

## Thomas – Blaine – Loup – Garfield LEPC

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

2:00 PM

Present:

Glen Albers, Maverick Fertilizer and Burwell Volunteer Fire

Alma Beland, Region 26 Emergency Management

Elizabeth Burk, Blaine County Rescue

Larry Donner, Garfield County Sheriff's Office – Local Emergency Manager

Marvin Hulinsky, Burwell Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Laura Kraus, Red Cross and Loup County Fire & Rescue

Linda Lewis, Region 26 Emergency Management

James Rashilla, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency/SERC

Ed Townsend, NOAA/National Weather Service-North Platte

1. The regular LEPC meeting for the Counties of Thomas, Blaine, Loup and Garfield was called to order by Chairman Glen Albers at 2:10PM. The Open Meeting Laws were brought to everyone's attention.
2. Laura Kraus moved, seconded by Elizabeth Burk to approve the February 14, 2018 minutes. All Ayes.
3. Old Business
  - a. Preventative Fire Measure/Calamus Lake – Discussion was held if Loup County had a fire at the Calamus Lake near the cabin area, Burwell would come in, if conditions were right, and start a back burn to protect property as other departments would come for Mutual Aid at the spot of the actual fire. We also discussed how we as an LEPC could provide fire safety information to property owners. A committee was started to formulate a plan and brochure to educate the property owners of safety measure they can take to protect themselves and their property. Linda will contact Firewise USA and NFPA and UNL Forest Service for materials that could be used. With the active California fires a slogan was presented by one of the members: "It Can Happen Here Too". The committee consists of Laura Kraus, Libby Burk, Larry Donner & Linda Lewis. They will meet on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Libby asked about creating a Facebook account for the Thomas-Blaine-Loup-Garfield LEPC. Laura Kraus moved, seconded by Linda Lewis, for a Thomas-Blaine-Loup-Garfield LEPC Facebook account to be created by Libby Burk. All voted aye. Alma included that Sandy Vincent is working on Mutual Aid maps for the Calamus Lake area that will include weight limits on bridges.
  - b. No other Old Business
4. New Business
  - a. North Platte Weather Presentation – Ed Townsend with the North Platte Weather Service gave us a very informative presentation about winter weather and the predictions for our area. He advised we are in a period of a weak El Niño which brings warmer weather and the potential for more icing conditions. A new warning product has been introduced as "Snow Squall Warnings". This will be a brief (60

minutes or less) time period, however intense storm. These warnings will be like a warning for a severe thunderstorm. The biggest danger of snow squalls is related to visibility while driving on heavily traveled roads where a chain reaction may occur. The area to benefit the most will be the interstate corridor however everyone will benefit from this information. These will not be issued during blizzards and winter storm events. Another new product is a "Dust Storm Warning" which will give a warning using a polygon for the affected area. The weather service is trying to simplify weather products therefore there will be no more Blizzard watches. Ed then took us on a tour of the website at [www.weather.gov/lbf](http://www.weather.gov/lbf) and showed us places we could get a plethora of great information. Ed also gave us a list of weather links to support his presentation.

- b. 2019 Severe Weather Talks – The weather service will be reaching out to us in December to start scheduling the Storm Spotter presentations. The group gave Ed some suggestions that he will take back with him as they work on this year's program.
- c. Weather Symposium – The Region 26 Weather Symposium will be held in Dunning at the gymnasium either on March 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> in 2019. Comments and ideas are welcomed and volunteers from the LEPC are encouraged. More information will be coming.
- d. Training – A mini Table Top exercise that involved an accident with a hazardous substance was conducted. Each person had a location in their county they could relate to and discuss how they would respond to the HAZMAT situation according to the agency they represented. James had great input about the HAZMAT situation using the Emergency Response Guide (ERG). Some training opportunities came about such as what questions dispatchers should ask the caller reporting the accident, what information, if possible, the fire department should know before responding, and of course the area of safety is always something that needs to be practiced.
- e. Other New Business – The North Central Region is hosting a Cyber Security class in four locations in the Region. February 25, 2019 will be at Ord, February 26, 2019 at O'Neil, February 27, 2019 at Bassett and February 28, 2019 at Ogallala. A flyer will be created with exact times and locations and how to register.

5. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 4:44pm. Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 13 at 2:00pm.

Submitted by Thomas-Blaine-Loup-Garfield Secretary-Treasurer  
Linda Lewis