



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 Strnad
2nd Vice Chairperson – Nora Kennedy
Secretary – Michelle Harrell
Member At Large – Irene Martin

September 22, 2011 Meeting Minutes

LEPC Membership: Charles Farmer-GCDES, Patrick Strnad-GC Deputy DES, 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/DES Blackfeet Tribe, Damon Bunting-GC Extension Agent, Diane Anderson-GC Clerk of Court, 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, George Forsyth-HAM Radio, Tim Freed-CB Fire/Rescue, Robert Bosken-NMIS, Debbie Farmer-GC Deputy DES, Vernon Billedeaux-GC Sheriff, Alice Reuman-Center For Mental Health, Landis Meeks-American Red Cross, Donna Rutherford-District Ranger GNP, 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 Cadle-Babb Fire/Rescue/Asst. Chief, 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-Fire Management Officer Blackfeet Tribe, Jeff Severn-IHS Safety Officer, Jon Wyrzykowski-US Border Patrol, Tony Bale-Wadsworth Construction Safety Manager, Tom Seifert-GC Sheriff Deputy/Sergeant, Grinnell Edwards-Browning Assistant Fire Chief/EMT, Jerry Scott-USBP, Maurice Red Horn-GC Undersheriff, Les Marsh-US Border Patrol, Ron Andersen-GC Sanitarian, Gene Onacko Jr.-BIA Safety of Dams Engineer, Bobby Guardipee-GC Maintenance, Daphne Digrindakis-Tetra Tech Consulting, Betsy Seglem-Glacier Community Health Center, Dennis Seglem-Glacier County Historical Museum, Shawn Lahr-Blackfeet Environmental Office, Dave Allison-GC EMS, Lyle MacDonald-Blackfeet Boarding Dormitory, Alan Lukin-Alderman Town of Browning, Niall Atkinson-NRMC Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Micah Hall-GC Clerk & Recorder's Office/Website Designer, Kati Bremner-GC Public Assistance Director, Michael Challinor-Del Bonita Customs & Border Protection Agent In Charge

Picture Clips

Call to order at 10:40 am. Those present from the roster: Colin Cadle-Babb Asst. Fire Chief, Les Marsh-US Border Patrol, Lyle Salois-GC Maintenance, Ron Anderson-GC Sanitarian, Bobby Guardipee-GC Maintenance, Tino Sanchez-US Border Patrol, Robert DesRosier-Homeland Security, Kati Bremner-GC Public Assistance, Michael Challinor-CBP, Carol McDivitt-GC Health Dept., Tom Seifert-GC Sheriff Dept., Landis Meeks-ARC, Maurice RedHorn-GC Sheriff Dept., Peggy Hartwell-GC Dispatch, Tyson Michaels-City Of Cut Bank, Vernon Billedeaux-GC Sheriff, Debbie Farmer-GC DES, Damon Bunting-GC Extension, Charles Farmer-GC DES

Introduction of New Members: Katie Bremner is the Director of Public Assistance for Glacier County. Her duties consist of providing assistance to families who demonstrate and qualify for basic public assistance plus she is the Medicaid Supervisor for her Department. Michael Challinor is the Agent in Charge for the Customs & Border Protection at Del Bonita. Michael is always actively involved in the protection of our Borders and most of us know what that entails. Welcome to the LEPC!

Old/Unfinished Business:

Chairperson Farmer requested a motion to pass the August 25, 2011 minutes. Carol McDivitt made the motion and seconded by Colin Cadle. Motion carried with all for and none against.

New Business:

Sherburne Dam Tabletop Exercise, September 7, 2011. The scenario begins with the Reservoir elevation peaking from a record July inflow. The Dam Operator makes a visual inspection and discovers a new seepage area and documents it. To make matters worse, the next day an overnight thunderstorm causes a landslide across Many Glacier Road and abnormal seepage readings are documented. The next day a small whirlpool is observed. During that time, several messages were given to DES, Emergency Responders, and local governments for downstream DES resulting actions. As the tabletop exercise resumes, many questions were asked and what resulting responses would be enacted. The scenario went on and many response actions were discussed. The exercise was very valuable for the participants. Participants attending were from Babb Fire/Rescue, Bureau Of Reclamation, Glacier County Sheriff's Office and Disaster and Emergency Services, BIA Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Montana State DES District II,

and Pondera County Disaster & Emergency Services. No participation from the Browning or East Glacier Fire Department, Blackfeet Tribal Officials, Glacier National Park, US Border Patrol, or Blackfeet Agency BIA whom would be, geographical, key players (by mutual aid) if Sherburne Dam was to fail. Prior commitments most likely kept them from attending. In conclusion, emergencies would be declared, Emergency Operation and Actions Plans would be activated, EOC activations would occur, and an Incident Command Post would be established. A central location to hold the exercise was decided on at the BIA Building in Browning and all the entities mentioned above (and more) were invited by special invitation from the US Bureau Of Reclamation. One of the hopes of the exercise was that all lines of communication would be open and strong leadership would be established using NIMS and the Incident Command System. Remember the ultimate goal: to protect lives and property of all the citizens and to stabilize the incident so recovery operations can be done to the fullest.

NIMSCAST Resource List. Charles is working on Glacier County's NIMSCAST Resource List which identifies the resources needed to handle an emergency or disaster. Charles put up on the screen a handy tool developed by FEMA that lists by picture the resources that would be needed. This is a DES Department deliverable that must be completed each year. The Departments in Glacier County included: Law Enforcement, DES, Dept. Of Public Health, Public Works, EMS, Fire/Rescue and Search & Rescue. In the final analysis, the GC OEM/DES has a record of all resources to use in an emergency. The NIMSCAST list is limited because we would need and be using many more resources from Local Government in a declared emergency. Robert DesRosier mentioned that the Blackfeet Tribe finished theirs on Monday. He said that one of the disadvantages we came across is we overlap resources because the Tribe and County use the same resources because on the Tribal side they counted everything on the Reservation including the Town Of Browning. He questioned whether this would hurt or help us in the future. One thing Robert said is we need a mobile command post. Charles added that the Direction & Control Annex in our Emergency Operation Plans would be important because it identifies whom has responsibility and control of operational and response assets and it also identifies jurisdictional issues.

FX Fire. FX Petroleum has had some problems lately. First an oil spill into a drainage and now a fire at one of their separator tank batteries. It was a hot fire and the Cut Bank Fire department did a great job. Charles put some good pics on the screen. As was seen, there were some dangerous hazmat in the tanks but the fire department contained the fire quickly. Not much hazmat on the ground—it all burnt. LEPC members noticed the Methanol on scene in a tank. Ron Anderson, County Sanitarian, said that regardless what is stored or on site, this is not regulated but is handled only through the oil and gas authorities. They have two batteries out there. They finally got all the wells shut down. There are no hydrant's out there so the Cbfd used a big "pumpkin" to hold water, said Charles.

TERC Updates. Robert said that 143 claims were submitted to FEMA due to flood damage amounting to about \$195,000 and the Flood Declaration has been extended. Ron Anderson asked if the FEMA flood maps issue came up. Robert said it has not come up but the Tribal Council has received a letter that we may be getting these maps. He said the Tribal Council said they did not want to participate because they could not build on a flood plain where Tribal members do build on. Robert said it has not been mapped in the last ten years that he knows of. Ron said the maps he gave Charles were really old; back in the 70's.

Public Health Updates. Carol McDivitt gave a flu vaccine update and encouraged everyone to get the vaccine which has been proven over and over to be a success (by research and statistics). Carol said that the Norovirus has been reported and gave the most important advice to keep it away: wash your hands, don't share unsanitary items with others, keep things disinfected and use common sense. Carol mentioned that there is the annual Health Care Fair next week so come in and get your flu shots, blood pressure checked, and a variety of other healthy things to participate in.

Sheriff, EMS, Fire Updates. Colin Cadle, Assistant Fire Chief from the Babb/Fire Rescue, said with the wildfire season being low, there's not much going on in Babb at this time except for a few garbage fires. No Sheriff or EMS updates due to training and response duties but one LEPC member did mention that there was a firearm incident at the Cut Bank Schools which did not result in any harm. No one from the School District attends the LEPC meetings any more so we did not have any information on this subject.

EMS Recruitment/Training Opportunities – "The Graying of EMS in This Country". On behalf of our GC EMS, Charles brought up what is happening in the United States with our responders. They are retiring! And who will replace them is the issue. One fireman in the crowd said that it is happening with fire fighters also. Charles said this is not true with him because he dyes his hair gray to look older.

Glacier County Interoperability. As of today's agenda: 466 days remaining for compliance. We needed to conduct a survey on this in GC and the DES has been the point of contact with the State to do the survey. So far, we are getting the information from our departments and almost ready to submit the data that we need to fix any potential problem in complying with the mandated deadline of January 1, 2013. One question remains: what will happen if we are not complying and using outdated equipment. The answer is that if the FCC gets a complaint, then they will come to Glacier County and conduct an inventory of our radio equipment from our users at Glacier County's expense of \$10,000 per day. Robert said we have some problems with the interoperability in our area and January 1, 2013 we have to be in compliance also. Charles is doing an inventory on the radio equipment. And along that avenue, Peggy Hartwell, GC Dispatch Supervisor invited Red and Colin to come in and update a few items involved in a call out protocol for the Babb Fire/Rescue.

PDM - Final Draft - Website: www.glacier-pondera-pdm.com. Charles put the website on the screen and encouraged the LEPC to pass the word to others that they can open the website and make reviews of the plan and this will enable us to earn the in-kind match to offset the grant award. It is important that community members participate in the plan because it identifies the potential hazards that can be mitigated (reduced) or to fix them

before the problem becomes worse. We are almost finished and the LEPC is the driving force in reviewing the plan. We can be assured that we know much more about this plan than we did when it was written five years ago.

Working Lunch

Other. Kati Bremner said that her program, GC Family Services, has an emergency fund up to \$1200 for families with children that qualify. Kati works very hard in providing these services to those families and she should be praised for this. She makes the job easier with her hard work.

RETIREMENT: Celestino Sanchez, Agent in Charge, US Customs and Border Protection. Tino has been a wonderful participant in the LEPC and has made sure his staff has been actively involved with GCLEPC. Tino was given a utility bag from the LEPC; and the LEPC praised Tino for a great career with the US Customs & Border Protection. We thank Tino for all of his assistance in Border Protection in keeping Glacier County safe. Tino did make a speech but it took several hours and too long to print.

Meeting Adjourned - Next Meeting Date: October 27, 2011

