

# SWEET GRASS COUNTY

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

### All Hazards and Emergency 9-1-1

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#### Minutes

Date of Meeting: **September 24, 2020 11:30 AM**

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

#### Attendees:

Bill Wallace, SG Commissioner  
J.V. Moody, SG Commissioner  
Melanie Roe, SG Commissioner  
Rob Farnum, Ambulance Manager  
Jennifer Chappell, Public Health

Dan Tronrud, Community Health  
Cory Conner, SG Public Works  
Cliff Brophy, DES / 9-1-1 Coordinator  
Ashley Sites, USFS  
Shawn Tripp, USFS

**The meeting was called to order** by Clifford Brophy DES / E9-1-1 Coordinator at 11:30 AM

**The pledge of allegiance to the US Flag** was recited

**Minutes for the Meeting on August 27, 2020** were approved as submitted.

#### **Welcome and self-introductions**

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

Cliff announced that the 2020 THIRA report is due by October 15, 2020. This reporting process encourages the participation of the LEPC members. If anyone is interested in assisting with the report, we will complete it next week. Cliff referenced the general threats and hazards that have been listed in the past reports.

Cliff also announced that the NIMS report is due in November of this year. Same invitation was extended to the members.

The local railroad companies and the pipeline companies have been offering on-line virtual training opportunities. It has been reported that these are very good. If anyone is interested in taking these classes, please contact Cliff.

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

Cliff announced that the two HLS grants will be open soon. We were awarded two grants for the emergency generator and the base station repeater radios. Before we can begin the projects, we have to complete two additional requirements. One is a historical review study for each project site and the other is a cyber security study for the county computer systems.

Cliff gave an update on the Monument Mtn. repeater. That repeater site was recently struck by lightning. SGC and the USFS each have repeaters on that site. Both systems were knocked out several weeks ago. USFS has their repeater back on line. SGC is reviewing the options for repairs and funding. The SGC loss will be turned into insurance for review. This site is necessary for communications in the far Southern portion of the county.

Cliff reported that the county emergency notification system (ENS) referred to as the "reverse 9-1-1" was deployed recently for an incident during which an offender eluded law enforcement in the city of Big Timber. The individual was at large and considered a violent offender risk. The system did work but because it is not user friendly, required several attempts to deploy it.

Rob commented that he has received some input that we may want to consider placing warning signs or lights on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. near the ambulance hall, sheriff's office and the fire station. These would be used to warn motorists as emergency vehicles entered the street. Currently, visibility is somewhat hampered by parked vehicles. The concern is that there may be a collision as a result of the visibility issue. Follow up with the state dot will be required.

Cliff announced that the Pre-disaster Mitigation grant is underway. A request for proposal (RFP) will be released soon on behalf of SGC and other surrounding counties. This RFP will allow our counties to select a consultant to assist us in identifying hazards within our counties.

**Emergency 9-1-1 Topics:**

Cliff reported that nothing significant has happened with E9-1-1. We have had a few computer related issues as usual. Those are being addressed. Cliff attended a virtual

meeting held by the Montana 9-1-1 Advisory Council. Cliff is monitoring their meetings as they are proposing various rules to be adopted as ARMs. Some of these could have a significant impact on smaller dispatch centers.

**Public Health Topics:**

Jenn gave a brief update on the COVID-19 pandemic response. Our count is back up to 6 active cases. She is expecting results on 7 additional tests for those that have direct contact with symptomatic cases.

Rob reported that they are experiencing record numbers of ambulance runs. Only about 4 of those runs are COVID-19 related. Most are just an increase in activity.

**Fire Topics:**

Responders reported that there were two fires. One was a vehicle fire on the interstate that included surrounding grass fuels. The other was an abandoned camp fire on forest service up the East Boulder. It spread to a very small area. It was reported before it was out of hand.

Dan reported on the gas leak near Greycliff. A construction company reportedly hit a small feed line. The gas company was able to get the leak stopped in short order. Two residences were evacuated by on-scene responders just in case there was any danger. The event went well.

**Public Utilities Topics:**

Cory reported that the Old Boulder bridge replacement is ahead of schedule. It appears to be going well. There have been a few traffic complaints.

Cory reported that authorities have reduced the weight limit on the West Boulder bridge down to about 7 tons.

**Weather Service:**

Cliff reported that he received a notice from the NWS service that we could see a system move into this area. Increase fire dangers as a result.

Cliff also received a notice from the NWS that they will be offering a weather training class on the following Monday for those interested.

**Comments from Members:**

Ashley reported that the USFS is no able to move forward with timber sales.

**Select Next Meeting Date:** next scheduled date is Oct. 22, 2020 1130 hrs.

**Public Comments:** USFS LEO Shawn Tripp expressed his interest in getting the Monument Mtn. repeater back up and running. He relied on that system for official duties.

**Adjourn:** 12:30 PM

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clifford Brophy", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the bottom right.

Clifford Brophy  
DES/911 Coordinator