



Barton County LEPC

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Great Bend, KS 67530

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Meeting Notes

April 24, 2018

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 10:04 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:

- Kelly Bachar, Great Bend Regional Hospital
- Lindsey Bogner, Ellinwood District Hospital & Clinic
- Gaila Demel, United Way of Central Kansas
- Scott Fleming, Hoisington EMS
- Don Halbower, American Red Cross Volunteer
- Mary Hoisington, Great Bend Tribune, Publisher
- Doug Hubbard, Claflin Fire Department
- Roger McPherson, Fuller Industries LLC
- Amy Miller, Barton County Emergency Management, Director
- Dena Popp, Barton County 911 Communications, Director
- Jane Schepmann, Clara Barton Hospital
- Steve Webster, Eagle Radio-Great Bend
- Donna Zimmerman, Barton County Clerk

Guests Present:

- Erica Seger, Barton County Health Department
- Mark Kircher, Wheatland Electric
- Teresa Mazouch, Wheatland Electric
- Matt Althouse, Eagle Radio-Great Bend

3. Adoption of Meeting Notes from the February 6, 2018 Meeting

Chairman Miller asked if there were any revisions to the February 6, 2018 Meeting Notes. There were none offered.

Action: To approve Meeting Notes from February 6, 2018.

Motion: Mary Hoisington

Second: Gaila Demel

Vote: Carried on voice vote.

4. Wheatland Electric

Amy Miller, LEPC Chairperson, introduced Mark Kircher, Field Supervisor, Wheatland Electric, who provided an overview of Wheatland Electric Operations. In 2007, Aquila was sold to six electrical cooperatives and the electrical distribution for the city of Great Bend is now known as Wheatland Electric Cooperative, a member owned energy cooperative. Great Bend electricity is 90% generated by wind energy and 10% generated by natural gas. There are three different electrical feeds into Great Bend according to Kircher which makes it possible for Great Bend residents to have their electricity restored in a timely manner. Kircher described their emergency response resources, equipment and crews that are available in Great Bend. He also discussed the Mutual Aid resources of their electric member cooperatives within the state of Kansas. Power poles are available from Nebraska within one day if more supplies are needed by Wheatland Electric.

Kircher provided members a Wheatland Electric Emergency Information sheet with the company's after hours and business hours' phone numbers. He also distributed a map of Wheatland Electric's service area in Barton County. Wheatland Electric upgraded all electrical meters within their Great Bend area to digital meters which provides the company a quick assessment of how many customers are without power.

Teresa Mazouch, Member Services, Wheatland Electric, provided a handout showing how to check the electrical outage map on the Wheatland Electric website and emphasized that if anyone loses electrical power they should report it. Mazouch said that residential outages should be reported even during large scale outages. She said that the Wheatland Electric web site shows general area of outages but does not show specific residences without power.

5. Eagle Radio

Chairperson Miller introduced Steve Webster, Eagle Radio and LEPC member, to discuss how the radio station handles severe weather and emergency information. Webster described how in the past radio stations went out and actually did storm spotting in the field. After a dangerous and destructive encounter with large hail, Mr. Webster was informed that going out into the field for storm spotting would no longer be supported by the radio station.

Webster said that Eagle Radio-Great Bend has one person on call 24/7 that is responsible for going live during severe thunderstorm warnings and tornado warnings. That person will broadcast information from the National Weather Service on five stations – 97.7, 100.7, 104.3, 106.9 and 1590 AM. Webster said that radio personnel will update listeners every 15 minutes for severe thunderstorm warnings and approximately every 7-8 minutes for a tornado warning. He added that the Eagle Radio studios in Great Bend have a back-up generator as well as having a generator on-site at the 1590 AM transmitter location.

Matt Althouse, Operations Manager, said that if there is a tornado warning for Barton County they will go live, if possible, and bring in a second person to the station to help with broadcasts. Althouse said they prefer to broadcast emergency information obtained from local emergency services personnel. Emergency management is a preferred contact, and noted that live broadcasts from Emergency Management and Barton County Sheriff's Office have provided live interviews with important information for the public.

6. Severe Weather Awareness Week 2018

Amy Miller, Barton County Emergency Management Director, said that attendance was down at the annual Storm Fury on the Plains presentations. There was speculation from committee members that a lack of severe weather last year may have created apathy for storm safety.

Miller asked the hospital representatives if their organizations had participated in the annual statewide tornado drill, and all three members said yes. Lindsey Bogner, Ellinwood District Hospital, added that the ESF 8 group utilized the drill as an impetus for a tabletop exercise to help CMS regulated facilities meet exercise requirements.

7. Training Opportunities

Amy Miller, Chairman, asked if any members had training opportunities to announce. She noted that she had sent out the training schedule from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

Gail Demel told the group about the MARC, Multi Agency Resource Centers, training provided by the American Red Cross and taught by Deb Tucker. She said there was great attendance and that the training provided the participants with excellent insights into how to set up a MARC dependent upon the type of emergency/disaster. Demel said she is confident with the notebooks and training that participants received that a MARC could be put together for Barton County in the next disaster. Demel also said that Linn Hogg was still planning for a training for volunteer registration.

8. Reports from Members

Amy Miller, Chairman, asked if any members had any reports.

Lindsey Bogner announced that there will be an ESF 8 meeting on April 30, 2:00 p.m. at the Great Bend Public Library. A topic of discussion will be the future of exercises for the ESF 8 group.

Bogner went on to say the Kingman County Hospital had received a CMS inspection and that the hospital had some interesting information on how CMS reviewed the exercise documentation.

9. Other Business and Public Comments

No members reported other business and there were no public comments.

10. Discuss next meeting date of LEPC

The next meeting date will be sent to members at a later time.

14. Adjournment

Action: To adjourn the April 24, 2018 meeting of the Barton County LEPC.

Motion: Lindsey Bogner

Second: Mary Hoisington

Vote: Carried on voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Approved: August 14, 2018
Amy J. M. Fleenor