

Southwest Planning, Exercise and Training Region

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

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2013

Meeting was called to order by Pat Gerdes at 10:25 a.m. CT, following the Southwest LEPC meeting at the Southwest Public Health Department Meeting Room in McCook, NE.

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

Chase- EM Paul Kunnemann

Furnas- EM Roger Powell

Hayes- EM Charlynn Hamilton

Dundy-EM Patrick Gerdes, Deputy EM Pam Reichert

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

Hitchcock- EM Patrick Gerdes, Deputy EM Kyle Clapp

Perkins- Sheriff/EM Jim Brueggeman, Karon Harris

Also present were Heidi Wheeler, SWNPHD; Kate Speck, UNL Public Policy Center; Bill Elliot, Red Willow Western Fire Chief and Hazmat team leader. Ike Brown, McCook Police Chief

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

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

Public Policy Center Update- Kate Speck mentioned the upcoming ATAP Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Conference April 15-17. She passed out information. She reported on work being done with schools re threat assessment. She told region members about 30 Fusion Center liaison positions, and reported they would love to have a volunteer from the Southwest Region. Liaisons would be issued a laptop, and activities would include ride-alongs

Citizen Corps/CERT Update- Pat Gerdes reported a grant application for \$1,460 for CERT Training was submitted to Ryan Lowry. This would fund CERT training for area volunteers. Instructors were discussed. Pat is certified, but other instructors would need to be brought in.

Old Business:

Pat reported on grant activity:

2010 Grant: July 31, 2013 is the expenditure deadline.

1. The tower lease for the equipment in Dundy County was discussed. This is a 5 year lease for the NRIN system to tie in with Hitchcock County. \$7,140 is allotted for the lease with Viaero. Grant funds will run out, and Dundy County would appreciate any assistance the region could provide. Jim reported his board of commissioners were opposed to contributing to Dundy County. If in the future the state took it over, they would discuss it. Pat reminded the group that by statute, the state cannot take over. Paul said his commissioners felt the same way.

2. Storage for the region's new communications equipment was discussed. There is a bill for March storage. Grant funds are exhausted. It does not appear that any equipment remains in storage, so Pat will check with Rex Nelson.

2011 Grant:

1. LE Computers- Pat brought iPads. Most equipment has been purchased.

2. \$8,000 was set aside for a 300 and 400 class at Imperial. Paul reported the classes were full. 24 attended the 300, and 26 attended the 400. \$3,000 went to instructors. Grant funds expire in January.

3. \$ 2,500 is allocated to be transferred pursuant to the MOU with the Ne. Dept. of Ag. for exercise/training. There is no new information on this at this time.

4. Funds from this grant are to be spent by January 31, 2014. Brief discussion was held regarding Dave Fulton/ continuity of operations & debris mgmt. plans. The COOP planning contract has been signed to complete Red Willow, Perkins and Furnas Counties for \$ 12,000. At the last meeting, Jim and Gene reported their counties' plans are completed, but they have not received them yet.

5. The new base station for interoperable capability for Dundy County is being installed. \$17,264.00 was allotted for the project. This was about \$14,000 so far, and there will be additional cost to connect the mutual aid base station to the microwave system.

Approximately \$ 2,500 in 2011 funds could be reallocated to other projects if anyone has a project they would like to fund. The group discussed mutual aid bases in McCook and Furnas County. Jim and Pat will check on antennas. Other remaining monies will be reported at the next meeting, after bills have been paid.

2012 Grant: This grant will be a 2 year rotation. Funds from this grant are to be spent by January 31, 2014. 50% must be used for law enforcement projects. Pat asked for volunteers from the group to work with him revising the work plan. NEMA has said NSP must approve the law enforcement expenditures. Kate was unaware of this requirement, and will check on it.

At the December meeting, the group discussed upcoming s.w.a.t. and rapid response team training opportunities Gene and Ike's officers are interested in. Ike also mentioned a tactical ems training. Jim suggested 11 slots for Gene's training and 10 slots for Ike's training.

Jim wanted to allocate \$2,500 for rapid response training, and tuition for 15 people at \$ 750 for swat training from the law enforcement portion. The group discussed scheduling another 300/400 class (possibly in Furnas County), funding 10 spots for tactical ems training, and funding training for Jim's department re: the region's new credentialing system.

Since last meeting, Pat used the above information in formulating the workplan. The plan has been rejected. Pat reported the state agency stated it did not meet the investment justification for the grant. They said it is not the responsibility of the grant to fund continuing education. Rural law enforcement response training is also listed on the swat training website. State officials suggested that would be acceptable if the group would like to submit that.

There was much discussion about local law enforcement needs. The law enforcement officers in the room disagreed with NEMA, stating the training was not 'continuing education.' They are very concerned about local ability to handle an incident, given the long response time geography creates for the State Patrol Swat Team. It can take several hours for a response, which may cost lives.

The group discussed how to change the workplan. Jim moved to rewrite and resubmit the plan for the tactical training, and if denied, consolette for Red Willow County. Roger seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NWIN/NCOR-(NPSCC) /NRIN

Pat reported the recent meeting was cancelled due to weather, rescheduled for April 14th. Therefore, he had nothing new to report.

NRIN Governance: Ike volunteered, pending approval of the city manager. Char moved, seconded by Gene to designate Ike as the area representative. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

There is now a lease with Pinpoint in Cambridge for tower space at Harry Strunk Lake. The state has agreed to put up a new tower in Frontier County for the new radio system. Law enforcement will have priority with respect to bandwidth. MOUs and leases appear to be complete.

TICP/CASM: Please get TICP updates to Diana asap. She has received information from 3 counties. The next workshop is April 9-10 Tue/Wed. Pat cannot be there, and asked that someone else volunteer to go. Diana will check her schedule. Pat said the 9th would be the most important day, if she could make it only one day.

Paraclete: Pat reported on the IPAWS system. Local officials will be able to use this system, provided they complete proper training and mou's with FEMA. This would not take the place of CodeRed/Deltaalert with respect to local messages.

Training/exercise: Heidi reported on an upcoming volunteer disaster training June 14th in McCook and June 15th in Imperial.

There will be a WCMRS Tabletop Exercise April 16th from 9-12 CST via webinar. All of the hospitals in our area are planning to participate.

The group discussed nominating a fusion center liaison officer. Jim reported Scott Miller would be very interested. Gene also has an officer who is interested. Kate will check to see if an officer who has only been on for two years rather than three could be eligible. It is estimated it would entail about 4 hours per month.

Good of the Group: Gene reported on upcoming foreign animal disease response training in several border counties to be presented by Eric Hess on April 17th. Diana will pass along any information they receive.

Jim moved, seconded by Char to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

The next meeting will be June 12, 2013.

/s/ Kyle Clapp, recorder