

**MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL**

April 25, 2023

Region 26 Council:

Present:

Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos  
Loup Co: Dave Larson  
Thomas Co: Joseph Smith  
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair  
Valley Co: Theresa Petska - Alternate  
Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz  
Law Enforce: Mike Jepsen  
Range Co. Municipalities:  
Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler  
Wade Neben  
Tri-Co Municipalities:  
Valley, Greeley, Sherman  
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt  
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny

Staff Present: Virginia Michalski/Office Manager, Bailey Lurz/Dispatch Supervisor & Stena Seamann/Deputy EM

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman Meyer.

Roll Call was taken with nine (9) 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 Joseph Smith and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the agenda.  
Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the March 28, 2023 Minutes.  
Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (1).

Motion by Wade Neben and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the March 2023 Financial Statement.  
Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Virginia and Stena spoke on the need and use of pre-signed Disaster Declaration, this needs to be a declaration with no date and no pre-filled disaster so it may be utilized for any disaster. Explanation of how frequently they have been used for fires and what they are needed for, ie; additional state resources when all local resources have been exhausted, planes for fires when it goes over the \$25,000 or anything else that would require the governor's emergency funds. Time is of the essence as these resources cannot be tapped until the declaration has been signed and sent to NEMA and there may be situations where a board member, particularly the chair and the clerk of the county are not readily available during a major emergency or situations where electronics (computers, fax, scanning) is not an option. Joseph spoke of a time when the chair member's brother died during a major emergency and having the pre-signed declaration was advantageous, Tom gave the example of their chairperson being out of the country when a declaration was needed and they had a pre-signed one that was utilized.

On tower report-

Virginia reported that Region 26 is still waiting on the paperwork from State OCIO purchase.

Virginia reported that the cameras at the Greeley tower have been connected, but are still not working correctly and Region 26 is still working with Applied Connective to make the connection to our computers/phones to connect the cameras.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Jepsen did not have anything to report.

Communications Center Report: Office Manager/Virginia Michalski, handed out a breakdown of the statistics for the previous month. They had 1345 Status Checks, 336 Pages, 249 Wants/ Warrants/ Registrations, 103 Alarms, 66 Traffic Violations, 123 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 116 Burn Permit, 128 Minor Detail, 86 Messages, 85 Rescue Calls, 86 Gun Permit, 42 Assist Citizen, 37 Assist Other Agencies, 18 Livestock Complaint, 13 Reckless Driver, 19 Animal Calls, 9 Check Welfare, 10 Accidents, 9 Weather, 7 Traffic Hazard, 7 Radio Test, 4 Motorist Assist, 7 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 7 Direct Traffic/Funereal/Escort, 8 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 5 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 9 Siren, 9 Arrest, 6 Suspicious Vehicle, 4 Theft, 8 Transfer 911 Call, 1 Civil Matters, 12 Miscellaneous Tasks, 2 Missing Person/Juvenile, 12 Suspicious Events, 19 Fire Calls, 5 Mutual Aid, 4 Abandoned Vehicle, 4 Child Abuse/Neglect, 4 Paper Service, 1 Death Investigation, 3 Prisoner Transport, 5 Suspicious Person, 1 Trespassing, 3 Utilities Complaint/Outage, 3 Fraudulent Activity/Scam Calls, 3 Property Lost/Recovered/Dispute, 2 Damage to Property, 2 Vandalism and 13 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of March was 3105 including 238 - 911 calls and 1467 Administrative calls into Dispatch.

Virginia spoke to the fact that NCTC crew has been here to work on the phone system to replace a part that was intended to correct the dial tone issue on administrative lines, this does not seem to be working yet. Alma is setting up a meeting with a representative from Hamilton on cost of new phone system and replacing the PBX in the backroom and what will be compatible with the updated 911 system. Additionally, Workstation I has been down a few times in the past few weeks just for paging and radios. Platte Valley has been able to walk the dispatcher on duty through the sets to bring it back up and Platte Valley is working with Motorola to determine the cause. There have been calls that have been reported to have originally been called in on 911 but they have been coming in on administrative lines. Theresa asked if this would make the numbers of calls on the statistic sheets off, for total 911 calls and Virginia said that yes, this would change those numbers, but we do not know for sure how many total, but we are working with Hamilton to correct this as well.

Director's Report: Virginia and Stena reported on the high number of large fires over the past several weeks, including Friday April 7, 2023 Brewster which we have asked Nebraska State Patrol to measure the burn scar for an accurate total of acres burned. April 11, 2023 there were fires in 6 of the 8 counties, the largest of which was the Lowery fire north of Burwell, Wells Flying Service was utilized to drop 10 loads during the fire and Arrow Aviation dumped 2 loads the following day on hot spots, additionally Trotters assisted with bringing water and fuel. Wheeler County also had a large fire which was in Bartlett district, however Ericson assisted with this fire as well as the Lowery fire. Additionally, Valley County had a fire that was a reignite from a previous burn permit and Ord assisted with the Garfield fire as well once their fire was under control. April 13, 2023 was the Cooksley fire in Custer County and spread rapidly into Blaine County and then several other smaller fires began due to lightening in the area, we had 23 departments that Region 26 called to assist, this was declared a disaster and is 3 separate fires were named, it became one complex fire being called the Cooksley Complex fire. Greeley county also had a fire in a tree pile that had to be watched for a long period of time once it was under control due to high winds. April 17, 2023 Sherman County had a fire south of Litchfield, Buffalo Air was called to assist along with 6 fire departments. April 18, 2023 a hill fire south of Burwell began and Arrow Aviation was placed on standby. April 19, 2023 a fire at Jeffres' Gravel in Burwell of numerous pallets began due to an

unknown source, very early in the morning. Also, on April 19<sup>th</sup> Cedar River/Ericson fire in Wheeler County 600+ acres and Arrow Aviation was utilized on this fire to help gain control.

Discussion was held regarding how the Governors proclamations work regarding aerial support for fires. Request is initially made to NEMA and granted for the first \$25,000 of aerial support, once the need exceeds this amount it would go to the Governors funds, for approval.

Stena discussed that she and Alma attended the Loup Valley Mutual Aid Meeting in Bartlett and Sandhills Mutual Aid meeting in Thedford last week.

Stena let the board know that Alma had attended the Garfield Rural Fire Board meeting to help explain to them how the airplanes were paid for and how the paperwork was completed to get this taken care of, spoke again about the Governor's emergency funds and NEMA.

Virginia and Stena spoke to the board regarding the upcoming events calendar and how this is utilized to give weather support to the events and help dispatch know of large events in our area.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be May 30, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Stena Seamann, Deputy Emergency Manager

Approved by the Region 26 Council:

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Chairman

Date

## ACRONYMS

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

### \* North Central PET Region Includes:

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