


Lac qui Parle County
Local Emergency Planning Committee
3rd Qtr. Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – 1:15pm

(12 Members Present, 1 Public)

Blain Johnson (Emergency Management), Gloria Tobias (Public Health), Scott Schake (Madison Ambulance), Allen Anderson (Sheriff's Office), Jill Wittnebel (MHS), Dave Craigmile (Planning/Zoning/Watershed District), Ann Jensen (Dawson Ambulance), Josh Beniga (LqP VS/Safety), John Maatz (LqP Board), Jerry Berge (Highway), Val Halvorson (City of Madison), Kirsten Gloege (LqP Family Services)

Guests: Glenn Carlson (LqP Co Co-op-Cenex/Citizen)

2. Introductions (name, title/agency)

Glenn Carlson was present representing a concerned citizen and the Lac qui Parle Co-Op as their safety director. Also Kirsten Gloege, the new Family Services Director introduced herself and was in attendance and may join the committee.

3. Approval of 1st Q Minutes / Agenda

Blain emailed out and 1st Q minutes.

Motion: Al, Second: Josh. No Discussion. Motion passed.

4. Old Business

a. County Shelter List

Blain said Red Cross came around to each county shelter and is working on agreements. He wants to make sure the new facilities are also assessed and not just the red cross ones. Blain will pass along new shelter list.

b. ICS Trainings (ICS 100/200, IS 700)

Blain says held intro ICS course with Dan Dahl of Midwest Associates. Held April trainings in Dawson and Madison which were very well attended. Hospital staff also had a training so county is getting back up to par with that. Looking at holding an ICS training for county staff, will connect with Josh on the courthouse end of things. John added any federal grant has an ICS component/requirement so they should be taken if possible.

c. May Tornado Drill

Tested all the sirens, pager test on 1:25, cannot sound multiple sirens at the same time so it took a while to get to the eastern end of the county. Got about 65% response rate on the 'reverse-911' test so that will need to be looked at. Next round Blain plans on giving the phone system more time to send out the alert than just 5 minutes. Dave mentioned he did not get a call on his home phone, Josh had a message left on his phone at the courthouse. Kirsten

mentioned she cannot hear the siren, Blain wants to bring it up at the next Madison council meeting. John said the sirens are meant for outdoor warning usage, not indoor warning. Blain said Dan from Federal Signal talked to him this morning and said they can map the decibel level from anywhere in town and suggest more appropriate sites or how many additional sirens may be needed for effective use.

5. New Business

a. Changes to LEPC personnel

Daryl Tobias decided to drop out of committee due to duplication of Emergency Management personnel and some scheduling conflicts. Blain opened the floor for changes to LEPC committee members, additions, subtractions. No comments.

b. Law enforcement report (*Sheriff Anderson, Chief Stock*)

Dispatch working on updates to the dispatch system (LETG) and new fire and ambulance district mapping.

c. Emergency manager report

i. Emergencies/Disasters

Every township has applied for reimbursement to the tune of \$1.2 million. There is a FEMA Applicant Briefing on Monday 7/15. John asked if the LqP Park applied for damage. Blain said the DNR did apply. John thinks the county may be able to get some money for a washed out road/culvert and may be able to come in under the county. Blain agreed with John the county is an eligible applicant. Dave explained where the water came from and the history of flood damage to the park.

Blain said we could almost declare a disaster again due to continued flooding. Jerry said it has been hard to keep up with the demands on the Highway Department.

ii. Climate Update

It has been wet! Dave said the wettest year has been 2011; water year runs from Oct 1 to Sep 30 each year. Using weather.gov you can look up the running 5 year average for precipitation. Watershed District said many have had interest in developing some water retention/storage. Dave explained how putting storage on the landscape would take a lot of space to affect the streams. Control structures cost a bunch of money and he doubts permits would be easy to get. Additional explanation of stream storage.

iii. HazMat update

Updated HazMat Tier II reports coming in from 2018. Blain will put into binder and hand out to EMS services and Fire Departments. Blain will provide list to LEPC committee in email.

iv. Hazard Mitigation Plan



UMVRDC is still working on that after 2 years. Blain is getting fairly frustrated at the length of time it has been taking to get the plan done and may start to put the pressure on. Plans to call Jennifer Nelson on Friday to get more details on where we are at as a county.

d. **Armed Intruder Training**

Blain said there is a State Homeland Security Grant for armed intruder training for first responders. It is free of charge for responders and wondered if there was any interest. Paul VanVoorhis is the trainer putting that on. Chippewa and Yellow Medicine is putting one on jointly. No discussion.

e. **County/City Emergency Exercise**

Blain wants to begin planning an larger exercise with county officials. Start with a tabletop, Dawson and Madison. Jill said they hired Dan Dahl to plan a tabletop and full scale and wants community members and members of the LEPC to join in the training, all seemed on board. Tabletop would include some shelter in place for facility and evacuations. First planning meeting in July, August set for Tabletop, with Sep-Oct reserved for the full scale. Blain suggested 'tabling' ours and assist with the Madison Hospital one and kick ours off after theirs is done.

f. **County Siren Testing**

Blain plans on testing all the county sirens individually and approach the cities with replacement plans. He knows many of the sirens are old and out of date.

6. **Glenn Carlson – Lac qui Parle COOP Safety**

Safety and Compliance for Dawson Co-Op Oil. Required to have Risk Management Plan from EPA, and as part of that plan, the facility is supposed to reach out with local LEPC Officer and responders to ensure they are aware of hazardous materials. Introduced himself to the committee members and gave his background, training, and qualifications. Al and Blain had taken tour of the Bulk storage facility with Glenn in 2017. Glenn will be added to the LEPC email list and will try to make as many future meetings as possible.

Glen discussed Wadena and other events that showed how unprepared communities really are to handle responses to hazardous materials incidents. There are a lot of aspects to response that most people do not know about. The LEPC agreed we need to begin to move toward additional opportunities for co-exercises together. Blain added we are used to training and discussing things individually as agencies in silos, and learn our jobs well, but how do we incorporate an overall community response to a large incident? That needs more practice. Communications is huge, perhaps a countywide first responder radio test.

7. **Committee Member Updates**

a. **Agency Updates**



Madison Ambulance (Scott): About average for calls from this year to last year. 4 volunteers training for EMT course.

Dawson Ambulance (Ann): New hospital helipad has been painted and completed. Engineers said trees and golf course got in the way of air patterns so it had to be raised up with a circle driveway.

County Board/Coalition (John): Been keeping track of disaster damages. Mentioned emergency communications forum that was held on Tuesday. Blain added a summary of the meeting along with Al.

Sheriffs Office (Al): Discussed how phone system has affected local businesses and 911 system outages are unacceptable. 34 911 calls were missed from the last outage, 9 from Lac qui Parle County, and it reflects poorly on the sheriff's department and lowers people's confidence in first response. There must be redundancy in the system. Blain mentioned the Text-to-911 would have worked which was a 'lessons learned' and Al explained that to committee. Al says his office has been really busy this year with serious calls.

Family Services (Kirsten): Nothing to report

Public Health (Gloria): Held Point of Distribution (POD) exercise in June which went well. Explained what an open/closed PODS were and the 2020 State Health Dept full scale exercise. The exercise will focus around Anthrax treatment. Gloria wants to get with Al to discuss security at POD. Blain needs to work out transportation via busses to potential opening of POD.

VSO/LqP Safety (Josh): No Update to report

County Highway (Jerry): Trying to keep up with road washouts. Jerry is seeing a lot of culverts that are reaching the end of their life cycle. Asked Al to give his number to dispatched in the event they run across any road issues.

City of Madison (Val): Hired Blain Johnson (Paramount Planning) to do EM work for the city. Weekend activities across the city, make sure to come out for those!

Watershed/Planning & Zoning (Dave): Mentioned how it was important to prevent problems before they happen through county ordinances and other zoning. Mentioned damage to ditches and they are an applicant. Thanked Blain for his work this spring and his 'baptism by water'.

Madison Hospital (Jill): No Update besides previous exercise discussion.

8. Public Comments

Glenn mentioned how good the conversation has been really good as is impressed with the meeting. Thinks the LEPC should raise public awareness at all possible points (city council meetings, County fair, outreach, etc). Added that he has access to a lot of resources and materials to assist the committee



9. Next meeting

- a. Thursday, Oct 17th, 2019 @ 1-2:30 – EOC
- b. Move to Semi-Annual Meeting?

Not much discussion, Blain suggested, after a good meeting today, that we keep it quarterly for now, perhaps allowing for shorter meetings if there is not much to discuss. John had no issued keeping it quarterly, but wants to allow the opportunity to cancel future meetings if there is nothing to discuss. All agreed. Kept to quarterly basis after head nods of agreement.

10. Adjournment – 2:44pm

Motion: Al, Second: Gloria. No Discussion. Motion passed

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