

# Southwest Planning Exercise and Training Region

## February 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The SWPETR met Wednesday, December 13, 2019 at the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department Office in McCook, Ne. It immediately followed the 10 a.m. SWLEPC meeting.

Regional representatives from 6 of the 7 counties were present: Dundy- Brandon Myers, Region 51 EMA Director and Pam Reichert, Deputy EM; Furnas- Roger Powell, Region 17 EMA Director; Hayes- EM Char Hamilton; Hitchcock- Brandon Myers, Region 51 EMA director and Deputy EM Kyle Clapp; Perkins-Sheriff/EM James Brueggeman; Red Willow- Sheriff/EM Alan Kotschwar and Deputy EM Diana Wilkinson

Absent was Duane Dreiling, Chase Co. EM

Also in attendance were: Ryan Lowry, UNL Public Policy Center; Heidi Wheeler, Nebraska Plains Healthcare Coalition; Ike Brown, McCook Police Dept.; Bill Elliott, Red Willow Western RVFD/regional hazmat team; Mike Hotchkiss, Nebraska Corn Processing; Myra Stoney, SWNEPHD; Michael Ravenstein, Safety Director, Valmont; Amanda Wekesser, GLD National Weather Service; Brittany Newman, GLD National Weather Service; Jesse Lundquist GLD National Weather Service; Chris Ulrick NEMA; Leo Larkin, NEMA; Heath Wilkinson, NDEQ; Teresa Keck, LBF National Weather Service; Doug Brown, Furnas Co. Sheriff's Office

**1) Call to Order** Brandon Myers called the meeting to order at 10:35 and pointed out the posted Open Meeting Law.

### **2) Review and approve Agenda**

James moved, seconded by Char, to waive the reading of the agenda and approve it as written. All were in favor.

### **3) Review and approve the minutes from the previous meeting**

Roger moved, seconded by Alan, to waive the reading and approve the minutes. All were in favor.

### **4) NEMA report-** Leo: Pathway exercise, air tanker contracts, LEOP and EMPG workshop

Chris: DHHS Stockpile and grid exercises, new knowledge center system, a lot of cyber security training coming up; see NEMA website for training calendar for offerings statewide.

**5) Public Policy Center-** Ryan Lowry reported for Kate Speck: End of Agreement August 30<sup>th</sup>. Region meeting documents were discussed. Subject matter expert group meetings are being scheduled March 11-25. Then April 8<sup>th</sup> the Governor's project group meets.

**6) ARC update-** Brian Stephens: unable to attend, but Pam read a few Red Cross items for him. Shelter/CERT trainings. The ARC is always looking to partner. Plenty of smoke detectors are available- contact Brian.

**7) NPHCC update** Heidi Wheeler handed out and explained the Coalition's training calendar. The hospitals are moving away from using volunteers due to liability concerns.

## **8) Old Business**

**a. 2016 Grant Update** \$ 145,332.79 remains. The bulk is for the NRIN buildout. Some funds spent for leases and maintenance. \$ 17,271 was for system credentialing. Brandon ordered credentialing items in the amount of \$ 14,143.50, which included 15 track apps. He pointed out the availability of very inexpensive Ipads from this vendor to run the track apps. After some discussion, Roger moved, seconded by Char, to purchase 15 IPADS if the price Brandon has is correct. All were in favor.

**b. 2017 Grant Update:** \$ 97,500 remains unspent. Most is for NRIN buildout.

**c. 2018 Grant Update:** \$ 59,700 remains unspent. The funds from this grant are also primarily to be used for communications.

## **9) NPSCC Update**

**a. NRIN** Brandon explained the value and benefit of the NRIN system. It is a locally controlled secure internet connection that many locales are using for their communications. Ryan mentioned NRIN board elections are coming up.

## **10) New Business**

**a. New LE PET discussion:** Brandon explained the concept in use in other areas and suggested a Law Enforcement PET region group for this region. Alan and Ike spoke in favor of the idea. Char then moved and Roger seconded that the Southwest Region create a law enforcement PET group. All were in favor.

**b. Training for Region** Discussion was held on the need to identify which IC courses to offer in the Southwest Region. Please consider this and propose any command courses you would like to see/need offered for the responders in our area.

**c. NWS- Teresa Keck** Please let your NWS office know early about any events you would like weather office support for. There is the possibility of budget cuts or staff availability concerns as the year goes on. Early indications are that weather patterns, similar to 2007, look dry. Severe weather may start earlier. Please use and encourage others to use weather chat.

## **11) Good of the Group**

Upcoming local trainings mentioned during the LEPC meeting were: Ice rescue- this Saturday in McCook, Firefighter I, also in McCook.

Myra will have Heidi do a 700 class for her board members.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Knowledge Center training, noon-4 pm in Grand Island (the day before the NAEM Conference). The second half of the training would be the Friday morning of the conference.

Ike mentioned the February 21<sup>st</sup> Statewide radio system meeting in McCook. They would like RSVP by Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**12) Adjournment:** Char moved, seconded by Alan, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:38. The next meeting of the SWPETR will be April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 10 a.m. at the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department office, 404 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, McCook.

/s/ Kyle Clapp, recorder