

WHITE PINE COUNTY (WPC)
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Minutes

Place: White Pine County Library, 950 Campton St., Ely, Nevada

Present: Ross Rivera, Geri Wopschall, Bill Calderwood, Nathan Robertson, Scott Henriod, Brett North, Jill Perez, Karen Gonzales, Robert Winder, Desiree Barnson, Mattie Jensen, Tim Bunch, Cameron Kirkham, Laurie Carson and Shadrach Michaels.

Called to order by Geri Wopschall- 10:10 am

Election of new officers –

Barnson nominated Cameron Kirkham for the Chairman, because he is Emergency Manager

12/0 Approved

It was verified that everyone had been sworn in as a voting member.

The meeting was turned over to the new Chairman, Cameron Kirkham.

Winder brought up a problem that has happened in the past. LEP members go for 2 years starting on January 1st and ending December 31st. This presents a problem with the first meeting, because the commission does not have the members on the agenda for approval at their last meeting. This year there was a special meeting that did include all prospective members. In the past, there were members who could not vote at the first meeting because of this problem.

Carson said she would check into this and make sure it doesn't happen in the future.

Kirkham said if I make any mistakes, please correct me as I am not used to this. I was expecting the DA to be here. He has not arrived yet.

Carson "He was supposed to be at a meeting earlier, something must have happened because he was unable to attend."

Kirkham "I expected one of his lawyers, not necessarily him."

Henriod "When making an agenda, always put "For Possible Action", not just PA."

Winder "Also, it needs to be noted that no action will be taken on public comment. It can be talked about and added to the next agenda."

Kirkham called for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Bunch nominated Desiree Branson.

12/0 Approved

Carson nominated Geri Wopschall for Secretary.

12/0 Approved

Have DA discuss and educate committee on bylaws and meeting laws.

Item tabled

Discussion/PA: Creation of temporary duties to meet acute goals and assignments.

Kirkham "I put this on the agenda, I don't know everybody's role, I have seen a temporary paper of people that have assignments, are titles next to their name? Quite frankly I believe we have to re-evaluate the whole thing."

Winder "That is a list of what we represent."

Kirkham "I am new here and only know about 5 people on this committee."

Carson "Let's go around the table and everyone introduce themselves."

Kirkham "I am the new Emergency Manager and I'm from Salt Lake City Utah."

Gonzalez "I am Karen Gonzales, I am representing the Ely Shoshone Tribe, the alternate for Jill Perez."

Carson "I'm Laurie Carson I am the White Pine County Commissioned Liaison."

Winder "I'm Pastor Bob Winder, I represent the White Pine Ministerial Association."

Bill Calderwood "I represent the Public Works for White Pine County."

Geri Wopschall "I represent Media."

Mattie Jensen "I am alternate for Social Services."

Jill Perez "Representative for the Ely Shoshone Tribe."

Desiree Branson "Director of Social Services."

Tim Bunch "HR department for the County, representing EMS."

Shadrach Michael "Media Alternate."

Nathan Roberts "Mayor of the City of Ely."

Brett North "White Pine County District Fire Chief."

Scott Henriod "Sheriff's Department."

Ross Rivera "City Fire Department."

Kirkham " I would like to touch on all the different roles here just to see how it plays as to what we do. Like the media, how are you guys the media?"

Micheals " Geri represents social media, she has White Pine Talking and I represent the local newspaper."

Wopschall " What I do, when we have something we want the public to be notified about, I put it in the newspaper and on to radio station as well as social media."

Henriod "Also when we have an emergency situation, we have a Code Red program. This will get information out very quickly."

Kirkham " Rod represents the hospital, right?"

Yes

Kirkham "Tim your with EMS?"

Bunch "When I wanted to come into the LEPC, it was the only vacancy and my background is in EMS."

Kirkham "I've been requesting documentation as to what the State requires for compliance as LEPC. They have not gotten back to me, I contacted them a week ago. From my understanding, being there is no ordinance."

Rivera "There is an ordinance."

Carson "There is an ordinance. Are you talking City or County? "

Winder "It's a White Pine County resolution."

Kirkham "It is not an ordinance as far as our scope."

Carson "So we need to revamp it."

Kirkham "It is my understanding that we have an autonomy more than a committee. As long as we meet the basic compliances. We need to get it down on paper, I know we need a letter, to meet quarterly, we need to do at least one drill. I would like to make this committee multi-faceted. But right now I think we need to excel in the basic compliance that is required.

LEPC originated as a Public Information Act through Congress to the states to allow for a professional organized communication effort, we are to initiate to provide the public with that information and help coordinate training efforts for First Responders. This is where some of these drills come in.

LEPC can also be multifaceted. I would like to get goals, objectives and educational processes where everyone's on top of it."

Rivera " You are right, like you said there are certain obligations that we have to do for the state. We have always had more people than the obligation required."

Carson " I feel we need to keep a running chart of some sort, when grants are due and when those due dates are. So at the last minute we are not hurrying."

Rivera "When Grants come up we usually have plenty of time. Last year was a little unusual, The State could not get a quorum, there was a problem getting grants approved."

Kirkham " I've been trying to get that information, but people are not answering their phones."

Carson "You have to remember we just finished the holidays and people are not back in their offices."

Kirkham "The whole concept of LEPC, is that it allows for funds to come in from external sources. I think we should master that concept and branch out. Last meeting we created some goals. "

Discussion: Discussion of committee conduct when third parties are present.

Kirkham "I have heard from people that they did not like what they heard when they showed up to a meeting. There was arguing, I don't know the details. This is just what I've been told. I'm not pointing fingers at anyone, I'm just saying we need to create an internal policy that we show some kind of conduct."

Calderwood " I just want to say as the Chairman it is you who needs to control the situation. You're in control of the meeting, if there's arguing going on, you correct it."

Winder " I'm going to speak up because I have been chair to quite a few meetings. I have seen meetings get out of hand, but it is the chairman who has control of those meetings. You have the right to call point of order. If you don't do that and lose control, that's when you get off the agenda is when you have problems. If something comes up put it on a future agenda. Because that's where you have a problem when you get off the agenda."

Carson "Public comment is just what it says. You do not get in the dialogue back and forth. They're allowed to state their comment and they're here to watch this board to do business."

No action discussion only.

Discussion / For Possible Action: Discussion for a tentative meeting place until further notice.

Bunch " We had a little hiccup at the hospital, a group was coming in and we ate their cookies. The Library does a good job of scheduling. It's quieter here in the library, the Aquatic Center has a lot of background noise."

Rivera " Just a suggestion. This place is the best and use the Aquatic Center if we need it."

Kirkham " I am trying to make a meeting room at Station 1. This is going to take some time to get it ready. There's some stuff in there that I don't know what to do with. Don't hold me to a timeline, but I would like to eventually hold these meetings there."

Bunch " I will get with Tour and Rec to see if we can use the white pine room."

Discussion: Review of provided documents.

Kirkham "Where do you see us at on ratings?"

Perez "At the last meeting we did talk about each of us going to a meeting and describing what we're about. Tonight I will be going to the Ruth Town council meeting. As far as I know, nobody in Ruth knows anything about LEPC. I do know awareness is nowhere close to what we need."

Carson "I would put us at operations."

Kirkham "The fact that we do not have any public comment, or people don't even know we exist, is where I'm going with this."

Bunch "As far as the community, we are below the awareness level. There are components of our community that are aware of us. There is the general consensus out there, that they don't have a clue what LEPC does."

Calderwood "As a Committee Member I would give myself a below awareness. I don't know what our roles are. I've been on this committee for over a year and I'm just starting to understand."

Rivera "I think on a State level what they're requesting here is if we have an emergency here and we had to respond where are we as responders."

Henriod "I think if you called anyone on this board you would get immediate action. If you walked across the street and asked someone if they knew what LEPC was they would say no. If you called anyone and said you needed this now, it would be done. I can guarantee you these guys are going to jump on it, no matter what time day or night. The resources in this room would be pulled together and that's going directly to operations. There might be a need for some education out in the public but that would be very minimal. I agree with Ross, we are at operations or above."

Winder "I do have something to say. I have been on the LEPC board forever. We used to have NIMS come here and do training. As Scott was saying our preparedness is going to be a lot better than Joe Blow out on the street. Most people on the street could care less about LEPC. Until there is an emergency."

Kirkham "The 300 and 400 qualification classes are on their way. I'm waiting to get an appointed official to give me some sort of time frames that they are available. As well as budget."

Perez "We are trying, as the tribe, to get Jackie Conway down here to do 300 as well as 400. If we are able to get them down here, is that something that we would all want to be involved in?"

Kirkham "Yes. This is something that we all can attend."

Rivera "I think one of our weaknesses was not bringing in NDOT, Forest Service, BLM, etc, I think we are lacking in what we are expecting of them. I believe these Partners need to be aware of this committee."

Carson "I do know that if we needed a piece of equipment like a bulldozer, Calderwood does not have it, he knows where it is."

North "You just have to know where your resources are."

Calderwood "I always presumed my role beyond this board is just what you said. I know how to get ahold of resources. I always felt that my role as far as the EOC, would be more than Bill call out

equipment. I'm assuming the more training we do, that room has to be staffed, that's the stuff we need to take. If you just need somebody to call, I don't need to sit at these meetings. I have to have a bigger role than this."

Kirkham " I'm going to elaborate, you have some sort of incident that is negative on a community. So you isolate it. What that room is, is a County resource to allow for support functions outside of IPC. These are normally on a military base. It is usually confined and on generators. It is a room to help support Logistics. As far as training, you as an appointed official, get a very specific class that pertains to EM. And yes you are going to be in that room. Another thing about that room is, I don't mean to discredit the County, our population-based, you want to laugh, that has a Joint Communications Center, it has four Jigs, it has everything you can imagine in there. There are Emergency Management Assistant teams. And those are like qualified big funded people that come and assist. I don't want to discredit anyone here but not everyone is going to be in that room. In fact multiple seats will be filled by the same person."

Carson "We are a small community so many of us wear many hats."

Kirkham "I have the communications in place right now, so I can get resources from Vegas, Elko and Carson City, for very qualified person to sit in that room if anything does happen.

I know that this County is very effective, I know Scott is on top of it."

Rivera " I know this County has to hold it's own, we are 4 to 6 hours out for getting help."

Barnson "We need to be cross-trained. We can step in where needed."

Kirkham " I'm waiting on a grant that I put in yesterday to the Commission . I'm waiting for it to get approved for training. We are going to have someone come up and Implement from software which allows us to communicate and actually use that room as it was intended for. It's not in there now."

Bunch "So if we can go back to this first question. What are declared level of response. I think Bill hit it when he said training. We are all in agreement that we need additional training. The level of training or some kind of enhanced training for those who have been around for a long time, all those levels of NIMs and what not. We have to have training and understand our assignments."

Rivera " There is always training money in these Grants. It's always hard when you have that training brought here. We can always travel, Carson is always having training. We could send people to take that 3 day class. There are so many trainings out there that are related to this. So we need to earmark some of the money for training."

Carson "In the Commission, we look at and I'm going to ask this board, is this something we need to have? So that we have the training when the time comes we don't go oh my God."

Henriod " But you have the County checkbook."

Rivera "If you look at the NIMS, there's a level of training that the County boards and City board for me to take part in. There are 700, 800 and 900. Because if we have an incident, here's the checkbook from whoever, we can't wait for a meeting."

All of the NIMS classes can be taken online with the exception of 300 and 400.

Kirkham "The other thing I wanted to touch on is our goals. I think that as a committee we should tailor things as an organization. We need goals, we need Milestones that we can actually track our progress. That way we don't just come in and talk, we can say we did this and this and this. I know the last time was getting some type of public in here. External Communications."

Rivera "In terms of outreach, the public needs to know there's someone to take care of them. The public can get in your way when you have an incident."

Henriod "We need to acknowledge some of our successes, we just did a flu pod that was the example for the State of Nevada. The LEPC board played a large role in organizing that. The media and Social Services played an important role in that. Is that a firecracker for LEPC, no we kind of do things low-key. Do we need to put the banners out saying look what we did?"

Barnson "I agree with Scott, we do not have to grandstand things."

Henriod "We need to reach out to the resources we need. Everybody in this room knows who has a snowmobile, who's got four wheelers or who's got trucks that we might need in these incidents."

Carson "I feel right now we need to focus more on the board and less on the public."

Kirkham "We don't have any public comment coming in and there hasn't been any for years, as my understanding."

Henriod "We have to advertise our agendas. The agendas are advertised and if people want to come in to see what we're doing or give public comment, they would be welcome. We don't send out special invitations."

Carson "I feel we should focus on getting the Grants and getting training."

Bunch "I feel the most important goal is training. Another thing is effective communication amongst ourselves. To Scott's point we do not have to go out there and wave a flag, because they will already know we are effective because they can see the boots on the ground and know that we're operating as a group. When there is a disaster or there some kind of a situation every one of us are going to be calling one another to activate it and so they won't have to read about it in the newspaper or have it delivered to their front doorstep."

Henriod "I think some of the things, going back to our successes, like the flu pod and disaster drills, that Community does need to know about. The reader boards need to be put out, they need to be put on all sources of media. And I think that's the time when the community says LEPC. LEPC is having a mock earthquake drill. So the community knows we are working on all these things."

Update on grants

Kirkham "As of few days ago, United We Stand Grant was and being due to the State did not have a full board to vote. It is now approved. The Sheriff's Office and the Fire Department are getting the equipment they requested. I don't believe there are any other Grants pending."

Rivera " Other grants will be coming in as we meet compliance. There is a Federal Grant in October."

Discussions/ Possible Action: Discussion on every members job and if they are still current to fulfill an active role in that capacity . Determine if other Duties are warranted to members.

Kirkham " I wanted to have a discussion and brought this up because there are a few things and I wanted to know if everyone's comfortable in their role. Secondly I would like to just quality purposes, I would like to have a second secretary to help Geri."

Henriod "You would have to change the bylaws."

Kirkham "Well if that's the case we're going to have to scratch that."

Calderwood "You could start to assign liaisons to positions. Like you could assign me to the airport and I could start watching their agendas. I believe there was some discussion about the airport having some drills and we would not be part of that."

Discussion: Information-sharing on LEPC compliance in relationship to the State.

Kirkham "I have not received any information. I want a hard copy like a PDF, that spells out exactly what we need."

Rivera " I have a copy and I will give it to you."

Discussion / Possible Action: Liaisons Assignment / update for partner list. How can we improve this as a committee.

Calderwood "We need Liaison or someone who communicates with the mine, BLM, etc. Someone from this Board needs to communicate, maybe they're having some type of training that we could use, or something like that."

Henriod "Isn't there a slot on our committee for the mine and the BLM?"

Rivera "Yes. They could be a voting member."

Barnson "Are bringing these people in as voting members? If we are, it's going to be harder to get a quorum."

Calderwood " I thought, if I'm the liaison to the airport, I would watch their agenda and if anything comes up that would be important to us, I would go to the meeting and report back to this board. I know they're planning a mock drill for July. What are they doing and do we want to participate?"

Robertson " I think it's just as a membership, that stated in the resolution. You stick with that. It says we are a planning committee and that is our number one thing. We do need to find out what resources the mine has. It is our responsibility to find out resources. I think you just says a membership, that stated in

the resolution. You stick with that. It says we are a planning committee And that is our number one thing. We do need to find out what resources the mine has. it is our responsibility to find out what resources are available in the area. Who can provide us with something if we have an issue. I don't feel we have to have a person from every one of these organizations on the board."

Henriod " I think we should extend an invitation to anyone, like the mine who would like to have someone come in to the committee. They could speak on what type of resources or who we can make a contact where and have that available to us."

Perez "Are we going to do that monthly or just once a year?"

Carson "I think that we could do it just once a year."

Rivera " I think that we should invite them and ask them to be present, but if they can't, can they at least provide us a list."

Calderwood " I felt the liaison position was that I would go get the information. Not rely on them to come and bring it."

Kirkham "I would be open to the invitation idea. Who will take the head on that?"

Barnson "You would."

Rivera "I do believe we should email Cameron our contacts. He can designate somebody to make that contact."

Barson "Sometimes if you already know the person, they are more willing to talk to the new person. You need to kind of help it along."

Rivera "Training, Outreach, Resource Partners and Implement a five-year plan are the goals for the next 6 months."

Barnson " And make compliance."

Perez "When will we have another mock drill?"

Kirkham "Our mock mock drills have to be hazardous waste."

Rivera "We always try to throw in some hazardous waste in every mock drill we do."

Kirkham "How about we reach out do all the different entities, the school, the sheriff. So let's reach out to the organizations that help facilitate these things I forgot to get and perhaps we could have some positive reinforcement in that.

I will reach out to the mine. I have a lot of other things going on in my job and I don't feel that everything in LEPC should be my responsibility. "

Calderwood “ You say we’re going to reach out to all these different people, if you don’t assign people, that means you’re going to do it. I’m good with being a liaison to the airport. I feel as successful meeting is when everyone walks out of here with a little something to do.”

Perez agreed to do the school, Ruth, get information from the mine.

Rivera will take care of the School Safety Committee.

Annual evaluation from Advisory Board.

Barnson does not ever remember during an evaluation. Technically we are not an Advisory Board, so I think this is something we do not have to do.

Rivera agreed to do the evaluation.

No public comment

Adjournment