**MEAGHER COUNTY LEPC**

Minutes October 12, 2010

@ Training Center

Attendance: Rick Seidlitz, Jess Secrest, Julian Theriault, Marc Hamlen, Nancy Schlepp, Otto Ohlson, Herb Townsend, Ben Hurwitz, Bj Hawkins, Kari Jo Kiff, Maebeth Seidlitz, Jon Lopp

Minutes from the last meeting were not available. Maebeth will get something typed up as many were away for an emergency.

Introduction to Nancy Schlepp as the new County Commissioner.

Community Education: There is a new website- lepc.meaghercounty.net. Rick would like articles to post and related links. He can also post daily updates during an incident. Rick is the only administrator of the site and can post items via his cell phone if necessary. It was suggested that Jon also be an administrator. The group discussed a community awareness plan, i.e. using PBS or a press release. It would be a good idea to monitor the traffic for usage of the site.

Jon also mentioned the Nixel system for emergency notifications and alerts. Anyone can sign up as a recipient of the messages and get them by text or email. They may be doing a pilot program with the school as a means of communication. It was suggested to put the registration link on the LEPC website.

There was a major over haul at the TV station to enable live messaging on programs. This can be done in a loop message or suspend the program. Bj does this manually.

Hazard Assessment: The status of the PDM plan is unchanged and is still being held up at the State level. The “rule sets” continue to change. This project was contracted out to Bruce Sernum. The CWPP (wild fire protection plan) was signed about 2-3 years ago. It needs to be reviewed about every 5 years and we are getting close to this time frame. It is always a good idea to start doing it a little bit at a time. Both the PDM and the CWPP are available for view on the website.

\*\*The EOP (emergency operations plan) is also due for review. This is on the web and *should* be reviewed by all members. Changes or suggestions can be brought to the next meeting.

Grants: Fire has received rejection letters on some of their grant proposals and are waiting to hear on others. There is a new fuels mitigation grant for next year.

Exercise & Design: The group needs to meet and review the new public health emergency preparedness grant to see what tasks are required this year.

Public Health: Kari Jo reported that flu season is beginning to kick-off. She is planning to start flu vaccines in the next couple of weeks, starting with the school employees. She also encourages all emergency service workers to get their flu shot. As mentioned, there is a new PHEP grant and she is hoping to have someone assist with the tasks of the grant this year.

County Commission: There was nothing to report.

City: The Mayor reported that they are working on the potholes in town. They are using the county equipment to use hot oil and hot asphalt and it seems to be working well. A major water leak was capped and it will need to be fixed later.

EMS: They have been busy with calls.

911 Dispatch: Maebeth reported that all equipment is in place. The new IT specialist for the Sheriff’s Office is Buddy Hanrahan. He will also serve as a back-up to the County IT (Jim McDanel).

Forest Service: An assessment of the Castles for future management is being done. An assessment of 800,000 acres of the Little Belts for the impact of the Mtn Pine Beetle will be done. They are assessing and exercising what we are doing with the dead and dying trees along the roadways. It will be complete next summer and then start taking action to prevent accidents.

Thursday, they are changing the frequencies on repeaters. The FS will be out of radio communication and will affect how the Sheriff’s Office and the FS communicate. They will need to use a SO frequency for emergencies.

They were just conducting a prescribed burn in the E. Neihart/Monarch and Decker Gulch area of about 1,000 acres. Operations are slowed because of rain. Overall, there has been slow fire activity.

City Fire: Otto reported that because of DEQ standards, they will lose bypass for emergency water, but will be able to kick on both pumps if needed.

County Fire: The trucks have been winterized. Three fires recently.

Sheriff’s Office: Jon gave an update on the “Ringling Dogs” and they have been taken to Helena via Humane Society. They will care for them and then distribute over the state. There were 2 dogs at large.

Aaron Blair is taking over for Gene Richeson on the community service for juvenile offenders program.

MMC had a drill on September 14th in the evening and it went well.

Adjournment: Jon made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Bj. Meeting adjourned at 1308.

Next meeting will be scheduled for January- this is an annual meeting.

Submitted by Kari Jo Kiff