

Southwest Planning, Exercise and Training Region

Chase, Dundy, Furnas, Hitchcock, Hayes, Perkins and Red Willow Counties

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Meeting was called to order by Pat Gerdes at 11:03 a.m. MT, following the LEPC meeting at the EMS building in Imperial, NE.

All of the seven PET Region counties were represented. The following members were present:

Chase- EM Paul Kunnemann,

Dundy- EM Elaine Frasier

Hayes- EM Charlynn Hamilton

Perkins- Sheriff/EM Jim Brueggeman

Furnas- EM Roger Powell

Hitchcock- EM Patrick Gerdes, Deputy EM Kyle Clapp

Red Willow- EM/Sheriff Gene Mahon, Deputy EM Diana Wilkinson

Also present were Richard Murphy of Frenchman Valley Co-op/ Southwest Ne. LEPC; Kate Speck of the UNL Public Policy Center; Ike Brown, McCook Chief of Police; Bill Elliott, Red Willow Western Fire Dept./area hazmat team

Roger moved, seconded by Char to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Char moved, seconded by Gene, to waive the reading of the minutes and approve them as written. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Pat reported on grant activity:

2008 Grant: Closed. Remaining funds (\$3,800) were sent back to NEMA.

2009 Grant: Closes 7/31/12. Discussed laptops previously. Spend consistent with IJ or MOU back? Jim expressed concern about finding less expensive computers than those quoted from the Motorola dealer. Pat will check on a couple of other options and report back to the group by email. The group was interested in using the funds rather than returning it to NEMA.

Discussed the GPS registry for special needs populations project. Lincoln has begun sending out databases. Brochures and magnets have been purchased to inform the public. The GPS units have arrived, but we will have to determine how the mapping functions and set up training.

The 300 class has been completed. The tentative date for 400 is November 16 & 17. Discussion was held on what days or times training would be. Attendance issues with paid vs. volunteer staff was briefly discussed.

Discussed base station funds. Jim has a proposed project ready to proceed. Gene moved and Char seconded to purchase a UHF and a VHF base station for Perkins County and use the remaining funds to update the console equipment in Red Willow County to accommodate future needs. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussed purchasing the handheld radios. Jim will handle order them.

2010 Grant: Discussed Viaero microwave tower lease.

Pagers: Money was previously allocated to purchase pagers that are narrowband compliant. Jim moved Char seconded to purchase 10 pagers for Hitchcock County, 10 pagers for Furnas County and 20 pagers for Red Willow County. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Law enforcement portion of the 2010 grants: Escape masks are about \$500 each. \$ 17,500 has been submitted for 35-APR's (personal respirators). \$10,643.00 would be Mou'd for use by the fusion center.

2011 Grant: Investment Justifications have been submitted. Numbers and other information has not been received.

NWIN/NCOR: Secure, insured storage is needed for the new equipment. It need not be climate controlled, only rodent free. Someone needs to agree to host equipment delivered prior to installation. Paul and Ike are looking for locations in their communities.

Mou's for tower sites: The group reviewed tower placement information. Jim and Paul will contact people for their communities regarding completion of Mou's. The first link in the panhandle is expected to be up soon. The Southwest Region is scheduled next, and is nearly ready.

Ike Brown is willing to volunteer to assist with NRIN governance.

The Goal 2 Report deadline has been extended from September 15th to October 31st.

TICP/CASM: no updates. TICP information has been sent to Diana.

Paraclete: no updates. Training is coming, but there are no specific dates set up yet. We will need to work with NEMA to schedule this. Jim is reimbursing internet bills.

Public Policy Center: Kate Speck was present from the Center. She brought handouts re: Goal 2 and narrow-banding. She suggested a presentation about debris management plans. She mentioned reductions in force with the Red Cross as an information item for those who are

dependent upon Red Cross services in their Local Emergency Operations Plans, etc. They intend to continue the same level of service.

She mentioned recent webinars. They are available at: homelandplanning.nebraska.edu

Training/exercise: Training is scheduled for Friday at McCook (agricultural emergencies), and an ag. exercise is being planned in Hayes County.

New Business:

The group discussed NIMS and other information that is to be communicated between emergency managers and their various agencies. EM's are responsible for keeping records/ensuring compliance with NIMS requirements, and we need to find ways to improve cooperation and reporting. The group decided to have Pat send out a letter to the appropriate chiefs and officials reminding them of their training and reporting requirements.

Pat showed the group the Public Safety Tools website. He showed everyone how to access information for respective local areas regarding wideband/narrowband users and the status of each license's compliance.

Pat pointed out a narrow-banding planning tool that is available on the Dept. of Homeland Security website. He sent for copies of the NIFOG operations guide, but they were not here in time for the meeting.

Good of the Group:

The group discussed upcoming elections of the vice-chair and secretary-treasurer positions for next year. Elections are to be conducted at the next meeting. As the current vice-chair, Gene was to assume the chair position during the first meeting in 2012, but he informed the group he would be unable to accept the position. He stated the next year would be especially busy for his department. He would be unable to do the position justice. Jim expressed concern about other counties needing to contribute more to the leadership and operations of the region.

Jim moved, seconded by Elaine to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 1:25 MT. The next meeting will be December 13th, at the new reserve center east of McCook.

/s/ Kyle Clapp, recorder