

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT USERS BOARD MEETING

July 8th, 2022- 9:00 am

Pennington County Administration Building | EOC – First Floor

Board members in attendance: Jason Culberson, Rapid City Fire Department; Gary Sortland, Fire Service Board; Brian Mueller, Pennington County Sheriff's Office; Travis Lasseter, Pennington County Commission; Bill Evans, Rapid City Council; Don Hedrick, Rapid City Police Department; Kevin Thom, Pennington County Sheriff's Office

Others in attendance: Dustin Willett, Emergency Manager; Alexa White, Deputy Director; Val Newman, Admin Assistant

- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:08am by Chief Jason Culberson.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Nothing brought forth.
- III. APPROVE AGENDA: *Motion to approve July 8, 2022, agenda by Sortland, Hedrick second. Motion carried.*
 - I. APPROVE MINUTES: *Motion to approve April 8, 2022, minutes by Sortland, Mueller second. Motion carried.*
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Disaster Declaration (COVID-19): Willett stated we are still under the Federal Presidential Declaration.
 - b. Homeland Security Grant: Radios were ordered last October through grant funding. Motorola is/was stating a 3–6-month lag time. However, we are currently 8 months out and the items had not been shipped. Willett called and requested shipping or there would be a need to cancel the order due to the grant funding timeline. All radios showed within two weeks. He is currently working with the radio shop to program and install in them in the AmbuBus. Enright is working with details to get it going.
 - c. CERT Training: White is working to start the next Fall Course for the adult training to start in September. EM has been approached by some organizations for possible CERT training for their employees.
 - d. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan (PDM) and Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) Process: Newman was able to schedule Willett for the Municipality meetings to discuss the PDM. Wasta and Quinn have not participated previously so looking forward to adding them. The FEMA Grant is currently moving forward with the grant review, and we should know the results in a month or two. Once it is approved, additional information will be provided.
 - e. Duty Officer Program: We have three chosen, one from the Sheriff's Office, Police Department, and Rapid City Fire. Pennington County Fire will not be represented. Willett is finishing the protocol. Pushing out wireless and public warnings is a goal for those involved. Willett is working on the structure for the process, authorizing and guidelines. Willett will present the protocol to the EMUB when completed.
 - f. Continuity Planning: State OEM hired a coordinator to reach out to counties to see who wants to be involved with this work.

2022 MEETING DATES - FRIDAYS: January 7; April 8; July 8; October 7

- g. Improving Community Preparedness to Assist Victims of Mass Violence or Domestic Terrorism: Training & Technical Assistance: Willett had a meeting with the new Region 1 Coordinator for the State Department of Health this past week. He is looking forward to coordinating and connecting.
- h. Wildfire Evacuation Planning: Willett has meetings scheduled with several counties regarding the adoption of the plan. From the communication side of things, the Highway Patrol would need to add six new banks of frequencies/zones. Willett has had communication with them, and the setup has been going well to support this move. PennCo is set to use this framework. Lawrence County may require additional work. Custer is moving forward.
- i. The \$170,000 AVI project in the EOC has met a roadblock due to staff turnover and supply change challenges, so it has been moved from August to December. Hopefully, the work will be completed prior to the end of the year.
- j. The EM Budget has been changed due to a request by Fire for the Admin Assistant to be moved from 50/50 EM/FR to a full time Fire position. EM is now requesting a basic A13 FTE position for clerical work as a Staff Assistant. This was brought forth after the EM budget was completed and submitted.
 - i. Willett plans to use reserves to cover the EM FTE and support the difference in 2023 since the change was requested after his budget was submitted.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. June Severe Storms:
 - i. EM has received calls from Box Elder and Keystone regarding funds for assistance. Willett has had to inform them that none are available through this office. The state has monies, but the threshold is incredibly high. Previously Julie Pearson had asked for this funding to be stopped. The account line item still exists, but there is no levy on taxes and has not been for about 8 years.
 - 1. Lasseter asked why it went away. Mueller explained the reserves were low, so it was eliminated. Willett offered to discuss adding this should the Commission want to bring it forward.
 - 2. State assistance: PennCo must meet a 12-month threshold of \$18 million during declared disasters before going to the state. FEMA has funds for the county set at a \$470,000 threshold., plus state requirements of 1.3 million. Box Elder and Wall were hit hard, but they are not close to any thresholds, so nothing available.
 - 3. Evans asked about the rationale for the 18 million: Willett explained it is a state statute and that is based on per capita. Crops are considered individual, not county loss.
 - ii. There is a new Presidentially Declared Disaster on the eastern side of the state, and more may follow due to storms.
 - 1. Willett stated every time FEMA writes check a fixed percentage goes into mitigation funding. When these funds become available, PennCo can apply for them. It can take a couple years from the time the disaster is declared to when the mitigation funding is made available.

- iii. There are two new desk radios available for EOC activations.
 - 1. The EOC was set up for July 4th weekend
- iv. The County Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Civil Air Patrol for the top of courthouse for increase communication.
- b. Other Items from Members:
 - i. None brought forward
- 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 9:36am by Sortland, Lasseter second. Moton carried.*