



PENNINGTON COUNTY LEPC

130 Kansas City Street, Ste. 130, Rapid City SD 57701

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LEPC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Present: Matthias Barton, Nathan Barton, Brian Blenner, Tyler Brown, Dustin Calhoun, Alexa Couch, Adam Davis, Heather Fox, Mitch Guy, Ria Hannon, Trapper Lappe, Brent Long, Brooke Love, Randy Maxon, Pat Roseland, Keith Sherburn, Kailey Snyder, Don Steveson, Cathy Strudle, Thomas Thiele, David Switzer, Alexa White, Dustin Willett, Kraig Wood

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** at 12:03 by Chair D Calhoun.
2. **INTRODUCTIONS**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
4. **AGENDA:** Motion to approve February 15, 2024 Agenda by B Long, second by D Willett. **Motion carried.**
5. **MINUTES:** Motion to approve November 16, 2023 Minutes by D Switzer, second by T Brown. **Motion carried.**
6. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Budget Report: A White presented the budget. 2024 award has not been announced yet. Motion to approve the budget by D Willett, second by T Brown. **Motion carried.**
 - b. Haz-Mat Team Report: T Lappe reported 27 calls for service, no body recoveries, consisted of gas leaks and construction calls; they have rolled out personal radiation protections to the front-line departments including the airport; they had a grant opportunity in 2023 to purchase gas meters which will complement radiation detectors; they will be having upcoming hazmat training with multiple stations.
 - c. Citizens Corps Committee Reports
 - i. VIPS: D Switzer reported that 17 reserve deputies are working on annual mandatory training; the department participated in the polar plunge; planning a fishing tournament out at deer field; 10 explorers are currently working on mandatory training; will have an active shooter training in mid-April; currently have 2 senior volunteers working on project life saver.
 - ii. CERT: White reported that the next 7 weeklong class will be held April 1, 2024. A Davis will be team teaching, and a CERT train-the-trainer class will take place in the fall.
 - iii. Fire Corps: None.



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- d. Preparedness and Education Events from LEPC Entities: White reported that the Home Show will be March 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, 2024 where EM will provide general and LEPC information LEPC to the public. The Kids Fair will take place April 6th and 7th and will include the maze; they are currently looking for Fair volunteers. R Hannon reported that she will be participating in the Home Show, clean up week will be the week of April 27th, 2024, and that she has received the trash bags. Willett reported that he will be attending the Western States Response Meeting which will be the first “live” event post-Covid; this meeting will be in Las Vegas, NV and will provide him with the opportunity to meet with other CERT participants. K Sherburn, NOAA, reported that they will be participating in the statewide severe weather preparedness week, they will be working with other entities to get information out. He reported that Skyward Weather Watch will happen the 2nd week of April, the 8th – 12th.
- e. 2023 Commodity Flow Study
 1. Contract with the Blue Cell, \$10k (LEPC fronts the funds, 5k reimbursed through HMEP Grant) Project completion by 9/30/24: Willett reported that he has been in talks with the contractor and the principal contact assigned to the project. It has been created in Google Drive, as a virtual clearinghouse to communicate back and forth. He passed around a sign-up sheet for LEPC members who would be willing to be contacted by the principal contact spearheading the CFS.
- f. Comprehensive Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan: Willett reported that he attended meetings at Ellsworth AFB, Monument Health, and with the Regional Hazmat Team. He would like to sit down and speak with Ellsworth AFB Fire staff to discuss the Hazardous Materials Plan. He shared that the Hazard Materials Plan is one of the only legislatively mandated deliverables (hard copy) that the Pennington County LEPC is responsible for each year. Willett would like to have this completed by next year 2025.
- g. Other items by members: None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan Updates – Kailey Snyder, Black Hills Council of Local Governments. Kailey shared a Power Point presentation. She reported that a PDM pre-disaster plan needs to be updated every 5 years; it needs to be a multijurisdictional plan designed to reduce loss of life and property. She stated that mitigation is an investment. Some examples include adopting building codes, education, and outreach. She reported that she has been with her team for a year, where they have been working through the process of identifying risks (examples presented include drought, dam failure, flooding, wildfire, winter storms, etc.). These risks need to be addressed and mitigated. One-on-one meetings have taken place with city council and public works. They plan on hosting upcoming public meetings to further discuss the process. She reported that a



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mitigation survey has been presented to the public which can be completed in paper form or online and due February 29th, 2024. The final goal is to create a mitigation action. The steps would be as follows: a public review of the draft, then sent to OEM/FEMA for review, approval by FEMA, then the adoption process with the county. She stated that the plan has historically been written on paper. This is the first time in South Dakota that the plan will be entirely online in an interactive media format.

A round table discussion followed. It was suggested that we also consider other hazards such as sinkholes and landslides. A member asked if utility providers such as Black Hills Energy would be participating because protecting infrastructure is important. Willett stated that yes, it is important to involve key infrastructure companies. Previously, they have been open to participating and discussing mitigating power issues that may affect the public (i.e. power outages, vulnerable populations), even though some information would not be made public to protect private information.

Some areas suggested included Chapel Valley, which only has one way in and one way out; South Canyon Rd. had this problem until an alternate access road was constructed; Red Rocks has single access, which is currently large enough to handle traffic has had troubles via Dunsmore and Sheridan Lake Road due to an increase in traffic; Meadows Road, which will be closed for several days, leaving only one access lane would also be difficult to navigate in case of an emergency; 385 will be out of service May – July. It was suggested that all these areas be considered additions to the plan and mitigated to appropriately prevent a hazardous event.

Willett reported that DOT is currently studying eastbound section line roads on I90 that go under bridges. There are approximately 8 bridges between Rapid City and Quinn that are approaching the end of their life. The question is whether to tear them down completely or replace them. DOT is currently accepting feedback.

Kailey asked the group, with all the development we have seen in Rapid City, is there anything that the LEPC is aware of or concerned about? Willett answered, we are currently engaging with city planning departments about issues that come with growth, such as resource availability (i.e., potable water and wastewater).

8. **ADJOURN:** Motion to adjourn at 12:55pm by D Willett, second by G Barton. **Motion carried.**