

Southwest Planning, Exercise and Training Region

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

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2015

Meeting was called to order by Roger Powell at 10:17 a.m. CT, following the Southwest Nebraska Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting at the McCook Public Safety Center in McCook, NE.

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

Chase- Bill Bischoff, Deputy EM Perkins- Sheriff/EM Jim Brueggeman

Dundy – EM Pat Gerdes, Deputy EM Pam Reichert Furnas- EM Roger Powell

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

Red Willow- Sheriff/EM Alan Kotschwar, Deputy EM Diana Wilkinson

Also present: Heidi Wheeler, Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department; Jill Schmidt, Region 15 EMA; Mike Hotchkiss, Nebraska Corn Processing ; Ralph Scott, Trenton Agri-Products; Val Snyder, Tallgrass Energy Partners; Heath Wilkinson, NDEQ; Kate Speck, UNL Public Policy Center; Natalie Furrow, USDA Community Programs Specialist; John Jones, American Red Cross

Introductions were done at the previous meeting.

Agenda: Char made a motion, seconded by Alan, to approve the agenda. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes from the previous meeting: Alan made a motion, seconded by Jim, to waive the reading of the minutes from the June meeting and to approve them. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Public Policy Center Update: Kate reminded the group about the statewide THIRA/TEPW/SPR workshop coming up October 21st & 22nd. She showed the group an updated NRIN map.

Old Business:

2014 Grant: Grant closed August 31st.

2015 Grant: (Closes August, 2017)

Jill and Pat updated the group on the 2015 grant projects. Pat reported on resubmitting the workplan. Alan explained a project to install a repeater to serve the southern Red Willow County area. Money remains from the Trenton Consolette project and the funds originally allocated for satellite service fees. Pat moved that the project be approved. Jim seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The group discussed SRS mobile radios for Law Enforcement and Emergency Mgmt. The numbers for the SRS radios are pending approval. \$32,500 was applied for. Each EM will have to discuss whether they would like to have a portable radio or not with their county.

Other amounts applied for include: \$ 31,240 NRIN leases (foreseeing additional leases); \$ 3,592 to the NCIO for monitoring fees(\$100 per month for monitoring); \$ 2,000 for broadband service for the command trailer; \$29,342 to be returned by MOU for the Fusion Center; \$ 3,000 for CERT training

NPSCC

NRIN: Cornerstone Tower is working on the connection between Custer and Buffalo County. NPPD has fiber that we were previously unaware of which will be available for the system.

FirstNet: No new information. An SRS/wildfire exercise is coming up. The group will attend a meeting this afternoon following the THIRA workshop.

TICP/CASM: Pat has updated TICP information for the region to review and vote on. Pat will retransmit the email for everyone's review. CASM revision is in progress.

Paraclete: Bryan Tuma would like to know from the regions whether Paraclete is useful or needed. The contract is up for renewal. NEMA is inclined to discontinue the contract if most areas do not want it. If the contract is terminated, each local area wishing to keep it could pay for it and/or apply for grant funding for it. Pat reported on upgrading the trailer with more bandwidth. It would be able to run everything for an incident.

New Business:

As Kate reported, the statewide THIRA/TEPW/SPR Workshop is Oct. 21st and 22nd in Lincoln. Kate reported on testing of "Zoom," which would allow virtual attendance at meetings. Kate will be leading the SW Region THIRA workshop this afternoon. A meeting about FirstNet will follow.

Good of the Group:

Kyle reported recruiting for CERT continues. He asked group members for help finding new volunteers. Names should be forwarded soon, as we will be scheduling a training class.

The group also discussed credentialing. Jill mentioned the need for information on the back (i.e. Firefighter I) to be properly documented by the issuing entity. Everyone is making progress.

John reported the Red Cross has a program offering free smoke alarms. They must be properly installed by the agencies. Contact John for more details. Also, the 3rd 4th and 5th grade pillowcase project is still available for interested agencies.

Adjourn:

Char made a motion to adjourn. Alan seconded. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 11:27. The next meeting will be December 2th, 2015 at the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department, following the 10:00 a.m. SWLEPC meeting.

/s/ Kyle Clapp, recorder