



Barton County LEPC

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Great Bend, KS 67530

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Meeting Notes

January 27, 2015

1:30 p.m.

Barton County Courthouse
Conference Room
Great Bend, KS 67530

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Amy Miller at 1:34 p.m.

2. Introduction of Members

Chairman Miller welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2015 and asked that all of those individuals present introduce themselves and to describe their agency/affiliation. Members and guests were also asked to sign the Record of Attendance.

Members Present: Stephen Billinger, Kansas Highway Patrol
Phil Hathcock, Barton County Solid Waste, Manager
Don Halbower, American Red Cross
Mary Hoisington, Great Bend Tribune, Publisher
Doug Hubbard, Barton County 911 Communications, Director
Chris Komarek, Ellinwood Fire Department
Sarah Krom, Sunflower Diversified Services
Linda Michaelis, Great Bend Regional Hospital
Amy Miller, Barton County Emergency Management, Director
Dale Phillips, Barton County Road & Bridge and Noxious Weed
Jane Schepmann, Clara Barton Hospital
Julie Smith, United Way of Central Kansas

Guests Present: Alicia Straub, Barton County Commissioner
Mike Napolitano, Great Bend Fire/EMS
Craig Divoll, Kansas Office of Emergency Communications, Speaker
J. L. Ellis, Kansas Office of Emergency Communications, Speaker

3. Adoption of Meeting Notes from the October 20, 2014 Meeting

Chairman Miller asked if there were any revisions to the October 20, 2014 Meeting Notes. There were none offered.

Action: To approve Meeting Notes from October 20, 2014.

Motion: Mary Hoisington

Second: Don Halbower

Vote: Carried on voice vote.

4. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Amy Miller, LEPC Chairperson, informed the committee members present that the bylaws require the committee to elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson at the first meeting of the fiscal year. Nominations would be accepted from the floor.

Mary Hoisington asked if Amy Miller would consider serving another year as chairman. Miller said yes.

Action: To elect Amy Miller as Chairperson of the Barton County LEPC for the 2015 year.

Motion: Mary Hoisington

Second: Linda Michaelis

Vote: Carried on voice vote.

Chairperson Miller then asked if there was a nomination for Vice-Chairperson. After some discussion among members there were no nominations offered.

5. Severe Weather Awareness Week 2015

Amy Miller, Chairman, informed the committee that Severe Weather Awareness Week has been scheduled for March 2 to March 6, 2015. The weather safety presentation by the National Weather Service in Wichita, will be on March 3 at 3:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The statewide tornado drill is also scheduled for March 3 at 1:30 p.m.

Miller informed the members about the Integrated Warning Team Meeting on January 26 in Lyons. The meeting was attended by emergency managers, National Weather Service personnel and media meteorologists from across the State of Kansas. Miller told members that there was much discussion on the difference and benefits of Impact Based Warnings as opposed to Hazard Specific Warnings.

6. Annual Training and Exercise Planning Workshop (TEPW)

Amy Miller, Chairman, passed out copies of the 2015-2017 Barton County Exercise calendar. Jane Schepmann, Clara Barton Hospital, talked about the Ebola tabletop exercise at Clara Barton Hospital on January 7, which was included on the calendar. Miller announced that there is a follow-up meeting on February 2 to worked on an after action report for the exercise. The rest of the exercise calendar for 2015 was reviewed by committee members.

7. National Public Safety Broadband Network

Craig Divoll, Outreach Coordinator, Kansas Office of Emergency Communications, provided an explanation of FirstNet and the National Public Safety Broadband Network. FirstNet is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. FirstNet was created by Congressional act in 2012. The FirstNet network is to be a high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety entities. Public safety personnel, using the FirstNet network, will be able to share applications, access databases, and communicate securely between all responding agencies utilizing the same network. The network is not intended to replace radio communications, it is first and foremost a data network. Agencies will need to purchase equipment to communicate on the network. Currently, the State of Kansas is consulting with local jurisdictions to ensure that the FirstNet network is designed to meet the need of public safety agencies across the state. Divoll may be contacted for more information on the network by calling 785-221-8565. More information on the network may also be found at www.appcom.org.

8. Training Opportunities

Chairman asked members if there were any training opportunities that anyone wanted to announce. J.L. Ellis, Kansas Office of Emergency Communications, told the LEPC members that he is available to provide radio specific training to interested agencies as well as work with them on standard operating procedures for radio communications. He encouraged hospitals to request radio communications training for their staff, stating that it can easily be completed in 10-15 minutes. He also is available to help with exercises that contain 800 MHz communications as part of the scenario. He may be contacted at 785-443-1310. In addition, he can work with agencies to provide a 1.5 day training on public information in their area.

9. Reports from Members

Mary Hoisington brought cupcakes to the meeting because it was Julie Smith's birthday.

Amy Miller, Chairman, pass out the current U.S. Drought Monitor map for Kansas. She pointed out that although Barton County had received some moisture it is still considered abnormally dry.

10. Other Business and Public Comments

No other business or public comments were brought before the committee.

11. Discuss next meeting date of LEPC

The next meeting date has been suggested for April 20, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. at the Barton County Courthouse, Room 101, Great Bend, Kansas.

12. Adjournment

Action: To adjourn the January 27, 2015 meeting of the Barton County LEPC.

Motion: Mary Hoisington

Second: Chris Komarek

Vote: Carried on voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Approved: April 20, 2015
Amy T. Pfeiler