



## Local Emergency Planning Committee Minutes Thursday, January 14, 2021

**Committee Members Present:** Kathy Johnson (Columbia County Emergency Management), Clayton Simonson (Portage Fire Department), Craig Ratz (Portage Fire/Hazmat Coordinator), Marie Darling Ellis (Emergency Management), Sharon Foley (Divine Savior Healthcare), Amy Sandow (Columbus Emergency Management Director), Brad TenBerge (Enbridge), Henry St. Maurice (County Board Rep.), Barry Pufahl (County Board Rep.)

**Committee Members Present via conference call:** Suzi Hemler (Portage Community Schools), Dennis Richards (Citizen Member), Amanda Blank (Alliant Energy), Molly McCormick (Red Cross), Erin Salmon (Pardeeville DPW Director)

**Committee Members Absent with Notice:** Paul Nadolski (WDNR), Roger Brandner (Sheriff), Keith Klafke (Portage Police Department), E. Kevin O'Neill (Citizen Member), Diana O'Neill (Red Cross)

**Committee Members Absent:** Media Representative from Portage Daily Register, Ken Hutler (Citizen Member), Jon Plumer (State Representative), Nate Sievers (Alliant Energy),

The meeting of the Columbia County Local Emergency Planning committee was called to order by Chairman Kathy Johnson at 1:31 p.m. in the John Roche Community Room at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook St. Portage, Wisconsin. A conference call line was set up for members to attend as well.

### **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2021 LEGALLY NOTICED AGENDA**

The committee approved the agenda as it was legally noticed.

### **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2021 MINUTES**

A motion was made by Clayton Simonson and seconded by Sharon Foley to approve the July 2020 LEPC minutes. Mr. Pufahl abstained from voting as he was not in attendance at July's meeting. All others were in favor, motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **LEPC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

- Susan Lorenz submitted her resignation to the LEPC as she has retired as Columbia County's Public Health Officer
- Clayton Simonson submitted his resignation to the LEPC as he has retired as City of Portage Fire Chief. Clayton agreed to stay on as a citizen member.

- Sharon Foley advised that she will be resigning from the LEPC April 2, 2021 as she will be retiring from Divine Savior/Aspirus.
- Troy Haase – A motion was made by Mr. Pufahl and seconded by Craig Ratz to nominate Troy Haase, new Portage Fire Chief to the Columbia County Local Emergency Planning Committee. The motion was carried unanimously by the committee.
- Eric Ingram EHS Manager at FXI/Innocor Foam Technologies showed interest in becoming a member of Columbia County LEPC. He was unable to attend the meeting today so we will wait until the July meeting to follow up with him reference membership.

### **REPLACEMENT OF VICE CHAIR OF LEPC**

- Vice Chair – Replacement of Clayton Simonson as Vice Chair of the LEPC. Discussion followed. Marie Darling Ellis made a motion to nominate Craig Ratz as Vice Chair. Craig accepted the nomination. Mr. Pufahl seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion was carried unanimously by the committee.

### **EPCRA Plan Updates / New EPCRA Plans Written**

The following plans were updated since the last meeting: Alliant Energy, Cliff's, Energizer, Everyday IBA, Portage Well #8, Robbins Manufacturing, and Walmart. No new plans have been written and no plans have been closed. Kathy gave an overview of the planning process for our new members.

### **TRAINING & EXERCISES**

Due to COVID many trainings and exercises have been cancelled. Kathy discussed the DARES training and exercise series that has picked up again that includes a large full-scale exercise that has been planned for September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021. Anyone interested in being an observer or player should contact Kathy. The countywide full-scale Anhydrous Ammonia leak exercise with Grande Cheese has been postponed at this time due to COVID. We may continue the exercise with modifications in the near future.

### **HAZMAT SPILLS/INCIDENT RESPONSES**

Kathy Johnson discussed the several small spills reported and two spills the Hazmat Team had to respond to that were billed out by the EM Office.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Kathy Johnson discussed EM's continued response to the COVID-19 Pandemic which includes submitting bi-weekly orders for PPE to the state for entities throughout the county that are unable to procure items on their own. Both Prairie Ridge and Divine Savior/Aspirus are vaccinating at this time. Kathy is working with Columbia County Public Health at this time to move forward with vaccinating as well. Mr. St. Maurice stated that he would like to commend the Columbia County Healthcare Center staff for the excellent job that they have done and continue to do throughout the pandemic. Sharon Foley advised that DSH/Aspirus will be starting their vaccinations of Level 1B next week.

### **MEMBER INPUT**

Ideas were discussed for where to hold our next meeting and what places the LEPC would be interested in touring. Suggestions of FXI, Columbus Chemical, Alliant Coal Plant, and the Portage Fire Department to see HAZMAT capabilities were all mentioned. Suggestions for outreach were discussed and continuing the NIXLE and Sheltering in Place outreach. The

American Red Cross advised of their free severe weather ap and the free preparedness training they host in communities that is taking place virtually at this time due to COVID. She also discussed what their response looks like during COVID which includes direct fund transfers and non-congregate sheltering options.

### **GRANT REIMBURSEMENTS**

EMPG (Emergency Management Planning Grant) \$ Reimbursement

Kathy Johnson reported we received a redistribution of \$1,187.37 on 09/22/2020 for the 2019 EMPG Grant. The 2020 EMPG, EPCRA, and HAZMAT grants have not been paid out as of yet.

### **ALL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN/GRANT**

Kathy Johnson discussed the purpose of the All Hazards Mitigation Plan for our county and the required update every five years. Kathy reported that on 11/26/2020 we received the All Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant reimbursement of \$10,800. Melissa Waller of Pre-Emergency Planning was hired to update the AHMP for the county and did a fantastic job as the plan was approved by Wisconsin Emergency Management and FEMA at first look which normally does not happen. All of the cities and villages have signed the resolution to adopt the county plan at this time.

### **SET NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Columbia County LEPC meeting will be held on July 8, 2021 at 1:30 p.m., at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

A motion to adjourn was made by Craig Ratz, Seconded by Mr. Pufahl. The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie Darling Ellis  
Recording Secretary  
Columbia County Local Emergency Planning Committee