

SWEET GRASS COUNTY

Local Emergency Planning Committee (L.E.P.C.)

All Hazards and Emergency 9-1-1

Minutes

Date of Meeting: **January 23, 2020 11:30 AM**

Location: **Ambulance Hall, Meeting Room; 220 W 1ST AVE; Big Timber MT**

Attendees:

Bill Wallace, SG Commissioner
J.V. Moody, SG Commissioner
Melanie Roe, SG Commissioner
Rob Farnum, Ambulance Manager
Dan Tronrud, Community Health
Lindsey Ellis, Victim Advocate
Kris Novotny, City Fire Chief

Cliff Brophy, DES / 9-1-1 Coordinator
Tom Frieders, NWS
Shawn Palmquist, NWS
Brian Tesar, NWS
Jerry Prete, Fire Training
Bill Pronovost, Stillwater Co. Deputy DES

The meeting was called to order by Clifford Brophy DES / E9-1-1 Coordinator at 11:45 AM

The pledge of allegiance to the US Flag was recited

Welcome and self-introductions

Minutes for the Meeting on December 19, 2019 were approved as submitted.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (L.E.P.C.) Topics:

Cliff announced that he was working on the LEPC membership update project. An email was sent out to existing members and to others that are invited to attend the LEPC. Project going well for now. It was suggested to also invite Steve Reed with MT DOT to join.

Cliff spoke about the E Plan database for responders. It allows responders the ability to access information about facilities within Sweet Grass that are required to report hazardous materials. If any of the SG County responders would like access to the website, please contact Cliff.

Cliff announced that he printed the TIER II reports for SG County. There are only a few. Those are from Telephone Companies. They have batteries in their facilities so they are

required to report those as a reportable quantity. They are in the DES Office for public access as required by EPCRA.

Jerry Prete informed everyone of a program called Situational Analysis (SA). This program is available to first responders. They can run real-time missions or many other tasks. It has a real-time lightening module and weather updates.

Disaster and Emergency Services (D.E.S.) Topics:

Cliff spoke about the EMPG Work Plan for this fiscal year. It lists three exercises for SG County to accomplish by the end June 30th, 2020. Those include an appeal to the public to list their cell phones in the emergency notification system. The second one is scene security training for law enforcement. The third one is an active shooter that will involve most response agencies in this area.

The update project for the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is proceeding. Cliff had sent a portion of that plan to all of the members. That part was the contact list. Cliff received many updates and that is almost completed.

The next part of the EOP is to have the subcommittee review the plan and report back to the LEPC for final review. Kris Novotny and Rob Farnum agreed to be on the subcommittee. Sheriff Ronneberg and Jenn Chappell will be asked to assist also.

Cliff gave a brief update on the Road Closure meeting that took place on January 21, 2020. Sweet Grass and surrounding counties had a phone conference to identify areas of concern for all of those counties. The next step is to obtain a copy of the MT DOT policy. Then the counties can draft a version that is amenable to everyone.

Cliff reported that the EMPG and HSG grants are open. He asked if there are any requests. He is looking at the HSG for funding of the repeater systems. Two suggestions were the upgrade of the civic center as emergency shelter and the other was for generators needed for emergency services.

Emergency 9-1-1 Topics:

Cliff reported that the emergency 9-1-1 phones were updated on New Year's Eve by the WestTel technical center. The programming required a manual upgrade because of the year 2020. There was no disruption to the service and it only took a few minutes for each of

the two stations. The company had identified this issue some time ago and scheduled work orders to accommodate the 2020 issue after midnight.

The Dispatch computer is still on order and should be here at the end of February. The county should be ok with that schedule.

Public Health Topics:

Rob Farnum reported that Jenn Chappell modified the test call protocols. She originally contracted with an answering service. It cost approx. \$60 a month for this service and they experienced some delay issues in the test calls. The test call will now go to dispatch. Dispatch will then call those on the list. These subsequent response calls are time sensitive and require action.

Rob Farnum reported that the Pioneer Medical Clinic schedules MRI equipment into the area each Wednesday. They will also have some other specialized medical testing equipment in the area for a period of time. Because of the dangers involved with metal objects around the MRI, he cautioned all of the responders about the safety protocols that need to be followed. Staff that works around the equipment has special procedures they will follow. If responders are called to the area for whatever reason, they must check with the on duty staff for special instruction.

Ron Farnum also spoke about the Corona virus that has reached the United States. It appears to have started in China and is spreading throughout the globe. It started with animal to human transfer, but now it has morphed into person to person transfer.

Fire Topics:

There will be a meeting with Montana Assoc. of Counties (MACo) and Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) the next day (Friday Jan. 24th). The topic will be the agreements that exist between the counties and State DNRC for fire suppression. This is the second meeting addressing this issue. The meetings have been going well.

Public Utilities:

It was reported that Cory Conner is exploring alternate routes for the scheduled bridge replacement on the Old Boulder Rd near Big Timber.

Comments from Members:

Tom Frieders spoke about the wind events that have been going on in this area. The winds are expected to pick up again by the next weekend.

Lindsey Ellis reported that she just returned from a Public Information Officer class. She would be willing to assist anyone with that service if they would like.

Select Next Meeting Date: February 28, 2020 11:30 AM same location

Public Comments: None given

Adjourn: 1:00 PM

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clifford Brophy". The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish at the end.

Clifford Brophy
DES/911 Coordinator