

Southwest Planning, Exercise and Training Region

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

Meeting Minutes

September 10th, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Roger Powell at 10:14 a.m. CT, following the Southwest Nebraska Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting at the McCook Public Safety Center meeting room in McCook, NE.

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

Chase- EM Duane Dreiling, Bill Bischoff, Deputy EM Perkins- Karron Harris, Deputy EM

Dundy - EM Patrick Gerdes, Deputy EM Pam Reichert Furnas- EM Roger Powell

Hayes- EM Charlynn Hamilton Hitchcock- EM Patrick Gerdes, Deputy EM Kyle Clapp

Red Willow- absent

Also present were Kate Speck, UNL Public Policy Center; Heidi Wheeler, SWNEPHD Emergency Response Coordinator/WCMERS; Mike Gapp, Kugler Co.; Mike Hotchkiss, Nebraska Corn Processing; John Jones, Ft. Kearney Service Center Manager, American Red Cross; Bill Elliott, Red Willow Western Rural Fire/Regional Hazmat Response Team; Ralph Scott, Trenton Agri-Products; Teresa Keck, National Weather Service

Minutes from the June meeting: Char requested the wording about her Red Cross pillowcase presentations be corrected to show she gave her presentation to about 1000 students at about 14 schools in our 7-county area. She has not yet been to Dundy Co. schools, but will schedule a visit. Pat made a motion, seconded by Char, to waive the reading of the minutes from the June meeting and to approve them with the corrections Char requested. Motion carried.

Char made a motion, seconded by Pat, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Policy Center Update- Kate will be leading a workshop this afternoon regarding the THIRA, focusing on 13 core capabilities for our area.

The Nebraska School Safety and Security Conference in Broken Bow was August 7-8. Turnout was very good. All hazard planning templates are available for schools on the public policy center website, or by contacting Kate.

The state THIRA/SRP/TEPW meeting will be October 21-22 in Lincoln.

Old Business:

2013 Grant:

1. Motorola consolettes for Benkelman, Beaver City and Grant: Benkelman and Beaver City consolettes are now installed. Pat has the radio to program for Perkins County.
2. MOU of funds to the NSP fusion center and bomb team: \$8,317
3. Dundy Co. NRIN tower lease: \$7,000, paid.
4. Funds to pay the OCIO for monitoring the NRIN system for SWPETR: \$5,000. An agreement with the OCIO's office has been signed. Pat reported on loss of connectivity between Benkelman and the Wauneta tower. The repairs were \$ 2,700. Since it was storm-related the insurance company is paying all but \$500. There is now also a problem with the Trenton Ethanol Plant to McCook connection, and possibly west from the ethanol plant. The group discussed ideas of how to pay for repairs, etc.

\$ 5,600 remains from the consolette project. Pat proposed a project to spend \$ 1,375.24 to replace the Hitchcock County Paraclete computer in dispatch, as well as \$ 4,256.14 for handheld radios for Benkelman Fire Dept.

Karron reported Jim has questions about who is using Paraclete, and wondered if it was being maintained. Roger reported he would pass their equipment on to someone who will use it. The group discussed the trailer in Grant and its upkeep. Perkins County has spent several thousand dollars maintaining it, and wants to be sure the region still wants to maintain the asset. The Tracstar phone service is not working properly, and costs about \$ 788 per year, renewing in September. The group consensus was to pursue funds through the 2014 grant so Perkins County was not shouldering all of the expense. Pat will revise the work plan to include funds for the trailer and resubmit it to NEMA .

Char made a motion to approve funding for the projects Pat proposed. Duane seconded. Pat abstained. Motion carried.

2014 Grant

Pat reported the SW Region is allotted \$65,260. \$23,573 must be used for law enforcement/fusion center purposes.

Included in this grant are the following projects: Chase and Hitchcock Co. dispatch Consolettes, one Cert class-\$3,000, tower lease, m.o.u. of funds to the fusion center/bomb team, 1-license for software for Red Willow Western. Pat will amend and resubmit the work plan to include funds for the trailer.

NPSCC

1. NRIN: Remains on hold beyond McCook. Probably will be \$3,000/county/year for upkeep of the system.

The lack of connection between McCook and Lexington remains unresolved. The State Patrol is reconsidering allowing teletype to be run through this system. This would be a substantial cost savings for local entities.

TICP/CASM: No updates.

Paraclete: Nothing new beyond earlier grant discussion.

Training/exercise: Roger mentioned there had not been a regional exercise for a while. The THIRA workshop this afternoon may highlight areas for improvement. Karron reported 8 people took the CERT training in Grant. One dropped out after the first class, and four passed the test.

Fusion Center Liaison's Report: A representative has not yet been appointed to represent our area.

New Business:

The state THIRA/SRP/TEPW meeting is October 21-22 in Lincoln. Pat is the only one stating he will attend.

Roger reminded the group he has not received the NIMS reports from all counties. Please get them to him.

Good of the Group:

Char reported on assisting with the Pilger tornado disaster. She stressed the importance of credentialing/badging in advance of an incident.

Char made a motion to adjourn. Duane seconded. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

The next meeting will be December 3rd, 2014 at the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department conference room, following the SWLEPC meeting.

/s/ Kyle Clapp, recorder