

CASS COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cass County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Chair – Manny DeLaRosa

Vice Chair- Jennifer Zordan

**LEPC Meeting Minutes
Meeting by Zoom and EOC
Minutes- Thursday, September 7th, 2023, 1:00 pm**

In Attendance:

Manny DeLaRosa - Emergency Management Office / **Thomas Ayers** - Department of Health and Human Services / **Ron Butts** - Cass County Sheriff's Office, Animal Control / **Donovan Thomas** - MI EGLE / **Julie Hartman** – Public Transportation / **Jen Robinson** – 911 Coordinator / **Angie Ramos**-Pokagon Emergency Management / **Scott Williams**- Behavioral Health / **Lonnie Fisher**-NWS N Indiana / **Donavon Thomas**-MI EGLE / **Erika Espeland**-Cass County GIS / **Becky Duckwall**-Cass County Medical Care Facility / **Evan Bresslar**-MEC

Call to Order – Time: 1:03pm

Presentation

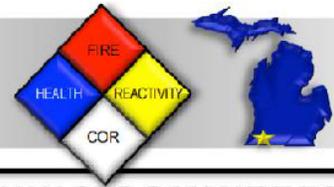
Lonnie Fisher from NWS Northern Indiana gave a presentation on their services, capabilities, and resources.

Review of Last Meeting Minutes

Minutes were reviewed by Manny. There were no questions or concerns.

Old Business

- Tier II Reports update
 - o The excel sheet tracking the submitted Tier II reports for 2022 was reviewed. No reports have been added since the last meeting.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
 - o A list was presented of the sections in the plan that have been updated since the last meeting. The section currently being updated is the State of Emergency Declarations, Federal and State.



CASS COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

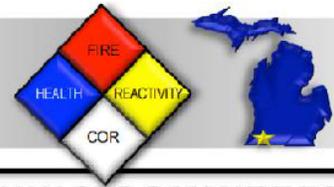
Cass County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

New Business

- HMEP Grant-Tier II Reporting system.
 - o Many mentioned the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant is available at the beginning of the year with a deadline of March 1st. Many mentioned this grant could be used for LEPC purposes.
- Table-Top Exercise-Severe Storm related.
 - o Many stated that he is planning on holding a Table-Top exercise around the end of January, beginning of February. He will send the official date once it is decided. The exercise will focus on a severe winter weather storm with a Local State of Emergency or Disaster for Cass County.

Round Table

- **Tom Ayers** - We have a new County Director at the Department of Health and Human Services. Chuck Rose has been our director for 6 to 7 years and he has been reassigned to a county up north. We learned today that our new director is Karen Marcath from Wayne County area. Start date unknown, should be within the next 2 weeks.
- **Evan Bresslar** - The Farm Bureau Insurance annual meeting here at their headquarters on Saturday. We will be doing a few things for them. We will be a demo and a display of our combines and tractors getting into our lines out back.
- **Jen Robinson**- New Dispatcher in training. We had a local ambulance service shut down. We are working on filling that gap.
- **Erika Espland**- Finishing up my drone certification. I Have one more class to complete at the end of September and then test for it. We will probably get more people in the GIS Department certified. We have a new employee starting who will be our Property Description Specialist, she does a lot of GIS Parcel mapping.
- **Angie Ramos**- Just finished the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Submitting it to council and getting it signed next week so she can forward it to FEMA. Once completed, will go back to updating and finishing their EOP. Working on EAPs as they are needed. Next year at the end of July it will be Pokagon's turn to host the gathering of the Potawatomi Nations. The 12 Potawatomi Nations between Canada and U.S. takes turns hosting the event. It will be another huge EOP, and it will take coordination from everyone in the area as we are expecting 3,000 to 6,000 people to attend between the reservation and usually one of the casinos. Locations have not been specified yet. It is a week-long event, and we are looking at the last week of July. Last year was in Calhoun County and there were 3 to 4 thousand people. They are currently developing their plan for upcoming



CASS COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cass County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

events and are inquiring about current EMS services and their coverage of the area. The Dispatch Coordinator will assist with working that out.

- **Donovan Thomas**- The Jackson District filled the Incident Manager position providing additional resources in the southern Michigan area.
- **Ron Butts**- Dog kennels are over capacity still, it's kind of been the new norm lately. With the mild winter that we had, we saw a bit of an increase with the parvo virus, and we were struck again for the fourth time. We are under partial lockdown and not accepting drop off/surrendered dogs currently. We are still impounding strays. We believe due to the economic challenges we are seeing an uptick in owner surrenders we are also seeing some nice dogs that should be reclaimed and are not. We have a veterinarian coming into the shelter at least once a week when staffing is available for conducting health checks on animals that we have taken in the week prior.
- **Lt. Josh Collins**- The Sault Saint Marie post was attacked yesterday morning. They may have identified the suspect and are in the process of conducting the search warrant. Hopefully we will have a resolution soon.

Next meeting

LEPC: November 2nd, 2023, Thursday @ 1pm

LPT: November 2nd, 2023, Thursday @ 1pm