

BARRON COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 27, 2023 9:00 AM Meeting Minutes

Barron County Justice Center, Emergency Operations Center, 1420 State Hwy 25 North, Barron, WI 54812

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Members present: Louis Okey, Barron County Board. Jason Hagen, Barron County Sheriff's Department. Mike Judy, Barron County Emergency Management Director. Nate Dunston, Barron County Emergency Management /Medical Examiner. Chris Straight, West Central Regional Planning.

Call to order by Louis Okey at 9:04 AM.

Public Notification: Read by Louis Okey.

Public Comment: None.

Approve Minutes from January 26, 2023 meeting.

Motion Made by Mike Judy to approve minutes, Seconded by Jason Hagen.

Motion Carried (Unanimously).

Spill Review.

March 21, 2023 – Wastewater

Response Reimbursements: None.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:

Chris Straight, West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning, gave an update on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Discussion items included: the April 27, 2023 Status Report (attached in meeting minutes).

LEPC Member Updates: None.

Future Agenda Items:

Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Next Meeting Date: July 27, 2023 at 9:00 in the Emergency Operations Center.

Adjourned Motion: (LO) to adjourn at 10:23 a.m. Carried.

Meeting minutes posted in draft form. Minutes not official until approved at the next committee meeting.



**BARRON COUNTY
MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE
4/27/23 STATUS REPORT**

Progress

- Today is Meeting #3 with Steering Committee. Keep shorter, but add a meeting this summer.
- Meetings with all cities and villages complete.
- Town survey distributed – 13 returned to date (*February presentation cancelled*)
- Public Education Institutions invited to participate. Following completed online survey:
 - Barron Area School District
 - Cameron Area School District
 - Turtle Lake School District
 - Northwood Technical College
- 4/25 – Meeting with Barron Electric Cooperative
- 4/26 – Survey distributed to Fire Chiefs
- Other stakeholder interviews underway. Multiple County meetings on May 8th
- Continuing with plan document development; most general research & data update completed.
- Overall, behind original schedule. All meetings/interviews not yet completed, so have not yet compiled mitigation alternatives for your consideration.

Planned Next Steps

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| May | - complete remaining interviews
- send mini-plans to cities, villages, & participating schools
- send mitigation alternatives homework to Steering Committee (& others?) |
| June | - mitigation alternatives homework completed
- WCWRPC completes initial draft plan; provides key sections to Steering Committee and for review |
| July | Steering Committee Meeting #4 (abt 60-90 minutes)
- review any key findings from interviews and meetings
- discuss/finalize mitigation strategy recommendations
- review other plan sections & discuss any other plan changes |
| Late July | - WCWRPC finalizes draft plan
- notice published for 30-day public comment period on draft plan |

Note: Per the grant agreement, the draft plan must be provided to WEM by 8/31/23 and approved by FEMA by 11/30/23, unless an extension is requested & approved.



August	draft Plan to WEM for initial review → modify plan if needed
Sept-Nov	County Board adopts the plan → obtain FEMA approval
Oct-Dec	City, Village, & School/College adoptions → obtain remaining FEMA approvals (approvable pending adoption, once County adopts)
Nov-Dec	Print & Distribute Final Plan (once all adopted & FEMA approval letters received)

A Few Highlights from Meetings & Surveys to Date

- **Flooding** – Increasing heavy rain events-> greater stormwater flooding concerns. Monitor limited overbank/riverine flooding; mostly over roads and culverts. Some dam-related comments.
- **Tornados & Severe Weather** – 2019 storms; “Mike has damage reports.” Increasing interest in safe rooms, especially for mobile home parks, campgrounds and resort properties. Remote unlock opportunities. Sirens for lakes and rural development areas; some aging municipal and/or lack battery back-up.
- **Winter Storms & Extreme Cold** – Increasing ice & snow loads. Power loss largest concern. Barron Electric continuing to bury lines. Travel and drifting, but no mitigation actions noted.
- **Power Outages** – Overhead lines in wooded lake areas more prone. Generator needs for critical facilities remains high, but some significant improvements. Emergency fuel access during outage.
- **Extreme Heat & Drought** – Generally, not a high priority. Local communities may not be aware of available heating/cooling shelters. Include shelters as part of new safe room grants.
- **Wildfire** – Generally, not a high priority. Ensuring emergency vehicle access. Some dry hydrant needs.
- **Cyber-Security** – Improved awareness and diligence overall. Remote monitoring vs. control of equipment/infrastructure.
- **Haz Mat Spills** – Generally, transportation-related greater concern than fixed sites. Fuel, LP, & Anhydrous supply/transfer stations. PFAs.
- **Active Threats** - Growing attention and some hardening as municipal buildings improved. Infrastructure vulnerabilities. “Check with Mike.”
- **Pandemic/Zoonotic** – Avian Flu. Per communities, no major actionable items or lessons learned from COVID-19. Hard on nursing homes. Increase in remote working and meetings.
- **Education & Training** - Promote Code Red. Some NOAA radio interest, but waning. Interest in more information on how emergency/disaster recovery funding works (e.g., processes, lessons learned). Public works training on resources, protocols, and



collaboration/mutual aid. Joint exercises with major employers (e.g., schools, manufacturing, hospitals, casino).

- **Other** – More EOPs are up-to-date. Schools, nursing homes and assisted living most frequently mentioned vulnerable population. Some ESL. Who are VOADs (and do communities contact directly)?

Any Special Training, Planning, or Capacity-Building Needs?

Based on your knowledge, have there been any changes in community priorities that the plan should consider?

Plan Coordination – Are there opportunities to improve coordination between the mitigation plan and any other plans or “planning mechanisms”?



Plan Monitoring – How will the County track/monitor and evaluate the plan for effectiveness?

Who is responsible and what is LEPC's role, if any?

What criteria will be used to evaluate effectiveness?

How will public participation continue to be sought during plan maintenance?

For the next plan update, will a different process be used?