

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Local Emergency Planning Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, August 16, 2018

Date of Filing: Friday, August 17, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Hentges at 2:00 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Tom Hentges, Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer, Ms. Melissa Brunner, Mr. Michael Taylor, Mr. Dave Rynders, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Sonya Hansen, Mr. David Brommerich, Mr. Kelly Johnston, Mr. Leif Tolokken, and Ms. Jenny Legaspi.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were presented. The minutes of the May and January meeting were read by Ms. Halverson. Mr. Tolokken made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Public Comments: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the LEPC Financial Summary: Mr. Fuerbringer explained the financial report was not available due to the county financial system being down. There have been no major expenses since the last meeting.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the LEPC/EPCRA 2019 Budget: The proposed budget was reviewed. There may need to be some small changes prior to being presented to the county board. The LEPC and Emergency Management budgets have been combined this year. This was done for easier tracking of revenues and expenses and also to help apply for more grant funds. A discussion was held on placing a truck purchase in the budget. This item was denied by Finance in the past, but Mr. Fuerbringer explained to the committee the need for the truck. Response time to floods, train derailments, and other disasters is reduced when the emergency vehicle is already equipped with the necessary supplies. If the supplies are stored in the office and a vehicle needs to be located then filled with the supplies the response time is greatly increased. Mr. Rynders made a motion to move the budget forward, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the EPCRA Computer Grant Application: Mr. Fuerbringer distributed an award letter for the EPCRA Computer Grant. This money can be used for the purchase of a laptop and cell phone booster. Buffalo County is not eligible for the hazmat portion of the grant as we do not have a hazmat team.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Spill Report: There was one spill reported in the Town of Dover. Two to three gallons of diesel fuel were spilled in a grassy area. Due to the small amount and the area it was spilled in no clean-up was necessary.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Emergency Directors Report: Mr. Fuerbringer reviewed the work he has completed since the last meeting.

- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant project involving two Town of Gilmanton properties has been completed. The project was over budget but WEM has indicated that they will cover those costs.
- EM has been working on grant paperwork for dozens of projects throughout Buffalo County. WEM requires the paperwork to be processed through EM.
- Research has been done on radio frequencies between MN and Buffalo County. A review of using tower space and installing patches was done but the cost is \$12,000.00. EM will explore grants funding for this project.
- Mr. Fuerbringer worked on obtaining quotes for new address signs. Plans were being made to move this forward with the county paying 50% and the municipalities paying 50%. Ms. Hansen explained this may change slightly as the Highway Department found another vendor that can get the signs for as little as \$8.00 per sign. The cost share will remain the same, but the vendor for purchasing the signs may change. It is unsure at this point who would install the signs, but that is being worked on.
- EM and UW Extension hosted a booth at the fair. Plans for improved presence is being explored for 2019.
- Mr. Fuerbringer served as an exercise evaluator for Pepin County on July 18th.
- A tabletop exercise was held on August 1st in Fountain City. 11 agencies attended.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding LEPC Members Report: Mr. Tolokken would like to see some adjustments to the agendas. He would like all the member's names on the agenda and he would like all the information sent prior to each meeting. It was agreed having the member's names on the agenda and the information distributed prior to the meeting is a good idea.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the LEPC Chair Report: Chair Hentges on behalf of the EMS and Fire Service wanted to thank Mr. Fuerbringer for all he has done since he took on the EM Director task.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Next Meeting Date and Time: The next meeting will be November 15, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjourn: Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn at 3:40 p.m., seconded by Ms. Hansen. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Roxann M. Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk