



COLUMBIA COUNTY

Emergency Management Office

Bob Koch, Coordinator
Phone: 608-742-4166 Ext. 1308 Fax: 608-742-0598
Email: bob.koch@columbiacountywi.gov
Robert Maier, Deputy Coordinator
Phone: 608-742-4166 Ext. 1309 Fax: 608-742-0598
Email: robert.maier@columbiacountywi.gov

P.O. Box 132
711 E. Cook Street
Portage, WI 53901-0132
Website: www.co.columbia.wi.us

COLUMBIA COUNTY WISCONSIN LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 12, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Koch – Columbia County Emergency Management
Robert Maier – Columbia County Emergency Management
Roger Brandner – Columbia County Sheriff's Office
Keith Klakfe – Portage Police Department
Troy Hasse – Portage Fire Department
Paul Nadolski – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Keith Miller – County Board
E. Kevin O'Neil – Retired Law Enforcement
Steven Rohrbeck – County Board
Jim Jakubiak – Alliant Energy/Columbia Generating Station
Nathan Sievers – Alliant Energy
Eric Ingram - FXI
Suzi Helmer – Portage Schools
Diana O'Neil – Law Enforcement
Jon Plumer – State Representative
Ken Hutler – Citizen Member

ABSENT WITHOUT NOTIFICATION

Portage Daily Register – Media

ABSENT WITH NOTIFICATION

Amy Sandow – Columbus Emergency Management
Erin Salmon – Pardeeville Department of Public Works

The meeting of the Columbia County Local Emergency Planning Committee was called to order by Chair Bob Koch at 1:31 PM in the John Roche Community Room at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 East Cook Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2023 LEGALLY NOTICED AGENDA

- Committee approved the agenda as it was legally noticed.

APPROVAL OF JULY 2022 MINUTES

- Motion by Miller to approve July 2022 LEPC minutes. Seconded by Haase. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

LEPC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- Motion by Koch at 1:34 PM to nominate Robert Maier as new LEPC Secretary and Records Custodian following the resignation of Marie Darling-Ellis. Maier accepted the position. E. Kevin O'Neil motion to cast unanimous ballot, seconded by Hutler. Motion carried unanimously.

TRAINING & EXERCISE

- Koch provided brief after-action review of the September 29, 2022, carbon monoxide exercise in Columbus, Wisconsin.
- Koch discussed attending the September 20-23, 2022, Wisconsin Emergency Management and MABAS Conference in Stevens Point, WI, and participating in a tabletop WEB EOC exercise on the final day.
- Koch briefed attending committee members on the December full-scale exercise in Portage, WI at Rusch Elementary School. Exercise revolved around a chlorine on the exterior of the facility, with a mass-casualty recovery operation of downed students/first responders. The exercise addressed mass-casualty triage and decontamination operations, and the use of the newly incorporated E-MABAS software. Large turnout from county police and fire personnel. Koch advised that this exercise fulfilled the requirements for the EPCRA and EMPG grants.

HAZMAT SPILLS & INCIDENT RESPONSE

- Twenty reportable spills to the DNR hotline in Columbia County.
- Most notable incident involved a fire in Portage at Associated Milk Producers (AMPI) on January 2, 2023. Although the fire was put out quickly, the facility sustained major damage in upwards of \$80,000,000. An environmental agency is on-site examining the facility, and concerns moving forward are looking to address the release of approximately 20,000 gallons of butter, that leaked into the City of Portage's sewer system. The State Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) was contacted for additional support due to the monetary value of the damages. In total, ten county fire departments responded to assist.

EPCRA REIMBURSEMENTS/EMPG REIMBURSEMENT/HAZMAT GRANT

- Koch advises that the extension to the EPCRA and EMPG grants (15 months total) ended on December 31, 2022. Moving forward, changes to the grant period will run from January 1st to December 31st.
- Koch advises that the grant checks valued between \$55,000 - \$60,000 will be arriving in the spring.
- County HAZMAT training grant was approved since the July 2022 LEPC meeting.
- Portage Fire Department completing HAZMAT refresher for staff on February 11, 2023, with grant funds (\$2,000).
- Matching grant for HAZMAT equipment - \$7,500 coming to the Columbia County and Portage Fire Department.
- No additional grant reimbursements.

EPCRA EMERGENCY OFF-SITE PLAN UPDATES

- Koch briefed members on the sixteen emergency off-site plans that were completed in 2022 and provided members the opportunity to review each submitted plan, which were present.
- Koch advised that the minimum number of emergency off-site plans required for 2023 is ten. More will likely be added, however.
- Motion by Hemler to approve. Seconded by Haase. Motion carried.

MEMBER INPUT

- The State is putting out a workgroup to fine tune the LEPC process (speakers, tours, etc.)
- Attending employee from FXI (sleep and comfort manufacturer located in Portage, WI) offered to provide a tour of their local facility.
- Koch briefed attendees on the Survey 123 app and its value to assessing damages following natural and man-made disasters, and its interoperability with WEB EOC. Koch discussed the opportunity to provide WEB EOC training to LEPC members.
- Miller requested a future dashboard presentation for the next proposed meeting.
- Koch announced ICS 300-400 training in the future and stated that Columbia County would be willing to host the event although no firm dates were scheduled. Koch briefed attendees that additional training can be located via the Wisconsin Emergency Management website under the training tab.
- Diana O'Neil recommended contacting the American Red Cross to assess their response capabilities during critical incidents. O'Neil advised that they were unsure of any new or modified Red Cross policies which could inhibit response and recovery capabilities.
- Brandner announced that Columbia County Jail Captain James Stilson will be retiring this spring and advised that Liz Shultz resigned from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office Communications Center after receiving a job offer from Motorola. Brandner further stated that he has received seven applications for Liz's position.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

- The next Columbia County LEPC meeting will be held on July 13th, 2023, at 1:30 pm, at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 East Cook Street, Portage, Wisconsin

MOTION TO ADJOURN

- Motion to adjourn was made at Miller. Seconded by Rohrbeck. Meeting adjourned at 1:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Maier
LEPC Secretary and Records Custodian