

SWEET GRASS COUNTY

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

All Hazards and Emergency 9-1-1

Minutes

Date of Meeting: **July 25, 2024 11:30 AM**

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

Attendees:

J.V. Moody, SG Commissioner
Melanie Roe, SG Commissioner
Alan Ronneberg, Sheriff
Corey Austin, HS Superintendent
Jennifer Chappell, Public Health
Cory Conner, SG Public Works
Kevin Langhus, SG Public Works/SAR
Kris Novotny, City Fire Chief

Zane Leonard, East Boulder
Zac Krohn, USFS
Levi Duncan, USFS
Gunnar Hansen, P66
Cliff Brophy, DES / 9-1-1 Coordinator
Nick Vertz, NWS
GUESTS:
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 27, 2024 were approved as submitted.

National Weather Service:

Recent and short-term events are and will be extremely hot and dry. Above the 90's for the next few weeks. Long-term into mid-August we will see above normal temperatures and below normal moisture. We will see some dry thunder storms move through the areas. This could cause lightening in some areas.

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

Cliff reported that a new law in Montana required that public meetings have to be recorded and the recording posted online. At the beginning of the meeting, it was announced that this meeting was being recorded.

The annual LEPC report, NIMS report and the THIRA/SPR will be due by Nov. 1st. We received the forms that must be completed and returned. Anyone interested in completing these are welcome to join in on the meetings. Once they are drafted, they will be sent to the LEPC members for review. The forms will then be submitted for action by the LEPC before being submitted to the State.

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

Members discussed the recent global disruption of services caused by the CrowdStrike update with Microsoft Windows products. Disruptions affected: airports, hospitals, 9-1-1 centers and other facilities. The only service disruption in Sweet Grass County that anyone knew of, was the live scan fingerprint computer. This was because of the connection to the State DOJ. MT DOJ was also affected.

Cliff gave a brief update on the Courthouse generator. Several different techs have looked at it. The next step is to test the compression and ensure that the engine is still good. NorthWestern Energy tested the gas pressure at the meter and found it was in spec.

Cliff reported that our State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG) projects are almost finished. Final reports are being submitted and the closeout letters will follow.

Emergency 9-1-1 Topics:

Members were requested to list any issues with the recent radio replacements and the console replacements. Kevin reported that the link from Dispatch to the portable fire repeater on Contact Mountain still needs to be established.

Same request was made in reference to the repeaters. No issues were reported at this time.

Cliff reported that the dispatchers can use the headsets with the radios and emergency 9-1-1 phone calls. Techs with Granite Tech and WestTel are still integrating the E9-1-1 phone equipment and the PPX system. This will give dispatch the ability to conference call and use their headsets for all three systems.

Contact (Dunne Comm.) was recently working on the Eventide recorder. They were finally able to obtain the digital certificate for the upgrade. Now they need several cards to connect the digital systems (radio and E9-1-1 lines).

Public Health Topics:

Jenn reported that not much has been going on. They will be busy in a few weeks for High School sports physicals on August 7.

Fire Topics:

Cliff reported that the CWPP/WUI is on the final draft. We sent in several changes and those are being incorporated for the final submission.

Zac with USFS reported that they have been working on several fires. Local FD's and FS Fire units have been assisting each other on fires in this area.

Zac reported that USFS property is in high danger for fires but no restrictions have been enacted at this time.

Kris reported that 6 fires started in one night due to the lightning. One fire got away from crews and burned during the next day. They were able to finally extinguish it also. Then another one started in Shanks's Basin. It was about 345 acres.

The county will be entering into stage 2 fire restrictions. That will go into effect on Friday July 26th at 0001 hrs.

Law Enforcement:

Alan reported that two dispatchers graduated from the Dispatch Basic school. One will be leaving for college and that will make them short staffed again.

Alan reported that the rodeo event went well. Calls went up after the rodeo event. Several fights at the bars were reported and shoplifting during Sweet Grass Fest kept law enforcement busy. His office didn't receive as many fireworks complaints this year even though there were negative comments on Face Book about the noise. Boat Float generated only one call this year even though there were a lot of participants. Again, like the rodeo event, calls increased after the event. SAR personnel were deployed on two SAR calls. Both ended successfully.

Public Works:

Cory announced that the bridge at McLeod will be shut down to vehicle traffic but will remain open for pedestrian use only.

Kris announced that the city will begin water and sewer line replacements next week around the Clinic and East of that location. This will start next week.

Mitigation Progress:

No update reports. Cliff announced that we will review all of our tasks during the next few meetings as part of the annual review process.

Comments from Members:

Zane reported that the East Boulder Mine will be installing audible signaling devices (sirens) in the East Boulder valley to be used during emergencies. The mine personnel will be scheduling a public meeting sometime in August to update the residents and key stakeholders. The mine officials will be in contact with emergency services to coordinate this project.

Select Next Meeting Date: Thursday, August 29, 2024 11:30 AM Due to a scheduling conflict, the meeting will be held the 29th during the fifth week rather than the normal 4th week.

Public Comments: None given

Adjourn: 12:30 PM

Submitted by


Clifford Brophy
Chair/Secretary/Treasurer