

SWEET GRASS COUNTY

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

All Hazards and Emergency 9-1-1

Minutes

Date of Meeting: **9/23/2021 11:30 AM**

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

Attendees:

Bill Wallace, SG Commissioner
Melanie Roe, SG Commissioner
Alan Ronneberg, Sheriff
Corey Austin, Superintendent SGHS
Rob Farnum, Ambulance Manager
Dan Tronrud, Community Health (virtual)
Cory Conner, SG Public Works
Kris Novotny, City Fire Chief

Cliff Brophy, DES / 9-1-1 Coordinator
Kyle Sturgill-Simon, MT DES FO (virtual)
Tom Frieders, NWS (virtual)
Bob Culbreth, FS Fire
Matt McManamen, Safety EB Mine
Tony Bacino, MRL
Bill Racicot, ARC Volunteer
Linda Racicot, ARC Volunteer

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 8/26/2021 were approved as submitted.

Welcome and self-introductions:

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

Linda spoke about the updated cots that were placed at the Civic Center Shelter. She also reported that she and Bill replaced some personal care packages with some supplied by the Red Cross. She was hopeful that we may have access to new cots. They should know in the near future if we will be able to have some of those. Bill and Linda were thanked for their work and generous efforts in upgrading the items at our shelter. Commissioner Roe inquired as to if we could obtain a copy of the recent inventory list. Linda agreed.

Cliff reported that the work on the THIRA/SPR was postponed until October. The reasoning for this was the recent publication of our MHMP document. That document will

have a lot of information that will be useful in completing the THIRA. The THIRA is due the first part of November. This will assist us in producing a more accurate THIRA report.

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

Cliff reported that the Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) draft document has been published for our review. It is available on-line, hard copy and zip drive. We will have a meeting on October 7, 2021 at 10:00 AM to review that product with Tetra Tech. Invites have been sent out. If there are any questions or if anyone needs access to the document, please contact Cliff.

Cliff reported that we received a notice of award for the State Homeland Security Grants (SHSG) that we applied for at the first of this year. Those are for the replacement of repeaters on Tin Can Hill and a generator at the County Annex. The Generator project is plagued with challenges. During the site visit with a contractor, we discovered that the annex has two separate and different electrical services; the HVAC systems will require a generator much bigger than initially planned for; and we will need some electrical modifications completed prior to the generator installation. Cliff will follow up on this project.

Cliff reported on two items that were not on the agenda. He spoke with Industrial prior to the meeting. They are scheduling the replacement of the Monument Mnt. Repeater next Friday. Industrial also has the radios at the church camps installed. They will coordinate a meeting with the church camp personnel and us to work out a plan to link our radio communications for emergency services.

Emergency 9-1-1 Topics:

Cliff reported on the latest issue with E9-1-1 calls. Dispatch has reported that they are not receiving ANI/ALI info with some VOIP emergency calls. We are working with the various vendors and companies to see if we can resolve this issue.

Public Health Topics:

Rob reported that as of last night, SGC is up to 21 active case of COVID-19 with one hospitalized. He believes there are more cases but some folks are not getting tested. PPE, specifically masks, are difficult to obtain. He also reported that the hospitals are near full.

Cliff inquired from Kyle if the State still had the equipment request site active. The clinic cannot obtain masks from normal sources. Kyle acknowledge that it is open.

Cliff announced that the recent AAR/IP was completed for our COVID-19 response. That document is available for those that were a part of the response. Prior input from others indicated that it was a very productive meeting.

Fire Topics:

Bob updated us on the recent Sunlight fire in the Crazy Mountains. It was on the West side in Park Co. Suppression efforts and natural moisture quickly shut that fire down. No reported smoke columns from it at this point. It was in an area that presented little or no danger.

Bob reported that the road rehab on the SGC side of the American Fork Fire is completed. They still have some work remaining in the other counties. Still some smoke visible in the interior of this fire.

Bob reported that there is still some type one equipment in our area if needed. That equipment may be leaving soon for other deployments.

Bob also reported that the Forest Service has lowered the fire severity rating around this area.

Kris updated everyone on the new wildland apparatus that he recently purchased. It will be stationed in Big Timber and other apparatuses will be reallocated in other areas of the county. They have begun training on the new equipment.

Kris announced that there will be a fire training event on October 2. The Fire Training Academy will cover structure fire training.

Public Works:

Cory stated that the construction season is about wrapped up. The State has finished the Rapelje Road project.

National Weather Service:

Tom reported that the weather is pretty quiet right now. We still have extreme drought across the state. He cautioned that we are still not out of fire danger because of the lack of precipitation and warm temperatures.

Long term report looks a lot like last year. We will be right on the edge of the systems this winter, so it could move either way for us.

Comments from Members:

Linda gave us some updates on events that the Red Cross has been involved in. She spoke of an event in Bozeman during which the sheriff's office entered into a trailer to assist an elder male out of the burning structure.

Linda reported that the Red Cross will be active installing fire alarms in people's houses this Saturday. If we know of anyone that needs fire alarms, please let them know.

Corey reported that the first days of school have been going well. They conducted their first evacuation drill. The school officials will be working with the sheriff's office and DES department to review and update the school's emergency response procedures.

Tony reminded everyone to be cautious at railroad crossings. This is the time of year when heaters and defrosters are going. This could cover the warning alerts of the trains.

Matt reported that the mine is seeing an uptick in COVID19 cases. The mine will also be training with the medical flight team on site.

Sheriff reported that they are working with the school on their EOP. He also has a few people out with illnesses.

Commissioners reported that our County Health Officer recently resigned. The Commissioners will be looking for a replacement person.

Dan reported that they will be hiring a new county health assistance.

Select Next Meeting Date: Oct 28, 2021 11:30 hrs.

Public Comments: None given

Adjourn: 12:30 PM

Submitted by



Clifford Brophy
DES/911 Coordinator