

SWEET GRASS COUNTY

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

All Hazards and Emergency 9-1-1

Minutes

Date of Meeting: **7/28/2022 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
Alan Ronneberg, Sheriff
Corey Austin, HS Superintendent
Ian Peterson, CEO PMC (virtual)
Rob Farnum, MT DPHHS / SGCAS
Linda Racicot, ARC MT (virtual)
Jennifer Chappell, Public Health
Brian Beckner, Health Dept.

Dan Tronrud, Community Health
Cory Conner, SG Public Works
Kris Novotny, City Fire Chief
Bob Culbreth, USFS
Gunnar Hansen, P66 (virtual)
Matt McManamen, East Boulder (virtual)
Cliff Brophy, DES / 9-1-1 (virtual)
Kyle Sturgill-Simon, MT DES FO (virtual)
Cory Mottice, NWS (virtual)

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 6/23/2022 were approved as submitted.

Welcome and self-introductions:

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

Cliff reminded everyone that we will soon need to submit our annual list of members to the State Emergency Response Commission for formal appointment. If anyone needs to change their membership status, please let Cliff know. The State will request the list in the next month or so.

Cliff commented that we had a HAZMAT incident at the Big Timber transfer site. It was not a reportable quantity, but it was reported anyway so it would be on file with the state. Fire Chief Kris Novotny was able to give more details. Someone had disposed of a bottle of muriatic acid in their garbage that went to the transfer site. Staff workers at the site inadvertently drove over the bottle. The contents reacted to moisture at the site. BTVFD responded as well as Hanser's Wrecker service. Hanser's has HAZMAT cleanup capabilities.

Kris spoke about another HAZMAT incident that recently occurred. Republic Services hit a power pole near The Fort gas station. That resulted in damage to a transformer and power lines. The transformer oil was cleaned up and power restored.

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

Status of flood assistance: Cliff reported that SGC was designated as eligible for FEMA public assistance but not individual assistance. Other forms of assistance that may be available are: American Red Cross; DNRC; Dept of Ag; American Rescue Plan Act and loans through the Small Business Admin.

Cliff stated that county staff will be meeting with FEMA reps to evaluate funding for bridge repairs and other repairs need for the county.

Cory Conner spoke about the damage to the bridge and the roads.

Emergency 9-1-1 Topics:

Cliff reported that he and Lana spoke about address signage and road signs in the county. Various responders in the county expressed concern in the past about the degraded signs and lack of address numbers in the city and county. Lana will compile a list of the items needed and the cost for replacements for the county rural areas. This topic was brought up with the request for the members to think of funding ideas and staffing ideas as this will be very labor intensive.

Public Health Topics:

Jenn reported that the COVID-19 cases were on the rise again. There are a lot of active cases in the state right now.

Brian with the County Health Department has been working with various business. One in particular was having issue with cooling equipment. The coolers were not at an adequate temperature to ensure safe food storage.

Fire Topics:

Cliff gave an update on the status of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. He and Kris have worked together to complete a grant application that would fund our CWPP updated. The grant app. was signed by the County Commissioners. We should hear from DNRC in the next month or so as to if we were successful or not. We will be calling on LEPC members to assist with that plan process also. It will be a process similar to the MHMP process that we recently completed.

Kris spoke about a few fires in the county and they were caught early.

Bob reported no fires so far on FS in the county. He reminded everyone about the 100 miles endurance race that will take place in the Crazy Mountains.

Public Works:

Cory spoke with a JKL subcontractor. They will be laying cable in the Main Boulder area around Camp Mimanagish about the 2nd to the 4th. Roads will be closed in that area from the hours of 0800 - 1200 and 1300 – 1700 hrs.

Cory reported that the county will be replacing a bridge on the Sweet Grass Creek near Tronrud's place in Melville. That should take place within the month and a detour will be built until the bridge has been completed.

National Weather Service:

We will be moving into fire season. Next week we will expect to see storms with dry lightning.

Mitigation Progress:

Cliff reported on Cybersecurity updates. The County contracted with a service through MACo about a year and a half ago. It provided annual training for employees and training throughout the year. It also provided examples of policies and procedures. The county has reached an acceptable status with this service. The accomplishments of the county staff are recorded by this service. Although it's a continual process, we have reached a satisfactory level.

Cliff gave an update report on the newly formed regional Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan process. The regional group has a monthly meeting with the contractor and the state DES staff. That has been going well. We recently completed our MHMP so a majority of our work has been completed.

Comments from Members:

Linda reported that they have not had any residential fires to report but they have been assisting with flood victims.

Select Next Meeting Date: Thursday, August 25, 2022 11:30 AM

Public Comments: None given

Adjourn: 12:30 PM

Submitted by



Clifford Brophy
DES/911 Coordinator