

**Cowley County LEPC/Citizen Corps
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 30, 2021
Cowley County Emergency Operations Center
321 E. 10th Ave. Winfield, KS 67156
Via Zoom call/video**

Call to order

The Cowley County LEPC meeting was convened via Zoom call/video on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 9:03am in the Cowley County EOC in Winfield, Kansas. The meeting was called to order by Doug Allison, Cowley County Emergency Communications Director.

Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves to the group. All attendees were asked to type their name, agency, title, email, and phone into the chat for purposes of an accurate attendance sheet.

Approval of previous minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting dated December 1, 2020, were distributed to the committee previously by email.

Motion by Tom Langer to approve the minutes.

Second by Diane Charboneau.

Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

City of Winfield Gas Utility Presentation – Troy Blanton, City of Winfield

Each year the City of Winfield attends the LEPC meetings to provide awareness and safety information regarding their gas utility services. The City created a public awareness document that was sent out to the LEPC prior to the meeting. Troy Blanton from the City of Winfield presented information about natural gas, how leaks are detected, how lines are marked and safety/response measures to take in the event of a release. He reiterated for everyone to call Kansas One Call prior to doing any digging. Doug Allison mentioned that CCEC or CCEM can help distribute emergency information such as evacuation notices via the Everbridge system if needed.

ESF 4, 9, 10 and 15 Reviews – Brian Stone, Cowley County EM

ESF, or Emergency Support Functions, are part of the County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that highlights specific functions and agencies responsible to carry out those functions. Brian provided ESFs 4 (Firefighting), 9 (Search and Rescue) and 10 (Oil and Hazardous Materials) to the Winfield and Arkansas Fire/EMS Departments and asked them to do reviews and provide any feedback or changes needed. Both agencies reviewed and found only minimal changes were needed.

ESF 15 (External Communications) was also reviewed and presented to the group approval.

Motion by Tom Langer to approve the four ESFs presented.

Second by Taylor Dory.

Motion carried unanimously.

ESF 2 Review – John Stradal, Cowley County EM

John presented ESF and highlighted a couple of changes. The primary changes were to notate several SOGs that had been completed since the last approval and the addition of another support group (Cowley County Amateur Radio Club).

Motion by Tom Langer to approve ESF 2 as presented.

Second by Justin Waite.

Motion carried unanimously.

ARPA Update – Brian Stone, Cowley County EM

Brian provided a brief update on the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding. He stated that Cowley County will received \$6.8M total but have drawn down ½ of that now and it is in the bank. He noted that he will not actively be involved in this process as he was in the CARES Act funding and that the County is taking a much slower and methodical approach. It is expected that the Board of County Commissioners will be seeking input for use of the funding beginning next year, but that the process will not be like it was during the CARES Act.

American Red Cross Update – Jaime McHugh, ARC (Wichita)

Jaime introduced herself and stated the ARC is actively recruiting volunteers and building capacity, especially in the counties that limited ARC volunteers, such as Cowley County. Brian mentioned the fire that occurred at Walnut Towers a couple of months ago and acknowledged Jaime's quick and effective response to help the victims in need.

National Weather Service Update – Vanessa Pearce, (NWS-Wichita Forecast Office)

Vanessa introduced herself and gave examples of services they can provide such as weather forecasts during events and other emergencies including search and rescues, hazmat releases and more. She said they can also provide on-site services for governmental agencies if needed but will be coordinated through Emergency Management.

Open Discussion

Tom Langer, City-Cowley County Health Department relayed that a TTX is being planned for quarter one of 2022. It will not be a pandemic response, but something else that will bring together many partners across the State. He will keep us informed and information will be shared with EM to be distributed.

Officer Election

Chairman Doug Allison advised the group that he and Vice-Chair Tom Langer are both willing to serve another term unless someone else showed an interest. With none being noted,

Motion by John Stradal to retain Doug Allison as Chair and Tom Langer as Vice-Chair.

Second by Jason Kazban.
Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business:

Motion by to adjourn by Taylor Dory 9:35am.
Second by Tom Langer.
Motion carried unanimously.

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