



Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
June 21st, 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:

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| Laurie Boston, Gem Co. EM | Bill Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioner |
| Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist. | Mike Clements, EOP Contractor – Easy
Emergency Mtg. Solutions |
| Bryan Elliott, Gem Co. Commissioner | Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary |
| Jeremy Elliott, State Communications | Cody Johns, Gem Co. Mosquito
Abatement |
| Ryan Hale, Emmett Stake Church of
Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints | Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff’s Posse/
Fire Dist. #2 |
| Steve Kunka, Emmett Police Dept. | Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner |
| Joe Mayer, Member of the Public | TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health |
| Janet Monti, Friendship Coalition | |
| Margaret Romiti, Valor Health | |

Meeting called to order by Curt Christensen at 8:30a.m.

Approval of May 21st, 2022 Minutes:

- Motion to approve May 21st, 2022 minutes as written by Bev Martin. 2nd by Ryan Hale. Motion passes.

Gem County Mosquito Abatement District Update – Cody Johns, Manager:

- Cody has been with Mosquito Abatement since 2016. He replaces Jason Kinley, who is now selling the products they use and is part-owner of a landscaping business out of Nampa.
- Growth in the area has also increased their treatment area. Cody’s plans include more drone usage for scouting/treatment and increasing public outreach via Facebook and their website to help curb the mosquito population.
- They have increased their wages and are hiring for a day crew position. The night crew is fully staffed and operational.
- The drone is 6 feet across and can drop 25lbs of product in 2 minutes and 45 seconds. Drone use will cut down on the treatment time from 45 minutes to 3 minutes and cut down on property wear and tear from the four-wheeler. Is has live video capability only, no image capture capabilities. They have flyers about the drone use that have been handed out and Cody will answer any questions after he is done operating the drone. Cody is a licensed drone operator.
- The fogging trucks will continue treatment at night. The drone will not replace the trucks at this time.
- No West Nile has been detected in Gem County at this time. Trap numbers have been low, but with high temperatures coming up there will be a jump in the mosquito numbers.

Public Comments:

- **Chief Christensen:** This is Laurie's last LEPC meeting as Gem County's Emergency Manager. She will be retiring on June 30th. She has been Emergency Manager for 5 years. Thank you for getting us through COVID and bringing in "hundreds of thousands" in Grant funds.
- **Laurie Boston:** Thank you for the privilege of working with all of you. There has not been a replacement hired as of yet. I will be here to continue working on Grants, being on the CISM team, and will be available to the new Emergency Manager to help as needed.

General Reports:

- **TJ Wilson, Southwest District Health:** SWDH is keeping an eye on COVID with numbers having gone up a little bit. They had a West Nile table top and are working with Mosquito Abatement districts for tips to the public.
- **Bill Butticci, Gem County Commissioners:** The backup systems for Dispatch are up and running after over a year of work. The Opioid Committee has officially been put into place. They are waiting for the settlement funds before having their first meeting.
- **Laurie Boston, Gem Co. Emergency Management:** It was a tough week with the accidental drowning in the Payette River. Thank you to First Responders, Incident Command staff, and volunteers that put in 16-hour days. Special thanks to Sherriff's Posse, Janet Monti and Daniel Bryce with the Friendship Coalition, Symone Calderon, Ryan Hale, the LDS Ladies, the Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, Lily at Tom's Cabin, Arctic Circle, Emmett Fire, and Mountain West Building Supply. Please stay out of the water when conditions are like this and always wear your life jackets. After June 30th, Laurie will still respond to emails and will continue to have her phone to pass on messages. Mike Clements is here to update officials on the Emergency Operations Plan and the Gem County Dashboard.
- **Chief Kunka, Emmett City Police:** Thanks to The Chamber of Commerce who were asked to make a lot of changes to help make the Cherry Festival successful. The one-way streets were more successful on day 3, but days 1 and 2 were a challenge. The emergency entrance to the park and the pathway to the Hospital with John's being one-way worked well. There was a shuttle service from the Fairgrounds to the City Park. It was used more than they had expected with some people walking rather than waiting. Full-sized school buses were used and they could have used 2 or 3 more. Please send communication to Chief Kunka on what worked and didn't work to help make improvements.
- **Chief Christensen, Emmett City Fire:** The work that everyone put in to make the Cherry Festival as safe as it could be was incredible. There was an EAP (Emergency Action Plan) put into place by City Fire in case of an emergency situation. Luckily there was no need to use the EAP this year and a few situations were able to be mitigated before a more serious situation happened. The Fire Department's Color Guard participated in a Flag Day celebration at Bowman Park with the DAR and the SAR. The Fire Department has put a sign with a river warning message. There has been a lot of vegetation growth due to the rain we have received. The Fire Department is pushing to get the public to start trimming and cutting down growth around their homes.
- **Bev Martin, Fire #2:** Fire #2 held an extrication exercise to get more familiar with their extrication tools. They are now more proficient after the hands-on use and practice.
- **Janet Monti, Friendship Coalition:** (via email) The Friendship Coalition was glad to help with food for those searching for Everett on the Payette. Please contact us should a similar situation occur.

Discussion on July 2022 Meeting:

- **Laurie Boston:** I propose to not have a July 2022 meeting so that the new Emergency Manager has time to learn the position.
- **Chief Christensen:** A lot of things are happening in July and I can help out as much as possible.

- **Bill Butticci:** We should plan on having a meeting in July. We can have Curt, as chair, run the meeting and set up a zoom meeting or coordinate later. It would be a good time to introduce the new Emergency Manager.
- **Chief Kunka:** I would like to keep the July meeting. We still have our two Chairs to facilitate the meeting.
- **Laurie Boston:** You will just need to find a speaker.

Motion to adjourn by TJ Wilson. 2nd by Bev Martin. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 am.

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