

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT USERS BOARD MEETING

January 8, 2021 ▪ 9:00am

Pennington County Administration Building | ESCC Conference Room

Board members in attendance: Laura Armstrong, Rapid City Council; Lt. Col. Dale Gadbois, SD National Guard; Chief Don Hedrick, Rapid City Police Department; Travis Lasseter, County Commissioner; Lance Lehmann, Rapid City Council; Gary Sortland, Fire Service Board; Sheriff Kevin Thom, Pennington County Sheriff's

Others in attendance: Dustin Willett, Emergency Manager; Alexa White, Deputy Director; Pepper Massey

- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:59am by Sortland.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Nothing brought forth.
- III. APPROVE AGENDA: Willett requested EM Updates be added to the agenda. ***Motion to approve 8 January 2021 agenda with update by Thom, Lehmann second. Motion carried.***
- IV. APPROVE MINUTES: ***Motion to approve 9 October 2020 minutes by Thom, Hedrick second. Motion carried.***
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Disaster Declaration (COVID-19) – Willett confirmed that the Disaster Declaration is still active.
 - b. CARES ACT Reimbursement – Willet reported EM resubmitted COVID expenses for reimbursement through the CARES ACT and is working with Auditor's Office to quickly respond when revisions and additional information is requested. Both EM and Shelter expenses are receiving a high level of scrutiny because work does not appear to have been replicated elsewhere in the State. Some claims are being approved and we are hopeful there will be more. However, FEMA and LEMPG remain other reimbursement options we can use to recoup funds if necessary. Two additional concerns of note, 1) 2020 County receivables list is due to Auditor now even though we are still waiting for reimbursement approval through CARES Act; and 2) the State has advised that the direct transfer of CARES Act reimbursements between the City and the County would require cumbersome official grant agreements, so EM will adjust City/County contributions in the next EM budget cycles to balance out joint expenditures and subsequent CARES Act reimbursement.
 - c. LEMPG Special Project Application – Willet said LEMPG has authorized special allocation in 2020, which could be an option for COVID expense reimbursement not covered through CARES, but different timelines are causing some challenges.
 - d. Everbridge Community Engagement Project – White stated EM changed County text alert system from Helpline 211 to Everbridge. The new program launched 15 October with six (6) partners – City of RC, PC Hwy, PC SO, RC PC EM, RC FD, RC PD. Signups have been good and gain momentum as alerts are received. To date: RC Impact = 3,358, PC Impact = 2,206, RC Snow = 2,628, PC Snow = 1,502.
 - e. CERT Training – White reported Teen CERT fall session was cancelled due to COVID but schools/students are showing interest and we will host a Teen CERT class 1 February – 8 March (Mondays, 4-8pm). An adult CERT class will be offered in April. Additionally, two CPR classes are scheduled later this month for CERT graduates. Willett commended White

and Enright for the success of this program that encourages and engages civic-minded community members, giving them tools to assist if and when resources are needed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2021 EMUB Chair & Vice-Chair Selection – ***Motion to nominate and elect Chief Jason Culberson and Gary Sortland as 2021 EMUB Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, by Thom, Hedrick second. Motion carried.***
- b. 2021 Homeland Security Grant – Willett reported that the HLS grant cycle opened 1 January and will close 19 February. EM received a grant last year for decontamination equipment and will not apply this cycle. Because cyber threats are at the top of the list, Willett met with PennCo IT to bring a cyber project from Pennington County forward. As a reminder, any eligible agency can apply for an HLS grant. Submissions are reviewed by the HLS office in Pierre to determine if they meet requirements. Applications that can be funded are sent back to County and prioritized by EMUB. 10 entities comprise a Region IV panel who decide which projects will be funded in full or part.
- c. Emergency Management Updates – Willett provided updates on the following:
 - EM continues to work with the Sheriff’s Office on the Serenity Dennard search;
 - EM received grant funds to build a communications broadband box with satellite terminal to ensure continuous communication if cellular options are unavailable throughout the County;
 - EM received several grants from the Department of Health to build out an ambulance bus, anticipated to be completed soon;
 - EM continues to work on developing the Duty Officer Program;
 - EM continues to work on the Pennington County Comprehensive Plan;
 - EM has begun work on the 2022 budget;
 - Willett was appointed by Governor Daugaard to the SERC board and elected Chair in 2021. SERC provides funding to LEPCs. To be eligible for funds state statute requires LEPC’s to conduct a quarterly meeting, which has been impossible due to COVID. Willett worked with DENR who, in turn, worked with Governor’s office to issue an executive order exempting LEPCs until they are able to safely gather for meeting and exercises.

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: ***Motion to adjourn by Lehmann, Hedrick second. Motion carried.***
Meeting adjourned at 9:24am.