

SWEET GRASS COUNTY

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

All Hazards and Emergency 9-1-1

Minutes

Date of Meeting: **July 22, 2021 11:30 AM**

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

Attendees:

Melanie Roe, SG Commissioner
Bill Wallace, SG Commissioner
J.V. Moody, SG Commissioner
Rob Farnum, Ambulance Manager
Jennifer Chappell, Public Health
Dan Tronrud, Community Health
Cory Conner, SG Public Works

Kris Novotny, City Fire Chief
Bob Culbreth, USFS
Matt McManamen, Sibanye-Stillwater
Tony Bacino, MRL
Kris Koolman, ARC (virtual attendance)
Cliff Brophy, DES / 9-1-1 Coordinator
Tom Frieders, NWS (virtual attendance)

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 June 22, 2021 were approved as submitted.

Welcome and self-introductions

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

Sibanye – Stillwater Mine conducted an on-line and in person presentation on June 24, 2021 to inform the local public about the tailings facility EOP. Local officials and responders participated in those presentations. Matt with S-S Mine was not able to attend those functions, but reported that it was well attended and went well. Cliff also reported that the in-person forum was well attended by the local residents. There were a lot of good questions from the participants. The mine presented the EOP's and Sheriff Ronneberg spoke about county evacuation and emergency notification procedures. Cliff also spoke about the EN procedures.

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

Upcoming training events: Cliff mentioned that the high school is still interested in a large-scale exercise. This will probably be next year. The school officials are still working on basic drills and training for this year.

Rob mentioned that there will be a training event in the near future on the "PAPR" (Powered Air Purifier Respirator) PPE.

Kris with ARC MT mentioned that the ARC will have a trainer utilizing their trailer.

Tony with MRL reported that their recent Hazmat trainings went well. They trained over 300 responders during the multiple trainings held in various communities.

Tony offered to put on training for local responders anytime we would like to host that training. It would be geared towards responders.

Cliff reported that our EOP plan was submitted to the State for their review. Our Commissioners and City Council had signed the EOP giving it their approval.

Kris with ARC gave a detailed report on the numbers of calls they have been receiving. They have been assisting with housing and other needs during this fire season. Currently they do not have anyone requiring shelter in SGC. The ARC will be willing to assist us if needed should the local fire causes evacuations. They have volunteers in Billings and Bozeman.

Cliff reported that Linda and Bill with the Red Cross were able to conduct a site visit and audit of supplies at the Civic Center. They replaced a lot of blankets. They will also work on acquiring personal needs kits to replace those that are currently in the Civic Center. Those kits are very old and require updates.

Emergency 9-1-1 Topics:

Cliff gave a report on the ENS vendor demos. Several members of the LEPC were able to watch demos on 7 different products. Many of the surrounding counties and the State of Montana uses CodeRed. That, and considering the annual cost of each product, it

appears that OnSolve CodeRed was the favored product. A motion was made by Kris Novotny to select CodeRed. Cory Conner seconded. Motion passed unanimously by the members present. This recommendation will then be forwarded to the County Commissioners for final consideration during the budget process.

Public Health Topics:

Jenn announced that DPHHS will assist us on September 2, 2021 to complete an After-Action Review (AAR). The AAR will help us assess our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. From these reviews, participants can then prepare an Improvement Plan (IP) if needed. An invitation to participants will be forthcoming.

Fire Topics:

Bob Culbreth with USFS reported the US Forest Service in this area is still under stage 1 fire restrictions.

Bob reported on the various fires in the area. The fire in the South end of the county (Chippy Fire) was small and is now out. There was a smaller fire in the South end also and involved one tree.

Bob then updated us on the response to the American Fork fire in the North portion of the county. That fire and several others are being managed by a type 2 team staged in White Sulphur Springs. Like many other teams, they are short on resources but are actively working on the fires.

Kris Novotny reported that the county responded to a fire near the Bridger Creek area. They were able to contain that one rather quickly. He and other local fire fighters have been on the American Fork fire. Most of the local equipment has been pulled back for use in newly started local events.

Public Works:

Cory reported that the State contractors have been busy on the Rapelje road. He pointed out that there are a lot of resources on that project that could be used in the event of an emergency.

Cory also mentioned that contractors for Triangle TelCo will be in the area installing more fiberoptic lines.

National Weather Service:

Tom reported out that approx. 75% of the State is in a drought condition. 100% of Sweet Grass Co. is in a drought condition. Short term and long-term outlooks indicate more hot and dry conditions. Tom reminded everyone to call 24/7 if they can be of assistance.

Comments from Members:

Kris Novotny and Rob pointed out that parking congestion was a huge concern during the rodeo held during Sweet Grass Fest. Vehicles were parked on both sides of the narrow road accessing the rodeo fair grounds. There was a concern that fire trucks would not have been able to access the area if needed. This will be reviewed in the near future.

Select Next Meeting Date: August 26, 2021 11:30 AM same location

Public Comments: None given

Adjourn: 12:30 PM

Submitted by


Clifford Brophy
DES/911 Coordinator