

LEPC Meeting Minutes
Columbus Fire Hall
October 2, 2019
7:30am to 8:30 am

Attendance Record

1. Bill Pronovost	SC DES/911
2. Marlo Pronovost	Stillwater County News
3. Hal Wente	Sibanye Stillwater Mine
4. Nick Jacobs	CFR
5. Cliff Brophy	Citizen
6. Randy Smith	Undersheriff
7. Jacob Ward	Columbus Police
8. Leslie Price	Stillwater Billings Clinic
9. Aaron McDowell	Absarokee
10. Glenn Madler	Phillips 66 Pipeline
11. Kevin Mitchum	Sibanye Stillwater Mine
12. Tom Frieders	National Weather Service
13. Chip Kem	Sheriff
14. Travis Hansen	CFR
15. Natasha Sailer	Public Health
16. Rich Cowger	CFR

Pledge to the flag

Introductions were made

Minutes approved as submitted.

DES: Bill reported that Carol will be out until the 10th and if anything DES related is needed that he will be the point of contact.

The EOC trailer option that was brought up will be put on hold for a while. Initially, there was discussion that a grant could cover the cost, however it was found that the basic trailer package is roughly \$250k. That is out of the scope of the grant that was being looked at.

DES and Public Health provided September "Preptember" articles to the Stillwater County News. One article was regarding

Shelter in Place, the other reflecting Emergency List/72 hour kits for disaster prep.

A new antenna was placed on the NW corner of the tower at Shane Ridge. A temporary repeater was set up at Ryegate to test communications and how this antenna is working.

Bill recently attended and Unmanned Aircraft/Drone conference in Pablo, MT. He noted that he would like to work with Rich and Chip to develop policies and training to have a program established for use in Stillwater County. The major use for this includes wildland firefighting, accident recreation, flooding/ice jam investigation, and Search and Rescue operations. He estimates that the cost is roughly \$3-5k for a drone and the average cost to have someone operate the drone is \$25 per hour.

E-9-1-1 Nothing to Report

LEPC Training and Exercise- Nothing to Report
Rich spoke to a possibility of a water fill station at the road department gravel pit. It was noted that Commissioner Crago was considering the possibility of developing this fill site. More to come when Commissioner Crago returns.

PHEP Natasha noted that there was an active outbreak of Influenza A in Columbus that has positively linked 35 individuals to a daycare facility. There are other cases that PH is working on determining the origin and if they are potentially linked back to this same outbreak. She noted that the strain was confirmed at the State PH Lab in Helena as Influenza H3N2. This strain will be covered in the flu shot. Natasha also spoke to the shortage of vaccines and that it was not just a localized issue, but rather an issue with manufacturers.

Natasha and Carol had participated in the Preparedness Capability Assessment for Public Health with the State. The State was impressed at our current capabilities, but there are still some opportunities for improvement. The assessment was completed in its entirety.

The State will be holding a State-wide exercise to test the SNS (Strategic National Stockpile) capabilities for each jurisdiction on October 7-11th. We will participate in this at a local level with the receiving of a shipment to the PH department. We will also be participating in a POD (Point of Dispensing) Exercise that will be held in conjunction with the SNS exercise through the State.

Road names None at this time.
Communications None at this time.

Fire Warden Rich spoke to the program that was started last season by the DNRC that helps to increase staffing to local agencies to provide better capabilities of coverage in larger events. The program was designed to increase the staffing resources to decrease the need for specialized strike teams, or at least to delay their immediate need, and decrease costs. He notes that locally the model has worked successfully and they are increasing the use of this model. He anticipates that this program will continue over the next few years.

Discussion Tom from NWS noted that the snow should be leaving the area within the next day and that we should return to fall temperatures. He also noted that the winter outlook projects a slight increase in precipitation and potentially a slightly above normal temperature pattern. Notes that there will be no el Nino or La Nina this year. He did touch on the massive amounts of snow that we missed in Stillwater County but that were receive to our Western counties.

Kevin noted that he is resuming work on the emergency crossing past the smelter.

Chip noted that it was National Coffee with a Cop day and that immediately following the meeting they would be at Uncle Sam's.

Rich noted that October 7-11th is Fire Prevention week. They will be hosting Columbus School children and will be having an open house on Wednesday the 9th at the fire hall.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 am