

## **Thomas – Blaine – Loup – Garfield LEPC**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 14, 2019

2:00 PM

### Present:

Alma Beland, Region 26 Emergency Management  
Elizabeth (Libby) Burk, Blaine County Rescue  
Larry Donner, Garfield Sheriff Office  
Marvin Hulinsky, Burwell Volunteer Fire & Rescue  
Diana Hurlburt, Garfield County  
Laura Kraus, Red Cross and Loup County Fire & Rescue  
Amos Lange, North Loup Irrigation District  
Catie Larsen, Loup Basin Public Health Department  
Linda Lewis, Region 26 Emergency Management

1. The regular LEPC meeting for the Counties of Thomas, Blaine, Loup and Garfield was called to order by Vice Chairman Marvin Hulinsky at 2:02PM. The Open Meeting Laws were brought to everyone's attention.
2. Laura Kraus moved, seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the May 8, 2019 minutes. All Ayes
3. Old Business
  - a. Ideas for Facebook Page – Libby reported she has been posting safety tips for: Heat exhaustion, cutting onions and driving in the presence of school buses. It was suggested to add safety on the road with farm equipment and harvest trucks, Carbon Monoxide, Mosquito protection from the LBPHD. Other things to consider is asking school safety committees to create a PSA or Video with the message of safety around buses or other areas that the public needs to be reminded to take safety measures.
  - b. Report on Local Weather Support Events – Alma and Linda reported about the events they covered over the summer.
  - c. Other Old Business: Brochures went out to Garfield County residents; Loup County is looking at sending them out in December. With all the rain this year the concern for the Health Department is mosquitos and then West Nile. The continued rains have been a concern for flooding and the dam tenders have been adjusting to situations they encounter. Other issues the flooding has caused include the lack of hay being harvested, washed out roads and driveways and the mental health of ranchers and farmers. Loup Basin Public Health has an MOU in place with Region 3 Behavioral Health for those having a hard time dealing with the pressures of the summer. For future concerns, in 2021 the Burwell Rodeo will be celebrating 100 years. It is on our calendar for July 2020 to contact Verizon for a booster tower.

4. New Business
  - a. Ethanol Plant – The ethanol plants located in Ord and Atkinson had planned to build a railroad between the two facilities. However they were not able to and as a result 200-300 trucks are delivering ethanol through the communities of Burwell and Ord. Green Plains does have a truck specified for clean-up if an accident should occur. If you should come upon an accident involving any carrier truck best practices are to look for any placards using binoculars. It could be a milk truck type of tank carrying a toxic product. Always look for the placard before going into any danger zone.
  - b. Livestock Training – There will be an Ag Livestock Training Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at the Valley County Fairgrounds.
  - c. Other New Business – The EPA Region 7 awarded the Thomas, Blaine, Loup and Garfield LEPC for their work to small communities in the brochures that were created and distributed. There was training at the Broken Bow airport with Arrow Aviation. In conversation it was asked what to do if the aircraft itself went down. Casey Williams advised that the chemical on the plane is not as scary as in the past but to take precautions as necessary. Amos added in reference to irrigation chemicals being used, the Ord Fire Department has been made aware of any dangers.
5. HAZMAT Awareness – Chemical hazards were addressed first by using the Emergency Response Guide to look up placard numbers. Another hazard discussed were the strong currents in the rivers. Amos reported there are a lot of kayakers who are entering the rivers too close to the diversion dams to be safe. It was suggested to present information to the schools at the end of the school year on water safety. Chemicals used on the canals to control moss were also discussed. Marvin stated they plan for Incident Command to start at the distance from a hazardous situation as per the Emergency Response Guide standards. Amos will contact the Burwell Fire to set up a time in September for an exercise at the Burwell Dam to possibly exercise a drowning.
6. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm. Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 2:00pm.

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