

BARRON COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 25, 2024 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. Mike Judy, Barron County Emergency Management Director. Chris Fitzgerald, Barron County Sheriff. Nate Dunston, Barron County Emergency Management. Chris Straight, West Central Regional Planning. Trent Kohel, Rice Lake Fire Department. Tyler Gruetzmacher, Barron County Soil & Water. Dale Hanson, Community Representative. Barry Kuenkel, Cumberland Fire Department. Melissa Miller, Mayo Clinic Health System Northland. Luong Huynh, Red Cross. Dave Paulson, McCain Foods Inc. Ben Cole, Barron Fire Department. Craig Turcott, Barron County Board. Gabby Thompson, Mosaic Telecom. Sue Dau, Barron Electric Cooperative.

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

Public Notification: Read by Louis Okey.

Public Comment: None.

Approve Minutes from July 27, 2023 meeting.

Motion Made by Craig Turcott to approve minutes, Seconded by Tyler Gruetzmacher. Motion Carried (Unanimously).

Spill Review.

October 26, 2023 – Synergy Cooperative

October 27, 2023 – Chetek Dam

November 22, 2023 – Norswiss Farms

November 24, 2023 – Stella Jones

December 21, 2023 – Saputo

January 8, 2024 – Northern Natural Gas

Response Reimbursements:

None.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:

Chris Straight, West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning, gave an update on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Review was provided of the plan recommended preparedness actions. The Hazard Mitigation plan was reviewed and approved by Wisconsin Emergency

Management (WEM). A public comment period will be offered through West Central Regional Planning's website a plan of the draft will also be available at www.wcwrpc.org The plan will go before the Barron County Board for their approval and adoption. Two entities have already adopted the plan: Rice Lake School District and the Village of Almena.

Review Bylaws:

Bylaws in the packet and included in minutes. Motion made by Steve Roux to approve the bylaws as presented. Second by Melissa Miller. Motion Carried.

Emergency Management Annual Report:

Mike reviewed with the group the highlights of the 2023 Annual Report. Please see the attached for a copy of the report.

LEPC Member Updates:

Luong Huynh: Red Cross has responded to 6 calls for service in 2023. Informed the committee about installation of smoke alarms with a local partnership with Mosaic. Red Cross is open to new partnerships and will install smoke detectors free of charge. More information can be found on their website.

Trent Kohel: Rice Lake Fire hosted a Hazmat Technician course with the WI REACT Center and were able to add nine additional trained members to the hazmat team. The total trained team members is about 20.

Sue Dau: A reminder that Barron Electric Coop has a text feature for reporting power outages. In April the Cooperative will be starting a two year GPS inventory project.

Tyler Gruetzmacher: A new aerial photo will be done of the county in 2024. The committee should review the dam plans.

Future Agenda Items:

County Dam Plans

Next Meeting Date: April 25, 2024 at 9:00 in the Emergency Operations Center.

Adjourned Motion: (LO) to adjourn at 10:21 a.m. Carried.

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