

SWEET GRASS COUNTY

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

All Hazards and Emergency 9-1-1

Minutes

Date of Meeting: **February 26, 2026 11:30 AM**

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

Attendees:

Justin Ferguson, City Mayor
Heidi Baker, DON PMC
Stacey McManamen, QRN PMC
Robert "Bo" Wyant, EP Coordinator PMC
Jeremy Countryman, EMS Manager
Jenn Chappell, Public Health
Zac Krohn, USFS

Zane Leonard, East Boulder
Cliff Brophy, DES / 9-1-1 Coordinator

GUESTS:
Matt Heaney, USFS
Joshua Viegut, PMC (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 January 22, 2026 were approved as submitted.

National Weather Service:

Report unavailable.

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

Cliff handed out the "One-Page" document sent out by the SERC. Topic was "LEPC Notifications and Reporting).

List of proposed members for 2026 was handed out. Jeremy moved to accept the list, Jenn seconded. Motion passed. List will be sent to the County Commissioners and then to the State of MT SERC.

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

Cliff reported that the communications radio project between the Boulder River Valley Church Camps and Dispatch is still in the works.

Cliff reported that the Federal and the State Government are still meeting to determine what "response" and "funding" will look like in the near future. Depending on what happens with FEMA, the States and Locals may have to adjust their responses and funding.

Cliff announced that we will have connection with IPAWS in the next few days. This was just discovered after the meeting agenda had been released.

Emergency 9-1-1 Topics:

Cliff gave an update on E9-1-1 equipment replacements and upgrades. Several uninterruptable power supplies (UPS's) have been installed and upgraded.

Jeremy inquired about the use of Emergency Dispatch prearrival instructions by dispatch. Cliff answered that several of the dispatchers have been trained in the use of the standards and criteria adopted by the State. The Sheriff's Office has found it difficult to find training resources to teach that program. Staffing shortages have hampered those efforts also.

Fire Topics:

Cliff handed out several maps that shows the proposed changes to the fire service area for the East side of the Crazy Mountains. Because of the recent land swap between US Forest Service and private land owners in that area, it changes the fire authority agreements between Federal, State and Local fire agencies. The proposed changes will go through several levels of Federal review before they are adopted. Zack was able to share information on this subject as well.

Zack reported that the USFS is hoping to finish the burn piles this spring.

The fire cooperators meeting will be in April this year and will be held in Livingston.

Law Enforcement Topics:

No reports

Public Health Topics:

A medical surge functional exercise was held on 2-19-2026 by the Southern MT Healthcare Coalition. Bo Wyant reported that about 17 people attended the virtual based training opportunity at the Ambulance Hall.

Jenn reported that its been slow for reported cases that she deals with.

Public Works:

Cliff reported that the County is starting on Bridge projects again now that it's nicer weather.

Mitigation Progress:

No updates

Comments from Members:

Mayor Ferguson reported that the City is still working on the City Hall project.

Zane reported that the East Boulder Mine will be starting up some updates to the dam.

Select Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026 11:30 AM

Public Comments: None given

Adjourn: 12:30 pm

Submitted by



Clifford Brophy
Chair/Secretary/Treasurer