



LEPC Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
August 18th, 2020
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Laurie Boston, Gem Co. EM
Bill Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioner
Liz Gochmour, LEPC Secretary
Jason Kinley, Mosquito Abatement
Bev Martin, Sheriff’s Posse/
Fire Dist. #2
Steve Nebeker, Emmett City
Councilman
Lynsie Vickery, Emmett Fire Dept.
Craig Woods, Emmett Schools

Jay Breidenbach, National Weather Service
Elbia Christensen, EOC Logistics
Tahja Jensen, Prosecutor’s Office
Steve Kunka, Emmett Police
Len McCaulou, Gem County EMS
Dale Mock, Gem Co. Sheriff’s Posse
Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor
Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner
Terry Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health
Donnie Wunder, Gem Co. Sheriff

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Gem County Local Emergency Planning Committee is an organized gathering of community members, response agencies, organizations, and public officials, sanctioned by Congress to work together prior to any emergency, natural or man-made disaster, or hazardous material incident, in an attempt to improve planning, response, and coordination as well as the mutual understanding of capabilities and resources to the situation.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Gem County Local Emergency Planning Committee is to enhance capabilities in order to successfully mitigate, respond to, and recover from emergency situations in Gem Co community.

Meeting called to order Laurie Boston at 8:31a.m.

Approval of July 21st minutes:

- Motion to approve July minutes after grammatical errors are corrected by Gordon Petrie. Second by Dale Mock.

Emmett School District Re-Opening Plan – Superintendent Craig Woods:

- Emmett School District has worked over the summer for their re-opening plan. Direction from the State Board of Education came mid-July. There are 4 categories, Green – Red. Green: Low to No Community Spread. Traditional school. Yellow: Minimal Community Spread. School buildings open with guidance. Orange: Moderate Spread. Distance Learning and Face to Face Instruction. Masks mandated when social distancing is not possible for more than 15 minutes. Red: Substantial Spread. School closures and distance learning. Plans were put together so that moving in and out of phases would be as fluid as possible with very little disruption to students.
- The first day of school will be August 31st. Emmett Schools will start in Orange for two weeks with the hope that they can transition to Yellow after the two weeks. In Orange: Staff and students will be required to wear masks when social distancing cannot be achieved or for more than 15 minutes. K – 5 students will be in school all day, every day with masks worn when necessary. 6 – 12 students will be on a hybrid schedule, going to school every other day. They will be split to A and B days based on their last names. Their off days will be an independent learning day, finishing homework and

preparing for the next day's classes. Lunches will be provided on each day to all students. The students that are off can come to the school to receive lunch at a different time than the students that are on campus.

- Emmett Remote Academy was opened as an alternative for students to attend school remotely. Almost 300 students have enrolled. This is be an alternative if students do not want to return to the schools.
- School boundary lines were updated to transition 5th graders out of the Middle School. Carberry 5th graders will now be at Carberry. Butte View was re-designed to include Kindergarten and 1st grade with plans to keep the 1st graders as 2nd graders for next year. There will be two Kindergarten classes and two 1st grade classes. The building has been designed to separate the K-1st graders from the older students at Black Canyon and the District Offices. There are plans to have separate primary and intermediate playgrounds. Future plans will be to transition the building back to an Elementary school.
- Fall sports practices have started. The first football game will be August 27th at Homedale. The orange category does not allow for visitors at games. Only coaching staff and students participating in the game will be allowed. The Idaho Highschool Association will be live streaming the games at a cost of \$5 a game to help make up some of the revenue lost due to the loss of spectators. The Yellow category will allow fans to attend the games. The Boise and Nampa school districts are still working on their schedules. Weiser will be the next game after Homedale. The Emmett school district is trying to have a full schedule for sports.
- Ola Schools received a \$200,000 grant last week which puts the total at \$270,000 after donations and a matching of up to \$50,000 from the school district. The construction teams, Beniton Construction and Design West assessed the school and put together a phased construction plan in early summer. Superintendent Woods and School Board Chair Hoss White will meet with the construction teams next week at the Ola School to discuss the construction process and options. As the building has set without water flow, the pumps for the well have filled with sand. They will need to flush the sand out to try and get the well clear again hoping they do not have to put in another well. Classes will still be held at the Ola Community Center for this school year. Students K-5 will attend all day, every day M-F. Students grades 6-12 will be alternating days.
- All plans will be approved by the school board at each transition. Superintendent Woods meets weekly with Valor Health and Southwest District Health. Press releases will be distributed stating trends and predicted transitions into the different categories.

COVID-19 Update:

- **Donnie Wunder, Gem County Sherriff & Jail:** Daily temperature checks are being taken at the jail. No new offenders are being taken into custody unless it is a serious offense. For warrants, they are signing a document for offenders to appear before the magistrate. Activity at Black Canyon Reservoir and other water entry areas have been very busy.
- **Laurie Boston, Gem County Emergency Management:** Gem County remains in a red health alert per Southwest District Health. There are 195 confirmed and probable cases as of 8/17/2020, 6 of those were reported Yesterday. Cases are in the Long-Term Care Facilities. Malheur County has moved back into Stage 1 due to the amount of new cases. Currently they have the 3rd highest rate of cases in Oregon. Gem County has had a 13.5% positivity rate over the last 30 days. Valor Health has reported an increase in Emergency and Quick Care visits over the weekend. Governor Little will be having a news conference on Friday to talk about whether or not Idaho will stay in Stage 4. Gem County Recreation Department is planning to have youth soccer this Fall. Reminder to take extra precautions

and practice social distancing. Wear a mask in public places, wash your hands, and sanitize commonly touched surfaces.

- **Bill Buttici, Gem County Commissioners:** The Commissioners have extended the disaster declaration until December 31st for Gem County. This will be the longest time frame that Gem County has been in a disaster. One County employee has been exposed but tested negative. There have been no positive cases for the County. The Gem County Sports Complex (The Island) is currently closed to out-of-town activities.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** City employees are practicing social distancing, washing their hands frequently and sanitizing all the time.
- **Len McCaulou, Gem County EMS:** EMS is averaging 5.5 calls per day and are at 100 calls so far this month. They continue to be busy. Three staff have tested positive, two returned to work last week and one is expected to return tomorrow. They are sanitizing between each patient and have a sprayer to decontaminate the ambulances. They are still able to get small amounts of PPE to maintain their supply.

Public Comments: No public comments at this time.

General Reports:

- **Chief Kunka, Emmett Police:** There is a road closure on Johns for construction with upcoming plans in the area for the rest of the year. Emmett Police and Gem County Sherriff have been in training and entering data into the new Motorola dispatching/mapping system going into effect next year.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** The road construction along John's is currently between 4th and 6th streets and will be moving down to 12th street to create a new corridor. There will be sidewalks and bike lanes all the way down John's to improve safety. They are hoping to have this work done before winter.
- **Tahja Jensen, Gem County:** The County is still looking for a Zoning Commissioner. Applications can be obtained from the County Clerk.
- **Terry Wilson, Southwest District Health:** SWDH has put in almost 25,000 hours for COVID. Large mass gatherings have been coming into the SWDH counties from Washington and Ada counties due to their current restrictions. They have reached out to larger venues to make sure they are complying with precautions. SWDH is also working with Hispanic and homeless populations to educate about precautions and hygiene. They are working with Emergency Managers to start pre-planning for closed pod activities and setting up Tiers for the vaccine (when available). Tier 1 will include first responders: EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, etc. Continue to take precautions: wear masks, sanitize, social distance, stay home if sick, etc.
- **Dale Mock, Sherriff's Posse:** Two Posse leaders have been exposed so they have suspended activities and services until their quarantine is completed.
- **Bev Matin, Fire District #2:** Fire #2 Chief Jim Heikes has canceled fire trainings in order to maintain social distancing and to try to keep staff healthy and available in case of an event. There is concern due to weather conditions for lightening strikes.
- **Jay Breidenbach, Nation Weather Service:** There is an excessive heat warning with two more days of 10 – 15 degrees hotter than normal. Isolated thunderstorms will be in the area with concern for gusty winds and lightning strikes. Above normal temperatures will continue into the first few days into September.
- **Jason Kinley, Mosquito Abatement:** Mosquito season is rocking and rolling right now. This past June was the wettest June in history for Gem County. The combination of water and heat has created a substantial amount of mosquito activity. The amount of winds from the West increased the amount of mosquitos from neighboring counties. West Nile has been detected in Gem County. Activity in

Emmett has increased from the last couple of years and not as much in Montour and Sweet. No human or equine West Nile cases have been reported in Gem County. They are continuing to treat with fogging vehicles and other equipment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 am. Jason Kinley moved to adjourn. Steve Kunka seconded the motion.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15th at 8:30 am. Direction will be provided at a later date on whether the meeting will be in person or remote.