

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 9, 2017

2:00 PM

Present:

Glen Albers, Maverick Fertilizer and Burwell Volunteer Fire

Elizabeth Burk, Blaine County Rescue

Larry Donner, Garfield Sheriff's Office & Emergency Management

Loren Eaton, US Forest Service, Thedford Rescue, Village of Halsey

Roger Guggenmos, Blaine County Commissioner, Region 26 Board Member

Marvin Hulinsky, Burwell Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Ashley Jeffres, Loup Basin Public Health District

Laura Kraus, Red Cross and Loup County Fire & Rescue

Linda Lewis, Region 26 Emergency Management

Paige Measner, Garfield County Commissioner, Region26 Board Member

James Rashilla, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

1. The regular LEPC meeting for the Counties of Thomas, Blaine, Loup and Garfield was called to order by Chairman Glen Albers at 2:00PM. The Open Meeting Laws were brought to everyone's attention.
2. Larry Donner moved, seconded by Laura Kraus to approve the May 10, 2017 minutes. Vote, 10 ayes, 1 abstain.
3. Old Business
  - a. Weather Support for Local Events – The Loup County Fair is the next event coming up for these counties. A call group has been formulated and will get notices if weather poses a threat.
  - b. Lessons Learned Burwell Rodeo - The Thomas/Blaine County and Garfield County Fairs had potential for severe weather and were notified of any threats. One issue that came up was the lack of a schedule for events which is useful for the weather service to be able to pinpoint an event that may be affected by the weather. The cell phone usage was very poor and it would be beneficial to have an extra tower. Law Enforcement used radios and had extra help for the weekend.
  - c. Preventative Fire Measure/Calamus Lake – As a result from the May meeting, Alma was going to contact the Lake Association and found that the Calamus Lake Association had dissolved years ago. It is a goal to provide a pamphlet about fire prevention on your property and thought the Lake Association would be able to assist. The names Karen Sims and Dave Winkler were mentioned as people trying to establish an association and that they would be someone to contact. Also Seth Petersen out of Chadron and Justin Nicholas out of Ainsworth may be able to assist on getting "Firewise" brochures to distribute. Garfield County zoning commission had talked about handing out a brochure with every building permit. Calli Swett and Lex Jeffres would be the ones to contact if there were any questions about the progress in this area.
  - d. No other Old Business

4. New Business

- a. James Rashilla – James is with Nebraska Emergency Management Agency where he works as the SERC (State Emergency Response Coordinator). He deals with funding, planning and training for hazmat. If our LEPC would like training he would be willing to help find a course. He can work with the State Fire Marshal's office if there are courses they offer and bring them out to us. The Railroad is one of the biggest threats to Thomas and Blaine County and they would like to have a Table Top Exercise. Derek Lampkin with BNSFRR and TRANSCARE can be contacted to bring training out to this area.
- b. Red Cross Shelter List – A list was made for each county that will be passed on to the Red Cross Representative.
- c. S.E.A.T. Plane - James Rashilla explained the history and purpose of the S.E.A.T. Plane and how it was moved from Chadron to Valentine due to the amount of fires in the Region 26 area. In order to activate the plane certain guidelines need to be met including GPS Coordinates. Loren Eaton also shared information on the plane. If we don't have the exact coordinates a general area close to the fire would be efficient as they would see the smoke. The goal is to get them there as soon as possible as S.E.A.T. Planes are most beneficial at the beginning of a fire as they spray retardant to keep the fire from spreading. The Plane can also use water as a fire fighting tactic. They run on V-Tac and it's important for the pilot to be able to talk to the incident commander on the ground.
- d. Eclipse 2017 – In preparation for the August 21, 2017 Eclipse, James reported that NSP was putting three planes in the air across the state, NEMA will have a live link to the State Emergency Operations Center, Department of Transportation is not allowing any road maintenance and construction will be allowed but nothing major and no shifting of lanes. Organizers are predicting bumper to bumper traffic from Broken Bow to Alliance on Highway 2. The Bessy National Forest is bringing in more engines as camp fires going out of control are a big concern. It is predicted the state can see anywhere between 150,000 to 400,000 extra people in the line of eclipse in Nebraska. Game and Parks is treating this like July 4<sup>th</sup> with staffing and patrolling.
- e. No Other New Business

5. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 2:58pm. Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 2:00pm.

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