

# Southwest Planning Exercise and Training Region

## June 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The SWPETR met Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department office in McCook, Ne. It immediately followed the 10 a.m. SWLEPC meeting.

Regional representatives from 6 counties were present: Chase-EM Duane Dreiling and Corey Schuller; Dundy-EM Brandon Myers, Deputy EM Pam Reichert; Furnas-absent, Hayes- EM Char Hamilton; Hitchcock-EM Brandon Myers, Deputy EM Kyle Clapp; Perkins-Sheriff/EM James Brueggeman, Deputy EM Karron Harris; Red Willow- Deputy EM Diana Wilkinson

Also in attendance were: Heidi Wheeler, SWNEPHD; Kate Speck, UNL Public Policy Center; Ryan Husted, National Weather Service-Goodland; Val Snyder, Tallgrass Energy; Merci Suarez and Larry Fichtner, NEMA

Roger Powell was absent. Meeting was called to order by Duane Dreiling at 10:28.

Introductions.

Motion was made by Char, seconded by Jim to approve the minutes from the March meeting. All were in favor. Motion agreed to.

Motion was made by Char, seconded by Jim to approve the agenda and waive the reading. All were in favor. Motion agreed to.

Kate/Public Policy Center: July 27/28 is the Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference. It will include an exercise. She reported organizers are inviting people from all areas of disaster response such as CERT. One major topic they will be discussing is volunteer reception centers.

The grant process is continuing to evolve so expenditures will closely reflect the results arrived at in the justification process.

LEOP approvals can be done in parts rather than submitting the entire document for review.

Ryan Husted shared information about National Weather Service programs and services:

Hazard Simplification (HazSimp) - the NWS is consolidating a few winter weather products. The most noticeable changes for our area will be: Blizzard watches will now be issued as winter storm watches. Freezing rain advisories will now be issued as winter weather advisories. Products will now take a "what, when, where" format to describe the forecast threats. These changes go into effect on October 1st, 2017.

Event Support forms for weather - we talked about the importance of these forms and how they allow us, the NWS, to help everyone with big events. Events such as fairs, rodeos, concerts, etc. can be

submitted and weather support will be provided. If bad weather approaches, the NWS provides advanced notice, allowing the EM and emergency responders to get everyone to shelter in time.

The Nebraska NWS offices will be hosting an Integrated Warning Team (IWT) meeting in November. More information attached below. This is a great opportunity for all parts of the team (NWS, EMs, first responders, dispatch, school officials, etc.) to get together, talk about issues, and how we can better serve the people of Nebraska.

Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors: The NWS is looking to partner with counties, law enforcement, media, DOTs, schools, etc. Basically, anyone that helps spread the NWS message is needed to join with us to make our area more resilient to inclement weather. Social science tells us that the more consistent the message is and the more entities it comes from, the more likely people will believe that message and act on it. Please join with us for this exciting program to get people weather-ready ahead of the disaster. For more information, please contact your local NWS office or go to:

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/ambassadors> and to sign up, go to this link:

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/amb-tou>

### **Old Business:**

#### Grants

2015: \$ 5,705.90 used for NRIN repairs; \$32,500 SRS Radios; \$ 31,240 NRIN leases; \$3,592 OCIO Fees; \$2,000 Satellite service for command trailer; \$ 3,000 CERT training. March-32,500 radio install. The group made their elections as to whether they wanted a mobile or portable radio for their county.

2016: The workplan is approved. \$ 154,832 tower rent/maintenance/tower construction; \$ 4,000 for CERT, \$ 7,000 for ics training; \$20,271 for badging.

NPSCC: Nebraska Public Service Commission/NRIN: The SW region will elect someone before adjourning today.

The TICP still needs approved by the region.

### **New Business:**

#### Election of Officers:

Election was conducted to determine the Chair and Secretary/fiscal agent.

Chair: Nomination was made by Jim and seconded by Char to elect Duane as chair. Char and Duane nominated Brandon Myers for chair, seconded by Jim. Duane Dreiling was elected to the SWPETR chair position.

SW Region Secretary/Fiscal Agent: Jim nominated Kyle, seconded by Char, for secretary. Jim will serve as the fiscal agent, and Kyle will continue to take notes.

After a motion by Duane and second by Jim, Brandon Myers was voted in as the SWPETR's representative on the NRIN Board.

Exercise Calendar: All EM's should have received an email sent May 23<sup>rd</sup> from Dave Reisen at NEMA. He wants exercises reported for inclusion in the state calendar schedule.

### **Good of the Group**

Trish Sanchell has retired from the City of McCook. Heidi Wheeler has resigned her position from the SWNPHD to pursue a position at the hospital in Benkelman. The regional medical response group will be disbanded due to lack of funding. Jim and others thanked Heidi for all she has done for the dept. and area.

American Red Cross: John was not present. From last meeting: 844-334-7569 is the correct emergency contact number.

NEMA Basic Emergency Management Academy is October 2-6, 2017.

At 11:22, Char made a motion, seconded by Jim, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting of the SWPETR will be September 13, 2017, following the 10 am SWLEPC meeting at the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Dept. office in McCook.

/s/ Kyle Clapp, recorder