

CARBON COUNTY LEPC MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: July 17, 2012

Location: Red Lodge Fire Rescue, 801 N. Broadway

PRESENT:

Thomas Rieger, CCSO; **Wanda Kennisott**, Citizen/CST; **Linda Barbee**, EMS/RLFR; **Bonnie Bailey-Jones**, ARC – NHQ Reserve; **Asano Otsu**, RLFR; **Roberta Cady**, Public Health; **Gina Bruner**, Public Health; **Thomas Kohley**, Map Murals; **Chris Benton**, BBC; **Dan McJunkin**, CCSO; **Jill Washburn**, ARC;.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Tom Kohley called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. State LEPC/SERC/TERC Conference will be in Sydney on September 25-27. There is a grant available that can cover travel/lodging/registration for one person.

2. The Rimrock Trauma Conference will be in Billings on November 1.

3. The Rocky Mountain Trauma Symposium will be in Bozeman on September 13-14.

4 The Beartooth Billings Clinic Health Fair will be in Red Lodge on October 13 from 7:00 a.m. to noon. This might be a good opportunity for the LEPC to have a booth and educate the community about what we do.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Social Media.

As follow-up to the social media presentation at the last LEPC meeting, Asano pointed out that although marketing and information sharing through social media is free, there is still the hidden expense of time and money to support personnel who oversee and manage the site. She shared a handout (see attached) providing some guidance in determining how much staff time to expect to manage social media. Asano currently spends 4 – 6 hours per week on the Fire & Rescue site. She suggested having a clear target audience to help determine what the media content should be and how to best serve the audience. She also offered her assistance to the LEPC in this area should we move forward with social media.

Jill offered to obtain the Yellowstone County plan and share it with us.

The Carbon County Web-site is up and has been re-done but still needs some content. Angela Newell has been working on this.

The LEPC will need to address what our role *is* with social media, how much of a role we have and if Fire/EMS, the County and ICS is already doing all that is needed.

2. Bylaws.

Aaron has completed a draft set of bylaws and Tom Kohley is working on some minor revisions. Tom will send out the draft copy when he has completed the revisions and hopes to get them approved at the August meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS:

1. Fire:

Tom Kuntz, Fire Chief, reports continued significant risk for an extreme fire event locally. The state and Billings has committed resources and additional staff to be available if needed. Resources are being tightly controlled due to the extreme conditions all around the state and will probably be available through the remaining season.

Immediate local response is essential for rapid extinguishing of lightning strike fires. Tom recommends that all responders be prepared for a large fire and possible large evacuation due to the extremely dry levels throughout the area. The record dry conditions puts Carbon County's fire scenario one month earlier than typical seasons.

Tom addressed the concern that local fire restrictions are not always clear to the general public. This is due to the fact that restrictions set by the federal, state, county and city governments may not all coincide. One level of restrictions may mean different things based on whether you are in the city limits, the forest or outside the city limits. More clear guidelines are needed.

Sheriff Rieger reported that his office is increasing dispatch resources to prepare for fire season.

2. Law Enforcement:

Sheriff Rieger reported that the intoxilyzer trailer and additional staff will be in Red Lodge for the upcoming Harley Rodeo. Both the CCSO and RLPD have increased manpower for the event. There are no issues of concern at this point.

3. Beartooth Billings Clinic:

Chris Benton reported that the hospital has also increased staff for the Harley Rodeo in preparation for increased traffic.

4. American Red Cross:

Jill reported that response efforts have been busy for the last few weeks in the Roundup, Ashland and Northern Cheyenne Fires. ARC is currently working in Ashland on long-term recovery/relief efforts. She is also working on training, community partnerships and volunteer recruitment in all areas. There was some discussion regarding how to get Carbon County ready if ARC can't get here right away and how to have resources available and accessible in the county. Gina Bruner offered to do some research into developing a collaborative volunteer corp that can help with disaster response efforts for both public health and ARC.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Tom Kohley distributed an outline of proposed committees for LEPC. (See attached) Three general committees came from the Strategic Plan: Communications, Emergency Preparedness Training, and Outreach. In addition, the Executive Committee would include the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Tom requested that members consider what committees they would like to serve on. It is anticipated that the committees are where the bulk of LEPC work will be done.

Communications: As a matter of awareness, all local responder radios will be reprogrammed on September 1st to narrow-band. There is some concern that this could be a tricky process.

EP Training: It was recommended that we should meet with Beartooth Billings Clinic to look at setting up a functional exercise. Chris Benton suggested talking with Doug Whitehead and Mike Nordstrom at the hospital.

Outreach: Content for the County web-site is being developed.

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

Not addressed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gina Bruner of Public Health reviewed the recent CDC review of the public health emergency medication dispensing plan. Carbon County is in the process of combining their response plan with Yellowstone County to share resources.

The need for a list of PIO's for the jurisdiction was discussed. It was suggested that a listing of trained PIO's would be a good place to start. Asano agreed to put together a meeting addressing this issue.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.