EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT USERS BOARD MEETING
April 17, 2020 • 9:00am
Phone-In Meeting

Board members in attendance by phone: Chad Lewis, City Council, Laura Armstrong, City Council; Gary Sortland, Fire Service Board; Kevin Thom, Pennington County Sheriff’s Office

Board members in attendance in person: Rod Seals, Rapid City Fire Chief

Others in attendance: Dustin Willett, Director; Alexa White, Deputy Director

I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:04am by Rod Seals.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Nothing brought forth.


V. OLD BUSINESS
a. HLS Grant FY2019
   i. Prioritization Update: Willett reported the HLS Grant prioritization meeting with the rest of the region (EM and LE representatives from the nine (9) counties and tribe). Pennington County was recognized by several of the other counties as being a regional asset to all in the region further advocating pushing forward the bigger projects that Pennington County had put forth. Now that the grants have been organized and put in order of priority and the list will be submitted and will move forward in the approval process with the SD HLS office.

VI. NEW BUSINESS
a. Disaster Declaration (COVID-19) - Willett stated that an Emergency Declaration, EM-3475, was declared in March 16, 2020 for South Dakota and a Major Disaster Declaration was declared for SD on April 10, 2020. This is the first time every state has a disaster declaration at the same time so this will be interesting how this evolves. Currently these declarations are for Public Assistance or Public taxing entities and in some cases specific non-profits, to apply for aid assistance. Willett encouraged those on the call to be working within their agencies to keep track of all expenses related to COVID-19.

   Reimbursements will be for Emergency Protective Measures, including things like overtime staffing directly related to COVID-19, PPE costs, some sheltering costs, and telework expenses directly related to COVID-19.

b. EOC Operations - Willett reported that the Emergency Operations Center has been open and operational with staff from 8:30-4pm, Mon-Fri. A daily brief is collected with info and a Senior Leadership Brief on Fridays. EOC staff have been working to logistically set up a Temporary Emergency Homeless Shelter at the Rushmore Hall located in the Rapid City Civic Center. The goal is to have open and operational by next Friday, April 24, at the
latest. Partners in the project have put in an ESG grant through the Volunteers of America to fund the staffing operation for the shelter. Notification if the grant was approved and accepted is expected on April 24. Once the shelter is operational, the hard stop/end date will be June 26 due to events planned for the Civic Center in early July.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Executive Session was not necessary during this meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Sortland, Jegeris second. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:30am.