



# Barton County LEPC

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Great Bend, KS 67530

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## Meeting Notes

**April 20, 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 1:31 p.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: 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  
Martin Miller, Great Bend Airport, Manager  
Dale Phillips, Barton County Road & Bridge and Noxious Weed  
Shelly Schneider, Barton County Health Department, Director

Guests Present: Jim Misunas, Great Bend Tribune, Guest  
Mike Napolitano, Great Bend Fire/EMS, Speaker  
Jeffrey Flax, Overland Pass Pipeline, Speaker  
Bill Klug, Overland Pass Pipeline, Speaker

### **3. Adoption of Meeting Notes from the January 27, 2015 Meeting**

Chairman Miller asked if there were any revisions to the January 27, 2015 Meeting Notes. There were none offered.

Action: To approve Meeting Notes from January 27, 2015.

Motion: Mary Hoisington

Second: Chris Komarek

Vote: Carried on voice vote.

### **4. Overland Pass Pipeline Presentation**

Jeffrey Flax, Operations Tech II, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the emergency procedures in place for the Overland Pass Pipeline that has 27.9 miles of pipeline in Barton County. The pipeline carries liquid gas product through the northern part of Barton County and ends at Conway. Flax outlined the response procedures in the event of an emergency and how the company plans to work with local responders utilizing the Incident Command System.

### **5. MERGe and FORCe Response Groups**

Mike Napolitano, Great Bend Fire Chief, provided the members with information about the Major Emergency Response Group (MERGe) and Fire Operations Response Coordination (FORCe). MERGe was developed after the Hoisington tornado in 2001. A group of Emergency Medical Service directors in EMS Region 3 met to develop a mutual aid group which would later be called MERGe. The group currently consists of approximately 25 agencies that meet four times per year. The group designates an on-call duty officer who is the contact person for the group during any given month. Agencies or facilities that need EMS assistance can call LifeTeam Dispatch and request aid. LifeTeam will then contact the duty officer and have them contact the requesting party directly to discuss the mission. The group utilizes the statewide 800 MHz radio system to communicate between members during a response. In addition to providing EMS resources, the group can provide personnel to help with staffing Incident Command during an emergency.

Napolitano reported that FORCe has been an effective response group for other agencies who have had large grass fires in recent years. As with MERGe, FORCe can provide not only apparatus but also personnel to help with Incident Command. In addition to both of these mutual aid groups, Great Bend Fire Department also participates in Task Force 5, a group developed to respond to events that require technical rescue equipment and personnel trained to utilize the equipment. Task Force 5 is made up of fire department personnel from Newton, Wellington, Winfield, Sedgwick County and Great Bend. The tools, utilized by the Great Bend Fire Department, were obtained through grants from the Department of Homeland Security. The equipment is insured by Barton County.

### **6. Severe Weather Awareness Week 2015**

Amy Miller, Chairman, informed the committee that 187 people attended the Storm Fury on the Plains weather safety training at the Crest Theater on March 3, 2015. In addition, there were several newspaper articles and radio news broadcasts that provided information on several severe weather topics during the week of March 2 through March 6, 2015. Miller also discussed issues that many of the public safety agencies throughout the South Central Kansas area are having with storm chasers during severe weather incidents. Miller reported that the problems were not with storm chasers that are associated with media outlets, but rather individuals who take to the roads during severe weather and obstruct emergency response vehicle who are trying to respond during severe weather events.

## **7. South Kansas Multi-Hazard, Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Plan**

Amy Miller, Emergency Management Director, informed the committee that the Barton County Board of County Commissioners had adopted the South Kansas Multi-Hazard, Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Plan on March 19, 2015. Due to the costs of maintaining individual county hazard mitigation plans, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management began an effort in 2012 to develop regional mitigation plans in an effort to continue the development of hazard mitigation plans and save tax dollars. The South Kansas Regional Mitigation Plan is comprised of eight counties: Barton, Barber, Comanche, Edwards, Kiowa, Pawnee, Pratt and Stafford Counties. All mitigation plans must meet the requirements set for the in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and be reviewed and approved by both the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Miller told the members that the plan was available on the Barton County website, [www.bartoncounty.org](http://www.bartoncounty.org), department tab Emergency/Risk Management, and then underneath Emergency Planning. The plan is valid for five years at which time it must be reviewed and updated. Miller said that the cities and school districts must now adopt the plan and provide documentation that they adopted the plan to Barton County Emergency Management. The adoption paperwork will then become part of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The plan not only identifies goals and objectives to reduce risk to people and property, but also enables participating entities to apply for mitigation grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

## **8. Training Opportunities**

Chairman Miller asked members if there were any training opportunities that anyone wanted to announce. Shelly Schneider, Barton County Health Department, announced that the Health Department had applied for an Ebola Grant which would provide training on donning and doffing personal protective equipment. Schneider said she hoped to hear by June 1 if the grant application had been accepted. Miller said she was requesting a G300-Intermediate Incident Command class and a G400-Advanced Incident Command class for sometime in the Fall of 2015.

## **9. Reports from Members**

Shelly Schneider reported that the recent actual Pertussis outbreak would be accepted for exercise credit for the Health Department. In addition, on May 26 the Health Department will meet with the County Fire Chiefs on May 26 as part of their ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services activities.

Amy Miller, Chairman, passed out the current U.S. Drought Monitor map for Kansas. She noted that the map did not take into consideration the moisture that Barton County had received over the weekend.

**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 20, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. at the Barton County Courthouse, Room 101, Great Bend, Kansas.

**12. Adjournment**

Action: To adjourn the April 20, 2015 meeting of the Barton County LEPC.

Motion: Don Halbower

Second: Mary Hoisington

Vote: Carried on voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

*Approved: July 20, 2015  
Amy T. Miller*