



Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
March 15th, 2022
Meeting Minutes

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.

In Attendance:

Laurie Boston, Gem Co. EM
Bill Buttici, Gem Co. Commissioner
Quincy Chung, US Forest Service
Shauna Davis, Emmett School Dist.
Rob Feeley, Idaho Office of
Emergency Management
Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor
Steve Kunka, Emmett Police Dept.
Joe Mayer, Member of the Public
Jessica McBride, 101st WMD CST
Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor
Dave Timony, Gem Co. Sheriff
TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health

Jay Breidenbach, National Weather Service
Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist.
Mike Clements, EOP Contractor – Easy
Emergency Mtg. Solutions
Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary
Ryan Hale, Emmett Stake Church of
Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff’s Posse/
Fire Dist. #2
Dale Mock, Gem Co. Sheriff’s Posse
Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner
Barbara Weber, American Red Cross

Meeting called to order by Dave Timony at 8:30a.m.

Approval of February 15th, 2022 Minutes:

- Motion to approve February 15th, 2022 minutes as written by Chief Kunka. 2nd by Bev Martin. Motion passes.

Spring Weather Preview – Jay Breidenbach, National Weather Services:

- Season in Review: From October 1st through September 31st temperatures have basically stayed in the normal zone. There were cold snaps at the beginning of January, the end of February, and mid-March. There was above normal precipitation until about January 6th. We are currently at 5.71 inches of precipitation, but should be at about 7 inches this time of year.
- Reservoir Situation: Deadwood Summit - below normal snow pack at 42%. Van Wyck Snotel - has already started to melt off. Payette Basin – sitting at 81% snow back. Cascade – sits at 59% full. There is plenty of space to fill.
- Drought Situation: A big portion of the United States is being affected by drought. Most of the Midwest, including Gem County, is experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions. If we go into the summer with the current drought situation it could mean another significant fire season.
- Spring 2022 Outlook: The impact of LaNina conditions is diminishing causing below normal precipitation pattern for the months of April, May, and June. Gem County is right on the line between equal chances of a below normal pattern for the Pacific Northwest and above normal pattern over most of the rest of the Country.

- Current Weather Forecast: There is an active pattern right now from Northern California going into Oregon and Idaho. We should get ¼” to ½” of rain in Gem County and up to a foot of new snow above 6000 feet. There should be normal temperatures during the week and more rain into the weekend.

Special Events Permit – Commissioner Bill Butticci:

- The County has created a special use permit for The Gem County Sports Complex “The Island”. Chuck Shambaugh will be the overseer of the permits and will coordinate with the Rec District to make sure there are no conflicts in the schedule. The permit is on the Gem County website. For any large event, it will cover additional port-a-pots, insurance riders, traffic control, notifying first responders, etc. Waiver requests will have to be presented to the Commissioners. There is a sign off sheet on the last page to get approval from the agencies. The applicant will be responsible to get the signatures. Agencies should bring up concerns to the applicant at the time of the request. If concerns cannot be resolved, the application will be denied. There is also a section available for comments or contingencies that will be presented to the Commissioners. There is a 45-day window to get the application processed. Reach out to the Commissioners or Chuck Shambaugh for questions.

Public Comments:

- **Joe Mayer:** “60 Minutes” had a segment titled “The Grid” on Feb. 27th that was about problems with the National electrical grid. Maybe we could have someone from Idaho Power be a speaker at a future meeting to speak about it. Laurie has the link if anyone would like to watch the segment. Laurie: Chief Christensen has been in contact with someone and we are working on it for a future presentation.

General Reports:

- **Rob Feeley, Idaho Office of Emergency Management:** The Governor will be ending the State Emergency Declaration associated with the COVID response. IOEM is working with about 500 additional healthcare workers that were contracted with healthcare facilities throughout the state to transition out of those roles. Organizations have until June 30th to seek 100% reimbursement on expenses occurred due to COVID. After June 30th, it will transition to a 90/10% split.
- **TJ Wilson, Southwest District Health:** SWDH is changing their COVID response. They are doing a small amount of testing and trying to arrange strike teams for vaccinations. They are working with all their partners to get things done. They are trying to resume back to normal and seeing lower case rates. N95 masks are available for any partners that need them.
- **Barbara Weber, American Red Cross:** The Red Cross is working on preparedness education and smoke alarm installation. They are also preparing for the upcoming fire season response.
- **Mark Rekow, Gem County Commissioners:** Gem County will end their Disaster Declaration at the end of the month. There will be a workshop at Carberry Elementary from 6pm – 8pm tonight for the Comprehensive Plan. There were 4600 mailers sent out, flyers distributed, and published in the newspaper. Progress continues to be made on the grand stand canopy at the Fairgrounds. They continue to address land use matters.
- **Dale Mock, Gem County Sheriff’s Posse:** The Gem County Posse will be going to the Washington Co. Fire Department in Payette for Man Tracking training tonight at 7pm.
- **Tahja Jensen, Gem County Prosecutor:** Court is back in session and scheduling trials as well as arraignment sentencing in person.
- **Bev Martin, Gem County Fire District #2:** Fire #2 is starting to see fires from burning ditches and fire lines get out of control. They are working on preparedness.

- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** The City of Emmett has completed their public meetings for their Comprehensive Plan. The City begins their budget process today.
- **Chief Kunka: Emmett City Police:** The speed limit has been changed on Johns to 20mph. More signs will be added and the radar trailer will be put out.
- **Chief Christensen, City Fire:** City Fire hosted a 2-day hazmat training that incorporated Gem County Fire. They also provided a couple trainers to the Snake River Chiefs Association (a consortium of 28 departments) for a training called “Forcing Doors”. The City approved getting new regulators so that each fire-fighter will have their own regulator. The Idaho Fire Chiefs Association has been working on bill S1283 for the last 6 years. It adds to existing law to establish provisions regarding supplemental Medicaid reimbursement for ground emergency medical transportation. It was introduced on Feb 9th, 2022, passed in the Senate on Feb 24th, 2022, passed in the House on March 10th, 2022, and signed into law on March 18th, 2022.
- **Laurie Boston, Gem Co. Emergency Management:** The Board of County Commissioners are going to lapse the Gem County Emergency Declaration as of March 31st. The States declaration will lapse on April 15th. The positivity rate for Region 3 for Feb 27th – March 5th is 2.90% and Valor Health reported 3.45% from March 7th – March 14th, which is below the goal of below 5%.

Motion to adjourn by Mayor Petrie. 2nd by Chief Kunka. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 am.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th at 8:30 am. Direction will be provided at a later date on whether the meeting will be in person or remote.