

Minutes of the Quad Cities Emergency Planning Committee

October 30, 2020, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting called by: Decker Ploehn, Chair

Attendees: Eric Bradley, Terry Conklin, Jason Cook, Dave Donovan, Robin Dunn, Linda Fredriksen, Dennis Frisch, Chuck Gipson, Nicole Gonner, Don Hahn, Adam Haut, Jim Hawkes, Darin Keith, Dave Kelly, Keith Kimball, Jeff Koenig, Kevin Lange, Al Loeffelholz, Laura McDonald, Bruce Mckee, Kate Meyer, Doris Moreno, David Osborne, Brian Payne, Decker Ploehn, Jacob Pries, Troy Said, Jordan Schneider, Nick Seibert, Jerry Shirk, Scott Starns, Jamie temple, Chris Varnes, Richard Vermeer, Todd Whitchelo, and Brian Wright all via Zoom

Call to Order – Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes of the September, 2020 Meeting

Dave Donovan motioned to approve the QCEPC September 25, 2020, meeting minutes; Keith Kimball seconded the motion. All Ayes.

I-74 Bridge Project

Jeff Koenig gave an update on traffic changes coming up on both the Iowa and Illinois side. Starting around November 9th all WB, into Iowa, will start using the new bridge. Starting the week of December 23rd all traffic, head to head, will begin on the new bridge until Illinois bound bridge complete. Will be some local traffic changes with the ramps. Advised would send out a map for everyone to use.

Homeland Security/EMA/IMT/PIO Workshop

Brian Payne discussed with the group that logistics group would be allocating out masks. Said that Scott County EOC would be operational and staffed during the week of the elections. Would be utilizing Salamander for operations at the EOC – advised that RICO would the same way.

Jerry Shirk talked about preparing for the upcoming elections and continuing to work with the COVID pandemic.

Brian Wright stated that he was recently certified and received approval for their hazard mitigation plan.

Nick Siebert said that the Arsenal is currently seeing an uptick in cases of COVID on base. Looking at tightening restrictions for who is coming on base. Jake Pries will send his contact information out to everyone.

QCLEPC: Training, Planning, Exercise

Working to merge two groups into one group. Looking to see if QCCAER and QCLEPC would be a successful merge. Also, looking in the group Upper Mississippi River Spills.

Communication Center Updates

Doris Moreno from QCOMM advised that Terry McMaster is the new director at their center. Had a communication breakdown during the DERECHO storm and is working with RACOM on that issue. The Illinois centers are working together on the following items - selecting a new CAD service, working on an evacuation plan between the centers, and working on a communication plan during the election. Stated that their calls for service are down as a center this year.

Dave Donovan gave an update on recent hirings at SECC. Courtney Pershall was hired as the Training Specialist and Todd Malone was hired as Quality Assurance Specialist. Both of them were shift supervisors, so will have two openings for supervisors and will be opening that up internally. Dave also said that SECC is working on a communication plan for election week. Then gave an update on the Radio project that is happening between Scott County and Rock Island County.

Healthcare Coalition Updates

Al Loefellholz gave an update from Genesis – stated that they are meeting daily to discuss COVID and monitor bed capacity between the hospitals.

Other Hospital/Healthcare Reports

Al Loefellholz told the group that the Test Iowa site that is at NorthPark Mall will be moving inside. They are going to occupy the old SEARS automotive building and will go through the winter months. The group was told that Genesis had 45 positive patients in the hospital with 12 of them being in ICU. Both numbers are currently the highest they have seen to date. Genesis continues to be in decent shape with PPE. Starting in November will have weekly meetings with LTC, EMA, PH, and R6 to discuss COVID and related issues.

Nicole Gonner said that they continue to monitor the situation and adjust as needed.

Kate Meyer gave an update on numbers in Rock Island. Gave an update on flu shot clinics and drive thru testing locations. State of Illinois provided hospitals and local public health officials with a rapid test. Dave Donovan would like the details on those as Scott County is looking for Rapid Tests to deploy.

Chris Varnes gave an update from Scott County Public Health. Said having the same issues as Rock Island County. Their main focus is contact tracing and said that about 100 people a day have to be contacted. Will be working on vaccination plans and getting supplies for healthcare officials for when vaccinations start.

EMS Reports – QCA Opioid Crisis

Medic discussed and went over the Nalozon/Narcan numbers to date. Advised the group that Tim Ryan gave a presentation via webinar.

Adam Haut, from Genesis, said that 911 numbers are about the same but it's the COVID positive transfers that haven't risen. Continue to make sure staff is safe during those transfers.

Denny Fritsche said that SE Iowa EMS Council met and discussed the future of the organization. Will continue to meet and look to see if there is any overlap with the Healthcare Coalition.

Kevin Lange, from Medic, discussed that IDPH starting to have webinars to update Iowa Code Chapter 131 & 132.

Dr. Vermeer said that we are currently under two epidemics. One for COVID and one for the Opioid crisis.

Fire Service Reports

Todd Whichelo, from Davenport Fire, had nothing new to report.

Law Enforcement/TSA/Intel Reports

Keith Kimball, from Bettendorf police said they are working on preparation plans for election week.

Dave Osborne, from QC Airport, said that traffic is down at the airport since COVID and regulations have started.

Education Update

Jamie Temple discussed with the group upcoming Education plans for the community and first responders. Between Donahue and Long Grove looking to start an EMR class during the winter months. If there are others interested from other fire departments to reach out to Donahue and Long Grove. Jamie said that healthcare and EMS classes and training continue to be a top priority for in-person instruction. Looking at a strategic plan how to continue refresher courses during the winter and spring months. Mentioned that there are new state rules and regulations coming down for those refresher courses and how many hours responders need to recert.

Other Public/Private Sector/COAD Reports

Lt Laura McDonald and Don Hahn had nothing new to report. Don mentioned that squadrons across the region will begin meeting virtually until further notice.

Dave Donovan updated that they may be reinventing CERT in the near future.

Other Items of Interest

Robin Dunn said that Davenport is working on and finishing hauling debris from the DERECHO storm back in August. Will be starting a flood study and will be asking for public input once that project is started.

Decker Ploehn wanted everyone to know he is very proud of the community on how they have come together during COVID and wants everyone to stay positive and safe.

Next meeting Friday, December 4th, 2020 at 8:30 AM