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Local Emergency Planning Committee Minutes Thursday, January 13, 2022

Committee Members Present: Bob Koch (Columbia County Emergency Management), Marie Darling Ellis (Columbia County Emergency Management) Henry St. Maurice (County Board Rep.), Barry Pufahl (County Board Rep.), John Plumer (State Assembly), Troy Haase (Portage Fire Department) Nathan Sievers (Alliant Energy), Kevin O’Neill (Citizen Member), Keith Klafke (Portage Police Department), Paul Nadolski (WI DNR),

Committee Members Present via conference call: Dennis Richards (Citizen Member), Suzi Hemler (Portage Schools), Burlie Williams (Red Cross), Eric Ingram (FXI),

Committee Members Absent with Notice: Amanda Blank (Alliant Energy), Roger Brandner (Sheriff), Clayton Simonson (Citizen Member), Erin Salmon (Pardeeville DPW), Brad Tenbarge (Enbridge), Amy Sandow (Columbus Emergency Management)

Committee Members Absent: Media Representative from Portage Daily Register, Ken Hutler (Citizen Member), Diana O’Neill (Citizen Member)

The meeting of the Columbia County Local Emergency Planning committee was called to order by Bob Koch at 1:34 p.m. in the John Roche Community Room at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 East Cook Street, Portage, Wisconsin. A conference call line was set up for members to attend as well.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2022 LEGALLY NOTICED AGENDA

The committee approved the agenda as it was legally noticed.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2022 MINUTES

Motion by Pufahl to approve the January 2022 LEPC minutes. Seconded by St. Maurice. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

LEPC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- Kathy Johnson – Resignation/Retired.
- Amanda Blank – Resignation.
- Dave Tishkowski – Resignation

- New Member – Bob Koch new Columbia County Emergency Management Coordinator. Motion by Plumer to approve Bob Koch as a new member of the LEPC. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried.
- New Member - Eric Ingram of FXI. Motion by Pufahl to approve Ingram as a new member of the LEPC. Seconded by Sievers. Motion carried.

REPLACEMENT OF LEPC CHAIR

- The committee has designated in the bylaws that the LEPC Chair position always remain the current emergency management coordinator. Motion by O'Neill to appoint Bob Koch as the new Chair of the LEPC to replace Kathy Johnson. Seconded by St. Maurice. Motion carried.

EPCRA Plan Updates / New EPCRA Plans Written

- 31 plan closeouts to the state to clean up the WHOPRS reporting system and 17 new plan updates since the last LEPC meeting. The most recent this month were Didion and Saint Gobain with no significant changes.

TRAINING & EXERCISES

Emergency Management Coordinator, Bob Koch discussed the Training and Exercises Columbia County Emergency Management has been involved in since the last meeting. Training highlights included the Collegiate Conference on Emergency Management, WEB EOC training with the new cellphone application, the WEMA (Wisconsin Emergency Management Association Conference), and the Admin and HHS buildings safety training and evacuation drill. Koch will be attending the National Emergency Management Basic Academy in Oshkosh for several weeks later this year. Exercise highlights included the CCI (Columbia Correctional Institution) tabletop exercise, The Wisconsin River Power Company tabletop exercise that focused on the downstream effects of the Wisconsin River from the dams, SW Region Energy Emergency tabletop exercise, the continued work with the DARES (Dells Delton Area Response Exercise Series) which has been scaled down due to the continuation of the pandemic, and the Grande Cheese table top exercise that focused on response if there was an ammonia leak. We will be planning on a full-scale exercise later in 2022 with Grande.

HAZMAT SPILLS/INCIDENT RESPONSES

The four spills that were billed out by emergency management on behalf of the Hazmat Team, Pardeeville Fire, and Pardeeville DPW were discussed. Several other small spills were reported to Emergency Management by the spill hotline, most were leakage due to traffic accidents.

EPCRA REIMBURSEMENTS/EMPG REIMBURSEMENT/HAZMAT GRANT

No reimbursements were received for the 2021 grants since the last meeting.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Marie Darling-Ellis discussed the current COVID-19 situation and the response of Columbia County EM, Columbia County Public Health, and the state of Wisconsin. Highlights included the PPE survey recently sent out by the state to help first responder and assisted living agencies procure additional N95 masks, shortage of COVID-19 testing supplies and how we are trying to procure them for our county, status of vaccination and testing in our county at this time, the Wisconsin National Guards reassignment from testing and vaccination sites to being trained as CNA's to fill staffing shortages at trained nursing facilities throughout the state, over 90 percent of hospital beds are filled and 81 percent of ICU beds are filled in Wisconsin at this time. State put out PSA

campaign requesting citizens use test sites other than hospitals due to this. Pufahl and Plumer discussed the possibility of the use of ARPA funds to procure tests for the jail. EM Coordinator Bob Koch will look into this further. Portage Police Chief Klafke and DNR Warden Paul Nadolski discussed current COVID-19 protocols and vaccination status and any mandates for their agencies.

MEMBER INPUT

Request input from the committee for ideas for public outreach, awareness campaigns, topics of interest, guest speakers, ideas for meeting locations/tours of facilities. Continued concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic limit some of these items such as touring of facilities. Pufahl would like to have someone discuss what additional actions and plans have been put in place for Didion since the explosion incident at the Cambria plant. St. Maurice discussed inviting Solid Waste Director Kaminski to be part of our LEPC and possibly discussing further with him a large-scale weather disaster and the debris management plan for our county. Current initiatives discussed included; shelter in place/evacuation, pipeline safety and awareness, Tier II reporting of chemicals to WHOPRS by businesses.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Columbia County LEPC meeting will be held on July 14th, 2022 at 1:30 p.m., at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 East Cook Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

Motion to adjourn was made by Sievers, Seconded by Nadolski. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Darling Ellis
Recording Secretary & Coordinator of Information

Approved July 14, 2022 Unanimously – Marie Darling Ellis has resigned from the committee.



Bob Koch, Chair