

Park County LEPC

Meeting Minutes

11-8-18

Meeting called to order: 11:05 am.

### **Member Updates**

Leslie Feigel, Livingston Chamber & CVB

- Christmas stroll coming up. Safety concerns with street closures, wagon rides, fire pits. The Chamber is addressing these concerns with assistance from Park County Rural Fire #1 so that they can get the insurance signed off. Road closure on Main Street has grown to three blocks this year. Requesting a waiver from the city for people to carry alcoholic beverages on the street.
  - Recommended that the LEPC could be more involved in the planning of major events such as the Christmas Stroll in the future using the Incident Command System.
- How to prepare for an emergency information booklet for businesses. The Chamber is volunteering to print this. Leslie reports that business emergency planning is lacking in the community.

Cidnee Morrison, Park County Health Department

- Volunteered the Health Department to be a part of the LEPC Community Outreach Committee.
- Busy with flu clinics around the county. Ace Hardware for a drive-through clinic, Mark's In & Out for a drive-in clinic, handful of businesses as well as all the schools in Park County. Predicting a severe flu season. If City or County employees still need to get a flu shot, contact the Health Department and they will try to accommodate you.
- Suicide prevention is a priority. Montana is #1 in the nation for suicides and Park County is #1 in Montana.
- Question about flu vaccine for the Senior Center. The vaccine the health department has is good for those up to the age of 64. The Health Department will look at getting a vaccine for those over 64 next year.

Jan Axtell, Livingston HealthCare

- Home Health section was just audited by CMS (Center for Medicaid/Medicare Services) and no deficiencies found.
- Looking at transitioning a new person into the Hospital Emergency Preparedness role.

Robert Whithers, Park County Rural Fire #1

- Winterized wildland trucks for the off-season.
- Very pleased that the PCRF#1 Mill Levy passed.
- Focusing on Santa on the Fire Truck which will take a lot of work to get ready for.

#### Ashley Sites, USFS – Custer Gallatin National Forest

- Hiring for next year is complete.
- Working on incident management team admin.
- Finally getting some traction on Cooke City fuels reduction project.

#### Bob Fry, Montana Disaster & Emergency Services

- Senior Advisory Committee has awarded Homeland Security Grants 2018. Park County received two of the three grants they submitted. Keep an eye out for the possibility of reverted funds for the third grant that was not funded.
- FEMA is integrating four staff members with State DES to work on several projects. One is an Incident Management project that the State categorized as a priority to explore how we respond to catastrophic incidents while waiting for a national team. Another one is Communications. This is a big increase in capacity for State DES.
- Reported on emergency alerting and how the Presidential Emergency Alert test, while successful elsewhere was only about 25% successful in Montana. More work to do on emergency alerting.
- Gallatin County Emergency Management is moving to the County offices from the City and will be getting a second full-time position.

#### Greg Coleman, Park County Emergency Management

- Received Presidential Declaration for assistance with public infrastructure repairs resulting from the spring flooding.
- Working with Jim Halfpenny and the North Yellowstone Amateur Radio Club. Planning on having a ham radio test prep class in December to help those interested in becoming a ham radio operator get their license.
- Joined the Southern Healthcare Coalition to help coordinate emergency management efforts with our healthcare partners.
- Working with the accounting office to use e-iSuite as an incident management tool.
- FSA has funding available for ag producers effected by the spring flooding.

#### New Business

- Earthquake Annex Q was not ready for update approval. Feedback has been to stay out of the weeds and not get stuck on operational details. Communications and coordination is a priority in potentially widespread disaster impacts such as an earthquake. Need to consider having multiple EOCs and how to coordinate between them. Will shoot to approve this annex at our January meeting.
- Homeland Security Grants
  - Sheep Mountain Project: 3 repeaters to be co-located with Park Electric at their Sheep Mountain facility. This will require tone coding to avoid conflict with the repeaters on Myers Flat. This will require reprogramming of radios for first responders wishing to use the new repeaters.
  - Portable Repeater Project: 3 portable repeaters. Looking at adding hot swappable duplexors to allow changing the frequency in the field. Applying for a new tactical repeater frequency to use in these duplexers. Can also add the Sheriff's Office repeater

frequency to a duplexer for additional flexibility. If we have extra funding available, will look into asking if we can add a fourth portable repeater to be operantly mounted on an emergency vehicle.

- LEPC Leadership
  - Jan is interested in continuing in a leadership role, but as his function at the hospital is changing, he may not be the best person to represent Livingston Healthcare. Bob Fry suggested that the quality of the volunteer is more important than the agency they represent. Jan requested that we wait till January to see who will be responsible for emergency preparedness at the hospital.
  - Greg did enquire with a few prospective candidates for LEPC Chairperson. Buck Taylor with Community Health Partners declined due to other commitments. I also asked Cidnee Morrison with the Park County Health Department and with the recent changes in the Health Department, this is not the right time to take on an new responsibility.
  - Discussed LEPC leadership with the Park County Commissioners and they agreed that it would be best to wait for the right person to fill the role. They suggested that Greg Coleman could serve in an interim capacity if the current Chairperson did not wish to continue until a replacement is found.
- THIRA/SPR (State Preparedness Report)
  - Looking for wide input for this report.
  - Discussed the report and how people can contribute. Contact Greg Coleman who is preparing to submit it to the State.
  - Proposed to put online and ask for feedback there.
- Spring Exercise Planning
  - Still need to convene the exercise committee.
- Non-agenda Items
  - Pattern Development & the Crazy Mountain Wind Farm
    - Planned for Sweet Grass/Park County Line off Convict Grade Road.
    - This project has been approved and is in the works.
- Emergency Operations Base Plan was presented for folks to review and bring feedback for next meeting.
  - FEMA is going to Lifelines and how core capabilities tie into them. We will be hearing more about this in the future.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:25 pm.