



Gem County LEPC  
 October 18<sup>th</sup>, 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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| Ricky Bowman, Southwest Dist. Health         | Bill Buttici, Gem Co. Commissioners               |
| Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist.          | Quincy Chung, US Forest Service                   |
| Mike Darling, Emmett Police Dept.            | Rob Feeley, Idaho Office of Emergency Management  |
| Chaz Fredrickson, US Army Corps of Engineers | Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary                      |
| Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor             | Steve Kunka, Emmett Police Dept.                  |
| Troy Lindquist, National Weather Service     | Joe Mayer, Member of the Public Management        |
| Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioners            | Lorrie Pahl, Idaho Office of Emergency Management |
| Margaret Romiti, Valor Health                | Lisa Resinkin, Gem Co. Dispatch                   |
| Clint Seamons, Emmett Public Works           | Dave Timony, Gem Co. Sheriff                      |
| Jeff Ulmer, Gem Co. Emergency Mgr.           | Barbara Weber, American Red Cross                 |
| Rick Welch, Gem Co. Fire/EMS                 |   |

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

**Approval of September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Minutes:**

- **Chief Christensen:** I have a few amendments: The \$7000 from the license plate sales was \$3500 to Emmett Fire and \$3500 to Gem County Fire District #1. The Idaho Fire Chiefs is filing an AMICUS Brief supporting the actions regarding the Lincoln Co. fire.
- Motion to approve September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 minutes as amended by Dave Timony. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Ulmer. Motion passes, minutes approved as amended.

**Chaz Fredrickson, Planner/Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers, Flood Plain, and Silver Jackets:**

- Before working for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Chaz was an Air Force civil engineer officer and worked for the Idaho Transportation Department. She was given a project to work on the Gem County Flood Plain management plan.
- We have been given some money to work on the Gem County Flood Plain management plan. What are some of your needs or accomplishments you would like to see in this?
- **Clint Seamons:** Public Works examines the levy and gets reports from the Army Corps. Brian is our flood plain manager and we work closely to make sure we are in compliance.
- The Idaho Silver Jackets is a program that was created after Hurricane Katrina. It is a state level program that tried to be more proactive rather than reactive. It serves as a catalyst in developing comprehensive and sustainable solutions to flood hazard issues, including mitigation planning, flood hazard mapping, risk reduction activities, and response and recovery planning. This allows agencies to better communicate more efficiently. Each Silver Jackets team is specific to their own state and includes agencies such as

EPA, USGS, NOAA, etc. They meet about every other month to discuss items related to flood plain management.

- **Commissioner Butticci:** Gem County has just gone through the long process of re-doing the maps and made amendments to the ordinance to allow some building in the flood way, flood plain. Jennifer Kharri is the Gem County Flood Plain manager. One of our biggest obstacles is the Gem Sports Island, which is in the flood way, flood plain. The engineering costs prevent any projects being done there to add to it.
- **Tahja Jensen:** Flooding seems to be thought about in February and March in a reactionary way. The County is working through their flood plain ordinance to get it updated. We look forward to working with you, Chaz.

### **LEPC By-Laws:**

- **Curt Christensen:** The proposed by-laws have been up for review for about a month. I asked Jeff if he has had anyone reach out to him and he said no one has so I will open it up to the group now for any amendments.
- **Bill Butticci:** Can we change “Armory” to “National Guard” under Article 1, Members?
- **Tahja Jensen:** Clarifying makes perfect sense. I do believe Mr. Ulmer received some written comments via email from Mr. Mayer.
- **Joe Mayer:** I haven’t gotten a reply to my comments/questions so I purpose that we do not accept the by-laws until I get a response.
- **Curt Christensen:** Tahja, since Joe is a member of the public would we hold until his questions are answered?
- **Tahja Jensen:** If the LEPC members feel that they have had an opportunity to review the information that Mr. Mayer has presented to the extent that it requires a response, that is up to the members. The presented by-laws vary very little to the originally adopted by-laws with the creation of an Executive Committee. Members of the public are always welcome, but in terms of who dictates what goes on the agenda that is, solely as written in the by-laws, an Executive function. What this committee needs to be addressing is to be set by the Executive Committee.
- **Commissioner Butticci:** I would be in favor of moving forward with the by-laws.
- **Curt Christensen:** The motion that I would entertain is that we accept the by-laws as amended that we change “Armory” to “National Guard”. Motion to approve purposed by-laws as amended by Commissioner Butticci. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chief Kunka. Motion passes.
- **Barbara Weber:** Is the Red Cross contained under the VOAD category? Can we add VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) to the member list?
- **Curt Christensen:** We will make a reasonable accommodation. Commissioner Butticci would like to amend his motion to include VOAD to the amendment with National Guard under Article 1, Members. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chief Kunka amended to include VOAD to the amendment with National Guard. Re-vote taken to approve purposed by-laws as amended to include VOAD and National Guard. Motion passes.

### **Public Comments:**

- **Joe Mayer:** I purpose that if this LEPC wants more public involvement I suggest answering those questions.
- **Curt Christensen:** I will make sure that between Jeff, Dave, and myself we will look at that and respond accordingly.

## General Reports:

- **Quincy Chung, US Forest Service:** The Forest Service is wrapping things up with all fire suppression crews back. They will try to do some broadcast burning depending on weather. They are seeing some hunter fires so if you see anyone out please make sure they are checking their fires.
- **Troy Lindquist, Nation Weather Service:** They are looking at a big weather pattern change with a cold front at the end of the week. It looks like with the colder temperatures we should have some snow in the higher elevations.
- **Rob Feeley, Idaho Office of Emergency Management:** They are wrapping up the books on costs from fires that had disaster declarations.
- **Ricky Bowman, Southwest District Health:** They are monitoring this upcoming flu season and working with their partners to make sure their high-risk populations are protected. They have not seen high flu numbers yet. They are working on their policy reviews and the on-going syphilis outbreak.
- **Lorrie Pahl, Idaho Office of Emergency Management:** Start thinking about updating your state plan.
- **Bill Buttici, Gem County Commissioners:** They had their second opioid recommendation meeting for the funds from the opioid settlement. There will be a new defense attorney coming on at the first of the month. Road and Bridge has been very busy trying to keep up with the roads due to hunting season and ATV use.
- **Dave Timony, Gem County Sherriff's Office:** Added patrols have been added for hunter season addressing all issues with ATV/UTV's. Law Enforcement/EMS/Fire will be having their trunk or treat on Halloween in the lot East of the Station #1 building.
- **Jeff Ulmer, Gem County Emergency Manager:** Jeff has been attending a few weeks of trainings and seminars related to Emergency Management. He has been working on the flood plain and helping the IT Department with emergency planning and cyber security. Check the County website for updates on weather, disaster, fire, hydrology, etc. under the Emergency Operations Management section.
- **Chief Welch, Gem County Fire/EMS #1:** Hunter season has brought out the UTVs to the hillside needed rescue. They had 31 calls out last month. They were awarded two grants from AFG. The grant for a new ladder truck was for \$900,000 with a match of \$90,000 and a grant for new hoses and nozzles for \$59,000.
- **Chief Kunka, Emmett City Police:** During the month of October, the Police Department goes to the elementary schools and teach kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Stranger Danger and Law Enforcement Education. The First Responders also participate in the Truck or Treat at Shadow Butte Elementary on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Officer Leatherman has been very busy teaching CRASE training. The school SRO will also be available during the school's parent teacher conferences. They will have extra staff on shift during the Jelly Roll concert on Friday at Stoney's Roadhouse who are expecting close to 5000 people.
- **Chief Christensen, Emmett City Fire:** They have been working on mitigation to make sure all the events can be done safely. They have also been doing repairs to their 1932 fire engine ready for Santa Through Town. They have been doing public education and are still waiting to hear about their AFG grants.
- **Mike Darling, Emmett Police Department:** They will be participating in National Take Back Day for prescription medications on October 29<sup>th</sup> in the parking lot behind City Hall.
- **Margaret Romiti, Valor Health:** They have started CRASE training with Officer Leatherman. He has been training with reception staff and will be doing a presentation during their tabletop exercise on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. The tabletop exercise will address scenarios for each facility on the Valor Health campus. They have fully staffed for the Jelly Roll concert with an extra floater.
- **Barbara Weber, American Red Cross:** They are pushing to increase awareness for their Emergency Preparedness programs for all age groups.

Motion to adjourn by Chief Kunka. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chief Welch. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 am.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Direction will be provided at a later date on whether the meeting will be in person or remote.