

Thomas – Blaine – Loup – Garfield LEPC

Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2016

2:00 PM

Present:

Glen Albers, Maverick Fertilizer and Burwell Volunteer Fire

Marvin Hulinsky, Burwell Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Laura Kraus, Red Cross and Loup County Fire & Rescue

Paige Measner, Garfield County Commissioner

Tim Jordan, Village of Taylor Board and Maintenance

Ashley Jeffres, Loup Basin Public Health District

Kelly Allen, North Platte Weather Service

E.J. Townsend, North Platte Weather Service

Alma Beland, Region 26 Emergency Management

Linda Lewis, Region 26 Emergency Management

Kevin Hood, Thomas County Emergency Manager via Telephone Conference

The LEPC meeting for the Counties of Thomas, Blaine, Loup and Garfield was called to order by Chairman Glen Albers at 2:15. The Open Meeting Laws were brought to everyone's attention. Sign in sheet was passed around for attendance.

Paige Measner moved, seconded by Ashley Jeffres to approve the August 16, 2016 minutes as presented. Vote, All Ayes.

Old Business

Pre-event Planning: A handout with basic equipment and other needs during a disaster was handed out for each county to look through and come up with names of people and equipment that could possibly be notified in a time of need during a disaster response and recovery. The question was asked who would be liable for equipment and operator if it was damaged or broke down during response and recovery. Kevin Hood had insight on the subject and shared that whoever is utilizing the equipment it would be on their own insurance unless the County or other agency commandeers the equipment. There were other stipulations such as if they were getting paid, if it was a contract worker with tax form 10-99 same with pulling a tractor with someone else's disc. The disc owner would also need a 10-99. If a person with a 10-99 gets hurt or if they hurt something or someone they are both covered. For maintainer on a fire line they must be trained if not on policy. If the county is commandeering equipment, then county personnel have to be the one operating that piece of machinery. There are a lot of scenarios that need to be discussed and would be beneficial to talk to your individual insurance agent before making agreements or before a situation occurs.

Exercise Planning: The exercises "A Weather Event in Loup County during Fair Time" is scheduled for February 22, 2017 at 7PM at the Loup County Event Center and the "Nebraska's Big Rodeo - Garfield County Fair" is set for March 14, 2017. The design team will consist of at least the following people: Laura Kraus, Tim Jordan, Ashley Jeffres, Kelly Allen and Linda Lewis, others are welcome. Key players that we would like to attend the exercise were discussed and will be included in the invitation list.

New Business

Kelly Allen with North Platte Weather was here to talk about the Hazard Simplification project. In September 2016 NWS launched a new website for the NWS Hazard Simplification

Project and would like feedback on two optional hazard maps for the weather.gov home page. NOAA has been working on simplifying and clarifying messages for weather and water hazards. This project is working on using “watch,” “Warning” and “Advisory” system and the impacts in an area and how well the graphics portray any threat.

Event Support – This is a service you can request at www.weather.gov/lbf/eventsupport, fill out the form with as much information possible. The weather service can be in contact with the Point of Contact of the event in several different ways and can also call the weather service at any time if they have questions.

The Fact Sheet is a reference to designing a more capable NWS for the 21st Century America. In 2017 studies will be implemented to see where and what changes need to be made to better serve the people. The Fact Sheet states this as a goal, “We will not only forecast the rain, we will also be there with emergency managers and others who make life saving decisions based on that rain in forecast, to better protect the community”. After the 2017 studies they plan to begin implementation in 2018.

Weather Ready Nation (WRN) is a program where NOAA partners with emergency management, businesses and media to motivate the public to be prepared for potential weather disasters. On an average it takes three different sources of warning for the public to take action in a harmful situation. WRN encourages people to; know your risk, take action and be an example. They are seeking ambassadors, organizations contributing in the best way they can by spreading the word and advocating preparedness in the three things listed above.

NWS Weather Chat and INWS (Interactive National Weather Service) are tools we can use as partners to the NWS to be better prepared in helping our community and the weather service with feedback on what is going on in our weather world.

Change Meeting Date: The date of our next schedule meeting is February 21st but because of the exercise in Loup County being the 22nd it would be beneficial to move this meeting up a week. The 14th was not going to work so we will have it on **Wednesday, February 15, 2017** at Region 26 EOC at 2pm.

Other Business

Alma reported that there will be a Weather Fair on April 1st at the Trotter Event Center in Ord. We are planning for the Sherman/Valley LEPC to have a booth and others are more than welcome to have their own booth or assist in the fair. The plan is to have vendors for public information and activities for the kids as well as refreshments. The time will be from 1pm to 5pm.

There being no other business Chairman Glen Albers adjourned the meeting at 4:04PM.

Next meeting will be February 15, 2017 at 2PM at Region 26 EOC.

Submitted by Region 26 Emergency Management/Secretary
Linda Lewis