

Greeley-Wheeler LEPC  
Meeting Minutes  
6-16-2021  
Spalding Fire Hall, Spalding, Nebraska

Members Present:

Doug Reiter – Bartlett Fire Chief – Wheeler County Emergency Manager

Mark Bauer – Greeley County Emergency Management – Spalding EMS (Chairman)

Alma Beland – Region 26 Emergency Management

Linda Lewis – Region 26 Emergency Management

Guest:

Alyssa Sanders – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

1. Chairman Mark Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. The Open Meetings Law was brought to our attention.
2. Alma Beland moved, seconded by Doug Reiter to approve the September 25, 2019 meeting minutes. All ayes, motion passed.
3. Old Business — Concern was expressed about not having an account set up to receive donations for disasters. It would require a 501c3 account. Several entities have declined to be involved in receiving and managing donations. Alma mentioned Jan Zurcher from Columbus would be willing to come and talk with a group of people interested in knowing more about this type of account and managing the distribution of funds. It was suggested that talking with Jan would be a good idea but that Region 26 needs to be able to direct people to a place they can donate and not be a part of the actual donation process. Alyssa informed us that there would be changes at NEMA and they are creating a new unit for Community Outreach. When this is completed, she will have someone from that unit contact us to give us some direction.
4. New Business
  - a. Review Tier II Reports – The reports were reviewed for each county. Alyssa with NEMA advised that NEMA-SERC and NDEE are joined together for the reporting process for hazmat. Because of job changes at the NDEE the forms are not being verified so it's important that the responders understand and know the plan in the LEOP, know where the closest Hazmat team is and how to get them notified, how to respond to keep themselves along with the people at the facility and community members safe. Alyssa also suggested at mutual aid meetings is where a 5-minute hazmat talk could be implemented to serve the purpose of educating the responders as part of the LEPC requirements. The main goal once again is knowing and exercising the plan and understand the LEOP plan is also a resource manual.
  - b. Alma reviewed what the National Weather Service in North Platte and Hastings do to offer weather support for large events in our counties. Doug in Wheeler County contacts the weather service himself and Mark advised on July 4<sup>th</sup> Spalding has a city-wide celebration.
  - c. Other New Business - Public Alerts – Region 26 uses CodeRED for emergency public warning and has noticed that the percentage of people picking up to answer CodeRED

calls are at a low percent. There are times that the public needs to be informed about emergency situations but how do we notify more of the public. Getting information to people to sign up for CodeRED and then educating them to save the number and the information in their phone as a contact so they would know it's not a scam. Scam callers have made it difficult because if people don't recognize the number, they report it as scam and goes unanswered and the number is blocked.

The Orion damage assessment tool has been approved within a grant for purchase. This tool is a software based and can be used on any device when given username and password. This tool can take pictures, coordinates and a brief explanation can be added before a disaster so if a disaster does hit one can take pictures of the damaged area and can provide before and after photos. This is invaluable information for NEMA/FEMA and any reporting that would need to be done. The LEPC may be called on for doing damage assessments.

LEOP Changes – The Local Emergency Operations Plan is transitioning to an online document. We will be able to add “call-down” lists and add “teams” as we see useful. Being online with the ability to print sections will be very helpful in planning and in the execution of plans.

Alma shared about a speaker at the NAEM Conference that encouraged emergency managers to make sure to take care of themselves during a disaster and be careful of lack of sleep when making decisions.

Disabilities in a Disaster – David Whalen, from New York, founded the Disability Awareness Training which the state of Nebraska has asked him to bring this training to our state. The training is designed to both sensitize and educate responders on all aspects of disabilities including definitions, etiquette and interaction skills, stigma and misperceptions in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This training will be for both the responders and the disabled.

5. Rapid Tag Demonstration – Time did not permit
6. Officer Elections – Doug Reiter moved, seconded by Alma Beland that all positions stay the same. All voted aye. Officers are Mark Bauer-Chairman, Doug Reiter-Vice Chairman, Linda Lewis-Secretary.

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Mark Bauer at 8:40PM

Next LEPC Meeting Date – September 8, 2021 – tentatively at Bartlett Fire Hall

Submitted by Greeley-Wheeler Secretary  
Linda Lewis