dear County Executive Ladwig:

I am pleased to present the FY 2014 Annual Report for the Racine County Office of Emergency Management (RCOEM).

2014 was a good year for emergency management. A relatively minor spring and summer storm season allowed us to focus on planning, exercise and public outreach initiatives.

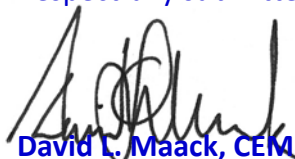
All plans were updated and a new Railroad Emergency Response Plan was developed. We were able to facilitate several emergency exercises for key stakeholders and we continued our public outreach efforts. A successful planning workshop was held for our faith-based partners and we rolled out a public officials guide for elected and appointed leaders.



Mike Buse was appointed as our newest Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. I would like to thank Mike, along with Jim Dobbs, Skip Twardosz, Dave Voss and Tom Knitter who round out the team. All have volunteered their time and augmented our staff by serving as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators for Racine County. Their assistance has been invaluable and they have become integral members of the emergency management team.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you for your support and participation over the past four years. We could not have accomplished what we have without your support and leadership.

Respectfully submitted by:



David L. Maack, CEM, CPM, WCEM
Racine County Emergency Management

2014 Highlights

- Extreme cold ushered in the New Year as the “Polar Vortex” brought subzero temperatures to Racine County. Propane shortages hit the Midwest hard resulting in WEM initially requiring daily situation reports from the counties.
- Racine County Emergency Management was featured on FEMA’s National Preparedness Community website for the work we have done with the faith-based community. The article, “***David's Tips For Hosting An Inter-Faith Preparedness Event***” contained practical advice for reaching out to the faith-based community.
- With the help of a graduate program, RCOEM produced an Elected Officials Guide which was distributed. In addition, David Maack wrote the chapter on Emergency Management for the Wisconsin Counties Association’s 4th Edition, Wisconsin County Officials Handbook.
- RCOEM hosted and facilitated a Faithful Readiness Seminar on January 14th for faith based organizations. They also hosted three national training courses in Racine County and gave more than 30 presentations/interviews on emergency preparedness.
- Active shooter table top exercises were conducted for Regency Mall and BRP and a multi-school evacuation exercise was conducted for both the Racine Unified School District, as well as the Burlington Area School District. In addition, an HMEP grant was utilized to facilitate a transportation related tabletop and functional exercise in Mt. Pleasant.
- David Maack was one of three emergency managers featured as a speaker for the DHS Webinar – Innovative Practice—Building Resilience with Diverse Communities.
- We were asked to facilitate after action reviews of the “Martini Mo’s” Fire in Waterford and the Mitchell School Fire in Racine.
- Three new off-site facility plans were developed and 59 Off Site Facility Plans were updated.
- David Maack served on the Planning Committee for the Wisconsin Governor’s Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

RCOEM MISSION

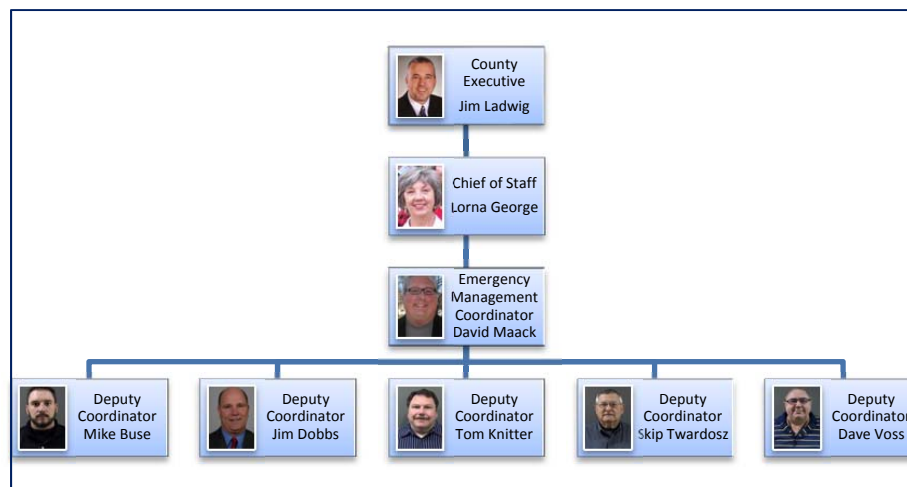
The Racine County Office of Emergency Management (RCOEM) is a planning and coordinating agency charged with developing both comprehensive all-hazard plans and specialized plans for chemical spills and terrorism. In addition, it is required to conduct disaster exercises and drills, provide emergency management-related training, conduct public awareness campaigns and respond to actual disaster or emergency situations. RCOEM provides key coordination and leadership to county departments, stakeholders, residents, and visitors.

Our mission is ***“To assist the community in mitigating known hazards and in preparing for, responding to, surviving and recovering from both natural and man-made disasters”*** and our motto is ***“To build a ‘Disaster Resistant Community’ while ‘Making Disaster Resistance a Way of Life.’”***

Wisconsin Statutes §323.14 requires that the governing body of each county, town and municipality shall adopt an effective program of emergency management consistent with the state plan of emergency management. The office provides emergency management services to all municipalities in Racine County. It works closely with local fire, police and public health departments and is represented on the Racine County Law Enforcement Executives Association and the Racine County Fire Chiefs Association.

RCOEM ORGANIZATION

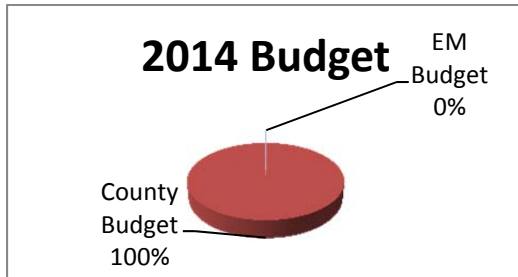
RCOEM is a relatively small department with 1.1 staff. In addition, four volunteer Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators are on call in the absence of the Emergency Management Coordinator.



During an actual disaster, the emergency management coordinator advises the County Executive on emergency management issues. If need be, an Emergency Operations Center is activated and key elected and appointed officials gather in it to manage the overall incident.

BUDGET/GRANTS OVERVIEW

Emergency Management accounts for less than 0.1% of the overall county budget. And because the OEM budget is largely offset by a combination of federal and state grants, it is less than 0.1% of the county tax levy.



	EM Budget	County Budget
FY 2010	126,748	139,561,626
FY 2011	129,089	143,480,831
FY 2012	127,470	142,512,092
FY2013	124,790	140,091,656
FY2014	130,766	145,433,561

Various grant opportunities become available each year. Two grants that RCOEM consistently receives are the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), which is supposed to fund 50% of operations, and the Wisconsin Emergency Management's Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) Grant, which funds a portion of our hazardous materials planning activities. The following summary provides a snapshot of grants managed in 2014.

2014 Grants		
Program/Grant Name	Description	Grant Amount
EMPG	The purpose of the Emergency Management Performance Grants is to assist state and local governments in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides the funding to local jurisdictions through the states.	\$100,781.28
EPCRA	This is a formula based planning grant to off-set expenses associated with implementing the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know act (EPCRA) requirements.	\$37,970.00
HMEP	Planning grant funded by US DOT for the purpose of improving the delivery of EPCRA and enhance planning efforts with a focus on transportation. This grant was used to develop a railroad emergency response plan and a tabletop and functional exercise.	20,694.80
		\$159,446.08

EMERGENCY PLANNING

RCOEM works closely with emergency responders, community partners, and residents to engage in comprehensive disaster planning for the County of Racine.

RCOEM has developed and maintains more than 50 plans, annexes, appendices, and supporting documents that guide preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities. Topics include Terrorism, Hazardous Materials, Mass Evacuation, Mass Care and Shelter, Medical and Health, Communications, and others.

Railroad Plan

RCOEM received a Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) grant to develop a railroad emergency response plan. This plan maps out mile markers on all railways going through Racine County, as well as provides Standard Operating Guidelines for a railroad response.

Plan	2013 Update
Racine County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and Emergency Support Functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated and revised the Racine County CEMP
Racine County Hazardous Materials Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated the Racine County Hazardous Materials Plan
Off Site Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 59 offsite facility plans were updated and 3 new offsite facility plans were developed.
Racine County Emergency Response Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated Racine County ERPs for all Racine County buildings
Mass Evacuation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated the mass evacuation plan guidance
Railroad Emergency Response Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed a Railroad Emergency Response Plan

“We know we cannot underestimate the importance of emergency planning in our region, nor can we assume we'll have ample warning time. If an earthquake or terrorist attack hits, we won't necessarily have advance alerts or opportunities to double- and triple-check our plans.” -Ellen Tauscher, former congresswoman

TRAINING & EXERCISES

Training is an important component of preparedness. Throughout the year, RCOEM sponsors various training programs in Racine County. Many of these are grant funded, and target audiences may include both public safety agencies and the general public.

South Shore Fire Department and RCOEM teamed up to provide Incident Command System (ICS 200) Training for Cree Lighting safety employees. RCOEM also provided ICS 100 training for the Burlington Area School District and hosted ICS 300, ICS 400 and the Incident Command/Emergency Operations Center course.

In 2014, two National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC) courses were brought to Racine County. The Medical Preparedness & Response to Bombing Incidents course addressed medical preparedness for and response to blast effects relating to bombing incidents and the ICS Forms Review course was an introduction to the various ICS forms and how they would be used in the development of an Incident Action Plan (IAP). **The National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC)** is a part of [Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service \(TEEX\)](#).

"We don't rise to the level of our expectations; we fall to the level of our training."
-Archilochus

RCOEM also hosted the Center for Domestic Preparedness HMER - Hazardous Materials Emergency Response course. HMER provides attendees with practical knowledge on hazardous materials identification; equipment necessary for response to hazardous materials incidents; methods that are used to safely decontaminate hazardous materials victims and responders; and options available to physically control hazardous materials to prevent spreading and minimize the size of the incident area. This course included an overview of how to respond to crude oil shipments including Bakken Crude

EXERCISES and drills are great opportunities to test skills and plans under simulated conditions. Each year, Racine County Emergency Management participates in several exercises/drills.

REGENCY MALL ACTIVE SHOOTER TABLETOP EXERCISE

Representatives from eleven agencies joined Regency Mall officials to participate in an active shooter tabletop exercise. At the invitation of mall security, RCOEM wrote a realistic scenario involving a lone gunman and facilitated the tabletop discussion. Discussion centered on mall policies and interactions with responding agencies, as well as policies and procedures for responding to an active shooter situation.

BRP ACTIVE SHOOTER TABLETOP

RCOEM facilitated an active shooter tabletop exercise for BRP US Inc., a manufacturing facility in the Renaissance Industrial Park in Sturtevant. BRP manufactures Evinrude outboard motors. The exercise involved a cross section of staff, including management.

RUSD & BASD TABLETOP

RCOEM developed and facilitated a tabletop exercise for Racine Unified School District administrators. The exercise was held on July 22, 2014 and involved a train derailment which impacted several schools. School personnel were asked to identify priorities, establish an ICS command structure and to examine the impact on the entire district. The same basic scenario was used for a similar exercise conducted for the Burlington Area School District on October 8, 2014.

HMEP TRAIN DERAILMENT EXERCISES

RCOEM received a Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) grant to develop a Railroad Emergency Response Plan. In addition, the grant funded a transportation related tabletop and functional exercise. The tabletop exercise was held on August 5th. The exercise involved a train derailment between Hwy 11 and 20, along Willow Rd. Participants looked at response issues, including evacuation around the derailment, as well as the impact on neighboring businesses. The Functional exercise, held on September 9th, was a continuation of the tabletop. A Law Enforcement Command Post was set up at the Village of Mt. Pleasant Police Station and participants coordinated the “evacuation” of impacted populations.

FIRE DRILLS

RCOEM coordinated fire drills for various county buildings.

EXERCISE/DRILL:

03/04/2014 Regency Mall TTx
04/12/2014 Disaster Camporee-Tornado Drill
04/24/2014 Statewide Tornado Drill
05/07/2014 WHEPP Anthrax Functional
05/21/2014 BRP Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise
07/22/2014 RUSD Train Derailment Tabletop Exercise
08/05/2014 Mt. Pleasant Train Derailment Tabletop Exercise
09/09/2014 Mt. Pleasant Train Derailment Functional Exercise
09/12/2014 Ives Grove Fire Drill
09/12/2014 Fire Drill LEC
09/18/2014 Courthouse Fire Drill
09/18/2014 RCDKSC Fire Drill
09/22/2014 WRCSC Fire Drill
10/08/2014 BASD Train Derailment Tabletop Exercise
10/22/2014 Public Health – Ebola Tabletop Exercise
10/30/2014 Public Works Dam Failure Tabletop Exercise

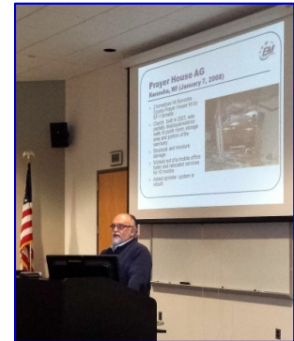


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC OUTREACH

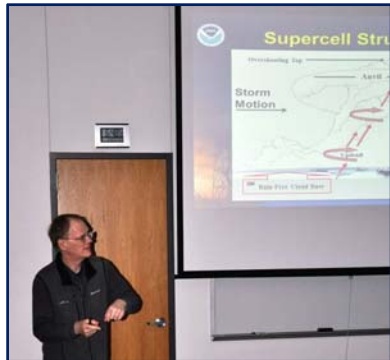
Racine County Emergency Management conducts comprehensive, robust public outreach campaigns throughout the year. Campaigns include winter, flood, tornado, severe thunderstorm and hazardous materials awareness; public outreach includes speaking, media interviews, a Ready Racine newsletter, email blasts and a website to name a few.

FAITHFUL READINESS-PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES & DISASTER SEMINAR

Over 80 representatives from faith based organizations and churches across Racine County attended the Faithful Readiness Seminar on January 14th. Rev. Ron Auch, Prayer House Assembly of God Senior Pastor, spoke about his church's experience recovering from a tornado which hit their church in January 2008. Representatives from the Racine County Sheriff's Department, the Racine Fire Department and Racine County Emergency Management spoke on issues that faith based organizations should plan for. In addition, faith based organizations were encouraged to develop a plan to assist the community in the aftermath of a disaster.



TORNADO AWARENESS WEEK



County Executive Jim Ladwig proclaimed April 21-25, 2014 as Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Racine County and urged Racine County citizens to **Listen, Act and Live!** during tornado season, to become informed about the best ways to protect themselves and their families from tornadoes, and to take steps to make their homes and businesses more disaster resistant. RCOEM hosted an annual storm spotter seminar on April 2, 2014. Rusty Kapela (Retired National Weather Service Meteorologist) and Skip Voros (Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association) conducted the training.

WEATHER-READY NATION AMBASSADOR

Racine County Emergency Management has been accepted as a NOAA Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador. The Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador initiative is an effort to formally recognize NOAA partners who are improving the nation's readiness against extreme weather, water, and climate events. As a Weather-Ready Nation



Ambassador, Racine County Emergency Management is committing to work with NOAA and other Ambassadors to strengthen national resilience against extreme weather. In addition, Racine County was recertified as a Storm Ready community.

SCOUTS LEARN EMERGENCY SKILLS

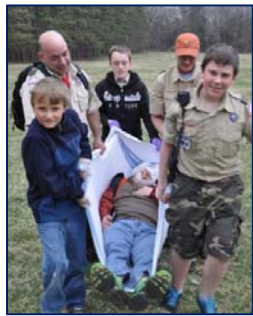


Racine County Emergency Management coordinated the programming for a “Disaster Camporee”. Boy Scouts from the Lighthouse District gathered at Camp Oh-Da-Ko-Ta for a “Disaster Camporee” where they focused on learning hands-on skills like search and rescue, triage and first aid, lift and carries and the proper use of a fire extinguisher.

After lunch, the Racine County Sheriff’s Office offered a Fingerprinting Merit Badge workshop, Scouts learned about the history of fingerprinting, saw some high tech tools up close and fingerprinted each other. While the scouts were busy earning this merit badge, a full scale exercise was prepared in which the scouts put into practice the new skills they learned.



At 2:30 that afternoon, a camp siren sounded. A simulated “Tornado” struck the camp! Scout leaders were required to take a head count and report that to the Camp Commissioner. Several



scouts and leaders were reported missing and search and rescue teams were formed. Under the guidance of the Racine Fire Department (RFD), a command structure was implemented and two scouts worked out of RFD’s Mobile Command Center. Radios were issued to the search and rescue teams and the Racine County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) group provided back-up communications. As victims were found and rescued, another team of scouts provided triage and first aid. Carefully assessing injuries, they bandaged and splinted the injured. Overall the scouts did a great job while learning important skills.

SEALED AIR YMCA SAFETY FAIR

RCOEM coordinated the Safety Fair aspect of Sealed Air YMCA’s Healthy Kids Day event. There were a variety of indoor and outdoor displays and demonstrations by local Fire, Law Enforcement and Public Safety agencies as well as partner Non-Government Organizations.



PUBLICATIONS

David Maack continues to write a Community Newsletter column for *The Journal Times*. In addition, articles that he writes occasionally appear in other publications:

- Ready Racine Newsletter-January 2014
- Community Newsletter: Get ready for National Severe Weather Preparedness Week (Journal Times 02/26/14)
- Ready Racine Newsletter-March 2014
- How Elected Officials Can Prepare for, Respond to Emergencies (Emergency Management magazine 03/05/14)
- Community Newsletter: Time of year to give thought to severe weather (Journal Times 04/15/14)
- Community Newsletter: No area in Wisconsin is immune to tornadoes (Journal Times 05/13/14)
- Community Newsletter: It's wise to be prepared for severe weather (Journal Times 05/24/14)
- Ready Racine Newsletter-July 2014
- Ready Racine Newsletter-September 2014
- Community Newsletter: Are you prepared for an emergency? (Journal Times 10/08/14)
- Community Newsletter: Be prepared for oncoming winter storms (Journal Times 11/18/14)

2014 RACINE COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS GUIDE

RCOEM worked with Patrick Chung, a student in California State University Long Beach Emergency Services Administration Master's Program (2014) on developing an Elected Officials Guide. The guide is a condensed summary of emergency management responsibilities in the event of an emergency or disaster. It is designed to provide elected officials with an understanding and overview of emergency management at the county level.

WISCONSIN COUNTY OFFICIALS HANDBOOK-4TH EDITION

David Maack wrote the Emergency Management Chapter for the Wisconsin County Officials Handbook-4th Edition. The handbook is the most comprehensive document on county operations and comprised of a collection of information covering topics that county officials handle on a regular basis. From an in-depth review of parliamentary procedures to personnel practices to budgeting, this document brings together all areas of county operations in one centralized place.

<https://www.wicounties.org/uploads/pub/4th-edition-handbook.pdf>

SPILLS/INCIDENTS

POLAR VORTEX

Extreme cold ushered in the New Year as the “Polar Vortex” brought subzero temperatures to Racine County. Propane shortages hit the Midwest hard resulting in WEM initially requiring daily situation reports from the counties. The National Weather Service reported that the 2013-14 winter season was the coldest winter in Racine in over 100 years. From November 1st through March 19th, the average temperature recorded at the Racine lakefront was 21.9 degrees. That is the coldest average since the winter of 1903-04, when the average was recorded at 22.1 degrees. During this winter season, there were 32 days at or below zero this year, with a stretch of five straight days below zero from January 6th through January 10th. There were also 90 days recorded with an inch or more of snow, and 56 straight days with at least an inch of snow from January 15th to March 11th, making this the 12th snowiest winter on record.

MARTINI MO’s FIRE

Skip Twardosz, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, was asked to respond to the Village of Waterford EOC on January 3rd. An early morning fire challenged local officials due to the timing of the incident and the extreme cold. Over 40 agencies responded to assist the Waterford Fire Department battle this blaze. Local officials were concerned about water demand and pressure, along with icy conditions and fire fighter rehab.



TRAIN DERAILMENT

Nineteen train cars derailed on January 19th near Five Mile Road in the Village of Caledonia. Although the railroad was repaired and Five Mile Road opened fairly quickly, it took much longer to remove the train cars and to clean up the debris. The derailment occurred at about 6 a.m. January 19th near 5 Mile Road and Highway 38, spilling up to 1,900 tons of coal. About 20 tons of coal from one car also spilled onto a frozen stream.

SCHUETTE-DANIELS FIRE

RCOEM responded to a major fire in the City of Burlington on April 5, 2014. This was a multi-alarm fire and residents were displaced from neighboring apartments.

MILD STORM SEASON

The first Tornado Warning of the season was issued on May 12, 2014. Although there were no confirmed tornadoes in Racine County, strong winds did minor damage in the Bohners lake area, rains caused dirt from a farm field to “slide” over Schaal Rd in Burlington and flash flooding kept emergency crews busy in the City of Racine. Overall it was a very mild storm season with most storms bypassing Racine County.

Racine County Severe Weather History

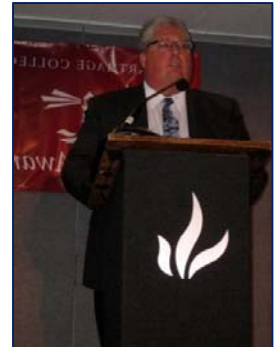
Year	Severe Thunderstorm		Tornado	
	Watch	Warning	Watch	Warning
2000	8	14	3	1
2001	10	7	1	1
2002	7	6	1	0
2003	4	6	3	0
2004	15	16	2	0
2005	11	5	5	3
2006	19	19	3	0
2007	2	11	3	0
2008	9	19	5	4
2009	7	8	1	2
2010	6	7	7	7
2011	8	17	2	0
2012	2	10	0	0
2013	5	8	2	4
2014	8	11	1	1
Total	121	164	39	23



OTHER

CARTHAGE BEACON AWARD

Carthage College alumnus David Maack '88 was awarded the 2014 Carthage Beacon Award on Saturday, May 3rd 2014. To celebrate this spirit of leadership, Carthage College Alumni Council grants the Beacon Award to recognize alumni who provide a light to their communities with a specific accomplishment, act of service, professional or personal achievement, event or program. David was recognized for being among 17 leaders honored by FEMA as a "Champion of Change" in 2012. David was among six Carthage alumni to receive the Carthage Beacon Award in May 2014.



PASSINGS

We said good bye to two friends of emergency management this past year.



Jim Markstrom (April 29, 1974-July 3, 2014) served as the Emergency Coordinator for Racine County ARES. He was a HAM Radio aficionado and his call sign was KB9MMA. Jim was a member of the Lakeshore Repeater Association and the Racine Megacycle Club. He volunteered at the Volunteer Center of Racine and earned the Heroic Volunteer of the Year Award. He was awarded the Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award from the City of Racine Mayor in March, 2014.

Linda Coogan (September 1, 1956 - August 16, 2014) was the Wisconsin Emergency Management Southeast Region Program Assistant. She worked closely with the eight counties in the Southeast Region and had a keen eye for detail, ensuring that paperwork submitted to WEM was correct. Linda enjoyed the field of emergency management and often took emergency management related classes to enrich her knowledge. As a result, she earned certification as a WEM Level 4.



Lt. Gov. Kleefisch with Linda Coogan