

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT USERS BOARD MEETING

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022- 9:00 am

Pennington County Administration Building | Dispatch Conference Room

Board members in attendance: Bill Evans, Rapid City Council; Travis Lasseter, Pennington County Commission; Lance Lehmann, Rapid City Council; Scott Sitts, Rapid City Police Department; Gary Sortland, Pennington County Fire Service Board; Kevin Thom, Pennington County Sheriff's Office; Jason Culberson, Rapid City Fire Department

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

- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:06am by Chief Jason Culberson.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Nothing brought forth.
- III. APPROVE AGENDA: *Motion to approve April 8 2022 agenda by Lehmann, Lasseter second. Motion carried.*
  - I. APPROVE MINUTES: *Motion to approve January 7, 2022 minutes by Sortland, Lehmann second. Motion carried.*
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. Disaster Declaration (COVID-19) - Willett stated we are still under the Federal Presidential Declaration; there are eligible categories for reimbursement by FEMA, but this doesn't affect us in SD.
  - b. Homeland Security Grant – Willett shared the HLS Enhance Digital Radio Project is still awaiting supplies that are backordered from Motorola. He is keeping in contact with them.
  - c. CERT Training – White reported there are currently 12 people in the Spring class, with a few being teens. We've had a total of 374 participants in 28 classes since starting CERT courses in 2013.
    - i. The Home Show and Kid's Fair were the past two weekends. Both were good opportunities to interact with the community. Approximately 1,500 kids went through the maze built by Mark Enright. These are great outreach opportunities for the office. Willett explained the maze setup used during the Kid's Fair for outreach and conversations with both adults and children. There was discussion about how the Home Show has changed over time and possibly making alterations to the maze for it to have an area that is ADA compliant.
  - d. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDM) and Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) Process – Willett stated the FEMA grant has been accepted by the state and we are now waiting for FEMA approval. If we receive the grant, BH Council of Governments will do the plan. Willett shared he will be visiting with all local municipalities to get them on board with the plan and processes. Of note, Hill City has recently created an uncompensated EM position to become additional duties for someone in the city office.
  - e. Duty Officer Program – Willett explained they are still working with both the police and fire positions. The goal is to have the positions filled, trained, and launch alerts

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- by tornado season. The qualifications list will be finalized soon for seeking an individual from county fire to also be vetted, approved & trained as a duty officer.
- f. Continuity Planning – Willett shared they are still working on this program. The Hill City EM position will help bring continuity planning to the forefront of planning. Thom offered assistance from their PCSO contract officers in Hill City and Wall communities to assist in EM planning if needed.
  - g. Improving Community Preparedness to Assist Victims of Mass Violence or Domestic Terrorism: Training & Technical Assistance – Willett reported there is good progress being made. There is a grant for a pilot program. He is working with the state, and DPS is helping guide the Family Assistance plan. There is a nationwide effort currently and we are one of 4 or 5 communities working with this program. Willett added they have learned a public information piece to stay away from term ‘anniversary’, rather using the recommended language ‘remembrance.’ White explained ‘anniversary’ can bring about turmoil when speaking of the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the flood. The two speakers who are part of this pilot program will be sharing virtually at the next Regional PIO meeting in June.
  - h. Wildfire Evacuation Planning: Willett stated there was a meeting held at the state and federal level to move from a draft to final framework. They will be pitching this to the surrounding counties. Willett is asking the EMUB and law enforcement to support this effort and be part of the group to go to counties for these discussions. He added that language matters in this process.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. HLS Grant Prioritization and projects overview – White shared that we have done well. \$159,072.48 was received for Pennington County and four projects were pushed through. The only project questionable is for Station 7. The HazMat grant was accepted. There is a prioritization process used to decide recipients and we will know final decisions later this year.
- b. Public Safety Hub & Public Impact Messaging Update – White explained the Hub was finished and launched last July. The EM office can do a quick training for responders so they can become more familiar with using the system. The HUB has been received well by media and the public and we encourage responders to use it in the field when possible.
  - 1. Impact Messages are for events that might impact your day, current signups:
    - a. RCImpact - 4020
    - b. PCImpact - 2588
    - c. PCSnow - 1835
    - d. RCSnow - 2997
  - 2. Public Warning Messages has over 4,000 signed up. These are for events that can are life threatening, rapidly evolving emergency events, like a tornado or flash flood.
- c. Other Items from Members:
  - i. Thom asked how the EOC upgrades are going. Willett stated they are slated to be completed by the end of August. Willett has been working with IT, and the back-up center at Camp Rapid is functional and updated.
  - ii. Nick Carlson retires at 2pm today – 27 years of service.

iii. Culberson shared there will be a small, prescribed burn by Station 6 today. It is a test burn within the city limits with a permit.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION per SDCL 1-25-2(6): Executive Session was not necessary during this meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: *Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:41am by Lasseter, Lehmann second. Motion carried.*