



Barton County LEPC

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Great Bend, KS 67530

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Meeting Notes

February 11, 2020

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 10:05 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: Brittney Bailey, Ellinwood EMS
 Judy Goreham, Barton County Environmental Management
 Don Halbower, American Red Cross Volunteer
 Christina Jimenez, Sunflower Diversified Services
 Luke McCormick, Great Bend Fire Department, Fire Chief
 Amy Miller, Barton County Emergency Management, Director
 Dennis Neeland, Great Bend COOP
 Dena Popp, Barton County 911 Communications, Director
 Donna Zimmerman, Barton County Clerk

Guests Present: Jim Leftwich, KDEM, South Central Coordinator
 Chris Neeley, Kansas Corporation Commission
 Jeff Pritchard, US EPA Region 7
 Eric Deselich, Tetra-Tech
 Rebecca Ford, Catholic Charities

3. Adoption of Meeting Notes from the October 23, 2019 Meeting

Chairman Miller asked if there were any revisions to the October 23, 2019 Meeting Notes. There were none offered.

Action: To approve Meeting Notes from October 23, 2019.

Motion: Dennis Neeland

Second: Brittney Bailey

Vote: Carried on voice vote.

4. Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas

Amy Miller, Barton County Emergency Management Director, introduced Rebecca Ford, Director of Communication and Development, from the Great Bend Office of Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas. Ford said that the ultimate goal of Catholic Charities is to help people in need, regardless of faith. A recent grant from Catholic Charities USA has allowed them to incorporate disaster response into their mission. So far, analysis of the southwest Kansas area served by Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas, CCSK, has identified a low ability to recover from disasters due to low income levels, non-English speaking populations, and limited private and public transportation opportunities. Catholic Charities USA has uploaded the information into an online tool that allows CCSK to view the dataset by counties, communities and even neighborhoods in the 28 counties they serve.

Ford emphasized that their primary response to recent emergencies – i.e. May 2019 flooding and 2017 Pawnee Rock tornado – had been case work with victims. Case work involves a lot of listening and helping the victims prioritize needs, and then following up with them over weeks and months, and sometimes years. A good start in getting people into case work is visiting with them at a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) that is set-up to deliver services to individuals and families after a disaster. Ford said they hope to develop a short list of possible MARC sites throughout Barton County.

The five actions that summarize Catholic Charities disaster response are:

- 1) Collaboration with Community
- 2) Leadership – with their National support partners
- 3) Funding and Coordination of Funding
- 4) Case Management and Assessment – including Long Term Recovery
- 5) Looking for Resources to accomplish Recovery

5. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7

Jeff Prichard, EPA Federal On-Scene Coordinator, provided information on the resources that are available from EPA for oil and hazardous materials spills. In Kansas, recent spill responses have included the Greensburg Tornado in 2007, Coffeyville Resources oil spill in 2007, and numerous oil production sites. In addition to response, EPA will provide removal actions for hazardous materials such as mercury and zinc. Plating Inc. outside of Great Bend has been a removal site. The property is listed on the Superfund List with EPA.

Pritchard has also responded to hurricanes, 2019 flooding of the Missouri River, and wildfires in California. EPA usually responds under Emergency Support Function (ESF) 10, and in the recent flooding in Nebraska provided oversight and removal expertise for over 5,000 hazardous materials containers.

The Central Kansas Wetlands Sub-area, which includes Barton County and Cheyenne Bottoms, is an area of environmental concern. Pritchard noted that he is working on an update of the plan with Eric Deselich, Tetra-Tech, who was also present at the meeting.

Pritchard and Deselich emphasized that EPA is interested in being involved with exercises and planning in Barton County for local emergency response agencies.

6. 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.

Action: To re-elect Amy Miller as Chairperson of the Barton County LEPC for the 2020 calendar year.

Motion: Don Halbower

Second: Luke McCormick

Vote: Carried on voice vote

Action: To re-elect Doug Hubbard as Vice-Chairperson of the Barton County LEPC for the 2020 calendar year.

Motion: Brittney Bailey

Second: Donna Zimmerman

Vote: Carried on voice vote

7. Meeting Schedule

Amy Miller, chairman, asked members if they had any input on a preferred day of week or time for LEPC meetings. After a short discussion, it was decided that the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. was the best option for meetings.

8. LEPC Bylaws

Chairman Miller told members that the LEPC Bylaws had not been reviewed since 2013. She discussed specifically reviewing the section concerning meetings, but an overall review would be good. Miller asked if there were any members who would volunteer to review the bylaws. Judy Goreham volunteered to serve on the committee. Miller and Goreham will report back to members at the next meeting.

9. Announcements or Reports from Members

Amy Miller, Chairman, asked if any members had any reports. Jim Leftwich, KDEM South Central Regional Coordinator, updated the members on staff changes for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. Effective April 1 there will be a new Adjutant General for the State of Kansas. Leftwich explained that the Kansas Division of Emergency Management is the arm of the Adjutant General's Department that provides response and assistance for the civil sector of the State of Kansas.

Miller announced that Severe Weather Awareness Week will be March 2-6, with the Statewide Tornado Drill scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on March 3. Storm Fury on the Plains will be held at the Crest Theater, Great Bend, on March 10 at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Although Shelly Schneider, Health Department Director, was unable to attend the meeting, Miller provided a brief update from Schneider on the novel Coronavirus.

10. Other Business – Including Public Comments

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

11. Discuss next meeting date of LEPC

Chairman Miller will review the Conference Room schedule and send out a meeting date as soon as possible.

12. Adjournment

Action: To adjourn the February 11, 2020 meeting of the Barton County LEPC.

Motion: Christina Jimenez

Second: Luke McCormick

Vote: Carried on voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

*Approved: February 23, 2021
Amy G. Miller*