

Carroll County Disaster Preparedness Group/Local Emergency Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2023

In attendance: Cpl. Jill Bankard (CCSO); John Dulina (MDEM); Valerie Hawkins (CC Emergency Management); Jacob Hill (CC Emergency Management); Richard Koons (CCVESA); Chris Letnaunchyn (DPW); Kathy Lowe (CCHD); Curtis Pierce (CCPS); Todd Staub (TEVIS); Marche-Taylor Templeton (BGE); Gina Valentine (DCS); Chris Winebrenner (PIO)

Meeting was called to order by Valerie Hawkins at 1:00 p.m. Attendees were welcomed. Quorum was met; therefore, Curtis Pierce made a motion to approve the November 2nd LEPC meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Kathy Lowe and the minutes were voted to be approved unanimously.

Regular elections of officers for the LEPC took place. Valerie Hawkins was the sole nominee for the Chairperson and was elected unanimously by the group members in attendance. Jacob Hill was the sole nominee for the Vice-Chair and was elected unanimously by the group. There were no nominees for the Recording Secretary position; this position will remain vacant at this time.

Agenda Items

LEPC Discussion

- Tier II Reporting season is currently underway
- Training Opportunities:
 - February 2023 Virtual Instructor-Led Training
 - L310 – Hurricane Readiness for Inland Communities (Thursday, March 30 @ Frederick Public Safety Training Facility)
 - MCAC Fusion Liaison Officer Training (Wednesday, March 1)
 - MCAC Threat Evaluation and Reporting Overview (Wednesday, February 22)

Emergency Management Report:

- Welcomed Brooke Brown, Emergency Management Intern from Career and Tech Center.
- FEMA has returned their comments/review regarding the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan (which was submitted to MDEM/FEMA on October 21, 2022). For many of the required revisions, FEMA is asking the county to expand upon existing sections of the Plan. FEMA has advised that updated requirements for Hazard Mitigation Plans will be going into effect in mid-April 2023; therefore, revisions will be prioritized this month to have the best chance of obtaining Approvable Pending Adoption (APA) status prior to the new requirements going into effect.
 - All planning efforts for various other plans have been paused due to the Hazard Mitigation Plan tight deadline for submission; planning efforts will resume once the HMP is submitted.
- Baltimore UASI's MSA risk score decreased from 26 to 27 for the FFY '23 HSGP grant cycle.
- The Emergency Management Planner Position closed on January 13th; all interviews will be scheduled for Tuesday, February 14 and Thursday, February 16th.
- The Emergency Management Readiness Technician Position is currently posted (will close on February 15).
- Provided a reminder to maintain vigilance and good cyber practices across all agencies.
- The 2023 MDEMA Scholarship Application is currently open; all applications must be submitted by Friday, April 7th for consideration.
- Grant Status:
 - Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for HSGP is expected to be released in late February.
 - FY '19 UASI funds have been spent and final close out is complete.
 - FY '19 SHSP is close to being closed out (3/31/23)
- Outreach:

- Currently developing outreach schedule.
 - Preparing for the Spring and Summer by stocking up on promotion and education items
- The County's Ready Guide is in the process of being updated.

MDEM Report:

- Sec. Strickland was reappointed to be the MDEM Secretary by Gov. Wes Moore.
- Bud Frank is the new Deputy Chief of Staff to Gov. Wes Moore.
- MD Center for School Safety (MCSS) is working on contact list updates.
- Provided a reminder that CISA can provide exercise assistance to jurisdictions.
- MD Mesonet project is currently in progress.
 - Goal: establish 12 weather observing towers throughout the State by the end of this year.
- Progress continues on the State Catastrophic Relief Fund.

Agency/Facility Updates:

BGE:

- Focused on increasing outreach efforts and expanding the outreach program.
- Working to schedule a meeting with all the emergency management offices within BGE's AOR.

CCHD:

- Reported that demand for both the COVID and Monkeypox vaccines have significantly decreased; however, CCHD is still administering to those eligible.
- Working with both Carroll Hospital and Carroll Lutheran village on planning efforts for the Alternate Care Site.

CCSO:

- N/A

CCPS:

- Continue to experience staffing shortages (teachers/substitutes/teaching assistants).
- Reported that threat landscape continues to grow (active assailants/Swatting calls/Bomb threats).
 - Continue to train staff to respond to different threats.
- Finalizing access control measures and ADA access compliance for many school facilities.
- The overhaul of the camera system continues; expect to be completed by the start of next school year.
- Continue to perform daily access checks.

CCVESA

- Reported that DFEMS is finalizing the hiring of Lieutenants, Shift Commanders – target start date is March 1st.
 - All supervisors will be stationed at the CCPSTC.

DCS

- Pandemic increases to SNAP benefits will be ending soon; DCS is working with DSS to address food security challenges because of the benefit decreases.
- Reviewing and revising the County food resources list; list will be posted for the public on both the DSS and DCS webpages.

DPW

- Preparing for Spring projects.
 - Reported that cost for materials continues to increase, which has limited the amount of projects.
- Dealing with winter weather as it appears.

PIO:

- Work on establishing the Community Communications Coordination Group continues; the tentative start date is scheduled for the end of March.

TEVIS:

- Tier II reporting is in progress.
- Looking to do an in-person facility orientation for local fire departments and law enforcement.

Other:

- Next DPG/LEPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:52 p.m.