



Barton County LEPC

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Great Bend, KS 67530

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Meeting Notes

April 12, 2016

10:00 a.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 10:00 a.m.

2. **Introduction of Members**

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

Members Present: Stephen Billinger, Barton County Sheriff's Office
 Scott Fleming, Hoisington EMS
 Brittney Glenn, Ellinwood EMS
 Phil Hathcock, Barton County Solid Waste, Manager
 Don Halbower, American Red Cross
 Mary Hoisington, Great Bend Tribune, Publisher
 Doug Hubbard, Claflin Fire Department
 Sarah Krom, Sunflower Diversified Services
 Amy Miller, Barton County Emergency Management, Director
 Martin Miller, Great Bend Airport
 Dale Phillips, Barton County Road & Bridge and Noxious Weed
 Shelly Schneider, Barton County Health Department, Director

Guests Present: Dennis Neeland, Operations Manager, Great Bend Co-op
 Deb Tucker, Disaster Program Manager, American Red Cross

3. **Adoption of Meeting Notes from the January 26, 2016 Meeting**

Chairman Miller asked if there were any revisions to the January 26, 2016 Meeting Notes. There were none offered.

Action: To approve Meeting Notes from January 26, 2016.

Motion: Scott Fleming

Second: Steve Billinger

Vote: Carried on voice vote.

4. Great Bend Co-op Presentation

Amy Miller, LEPC Chairperson, introduced Dennis Neeland, Operations Manager, Great Bend Co-op. Miller said that Neeland had graciously accepted an invitation to speak with the Committee about the Great Bend Co-op chemicals that were reported on their Tier II reports. Neeland then outlined the safety management plans that are currently in place at the Great Bend Co-op and its locations in Barton County. He reviewed the chemicals covered under SARA Title III which are stored at several Great Bend Co-op locations with a particular emphasis on Anhydrous Ammonia. He also provided an overview of state agencies that inspect the Co-op facilities for safety and compliance. These agencies include the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Neeland also gave examples of safety training for Co-op employees for hazards that are specific to the grain industry.

After the end of Neeland's presentation, Amy Miller, LEPC Chairperson, introduced Deb Tucker, Disaster Program Manager, Central and Western Kansas Chapter of the American Red Cross. Tucker introduced herself as the new American Red Cross contact for Barton County. Tucker provided details on the American Red Cross response to the wildland fires. The American Red Cross worked with a local church, the First Christian Church, to provide hot meals and sack lunches during the wildland fires response in late March in Barber County. Tucker said by the 3rd day of the fire that 860 people were being fed. The Forestry Service provided sheltering for the fire departments that responded and American Red Cross opened a shelter for victims in Pratt.

Tucker encouraged local agencies to contact her for any emergencies. She mentioned that there are several ERVs (Emergency Response Vehicles) located in Wichita, Topeka, Salina, Hays, Garden City, and a mini-ERV in Pratt to provide canteen services upon request.

5. Severe Weather Awareness Week 2016

Amy Miller, Chairman, informed the committee that Severe Weather Awareness Week was March 14 to March 18. A total of 169 individuals attended the Storm Fury on the Plains severe weather safety presentation by the National Weather Service at the Crest Theater on March 8. Additionally the local media provided a lot of information to the public concerning severe weather safety precautions and planning.

6. Report on Tier II Reporting Facilities

Amy Miller, Chairman, passed out lists of the companies/corporations who had filed Tier II reports with Barton County. As of April 11, reports had been received from 96 different entities. This led to a discussion regarding the transload facility that is being built in Barton County and how that might affect transportation safety and in the event of an emergency, how it might affect citizens and responders. Miller reported that she had contacted Jan Peters, Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, about the facility. Peters said she would talk to the developers about contacting the Committee and making a presentation.

7. Weather Forecasts

Chairman Miller passed out copies of the U.S. Drought Monitor for Kansas showing the current intensity of drought conditions in Barton County. The northern half of Barton County is currently labeled as abnormally dry and the southern half as having moderate drought. In addition, Miller shared copies of the three month outlook for temperature probability and the outlook for precipitation probability from the National Weather Service. This led to a discussion about a burn ban and how the current burn restrictions are implemented by individual fire departments.

8. Training Opportunities

Chairman Miller asked members if there were any training opportunities that anyone wanted to announce. There were no announcements by any of the members.

9. Reports from Members

Amy Miller, Chairman, asked if any members had any reports. Shelly Schneider, Health Department Director, gave a short report on the Zika virus. She said that the CDC has released a map showing areas of the United States that have reported cases of the virus. She noted that human safety precautions are the same as for West Nile. A notable difference between the mosquitos that carry Zika and West Nile are that Zika mosquitoes will bite predominately during the day and the West Nile mosquitos will primarily bite during the night.

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 July 12, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Barton County Courthouse, Great Bend, Kansas.

12. Adjournment

Action: To adjourn the April 12, 2016 meeting of the Barton County LEPC.

Motion: Steve Billinger

Second: Phil Hathcock

Vote: Carried on voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

*Approved: July 12, 2016
Amy Miller*