

Minutes of the Quad Cities Emergency Planning Committee

August 28, 2020, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting called by: Decker Ploehn, Chair

Attendees: Bethaney Conklin, Jason Cook, Dave Donovan, Robin Dunn, Linda Fredriksen, Chuck Gipson, Nicole Gonner, Don Hahn, Adam Haut, Jim Hawkes, Dave Kelly, Keith Kimball, Rich Kinney, Steve Knorrek, Jeff Koenig, Al Loeffelholz, Laura McDonald, Bruce Mckee, Mindy Meyers, Brian Payne, Decker Ploehn, Tracey Sanders, Jeff Snyder, Chris Varnes, Richard Vermeer, Brian Wright, Jeffrey Yerkey all via Zoom

Call to Order – Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes of the February 28th, 2020 Meeting

Don Hahn motioned to approve the QCEPC February 28th, 2020, meeting minutes; Brian Wright seconded the motion. All Ayes.

Homeland Security/EMA/IMT/PIO Workshop

Mindy Meyers, Rock Island County EMA, reported they have had their EOC opened due to civil unrests, Derecho, and COVID19. Their office is working with EPA and other partners to set up an LEPC Hazmat virtual tabletop exercise. Assisting schools with PPE and have a 30 day supply on hand.

Brian Payne, Scott County EMA, reported they have completed surveys for the Derecho damage with the State of Iowa. FEMA Public Assistance is available, as is Iowa Individual Assistance. Completing a request with Homeland Security for FEMA Individual Assistance.

Dave Donovan reported that Scott County EMA are working on a strategic stock pile of PPE. Looking at other opportunities for an 18 month supply. Exelon exercise that was scheduled for August was postponed. Chair Ploehn asked if the strategic stockpile supplies were a regional supply – Donovan advised Scott County only at this time due to financial reasons. Open to discussion to open up to other counties once fiscal limitations are figured out.

Brian Wright, Muscatine County, advised same issues as other counties. 4 outbreaks of COVID19 in nursing homes, along with the meat packing plant. Minimal damage from Derecho storm, but did have a community knocked off the power grid.

Brian Payne advised that Bi-State received funding and hiring a staff member for joint purchasing. Looking to hire for the private sector to purchase PPE items.

QCLEPC: Training, Planning, Exercise

Mindy Meyer, Rock Island County, virtual table top is scheduled for September 10th. Planning is still going on, but not sure what the disaster will be.

Communication Center Updates

Tracey Sanders advised SECC has changed its procedures due to COVID19 and building is in lockdown, with very limited access. Three trainees will be done training in September. Hiring for Quality and Training Specialists, along with warrant clerk.

Dave Donovan discussed radio project. Separate bid processes for Scott County and Rock Island County were approved in August and both awarded to T Steele Construction out of Rock Island, Illinois. 10 new towers will be built and 2 existing towers will be worked on. P25 Advisory Group has met 3 times and working on talk groups at this time. Continue to work with each other to discuss issues with coordination and system operation.

No Communication reports from Illinois at this time.

Healthcare Coalition Updates

Bethaney Conklin discussed that Iowa Region 5 has been working on medical surge and ICU bed availability issues since July 1st. There have been leadership changes in the Region since that started. Bethaney mentioned staff shortages due to COVID related illness or exposure to COVID. She also said that the Region is discussing what is going to happen when a vaccine becomes available. They discussed outbreaks at nursing homes within the Region.

Al Loeffelholz, Genesis, discussed COVID within the hospital and the stats of the Region. Test Iowa has been averaging 250 tests a day and will continue with the site at the mall. He advised that any future exercises will be "paper" patients and no volunteers at this time. Al stated that visitors are limited to when they can visit hospitals.

Al Loeffelholz and Brian Payne discussed the Genesis water well project partnership is going well. Working Iowa American Water and IMEG Engineers. The water well will be a potable well to keep Genesis running if the water system would happen to fail and serve residents and companies in the area of Genesis East. Expect that this new well will be much larger than initially planned due to IA American's involvement. The well will be connected to the IA American system as a diverse water source.

Other Hospital/Healthcare Reports

Both Scott and Rock Island County Health Departments are planning for the eventual availability of a vaccine and what the roll-out will look like, drive-thrus and/or clinics.

Both departments are spending significant time working on contact tracing at this point.

EMS Reports – QCA Opioid Crisis

Adam Haut, Genesis, reported that business is back to "normal" since COVID has started. He is advising that all staff are required to wear masks on all calls.

Linda Frederiksen, Medic EMS, reported similar to Adam Haut. She stated that through the dispatch process, a significant percentage of calls are generating isolation alerts, that require all PPE.

Chuck Gipson advised they still working with the State on the Opioid Crisis. Training has been limited at this time.

Fire Service Reports

Jeff Yerkey, Rock Island Fire, received a grant to purchase PPE for their department. There are multiple grants coming up in the future for assistance with purchasing different items. Also, reported that river rescue calls have gone up.

Steve Knorrek, Bettendorf Fire, advised that there was a Fire Marshall meeting. Discussed fireworks at that meeting and the laws of them.

Law Enforcement/TSA/Intel Reports

Keith Kimball, Bettendorf Police, advised that they meet with local NAACP groups to discuss everything going on with the local and national civil unrest. Very respectful and educational discussions and looking to make it a regular meeting.

Laura McDonald, Coast Guard, advised that there are no longer boat crews available at Rock Island. They have one vessel in storage, but no crew. No Coast Guard law enforcement crew on the water in the area.

Don Hahn reported that the Civil Air Patrol was tasked by Linn County EMA to fly over the Derecho impact area in that county to map damage. All work was completed via volunteer hours and done in three days. They sent pictures of the damage to the Governor's office as part of the local request for assistance.

I-74 Bridge Project

Jeff Koenig reported that the first of three sections of the new bridge deck on the Iowa bound structure is complete. By mid-September, they expect the bridge deck will be completed but not opened. Additional work will remain to ready that structure for traffic. By late October or early November, that bridge should be opened and in use. Discussed what detour routes for Iowa and Illinois will look like when that bridge opens up. Advised once they move to Stage 3, they will hold a meeting for the new traffic changes.

Education Update

Chuck Gipson, Medic EMS, met with Jamie to discuss refresher classes. Going to move the dates to March and will be held at Genesis Adler Center. More info to come out later on these events.

Adam Haut, Genesis Ambulance, advised that the National hours have been lifted for renewal. Has more info if needed and will email that info out.

Other Public/Private Sector/COAD Reports

Brian Payne, Scott County EMA, discussed more severe storms are coming.

Nothing else to report at this time.

Robin Dunn, Davenport Public Works, advised what their procedure will be if the impending severe storm brings additional damage.

Other Items of Interest

None

Next meeting September 25th, 2020 at 8:30 AM