

# 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: **July 27, 2023 11:30 AM**

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

#### Attendees:

J.V. Moody, SG Commissioner  
Melanie Roe, SG Commissioner  
Alan Ronneberg, Sheriff  
Andrew Bullock, EMS Manager  
Jennifer Chappell, Public Health  
Bob Culbreth, USFS  
Levi Duncan, USFS

Zane Leonard, East Boulder  
Cliff Brophy, DES / 9-1-1 Coordinator  
John Wetenkamp, NWS  
GUESTS:  
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 Meeting on June 22, 2023** were approved as submitted.

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

John reported that the last 30 days brought normal precipitation. It was wetter in the Absarokee area however.

We should see thunderstorms moving in the next few days with 50-60 mph winds. There may be more moisture next week. August will probably be normal.

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

Cliff announced that this time of year we begin work on various reports. One of those is the LEPC membership. Cliff will be sending out notices to all members to verify that they are willing to continue their membership. Some members will be changing job positions; therefore, we will see a few changes to our membership list. We appreciate the contributions that those members have given to our LEPC over the years.

Cliff announced that the LEPC, THIRA and the NIMS reports will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. Those will be completed and presented to the LEPC for review and approval.

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

Cliff announced that Kyle Sturgill-Simon will be changing jobs at the end of this month. He will no longer be our MT DES DFO, but will be moving into the emergency management office for Lewis and Clark County.

Cliff gave an update on the Monument repeater project. Industrial was unable to use one of the old Quantar radios as the link to the Monument repeater. Industrial will search for a radio to be used as a base station link to that repeater.

Cliff reported that the Tin Can Hill repeaters have been replaced. Our communications appear to be working ok since the upgrade.

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

Cliff is drafting the RFP to be sent out to the communication companies for the replacement of PSAP radio consoles.

**Public Health Topics:**

No updates

**Fire Topics:**

Bob Culbreth is also changing jobs. We appreciated all that he has done for Sweet Grass County over the years while at the USFS. Angie and Greg will be our USFS contacts.

Bob reported that there are no fires in this area, but surrounding counties have reported some. USFS will be soon moving into High Fire Danger status. He stated that there is a lot of activity in other areas, such as Canada and the SW of the USA.

As a follow up to our meetings, Bob and others met with one of the Church Camps and gave recommendations about access, water supply and other such topics.

Cliff reported that the county had it's first meetings with stakeholders and public members as part of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The two consultants traveled to SGC and toured the county. Meetings were then set up to visit with Stakeholders and another one to gather public input. The consultants will then compile all that information into a draft form for us to review.

**Public Works:**

The bridge on East Boulder was replaced. Follow-up work will be done to finish the project.

**Mitigation Progress:**

Cybersecurity projects are still being worked on. The county will move all of the dot com emails over to the dot gov emails.

No reports were given as to updates or progress reports for mitigation projects.

Cliff announced that the WRMHP project is still in progress. The consultants for the State will have draft copies of the county annexes ready for review soon. Those will be sent out for review and comments by the respective counties.

**Comments from Members:**

Zane commented that the mine is still receiving input from certain groups that asks for the implementation of an early warning system in the event that the mine's Tailing Holding Facility should fail. One of the options being studied is the use of sirens placed in the East Boulder valley. Zane suggested that the mine may seek our input on factors such as: how many sirens will be needed; how far out should they be installed and who would have access to activate the warning system.

**Select Next Meeting Date: Thursday, August 24, 2023 11:30 AM**

**Public Comments:** None given

**Adjourn:** 12:20 pm

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Clifford Brophy", is written over a circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Clifford Brophy

Chair/Secretary/Treasurer