

Cass County
Emergency Management Advisory Council (EMAC)
Meeting Minutes
4 October 2023

The meeting was held at Cass County Emergency Management Agency, 1227 N State Road 17, Logansport, IN 46947 at 7pm and was called to order by President Ed Schroder.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Schroder, Jeff Smith, Gary Chambers, Terry Dixson, Nick Bowyer, Wally Bennett

STAFF PRESENT: Rocky Buffum

NOT PRESENT: Rick Bair, Mike Deitrich, Dan McDonald, Steve Martin, Tim Minnick, Tracy Williamson, Brady Wiles, Rick Lee

A Quorum was NOT present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. No action taken due to lack of a quorum.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (IDHS) STATE/DISTRICT UPDATES

Staff attended the District 4 Quarterly Business Meeting at White County Emergency Management Agency. All Emergency Management Agencies (EMA) present voiced similar concerns about both vacant positions at IDHS and lack of experience in positions that have been filled. It is difficult to get timely and accurate information or response to concerns. Multiple counties expressed concern about resource requests that were routed to the State Emergency Operations Center that were either denied or seemingly ignored.

Staff attended the Total Solar Eclipse Planning Seminar. The event will pass thru Indiana on April 8, 2024 however will impact the entire weekend. It has been described as a mini Indy 500 in every county of the path of totality. Impacts anticipated include strains on the state system, state resources being maxed out, 100% occupancy of hotel rooms, traffic congestion along with exacerbation of any traffic issues that pop up. In neighboring states there were extensive issues with vehicles running out of gas in the traffic que needing to be addressed.

GRANTS AND BILLING

Staff added previous year totals to the report form. Grant and billing report was presented and reviewed. Year to Date Combined Revenue for grants, billing and citations \$95,877.29, up from year end 2022 total of \$73,682.88. No past due invoices from HAZMAT Billing at this time.

RECENT RESPONSES

Director Rocky Buffum reviewed recent responses including the gas line break in Logansport on September 11, Oil Spill in the creek at 18th and Main Streets, Maple Grove Fire in Galveston and individual burning hazardous substances on West Market Street.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE

Cybersecurity was identified as a weakness in our county readiness assessment. In September staff completed FEMA funded cybersecurity training through Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service. Both staff completed certificate programs in Cybersecurity Risk Management and Technical Cybersecurity.

EMA helped arrange a first responder tour at Heidelberg Cement. Positive feedback was received from both the facility and responders.

EMA participated in the Koch Fertilizer emergency preparedness exercise.

Logansport Fire Department brought their interns to EMA for a presentation on propane emergencies and flaring demonstration. We would like to present this to more departments to there is greater awareness of our capabilities and readiness to assist us if needed.

Up coming events include the Lithium Ion Battery Response Course to be held at Logansport Fire Department, Virtual Weather Spotter Training conducted by National Weather Service, the Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana Annual Conference and a Drone Technology Demonstration at the fire association meeting.

OTHER

Rocky Buffum thanked the Cass County Highway Department for work on the approach outside the rear bay doors in the warehouse.

The HAZMAT Plan has been sent to members of the Local Emergency Planning Committee for Review.

Concern was expressed about claims processing. Multiple items have been paid by the auditors office more than once, and at least one purchase was missed and not processed. Rocky Buffum has reached out to the auditors office to look into the issue.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE UPDATES

We still have two ordinances in the pipeline for review. No movement since last meeting.

BRIC GRANT/HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Staff has a meeting via Microsoft Teams with Indiana University Tuesday of next week. Community meetings will be starting soon.

RADIOS

EMA has received a few reach outs about individual departments wanting to do their own programming. The original plan was to release the password once pagers were proven. This was delayed due to an individual voicing a desire to program channels in he did not have authorization to program in.

We also need to have a "Property Transfer" or other document that finalizes the audit loop for transferring all property to the individual agencies. Ed Schroder recommended all of the above be routed through the commissioner's office and incorporated into a document to be produced by the county attorney.

The EMAC also discussed lessons learned from recent large responses related to radios and channels that work best to utilize.

ANY OTHER OLD BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

2024 BUDGET

No updates since last meeting

ANY OTHER NEW BUSINESS

N/A

CLAIMS REVIEW/APPROVAL

Claims were reviewed. No action taken due to lack of a quorum.

BOARD QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

N/A

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

N/A

NEXT MEETING Scheduled for November 1, 7pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Wally Bennet, which was seconded by Jeff Smith. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Buffum
Director