

MINUTES
HARVEY COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
EOC Meeting Room (Basement of LEC)
120 E. 7th Street
Newton, Kansas 67114
August 9th 2023 @ 9:00 am

Present: Larry Alexander, Mike Anderson, Gloria Arellano, Skip Cowan, Jamie Dehler, Craig Dunlavy, Bryan Ellis, Kyle Fiedler, Brody Flavin, Daniel Keane, Amy Kornahrens, Michele Lowery, Kyle McCaskey, Jim Meier, Janie Mosqueda, Molly Redinger, Lynnette Redington, Steve Roberson, Anthony Swartzendruber, Richard Powell,

Brody Flavin called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

1. Opening of Meeting:

Mr. Flavin then asked for a motion to approve the August 9th 2023 agenda. With no changes or objections brought forth Amy Kornahrens make a motion to accept the agenda as written, Larry Alexander seconded. **Agenda Approved.**

Mr. Flavin then asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the June 14th 2023 meeting. Mike Anderson made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Molly Redinger. **Minutes Accepted.**

2. Old Business

- Brody Flavin then brought forth the discussion of the changing of meeting dates and times for any upcoming LEPC meetings. Bryan Ellis then led the conversation by discussing there had been some questions asked of him weather we needed to move the dates to another time, or even another day to make it easier for more of the members to attend. Mr. Ellis advised this had been discussed to some degree at past meetings but no definite decision ever made. Mr. Flavin opened the floor to any question or if we have any issues at this time keeping the meeting dates and times already on the calendar. There were no comments or objections brought forth so it was concluded that the dates/times would remain the same.

3. New Business:

- **Presentation** – Mike Anderson Director of Emergency Management gave a brief presentation on the EOP review and ESF 5. His presentation discussed the need for a process and how everything we do in our day is a process. He gave an example of making a pie crust that went awry and how without the proper process a pie crust can become a Frisbee. Mr. Anderson went on to explain the differences between incidents command system typing and process variations with a Type 5 incident to a Type 1. He explained that we practice most days to take on a middle of the road incident in hopes that when something more extreme comes along our “muscle memory” will kick in and take us where we need to go within that incident. He added that of course there are variations within the different types but the

outcome is always a successful recover for our citizens. Mike then gave a definition from the Webster Dictionary of what coordination is with the underline take away being that it is a harmonization of an event and that as an Emergency Manager that is the goal in all incidents no matter the type. He then showed an example of a Joint Field Office setup during his time in the Coast Guard. Mike advised he has seen a setup just as similar to the one shown in the presentation of over 1000 members, all the way down to a 6 person setup. The point he hoped to make with the group that is in fact whenever a activation is needed in Harvey County we are actually, “building a business” from the ground up where we can do plenty of the following:

- Utilizing a Joint Field Office
- Managing objectives
- Creating a Board of Directors
- Designating a Chief of CEO
- Working towards messaging for Public Outreach and Information
- Implementing Departments and Divisions
- Taking on Consultants in areas we are not familiar with, such as KDEM.

Mr. Anderson then reminded the group of the recent Fox Meadows Apartment fire where we clearly and thankfully successfully created this small business and was able to get those displaced the help they needed and on their way to recovery and destablization. Mike’s hope for this presentation is that the group is able to take away that while we are ready for the 5, 4 or even 3 type incidents no we don’t actively practice the 2 or 1 type but all other experiences will harmonize together when we are in the throws of one and be a successful turn out.

Mr. Anderson then asked the group if after looking over the EOP checklist do they feel that if they were put into an activation in the next half hour, would they know what to do? Where is Harvey County weak? What GAPS could we address now ?

Lynnette Redington stated that as of right now her concern would be having vetted volunteers that people would recognize or know to call on. That right now we have no idea who those volunteers are, if they would just show up on an incident she herself would not have a clue why they were there, or what they were trained to do. There are no vetted volunteers that she is aware of and what are we doing to fix this problem. Mr. Anderson then advised of the CCRT program that Larry Alexander is currently creating to fill that void with the VRT program.

Steve Roberson, asked if there is going to be a place set up during a situation for those volunteers Lynnette mentioned to even gather, because if not they are going to be a the scene, or sitting in front of his station. Larry Alexander, CCRT Director advised that they are planning to have tents set up and taking names of the individual as they show up and how they can volunteer. His hope is that in the time of an incident that information will be broadcasted and hopefully it will take the burden off of the scene or the area. After no further discussion Brody Flavin released the floor to Bryan Ellis to discuss the Bylaws of the group.

4. Miscellaneous:

- **By-Laws:** Bryan Ellis at this time took over the group meeting to discuss his proposal for any changes in the current by-laws. Those amendments can be viewed in the attached document which was provided to the members in the meeting and by email to those unable to attend. It was decided that the updated by-laws needed to be adjusted to all decisions discussed during the meeting and brought back to the group for further discuss and a decision at the next meeting to be held on October 11th, 2023
- **Membership Verification:** Mr. Ellis then continued the meeting with a discussion of our current membership numbers and if there should be any changes in the verification of those on the list. He advised that as of right now he has downsized the list of members considerably due to the lack of attendance and in doing such we have one area of concern for a position that is a requirement for the LEPC. That position was once filled by the zoning and planning department, which as of today's date, had not been attending any of the meeting and were therefore removed from his active members list. Mr. Ellis spoke with Kyle Fiedler who was able to provide him with a few replacement agencies that might work to fill this need and they are as follows: Kansas Alliance of Wetland and Stream, City of Newton Sanitation Department, County Extension Office, Conservation Society or the Arboretum. He then addressed the group on what their thoughts on approving these groups were, or if anyone had any other suggestions to consider. After no other names were mentioned Brody Flavin advised Mr. Ellis to please reach out to the forenamed organizations and let the members know in October what he discovered.

Brody Flavin then asked if there were any other questions that needed to be addressed, with no other comments he then asked for a motions to adjourn this meeting. Craig Dunlavy made the motion which was seconded by Skip Cowan. **Meeting adjourned at 10:15am**

Next Meeting October 11th 2023

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