

MINUTES June 12, 2024

Stillwater Building 3rd Floor Commissioner's Conference Room & Virtual 9:00 am – 09:57 am

APPROVAL OF MINUTES as distributed [1st: KC Williams with YC DES; 2nd: Bob Lough with YARES]

AGENDA – DISCUSSION:

Quarterly Financial Report: NEXT REPORT IN JUNE

Ending Balance: \$30,574.18

- (\$84.15) Supplies for LEPC Subcommittee Chairs Toolkits
- (\$154.80) New Subcommittee Chairs Meeting (lunch provided) - PENDING

Member Presentation(s):

Sonya Scheetz with AlphaOmega Disaster Restoration

- They come in post-disaster, fire, flood, etc to mitigate damage and restore to previous conditions.
 - They contract services out as necessary.
- There are 20 people in the Billings Office, however they were bought by a larger company with 2000+ employees nationwide.
 - This provides a larger resource base that they can pull from faster.
- Services they provide mitigation and restoration for include:
 - Fire
 - Smoke
 - Mold
 - Crime Scenes
 - Trauma cleanup from suicide, trauma, unattended death, narcotics, etc.
- Sonya is the business development manager and works with facilities managers to develop points of contact during good days, as well as getting familiar with facility policies to ensure compliance during cleanup. She also works with insurance for claims and customer support
- **Question: How do they provide additional support to the community?**
 - They provide phone support to residents that they could not physically help due to volume. They also act as subject matter experts should the community wish to complete the work themselves.

Member Presentation(s) continued:

Sonya Scheetz with AlphaOmega Disaster Restoration

- **Question: Should DES put together a restoration company list?**
 - We do it for HAZMAT cleanup. Then we can hand people a list of options that we are aware of. We cannot recommend, but at least we can provide some options.
- **Question: To what degree do you get involved with hazardous materials?**
 - Chemical and Biological-based (blood, body fluids, organs, etc.) = yes
 - Tier 2 HAZMAT = special permits are required, and it falls under different rules.
 - **Example:** AlphaOmega comes into a facility after a flood. They extract the water, remove the cover base (this is where they test for asbestos – if the test comes back positive, then they must remediate it), then they set up drying equipment.

Subcommittee Schedule & Chair Contact:

- CCC/CAER
 - Pam Sanderson
 - psanderson406@gmail.com
 - 4th Tuesday every month; 09:30-10:30 @ United Way or virtual
- Communications
 - Derek Yeager
 - yeagerd@billingsmt.gov
 - Contact Derek for more details.
- Conference
 - Jennifer Staton
 - jennifer.staton@imail.com
 - Meets as needed.
- Crisis Communications
 - Dan Carter
 - dcarter@parpacific.com
 - Quarterly; 11:45-1315 @ Windmill; Contact Dan for more details
- Exercise Design
 - VACANT (Email Chrissy Brese with questions)
 - volcoord@uwyellowstone.org
 - 4th Tuesday every month; 10:30-11:30 @ United Way or virtual
- Grants
 - Dianne Lehm
 - dianne@bigskyeda.org
 - Meets as needed. Contact Dianne for more details.
- Planning
 - KC Williams
 - kwilliams@yellowstonecountymt.gov
 - Every other Friday; 08:30-09:30 @ St. Vincent's Mansfield Center or virtual
- Training
 - VACANT
 - ytlepc@gmail.com
 - Email all training opportunities to LEPC Gmail.

Subcommittee Reports:

- ***Citizen Corps Council (CCC) / (CAER)***
 - Meets the 4th Tuesday of every month @ 0900 at United Way.
 - Continuing discussion in addition to working with Dan Carter on similar subcommittee work.
 - Also working on business training for increased preparedness. They are aiming for kickoff in September which is National Preparedness Month.
- ***Communications***
 - Did not meet.
 - 911 just implemented the law enforcement protocols into CAD. These protocols will help with resource management so the right resources go to the call.
 - This also implemented a new set of methods to get dispatch out to resources and get the closest resource to the scene.
 - There are 5000 different protocols that every new dispatcher has to know and complete perfectly before they are cleared to started dispatching.
- ***Conference***
 - Did not meet – Open to a new leader if desired.
- ***Crisis Communications***
 - Did not meet – No report.
- ***Exercise Design***
 - Meets the 4th Tuesday of every month @ 1030 (United Way or Virtual).
 - Completed:
 - Yellowstone County and the City of Billings completed their first continuity of operations plan (COOP) tabletop exercise (TTX) on June 5.
 - This exercise went well and had good attendance from the City of Billings.
 - RiverStone Health carried out an internal measles exercise on May 14.
 - Billings Airport conducted a TTX on May 23 to comply with FAR. It went well.
 - Scheduled:
 - BPS to carry out a 3-day training exercise with the Rescue Task Force (RTF) and Billings Fire at West High School on July 31 from 0800-1800.
 - They are working to get 50-75 parent and student volunteers to run a family reunification exercise. Using the I Love You Guys reunification model (from 1200-1400).
 - It will be an armed intruder scenario and they are looking for additional volunteers.
 - Currently working to encourage staff members to participate in the exercise.
 - Reach out to Joe Halligan if you want to observe, participate, be a role player, etc.
 - Currently working with school administrative staff to clarify expectations and reality.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

STILLWATER BUILDING – BILLINGS, MT 59101

JEN STATON, CHAIR

- Hospitals need a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) exercise to maintain compliance.
- Hospital Traffic Corridor Plan: A small group did meet to discuss the current old plan. They anticipate drafting a plan that outlines the general plan that is flexible enough to shift based on issue and event location.
- BBWA Ditch Breach Preparedness has been tabled. The County does have a breach pre-plan that was completed in 2023. BBWA received several grants to update and mitigate concerns.
 - There is currently no need to exercise this plan as we've had 2 real events in the past five years and the area is being actively monitored.
 - Once new infrastructure pieces are in place (waiting for grant funding to be approved and projects completed) we should review the plan and test to see how these new pieces play into the equation.
- The FAA Tower is required to conduct a bomb threat exercise, however that was cancelled due to the parking lot being re-paved.
- Carbon County is currently experiencing a real time full scale flooding event that resulted in the loss of several roads and bridges.
- **Grants**
 - EMPG funds for Yellowstone County will not be reduced (according to an email received from MTDES this morning)
 - CWPP RFQ is going before the BOCC. Hoping to start the plan update in July/August.
 - This plan is required to qualify for WUI, fuels reduction, and mitigation grants, etc.
- **Planning**
 - Reviewed the first draft of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
 - Next meeting we will dive into all of the specific annexes.
 - CWPP (see above)
 - The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) – the Montana Emergency Managers Association (MEMA) sent a letter to MTDES expressing discontent over the process, delays, and 'finished' products, plus we have past the original deadline for plan completion. We are still waiting on the state and contractor to finish their final amendments before they send out the Eastern Region Plan to FEMA.
 - This is the **MOST IMPORTANT** plan for Emergency Management.
 - The current Yellowstone County MHMP expires in September 2024.
 - Jurisdictions MUST have a current, non-expired, FEMA approved plan in order to be eligible to receive federal funding and mitigation grants.
 - Western and Central region plans have been returned by FEMA as 'needs work'.
 - We anticipate an answer from MTDES next week.
 - In future, we need to connect the MHMP and the Exercise Design Committee to provide better direction of identified gaps.
 - The 6/5 COOP TTX was a direct result of an identified gap.

- **Question: If the MHMP expires, what happens?**
 - If we have a disaster that goes federal, then FEMA comes in for Public Assistance (PA). Emergency protective measures and emergency debris removal would happen as they are emergent.
 - However, mitigation and permanent fixes would be unlikely to get fixed/funded due to us having an expired MHMP (or at least less funding)
 - There would be no impact to Individual Assistance (IA), but measurable impacts to PA mitigation projects.
- **Training**
 - As there is no chair, there are no meetings.
 - All training opportunities should be emailed to LEPC Leadership, so they can forward them to the rest of the LEPC members.
 - Training opportunities can be found at:
 - MTDES
 - DNRC/NWCG fire classes
 - Betsy Ross is the new state training coordinator at MTDES (betsy.ross@mt.gov)
 - New training opportunities are **BOLDED**.
 - CISA does numerous FREE online trainings/webinars.
 - Continue pursuing NIMS/ICS training. ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 are free and can be completed 100% online. Email your certificates to Annemarie (aovercast@yellowstonecountymt.gov) for the county records.
 - [ICS 700.B – An Introduction to the National Incident Management System](#)
 - [ICS 100.C – Introduction to Incident Command System, ICS 100](#)
 - [ICS 200.C – Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200](#)
 - [ICS 800.D – National Response Framework, An Introduction](#)
 - **IF DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES NEED ADDITIONAL CLASSES (higher level ICS) – CONTACT DES.**
 - Annemarie with YC DES participated in CAT Camp June 7-9.
 - CAT Camp provides people with the opportunity to work with people from all over Montana and trial run working a large fire. This provides the basics for people to familiarize themselves with systems and processes of fire camp and provides a brief insight into what life on a fire and camp life looks like.

End subcommittee reports

Continuing Discussion/Old Business:

- Leadership met at the end of May with new subcommittee chairs to discuss and repeat the roles and goals of the new subcommittees.
- In July the agenda will look different and show the new subcommittees
 - If new subcommittees have not met yet, then they can talk to their chairperson about their meeting date, time, and location.
- ***Hazardous Release Report***
 - Another semitruck accident involving live cows occurred at the intersection of Main Street and Airport Road.
 - Though this is not necessarily a HAZMAT, it is an agri-hazard
 - YC DES notified MTDES (who notified MT DPHHS) and the county sanitarian.
 - A lettuce truck caught on fire on I-90
 - Another agri-hazard that involved notifying MTDES and the county sanitarian.
 - DEQ sent out a follow-up letter to CHS about an issue.
 - All other calls were small spills, flaring, etc.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments given during this time.

TOPICS OF NOTE/SITUATIONAL AWARENESS:

- YC-DES:
 - We learned a lot from the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) exercise.
 - This exercise was based on a train derailing and tipping over at N. 27th Street with a commonly transported chemical.
 - A 0.5-mile hot zone was needed around the accident site with an additional 1-mile caution zone due to wind.
 - It is important to recognize what resources we have available and remind leadership that Yellowstone County is a resource island.
 - The TTX made leadership aware of time delays due to the distances between us and other resources.
 - We received great feedback from participants and leadership recognized the need for an alternate location, as well as the need to implement a system to be able to reach employees outside of work hours with emergency notifications.
- Billings Public Schools:
 - We noted that it would be critical for the schools to be kept in the loop during this type of issue, for school leadership to know the impacts on schools in the area and kids currently in transit on school buses during this kind of incident.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

STILLWATER BUILDING – BILLINGS, MT 59101

JEN STATON, CHAIR

- Potential to build off this exercise and momentum to also help fulfill the MCI Exercise that the hospitals need to complete.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned @ 9:57am. [1st: Bob Lough with YARES; 2nd: KC Williams with YC DES]

Next Meeting:

- **JULY 10, 2024 @ 09:00am**

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

STILLWATER BUILDING – BILLINGS, MT 59101

JEN STATON, CHAIR

ATTENDANCE RECORD – JUNE 12, 2024

#	Agency	First Name	Last Name	Federally Funded?
1	Ag Worker's Health & Services	Claudia	Stephens	
2	Alpha Omega Restoration	Sonya	Scheetz	
3	Alternatives, Inc.	Rick	Deady	
4	AMR	Brady	Drescher	
5	Big Sky EDA	Dianne	Lehm	
6	Billings Fire Dept	Jason	Banfield	
7	Billings PIO	Victoria	Hill	
8	Billings Police Dept	Shawn	Mayo	
9	Billings School District 2	Joe	Halligan	
10	CISA	Albert	Mendoza	YES
11	HOPE K9 Dogs	Harry	Schlitz	
12	Meadow Gold Dairy	Justin	Robinson	
13	Member of the Public	Pam	Sanderson	
14	Member of the Public	Paul	Totton	
15	National Weather Service	Jon	Wetenkamp	
16	Par Montana Pipeline	Tyler	Wattles	
17	Red Cross	Austin	Ragsdale	
18	Rehabilitation Hospital of Montana	David	Ude	
19	RiverStone Health	Ray	Ezell	
20	Rocky Vista University	Bret	Jensen	
21	Salvation Army	Keith	Bjotten	
22	St. Vincent's Hospital	Jennifer	Staton	
23	Team Rubicon	Rod	Boetcher	
24	Vitalant	Scott	Rainey	
25	YARES	Bob	Lough	
26	YARES	Jerry	Jacobs	
27	YARES	Paul	Miller	
28	Yellowstone County GIS	Alyssa	Quiroz	
29	Yellowstone County GIS	Mike	Powell	
30	Yellowstone County LDS Church	Carey	Smith	
31	Yellowstone County DES	KC	Williams	YES
32	Yellowstone County DES	Annemarie	Overcast	YES
TOTAL ATTENDANCE:				32