

Minutes of the Quad Cities Emergency Planning Committee

August 29, 2025, 8:30 A.M.

The meeting was called to order by Decker Ploehn at 8:33 A.M.

Attendees: Paul Andorf, Shane Bleeker, Mariah Bryner, Dennis Frisch, Jodi Freet, Julie Furne, Pam Gettert, Adam Haut, Jim Hawkes, Kory Heston, Kris Johnson, Melissa Ketcham, Marion Lloyd, Isaias Martinez-Garza, Bill McDonald, Molly McKee, Patrick Newman, Brian Payne, Tiffany Peterson, Decker Ploehn, Gary Robertson, Nick Rocca, Scott Ryckeghem, Troy Said, Jerry Shirk, Eli Soliz, Jerry Sottos, Margo Sparbel, Bryce Stalcup, Daniel Sterner, Kevin Takacs, Jamie Temple, Richard Vermeer, Jennifer Warren, Todd Whitchelo, and Patsy Willits.

Call to Order- Introductions

The meeting began with introductions.

Approval of Minutes of the June 27, 2025, QCEPC Meeting

Dan Sterner motioned to approve the QCEPC meeting minutes for June 27, 2025; Scott Ryckeghem seconded the motion—all Ayes.

Homeland Security/EMA/IMT/PIO Workshop

Isaias Martinez-Garza, Rock Island Arsenal, stated that an FAA Drone Training was held on August 27th on the Arsenal and will share the slides from the training. Also, construction on the Moline bridge will begin soon and is estimated to be closed for two years.

Brian Payne, Scott County EMA, stated that we applied for the port security camera grant and made the first cut. Also, pipeline training, an 8-hour course, is scheduled for September 15th. The flyer will be sent out today. Brian also stated that Bettendorf and Davenport passed the agreement for the QCRIMAT.

Jodi Freet, Scott County EMA, stated that there was a FEMA review council meeting to determine FEMA's direction. Also, the Be Ready QC Fair was on August 17th. Many partners were there, and it was one of the largest years for attendance.

Communications Center Updates

Scott Ryckeghem, QCOMM 911, stated that they have some staffing concerns. They are currently staffed at 19 dispatchers, 4 part-time, and 3 in training, and will be hiring 2 more in the next couple of weeks.

Melissa Ketcham, SECC, stated that SECC will be doing a fall recruitment for dispatchers. Also, the concrete pad at the Princeton tower is being replaced.

Healthcare Coalition Reports

Adam Sowells, Unity Point, stated that the readiness assessment is due and the report should return in October. Also, a tabletop will be in the spring; more information will be sent out soon.

Other Hospital/Healthcare/Public Health Reports

Tiffany Peterson, Scott County Health Department, stated that they have been working on adaptive messaging in the Health Department. They were also a part of the Be Ready QC Fair planning committee.

Dave Kelly, MercyOne, stated that Al Loeffelholz has officially retired. Dave also thanked everyone who helped plan the Bix this year.

Dan Sterner, Durant Ambulance, stated that the flooring project is almost complete. Also, there was a water main break, and they had to activate their emergency water plan for two days. Lastly, the accreditation survey should be received in 4-6 weeks.

EMS Reports/ Air Support

Richard Vermeer, Scott County Medical Director, EMS, stated they are working with Dispatch to give pre-instructions to callers and working with the Scott County Board of Health to get CPR training into the high schools. Also, reviewing the Kyle Resuscitation Academy and stated that they can pull lots of data off the defibrillator.

Kevin Takacs, Medforce, stated that another aircraft will be coming to the QC area.

Fire Service Reports

Troy Said, Bettendorf Fire, stated they put in for the port security grant cameras.

Law Enforcement/TSA/Intel Reports

Eli Soliz, Moline Police Department, stated that the drones will be delivered next week and installed in 2 locations. Should be up and running in 2 weeks.

Education Updates

Jamie Temple, EICC, stated that there are 70 EMS students this semester.

Jim Hawkes, EICC, stated that he has taken a position with the college as the Public Safety Emergency Management position on all campuses in 3 counties. His start date will be September 22.

Public Works/Secondary Roads/Waste Commission Reports

Bryce Stalcup, Scott County Waste Commission, stated that with the recent flooding there was not of waste to be collected. The giant flame at the landfill is coming from one of the stacks and is not a danger or concern. They will be 100 percent live in the next couple months.

Civil Air Patrol, Bi-State, CPKC, Barton Solvents, and NWS

Other Items of Interest

The next meeting will be on Friday, September 26, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 A.M.