



CUSTER COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

January 17, 2024

Custer County LEPC met at the Custer County EOC/Weatherford Fire Training Center, 1605 N Airport Rd, Weatherford, OK. The meeting was called to order by Michael Galloway, LEPC Chairman at 10:00 a.m. Sign in sheets were placed at the entrance to the meeting for all to sign.

Mr. Galloway began the meeting by having attendees introduce themselves and state the organization being represented.

Mr. Galloway introduced those attending to the Emergency Operations Center for Custer County which is located at 1605 N Airport Road, Weatherford. The EOC is shared by Custer County and Weatherford Emergency Management. The big advantage is its located close to I-40, near truck stops, hotels and restaurants that all have independent generators. The hope is to get the EOC on its own generator. Mike Karlin, Weatherford Fire Chief said that is in the works. Mr. Galloway stated that the exercise in May with the 63rd CST was one reason for creating a county EOC at the Weatherford site.

Sandy Settle and Peyton Barnett, ESF8 with the State Health Department stated that they are updating their plans which will be incorporated into the County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Sandy stated that Covid, flu and RSV are still active and handwashing and if sick, stay home. Kerry Stafford is in charge of the Region 1 HCC Readiness & Response Coordinator. There will be a meeting next week at the Woodward Technology Center for Emergency Room, EMS, Hospital and available to all emergency managers.

Mr. Galloway asked for any training upcoming. Mr. Galloway said the Emergency Management Conference will be in March 2024 at Durant. ESF - 12 Infrastructure training in February which will cover Explosives at facilities. There is training available at EMI – virtual as well as in person, Upper Management training is on the EMI campus. There will be Storm Spotter training by the National Weather Service in person in February – April at 6:30 p.m. This will also be available by webinar. This will help train for weather events, spotters and chasers. Every town has their own spotters and will activate storm sirens as necessary. In order to be rated Storm Ready, towns must have a written policy regarding when and how to operate the sirens. Mr. Galloway feels that there are many available alert options now – television, text alerts, etc. There will be a Northwest EM workshop April 2, 3, and 4 at Alva. There will be training for EMs and partners and will network all EMs in the northwest region. FEMA requires training in 300, 400 and 191 in order to receiving funding. February 16, 17, 18 there will be Wide Area Search training. Requires 20-25 for full class and would like many different ESFs to participate.

There will be school safety training in Elk City.

For the Whole Community Planning Group, Mr. Galloway stated that the ESF groups help with the County Hazard Mitigation plan. Mr. Galloway has conducted meetings with various groups and municipalities to work on the Hazard Mitigation plan. The Custer County Hazard Mitigation Plan is being updated through the State Office. Mr. Galloway is working with Lori Marshal from Yukon on the County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is the 3rd vendor to go through. Hopefully it will be completed in 2024. With the Hazard Mitigation Plan approved, this opens the for future mitigation grants. One goal is to have a generator for every city hall, fire department. Butler, Custer City, Thomas now have generators installed and can help the public as warming centers. Mr. Galloway spoke of using Outage Maps available on electric power websites for information on wind, ice and tornado generated power outages.

Mr. Galloway reported to the attendees that the Custer County 2020 Individual Safe Room program is in completion work. The final applicant has turned in his paperwork to complete this ISR. The paperwork has been forwarded to OEM to generate the applicant's reimbursement. Mr. Galloway stated that he has been given approval to include the remaining alternates. The money for this hasn't been processed, just the approval. There is already a list of people who want to be on the next Saferoom Grant.

Those attending were given a tour of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) by Weatherford Fire Chief, Mike Karlin. Chief Karlin explained the different availabilities of the EOC.

Mr. Galloway informed those attending of his plans to retire sometime in 2024. He's been involved in the LEPC Community Right to Know process for many years, starting with his work with Western Company and BJ Services. He stated that anyone could be the Chairman of the LEPC. The Chairman doesn't have to be a government employee, but someone with oilfield knowledge (due to chemical knowledge) would be very helpful. The Community Right to Know involves EPA and DEQ regulations for Tier II information. The Custer County LEPC will need to be looking for its officers – Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Mike Karlin stated that he hoped that the Committee and Board of County Commissioners are aware of the knowledge that will be lost when Mr. Galloway retires. Mr. Galloway stated that he lives by the Boy Scout moto – Leave the campsite better than when you found it.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.



Michael Galloway LEPC Chair

The meeting dates for 2024 are as follows: January 17th, April 17th, July 17th, and October 16th. If you cannot attend, please send a representative.