

**MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL**

April 27, 2021

Region 26 Council:

Present:	Absent:
Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos	Loup Co: Jack Ruppel
Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt	Thomas Co: Gary Eng
Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz	Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair (via phone)	Law Enforce: Dave Weeks
Valley Co: Pat Waldman (Alternate)	Range Co. Municipalities:
Tri-Co Municipalities:	Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Valley, Greeley, Sherman	Doug Reiter
Jay Meyer, Chairman	

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director and Virginia Michalski/Dispatch Supervisor & Office Manager

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by Chairman Meyer.

Roll Call was taken with six (6) members present.

The meeting being duly posted and a quorum present, the Chairman proclaimed this meeting to be a legal meeting and acknowledged that the Open Meeting Act was posted in the meeting room.

Motion by Jordan Foltz and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the amended Agenda with the addition of BOLD Planning and Geo-Comm Contract Renewal. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Roger Guggenmos to approve the March 30, 2021 Minutes. Ayes (5) Nays (0) Abstain (1).

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the March 2021 Financial Statement. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

The LEOP is being rewritten onto a new software program that NEMA purchased. Alma was looking at doing a Region 26 LEOP with the counties listed within, the same as the Hazard Mitigation Plan or our Communication Plan. However, with the new software they did do a setup with a common data area for all the Region 26 counties with each County then listed out. At the end of the meeting EM Deputy Linda Lewis gave a demonstration on how the new program works and detailed the in person and online workshops that Alma and Linda have been attending to get all the instruction on how each county's LEOP will be rewritten. Alma pointed out that there were a lot of workshops that would be hard for any of the County Emergency managers to attend without it being very confusing. The plan is to get all the LEOPS rewritten by the August deadline and then do the training with the County EM's to have them be able to help in keeping the plans updated and usable for their county and see any changes that needs to be made. Each plan will now be online and can be accessed by cell phone if a situation came up while in the field and needed to have accessibility on the spot.

Alma presented the new 5-year contract with Geo-Comm that does our GIS work for the 911 mapping and explained some of the work they do for us. The contract for five years was \$114,359 which is broken down to an annual payment made each May. Alma will check with Geo-Comm to see if their representative can come to our next meeting to explain in detail all the work involved for Region 26. Diana Hurlburt made a motion to approve the Geo-Comm contract with a second from Jay Meyer. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Tower Report: Alma had received a proposal from Ed Knott with Applied Connective on what he would do in lieu of tower rent at the Greeley site which included install of cameras at the Greeley and Ord site and provide internet service to the land owner. He had met with the Greeley site land owner to work on his internet service. The board reviewed the proposal which he was wanting use of Ord tower site the same as Greeley for his own service. The board reviewed the proposal and asked Alma to make contact with the land owner and also ask Ed Knott to attend the next meeting.

Alma had attended the Wheeler County Commissioners meeting and discussed the options for Ericson Fire in radio use for better reception to talk to Region 26.

Mike Epley with Platte Valley Communications gave Alma information on the Davis Creek repeater and the best direction for connecting to Region 26 and Valley County Dispatch which would make a connection to the Ord tower repeater. Mike also gave a time of how many weeks after equipment was ordered as COVID was holding up orders. This would be utilizing a pole/antenna at Davis Creek and repeater at that location and radio at Ord tower site with connection to Region 26 and Valley County Sheriff's Office. After discussion the board asked Alma to get a proposal prepared to present to Lower Loup NRD of what was needed. Tom Bandur made a motion to move forward with the Davis Creek Communications Project with a second from Jordan Foltz. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma handed out a copy of the preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The budget was reviewed and the board asked for copies of the last several years of stats to be sent out for them to compare their calls stats from each member county/city. After discussion it was determined to have the communications committee meet before next meeting to go over needed equipment/expenses to be budgeted.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Weeks was not in attendance. Alma reported that next Friday was the quarterly Region 26 Law Enforcement meeting here.

Communications Center Report: Dispatch Supervisor/Virginia Michalski, handed out a breakdown of the statistics for the previous month. They had 1572 Status Checks, 321 Pages, 254 Alarms, 225 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 109 Messages, 107 Minor Detail, 94 Burn Permit, 76 Traffic Violations, 75 Rescue Calls, 74 Gun Permits, 53 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 47 Assist Citizen, 28 Assist Other Agencies, 28 Weather, 21 Livestock Complaint, 17 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 15 Fire Calls, 15 Miscellaneous Tasks, 14 Animal Calls, 14 Standby for Events, 11 Accidents, 11 Check Welfare, 11 Reckless Driver, 9 Paper Service, 8 Motorist Assist, 7 Driving Under the Influence, 7 Prisoner Transport, 6 Radio Test 6 Suspicious Person, 6 Suspicious Vehicle, 5 Siren, 5 Traffic Hazard, 4 Burglary, 4 Check Area, 4 Suspicious Events, 3 Child Abuse/Neglect, 3 Death Investigation, 3 Direct Traffic, 3 Theft and 26 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of March was 3301 including 241 - 911 calls and 1593 Administrative calls into Dispatch.

Virginia reported on the last staff meeting with a visit from the Valley County Hospital. There was also a full-scale training exercise using both the badging and the Governmental Emergency Telecommunications Service cards to call out when all telephone service was down. She reported that Libby Burk had received her 15-year Dispatcher pin at last weeks NESCA Conference. Linda Lewis received her 25-year Dispatcher pin. Our newest dispatcher, Lacey Kruger has been doing very well with her training.

Director's Report:

The National Dispatcher week was two weeks ago and Region 26 had placed an article and pictures of the dispatchers in all the Region 26 newspapers that Linda Lewis had written up.

Alma told what she would like to do on celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Region 26. Which was discussed by the board and suggestions were made toward the first week of August with special invites and a public open house with refreshments.

Alma reported on the Emergency Management Conference that she and Linda attended a couple weeks ago in Grand Island. They had speakers on training for people with disabilities needing help in

disasters, Human trafficking, Nebraska VOAD that would help on Donation Management and the Homeland Security Undersecretary, Michael Brown from Hurricane Katrina. From the Emergency Management Association: Linda received her 10-year Emergency Management pin and jacket. Alma received her 15-year pin and jacket. Scott Philbrick/Valley County Deputy EM also received his 10-year pin and Jacket from the Association. There was an exercise the last day of Conference that we all had to set up badging rapid tag and command software/hardware and printers and then join together in one incident for the state with a limit of time for us to see how it would work when responding to help in other EM disaster events.

Last Monday Alma and Linda attended the Loup Valley Mutual Aid Meeting in Ord and set up the badging equipment to check everyone in. Alma discussed the communications with them since Ericson was present for the departments to know that they may occasionally be switching to different towers/frequencies for better communications including Ord and Greeley.

Last Tuesday Alma and Linda had the Sherman/Valley LEPC meeting in Loup City and utilized the badging equipment and had first LEPC since COVID.

Sandhills Mutual Aid was last Wednesday night in Thedford. Alma and Linda attended and again done check in with the badging system and then Linda held an exercise/training for the firemen to understand how it would work for them in a large event which included many departments outside of Region 26.

Alma reported that they would be having school tour groups from Taylor and Sargent in the first two weeks of May.

The report from the Health Department was that doses of vaccine were now being wasted. When a vial is opened with not enough people coming in to be vaccinated at this time causing complete vial not to get used and is wasted.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be May 25, 2021.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

## ACRONYMS

<b>APCO</b> – Assoc. of Public Communications Officials	<b>LEDRS</b> – Livestock Emergency Disease Response System
<b>CAD</b> – Computer Aided Dispatch	<b>LEOP</b> – Local Emergency Operations Plan
<b>CC</b> – Communications Center	<b>MACH</b> – Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling
<b>CERT</b> – Community Emergency Response Team	<b>NA911</b> – Nebraska Association of 911 Managers
<b>CNMRC</b> – Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corp	<b>NACO</b> – Nebraska Association of County Officials
<b>COADs</b> – Community Organizations Active in Disasters	<b>NAEM</b> – Nebr. Association of Emergency Managers
<b>COOP</b> – Continuity of Operations Planning	<b>NEMA</b> – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
<b>COVID-19</b> – Coronavirus Disease 2019	<b>NENA</b> – National Emergency Number Association
<b>C.R.I.M.E.S.</b> – Calls & Records Information Management Software (part of Justice Data Solutions)	<b>NESCA</b> – NE Emergency Services Communicators Association
<b>DEQ</b> – Department of Environmental Quality (State)	<b>*NCR</b> – North Central Region*
<b>DHHS</b> – Department of Health & Human Services (State)	<b>NCTC</b> – Nebraska Central Telephone Company
<b>DHS</b> – Department of Homeland Security	<b>NIMS</b> – National Incident Management System
<b>DR</b> – Disaster Recovery	<b>NIRMA</b> – NE Intergovernmental Risk Management Association
<b>DOR</b> – Department of Roads	<b>NRIN</b> – Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network
<b>E911</b> – Enhanced 911	<b>NX-Gen</b> – Next Generation 911
<b>EAS</b> – Emergency Alert System (FEMA)	<b>PC</b> – Police Chief
<b>ECW</b> – Emergency Call Works (Mfg. of 911 Equipment at Region 26)	<b>PD</b> – Police Department
<b>EM</b> – Emergency Manager	<b>*PET</b> – Planning Exercise Training*
<b>EMD</b> – Emergency Medical Dispatch	<b>POD</b> – Points of Dispensing (Immunization)
<b>EMPG</b> – Emergency Management Performance Grant	<b>PPE</b> – Personal Protective Equipment
<b>EMS</b> – Emergency Medical Services	<b>PMC</b> – Page My Cell
<b>EMT</b> – Emergency Medical Technician	<b>PSAP</b> – Public Safety Answering Point (911 Centers)
<b>EOC</b> – Emergency Operations Center	<b>PSC</b> – Public Service Commission
<b>EPA</b> – Environmental Protection Agency (Federal)	<b>PVC</b> – Platte Valley Communications
<b>ERG</b> – Emergency Response Guide (Orange Book – Hazardous Materials)	<b>RFP</b> – Request for Proposal
<b>FAA</b> – Federal Aviation Administration (Report tower light outages)	<b>SEAT</b> – Single Engine Air Tanker
<b>FADD</b> – Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician	<b>SEOC</b> – State Emergency Operation Center
<b>FCC</b> – Federal Communications Commission (for <b>Radio Frequency Licenses</b> )	<b>SHSP</b> – State Homeland Security Program
<b>FEMA</b> – Federal Emergency Management Agency	<b>SO</b> – Sheriff’s Office
<b>FMD</b> – Foot and Mouth Disease (Livestock)	<b>SRS</b> – State Radio System
<b>FY</b> – Fiscal Year	<b>TEPW</b> – Training Exercise Planning Workshop
<b>GAN</b> – Grant Adjustment Notice (aka Grant Award)	<b>THIRA</b> – Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
<b>GIS</b> – Geographic Information System	<b>UPS</b> – Universal Power Supply (workstation backup power supply until generator starts)
<b>GPS</b> – Global Positioning System	<b>VFD</b> – Volunteer Fire Department
<b>HAZMAT</b> – Hazardous Materials	<b>VOAD</b> – Volunteer Organization Aiding Disasters
<b>HHS</b> – Health and Human Services (Federal)	<b>VOIP</b> – Voice over Internet Protocol
<b>HSGP</b> – Homeland Security Grant Program	<b>V-TAC</b> – Mutual Aid VHF Frequency Channels
<b>ICS</b> – Incident Command System	<b>WEA</b> – Wireless Emergency Alert
<b>IPAWS</b> – Integrated Public Alert Warning System	<b>WCDHD</b> – West Central District Health Department (covers Thomas County)
<b>J.A.M.I.N.</b> – Jail Administration Management Information Network (Part of Justice Data Solutions)	<b>W.H.O.</b> – World Health Organization
<b>JDS</b> – Justice Data Solutions (Law Enforcement Records Management & CAD software system)	<b>WPC</b> – Weather Prediction Center – Norman, OK
<b>LBF</b> – Lee Bird Field – North Platte (Airport) Weather Service Location	<b>WIRAT</b> – Wildland Incident Response Assistance Team (State Fire Marshalls)
<b>LBPHD</b> – Loup Basin Public Health Department (covers Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley, Sherman)	<b>WMD</b> – Weapons of Mass Destruction
<b>LE</b> – Law Enforcement	
<b>LEPC</b> – Local Emergency Planning Committee	

### **\* North Central PET Region Includes:**

Keith, Arthur, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, Logan, Custer, Holt,  
Region 24: (Cherry, Keya Paha, Brown, Rock, Boyd) and  
Region 26: (Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley and Sherman)