



LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

GLACIER COUNTY OF MONTANA

1210 EAST MAIN STREET

CUT BANK, MT 59427

Executive Committee

Chairperson – Charles Farmer
1st Vice Chairperson – Patrick Stranad
2nd Vice Chairperson – Nora Kennedy
Secretary – Michelle Harrell
Member At Large – Irene Martin

December 16, 2010 Meeting Minutes

LEPC Membership: Charles Farmer-GCDES, Nora Kennedy-TERC Chairperson, Michelle Harrell-GC Dept. of Public Health, Irene Martin-Retired, Ed Gierke-MT State DES Dist. II Rep., Bill Bandel-GC Public Works Director, Carol McDivitt-Director GC Public Health, Celestino Sanchez-USBP, Robert DesRosier-Director Of Homeland Security Blackfeet Tribe, Thane Bedwell-NRMC CEO, Damon Bunting-GC Extension Agent, Diane Anderson-GC Clerk of Court, Patrick Stranad-Babb Fire/Rescue., Jeff Rutherford-GC Public Works, Joe Gauthier-Animal Control, Tina Gauthier-Animal Control, Wade Johnson-CB Superintendent Of Schools, Michelle Edwards-USDA, Mike Connolly-Browning VFD., Pat Greany-NMIS, Peggy Hartwell-GC Dispatch Supervisor, Roy Nollkamper-GC Airport Authority, Russell Hurst-USBP, Pat Anderson-Cut Bank Fire Chief, Merle Cowell, George Forsyth-HAM Radio, Tim Freed-CB Fire/Rescue, Robert Bosken-NMIS, Debbie Farmer-North Trail Consulting, Vernon Billedeaux-GC Sheriff Elect, Alice Reuman-Center For Mental Health, Landis Meeks-ARC, Donna Rutherford-District Ranger GNP, Richard Canning-ER Supervisor/IHS, Darwin Feakes-East Glacier Fire/Rescue, Ben Steele-East Glacier Fire Chief, Amie Allison-GCEMS Director, Maunay Kelley-GCEMS, Rebecca Schulkoski-Center For Mental Health, Tyson Michaels-City of Cut Bank, Mark Foust-Chief Ranger GNP, Ed Daugherty FSA/USDA, Jeanne Baker-Baker & Baker Assoc., Michael Shelton-USBP, Jared Thompson-Shelby Border Patrol, Michael DesRosier-GC Commissioner (Chairman), Benjamin Campbell-Highline Communications, Jeri Lee Wilkerson-GC Community Development, Floyd Peterson-GC EMS/SAR, Tanya Luchi-NRMC Trauma Coordinator, Angie Murphy-GCEMS, Nikko Lako-GC Administrative Assistant, Dustin Boggs-Browning Fire Chief, Robert Wild Gun-Browning Fire/Rescue, Terrance Crawford-Browning Fire/Rescue, Timothy Welch-USBP, Lyle Salois-GC Maintenance Supervisor, Colin Cradle-Babb Fire/Rescue, Mark Frith-CHS Grain Elevator Safety Officer, Tony Sitzman-GC Commissioner, Ron Rides At The Door-GC Commissioner, Tiffany Throckmorton-Customs Border Protection/SAR, Ben Schott-Meteorologist NWS, William Potts-GC Maintenance, Roland D. Schulz-USBP, Tyson Running Wolf-FMO Blackfeet Tribe, Jeff Severn-IHS Safety Officer, Jon Wyrzykowski-US Border Patrol, Tony Bale-Wadsworth Construction Safety Manager, Tom Seifert-GC Sheriff Deputy

Picture Clips

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Farmer at 10:35 am. Those present from the roster: Dona Rutherford-Dist. Ranger Glacier National Park, Patrick Stranad-Babb Fire/Rescue/Deputy DES, Colin Cadle-Babb Fire/Rescue/ Asst. Chief, Pat Anderson-CB Fire/Rescue/ Chief, Landis Meeks-Red Cross Rep., Tyson Michaels-City of Cut Bank Rep., Vernon Billedeaux-GC Sheriff Elect, Tom Seifert-Sergeant GC Sheriff Dept., William Potts-GC Maintenance, Jeff Severn-IHS Safety/Occupational, Lyle Salois-GC Maintenance Supervisor, Rebecca Schulkoski-Center for Mental Health, Amie Allison-GC EMS Director, Carol McDivitt-GC Health Dept. Director, Ed Gierke-State DES Dist. II Rep., Debbie Farmer-Emergency Planner/Deputy DES, Jerilee Wilkerson-Community Development/Grant Writing, Nora Kennedy-TERC Chairperson, Robert DesRosier-Blackfeet Tribe Homeland Security Director, Peggy Hartwell-GC 911 Dispatcher Supervisor, Charles Farmer-LEPC Chairperson

Introduction of New Member(s): Tom Seifert is a Sergeant with the Glacier County Sheriff's Department. Tom is a seasoned and experienced Law Enforcement Deputy with Glacier County. Welcome to the LEPC.

Old/Unfinished Business:

Chairperson Farmer asked for a motion to approve the 11-18-10 minutes. Red made the motion to approve and seconded by Lyle Salois. All members voted for and none against.

New Business:

Chairperson Farmer asked for nominations for the vacant LEPC First Vice Chairperson but before that he wanted to go on record to thank the past First Chairperson James Laidlaw for his positive contribution and participation in the DES and LEPC. James was a key player in emergency response, emergency management, and training programs. Consider this as a positive recommendation for James in any endeavor he pursues in his future.

The following nominations were made then closed by the committee: Carol McDivitt, Patrick Stranad, and Jeff Severn were nominated and by a written secret ballot Patrick "Red" Stranad was elected as the new First Vice Chairperson of the LEPC.

There was a brief discussion related to the election concerning the LEPC Bylaws. And the election went well according the Bylaws. Jeff Severn wanted to know if he could get a copy of the Bylaws and Chairperson Farmer will send a copy of the Bylaws to all LEPC members electronically.

Rebecca Schulkoski, Center for Mental Health. Rebecca gave a brief presentation and was asked several questions about her program. Rebecca said they have one case manager right now in Cut Bank; the program is a Non-Profit organization and funded from MHRSP, Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance and contributions. Rebecca stated that at this time there is not enough funds to keep rural mental health centers going and you could see

some cutbacks. This is not good because Montana rates 2nd in US for number of suicides and there are 180 to 200 successful suicides in Montana each year. There is not enough help to assist in a Emergency Crisis with a lot of patients/clients referred to the ER. Ed Gierke asked how are you going to deal with the legislator this year? Rebecca said she doesn't know but will get an answer for the next meeting. Nora asked who does your third party billing? Rebecca said it is done in Great Falls. Nora asked if they are working with the suicide prevention program in Browning (Lester Johnson)? Rebecca said she would check to see if Lester Johnson could be contacted and combine resources. Alice is located at the office in Browning by the Day treatment center. Carol asked if they would be able to assist in an emergency health related incident. Rebecca said they do not have enough help. Landis Meeks commented that he may be able to have the Red Cross send a mental health counselor to help in case of an incident. Amie Allison asked how much does it take to operate your program per year. Rebecca said she did not know but will get you an answer. Ed said we could refer to the Mass Care Annex. Charles put the Mass Care Annex on the screen. Charles mentioned the Butte plane crash and the need for social services especially incident stress debriefing for the first responders.

Northwestern Energy Fire. Charles gave a brief report on the fire at NWE and mentioned that NWE near Cut Bank supplies one third of all the natural gas distribution in Montana. Ed said if we lost NWE in bad weather, Montana would be in bad trouble. There were no reports of injuries and the initial report was that the fire was caused by a broken pipe but that was later clarified that it was a heater that caused the fire. Charles showed a few pictures of the responders (CBVFD) fighting the fire.

EOP is ready! Charles put the Utility Interruption Appendix up on the screen. Nora asked if we closed out our grant yet. Charles said not until March 31. Ed said that is according to the grant ending date.

Coop/Cog Phase II Tabletop Exercise. Is in the development stage, scheduled as a regional EOC activation exercise specifically working on activating an Emergency Operation Center in Glacier County.

TERC/Tribal updates. Nora gave a brief update on the happenings in Indian Country: There is a dinner tonight at the casino put on by Imperial Oil. IO is going to give a presentation on the heavy loads and equipment that will be coming through Montana and specifically the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. We do have a new radio station in Browning with a radius of about 17 miles and they are doing a good job in putting together public service announcements, music, entertainment, etc. so tune in to 107.5. Nora also mentioned that we have a new Police Chief for the Blackfeet Nation and his name is Jess Edwards (former GC Sheriff Deputy). Robert DesRosier said they are planning an active shooter exercise with the Public Schools in Browning which will last for two days and John Schaffer with the Great Falls Police Dept. will be leading the exercise. Robert invited all responders to attend. A tentative date will be January 11 & 12, 2011, 8am to 9 pm.

Public Health Update. Carol/Nora – not getting many people in to get vaccinated. They are sending out public service announcements.

Sheriff Update. Napi said they had a retirement party for retiring Sheriff Wayne Dusterhoff December 18th at the Elks Club. And GC had a swearing in ceremony for the new Sheriff (himself) and recent elected officials. The LEPC extends their sincere best wishes for the newly elected officials.

In other business Charles said he was glad to see our Law Enforcement and Dispatch at the LEPC meeting again. Debbie Farmer said that Credentialing is coming in the new year and name badges will be printed with pictures according to Homeland Security mandates. The badges will not have any confidential information and will only reflect 5 things: Name, jurisdiction, title, department, and your picture. This is the start of a new system for Glacier County and could be very useful in providing mutual aid for neighboring jurisdictions. Charles is planning a LEPC meeting in Browning sometime in the future. Charles also mentioned the open burning in Cut Bank this morning and Pat Anderson (CB Fire Chief) was aware of it. Charles further explained the research on the open burning laws in the State and Glacier County: the responsible party has to acquire a permit with the State DEQ and would have to call the meteorologist in the morning before he/she burns. If there is an inversion in Cut Bank then you cannot burn and this applies from December 1st to March 31st. However, if the burning is an immediate threat to life safety or property, then the Sheriff's Dept. or the Fire Chief can stop or extinguish the burn immediately.

Be watching for the upcoming courses especially the COOP/COG EOC activation exercise.

Red invited any emergency responders to stop in at the Babb VFD for chow on Christmas Day.

Charles announced that he has two new Deputy DES Coordinators: Pat "Red" Stranad and Debbie Farmer and they will be covering other parts of Glacier County or perhaps any part of GC.

Next meeting date: January 27, 2010 at 10:30 am.

Meeting adjourned at 12:17 Working lunch provided