



# Barton County LEPC

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Great Bend, KS 67530

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## Meeting Notes

**August 31, 2021**

10:00 a.m.

Barton County Virtual Meeting  
via Microsoft Teams  
Great Bend, KS 67530

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Amy Miller at 10:03 a.m.

### 2. Introduction of Members

Chairman Miller welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that there would be a roll call of members and then asked that non-members identify themselves after the roll call.

Members Attending: Kelly Bachar, UKHS – Great Bend Campus  
Stephen Billinger, Barton County Sheriff's Office, Lieutenant  
Gaila Demel, United Way of Central Kansas  
Judy Goreham, Barton County Environmental Management  
Amanda Hoffman, Clara Barton Hospital  
Doug Hubbard, Claflin Fire Department  
Christina Jimenez, Sunflower Diversified Services  
Mark Kircher, Wheatland Electric Cooperative  
Amy Miller, Barton County Emergency Management, Director  
Dennis Neeland, Community Group  
Karen Winkelman, Barton County Health Department, Director  
Donna Zimmerman, Barton County Clerk

Guests Attending: Chance Hayes, NWS Wichita  
Jeffrey Gerst, TUKHS – Great Bend Campus  
Paula Hofmeister, Clara Barton Hospital  
Rana Ingram, Clara Barton Hospital  
Lindsey Ensley, Barton County Health Department

### **3. Current Situation Discussion**

Mark Kircher, Wheatland Electric Cooperative, reported that there are few electric cooperatives within the state of Louisiana and that those investment owned utilities normally have emergency response repair initiatives already in place during a disaster. Kircher reported that if Wheatland deployed a crew, it could possibly be to the state of Mississippi due to them having electric cooperative members.

Chance Hayes, NWS Wichita, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, provided information on assistance that the National Weather Service office can provide. Weather support services during disasters as well as weather forecasts for special events was discussed. The upcoming Great Bend Airfest 2021 will be receiving weather briefings daily throughout the event. Hayes said to please reach out to the NWS if you need any weather related matters. The NWS can provide site specific forecasts for events like drive thru testing clinics and the Farm and Ranch Show.

To contact Hayes: [Chance.Hayes@noaa.gov](mailto:Chance.Hayes@noaa.gov) NWS 24/7 phone: 800-367-5736

### **4. Adoption of Meeting Notes from the April 27, 2021, Meeting**

Chairman Miller asked if there were any revisions to the April 27, 2021, Meeting Notes. There were none offered.

Action: To approve Meeting Notes from April 27, 2021.

Motion: Dennis Neeland

Second: Steve Billinger

Vote: Carried on voice vote.

### **5. Annual Review of Emergency Support Function #10 (ESF 10) Oil and Hazardous Materials**

Chairman Miller informed the committee that the Emergency Support Function #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials should be reviewed on an annual basis. Miller asked if any members had suggestions for any additional information to be added to the ESF or if there were any changes or deletions that need to be made. None were offered.

### **6. Exercise Design and Development**

Amy Miller, LEPC Chairperson, told the committee that there are changes upcoming at the State level regarding planning, training and exercise development – Integrated Preparedness Planning. As part of that, Miller would like to plan an exercise with the LEPC. A first step is review what your agency can do for the community in regard to disaster management as well as what the limitations are within your organizations.

Gaila Demel, United Way of Central Kansas, discussed how hard it is to find volunteers. Demel thinks that many people may want to help but do not want to make a firm commitment to an organization for something that may happen in the future. She also suggested that when providing information to the public that consideration should be given to including local radio stations and not just try to communicate on social media.

Miller stated that planning for a hazardous material exercise will be continued.

**7. Training Opportunities**

Chairman Miller asked if any members had any training information to share. Mark Kircher, Wheatland Electric Cooperative, said that the utility company has been working with police and fire to educate them about downed lines. The information being shared with first responders enables them to better delineate between electric wires and communication wires. Kircher said that the interaction with first responders has been beneficial for Wheatland Electric.

**8. Announcements or Reports from Members**

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

Karen Winkelman, Barton County Health Department Director, provided an update on COVID-19. Winkelman discussed how COVID cases are trending upward since July. She reported that the staff has "COVID fatigue". Winkelman said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will have county rankings on their web page and that the information will be updated on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. More requests for testing are keeping department employees busy and that the Health Department currently has all three vaccines. Winkelman said she is waiting to hear more information about boost doses from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

**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 told members that the next meeting will be scheduled at a later date. Now that the Board of County Commissioners are meeting on Tuesdays, it may require a different meeting day and time.

**12. Adjournment**

Action: To adjourn the August 31, 2021, meeting of the Barton County LEPC.

Motion: Judy Goreham

Second: Dennis Neeland

Vote: Carried on voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

*Approved: November 17, 2021  
Amy J. Miller*