

**Cowley County LEPC/Citizen Corps
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 29, 2017
Cowley County Emergency Operations Center
321 E. 10th Ave. Winfield, KS 67156 @9:00am**

Call to order

The Cowley County LEPC/Citizen Corps meeting was convened in open and public session on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 9:00am by Chairman Vincent Warren in the Cowley County EOC in Winfield, Kansas. Those in attendance are listed on the sign-in sheet.

Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves to the group.

Approval of previous minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting dated December 14, 2016, were distributed to all attendees previously by email and at the beginning of this meeting.

Motion by Tom Langer to approve the minutes as presented.
Second by John Stradal.
Motion carried unanimously and previous minutes were approved.

Old Business

None

New Business

Emergency Support Functions 4, 9 and 10 Review and Approval – Brian Stone, Cowley EM
Brian advised that ESF 10 was sent to the Arkansas City and Winfield Fire/EMS Departments for the annual review. Brian reminded everyone that it is a yearly requirement for ESF 10 to be reviewed and approved by the LEPC. In addition, ESF's 4 and 9 were also reviewed by those same departments. Tom Langer of the City-Cowley County Health Department noted that while his department was tasked with duties in ESF 10, their agency was not listed as a Supporting Agency. Brian will make that change prior to submitting to KDEM.

Motion by Tom Langer to approve ESF's 4 and 9 as presented and ESF 10 as amended.
Second by Justin Waite.
Motion carried unanimously.

Open Discussion

Cowley Alerts - John Stradal, Cowley EM

John Stradal briefly discussed Cowley Alerts, Cowley County's emergency notification system. The system is sponsored by the Cowley County Sheriff's Office, Cowley County Emergency Management, and Cowley County Emergency Communications. Residents and those who work within the county are encouraged to sign-up for alerts, which will allow customization of what information is received as well as the destination (cell phone, text message, email, etc.). John distributed a flyer containing more information and the link to sign-up, which is www.cowleycounty.org/alerts.

EOP Update - Brian Stone, Cowley EM

Brian advised the group that the Cowley County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is up for a full review in 2018 and will need to be re-promulgated by the Cowley County Commission in January of 2019. He explained that the EOP assigns responsibilities to agencies, sets lines of authority, describes how people and property will be protected and identifies personnel, equipment, facilities and supplies within the county. He will be leading this project, but reminded the participants that this is truly a county-wide plan and input will be sought from most other agencies.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - Brian Stone, Cowley EM

Brian advised the group that the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan is set to expire on May 30, 2019 so a review and update will begin in 2018. All agencies and jurisdictions in the county will be contacted and asked for their input and support. Any jurisdiction who wishes to pursue any sort of pre-disaster mitigation funding must be a part of this plan. He explained that the State has designated regions for this plan and will be providing assistance as well.

Chilocco Indian School Chemical Testing - Tom Langer, City-Cowley County Health Dept.

Tom Langer, Administrator of the City-Cowley County Health Department and Public Health Officer for Cowley County provided comments about the concerns in the community related to the planned testing by the Department of Homeland Security in the upcoming months. Langer noted that the testing planned is needed and very well designed. It will answer questions about how well a shelter in place order may protect humans from an intentional or accidental release of a biological or chemical agent that is dispersed via wind currents.

Langer commented that during his tenure with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment he oversaw many similar activities as Director of Environmental Health. The materials that are being used as surrogates for the biologicals are inert and harmless to humans and other forms of life in the quantities that are planned to be used. The testing will study the way a known quantity of material is disbursed and travels on wind currents in and around structures that would be found in a small agricultural community. The test design calls for specific wind speeds between 3 and 12 mph. Langer ended his comments explaining that for any of the material to reach Cowley County we would be experiencing wind speeds that would certainly be more hazardous than anything material the test would be releasing.

CMS Final Rule - Tom Langer, City-Cowley County Health Dept.

Tom presented excerpts from a PowerPoint presentation that detail the responsibilities of CMS Medicare/Medicaid Programs to comply with Emergency Preparedness planning and exercise requirements or risk the loss of funding. The new rule was published in September 2016 and became effective November 15, 2017.

The presentation focused on the key components; performance of an all-hazards risk assessment, development of a plan that is focused on all disasters or emergencies most likely to occur in the local environment, practicing for such events and an annual review of the plan.

Langer commented that the Health Department would assist any local CMS provider with technical assistance and would review plans, but would not write the plans for the CMS providers. Langer also commented that individuals tasked with compliance of the CMS requirements could refer to the HHS and CDC websites that have large quantities of information and guidance available for use.

Election of new Chair/Vice-Chair

Current Chair, Vincent Warren and Vice-Chair, Justin Waite advised they are both willing to serve in the same capacity for another year.

Motion by Brian Stone to elect Vincent Warren as Chair and Justin Waite as Vice-Chair.

Second by Tom Langer.

Motion carried.

Being no further business:

Motion by John Stradal to adjourn at 9:54am.

Second by Tom Langer.

Motion carried unanimously.