

# 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: **June 22, 2023 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  
Alan Ronneberg, Sheriff  
Corey Austin, HS Superintendent  
Andrew Bullock, EMS Manager  
Dan Tronrud, Community Health  
Cory Conner, SG Public Works  
Kevin Langhus, SG Public Works/SAR  
Kris Novotny, City Fire Chief

Angie Matos, USFS  
Zane Leonard, East Boulder (Virtual)  
Cliff Brophy, DES / 9-1-1 Coordinator  
John Wetenkamp, NWS (Virtual)  
GUESTS:  
KC Williams, Yellowstone EM (Virtual)  
Annemarie Overcast, Yellowstone DES (V)  
Taylor Slabaugh, HRDC (Virtual)  
Julie Ludwig, HRDC (Virtual)

**The meeting was called to order by Clifford Brophy, Chair at 11:30 AM**

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

**Welcome and self-introductions: Completed**

**Minutes for the Meetings on April 27, 2023 and May 25, 2023 (canceled) were approved as submitted.**

#### **National Weather Service:**

John reported that we could expect strong thunderstorms coming in the next two days. The heaviest would be on Friday afternoon between 1300 and 1500 hrs. Up to 60 mph winds and possible hail up to 1" in diameter. Average June rainfall this year is about 4.69".

Expect July to be wetter than normal with average temps.

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

Cliff asked if there was any input on the points of distribution for the plan. None at this time.

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

The group went over the summary of the TTX held last month that dealt with the Boulder River fire related evacuation. Well attended. USFS, State DNRC, DES, Park County, SG County, East Boulder Mine and Church Camps all attended. AAR/IP drafted for SGC DES.

Cliff announced that Industrial Comm. will be here on July 10<sup>th</sup> to replace the radios on Tin Can Hill. This will disrupt communications from that site. Kevin pointed out that dispatch can use the backup pager system to page responders if necessary. Dispatch will announce on that day when comms will be down.

Cliff reported that CodeRED has been updated with predefined areas and prescribed messages since the TTX last month. As part of the improvement plan, we are working with Park County to coordinate similar messages and verbiage. KC suggested that our counties work together to coordinate on a regional basis in order to provide consistent messages in our area. We agreed that this would be a great project for our local DES meetings.

Cliff reported that his account for CodeRED is now interfaced with Facebook. Messages can now be automatically sent to Facebook when he sends the alerts.

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

Alan reported that he recently hired a new dispatcher. She has been working out great so far. She will attend Dispatch Basic school later.

Cliff announced that we will be drafting the RFP for the purpose of replacing the MCC5500 radio consoles in dispatch. Prices will range from \$125k to \$714k.

**Public Health Topics:**

No reports

**Fire Topics:**

The fire cooperators meeting on May 23, 2023 went very well. It was well attended. Participants expressed their desire to see this done every year.

Cliff announced that the Community Wildfire Protective Plan (CWPP) would start this July for the week of 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. The first day, the core team and the consultant will meet. The next day they will meet with stakeholders and tour the county. After that, they will set up a community meeting. Further details will be sent out as we get closer to those dates.

Angie reported that fuels are at record low for this time of year. She reported that the contract for fuels reduction mitigation in SGC is finished. USFS will try burning near Derby Mnt. this fall.

Kris reported that Big Timber purchased a newer ladder truck for the fire department. It's much bigger than the old one.

**Public Works:**

Cory reported that the county fared rather well considering the amount of rain. The biggest issue was around the Melville area. The County crew is waiting for the soils to dry out so they can finish some repairs to bridges and roads.

Updates on bridges: Cory reported that the bridge near Grey Bare fishing access is scheduled to be fixed with FEMA funding this year.

A bridge on the East Boulder will be replaced on July 26<sup>th</sup>. It will be closed for 8 hours and there will be no detour. As we get closer, more info will be sent out. Cory will coordinate with everyone so we can get the word out about that day.

**Mitigation Progress:**

Cybersecurity updates: County will be moving the remaining employee emails to the DOT GOV domain.

Cliff reported that the Western Region Hazard Mitigation Plan (WRHMP) is posted on the website and they are asking for input and comments.

**Comments from Members:** None

**Select Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, July 27, 2023      11:30 AM

**Public Comments:** None given

**Adjourn:** 12:455 pm

Submitted by



Clifford Brophy  
Chair/Secretary/Treasurer