

Richland County Emergency Management

Committee Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2018 at 11:00am

Attendance: Kerry Severson; Marty Brewer; Jeanetta Kirkpatrick; Darin Gudgeon

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:33am.
2. The agenda was posted and notification was given. The agenda was approved.
3. Brewer made a motion to approve the last meetings minutes, seconded by Kirkpatrick. Minutes were approved.
4. Gudgeon gave the committee an update on the flood events since the last meeting. Viola has set a new flood of record at about 24 feet. This caused a lot of damage to properties. Initially, the Village was going to be included in Vernon County's numbers, as Richland County sustained very little damage outside the Village. However, due to damages from the second wave of storms and flooding, Viola will now file through Richland County. Early estimates for Richland County put damages to primary residences at over \$1,000,000.00. There are also three businesses that have reported damage. About \$250,000 worth of damage has been estimated for road damages, though this number is expected to increase. Richland County will be included in FEMA's predeclaration, and it is anticipated that FEMA will visit the County as early as September 25 or as late as September 27<sup>th</sup>. The total estimate of damages to the County has not been calculated at this time. There was a shelter open for 2 ½ days with 13 people utilizing it; many were from Richland Center. At this time, documents are being compiled and prepared by the impacted townships for FEMA's visit. There are four known houses that are at this time considered not habitable; these are located in Richland, Rockbridge, and Viola. The EOC was open for nine days, though it was typically open from only 6:30am to 10pm or midnight. Gudgeon has reached out to the Highway and Fairgrounds for damage assessments and estimates. Documentation needs to be ready and turned in to the State and FEMA by September 21<sup>st</sup>. Any storm damages between August 17<sup>th</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup> are eligible. The State has also made additional funds available to help with eligible properties; such information has been forwarded on to Viola. Gudgeon is also talking with SWCAP about potential assistance. Health and Human Services proved to be a good partner through work on the emergency shelter and the relief center at the Rockbridge school. County Board members Kerry Severson and Brad Wegner also had come in and assisted with the response. Gudgeon identified some items that could be addressed in future revisions to the County's EOP to ensure the process is smoother in the future. He stated that he attempted several times to communicate with Yuba however, he only received one call back stating that there were no needs in Yuba. Therefore, the plans to split resources between Rockbridge and Yuba were amended and all resources when to Rockbridge. Gudgeon also stated that the current contract for CDBG may be eligible for additional fund, but the split between business and residence needs to be considered first. He stated that he may be calling for a future meeting to address this.

5. The budget proposal was overviewed for Emergency Management and the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC). For Emergency Management, the only revenue stream is State Aid for Emergency Government. Gudgeon stated he used the numbers provided to him for health insurance from the Clerk's office. Kirkpatrick stated that there is a 10% increase that needs to be added in. It was noted and will be adjusted. Gudgeon stated that he included in the budget a 14hr/wk (or 2day/wk) part-time position as there has proven to be a need. With the frequency of flood events, there has been a burden placed on Ambulance staff to assist. Gudgeon stated that he would not ask for help if he did not need it. There is work that could be done that has not been able to be considered due to the lack of help. The position would only be eligible for life insurance and retirement and would start out at the lowest pay scale, which would increase the budget by about \$10,500.00. Finally, it was noted that the HRA was not included, which Gudgeon was working on tracking down. He believes it may have been moved to the Ambulance.

The LEPC budget would be funded by two grants. There is also a section for Homeland Security grants, however there is no anticipation for any at this time. If such a grant was to be given to the County, it would match the cost of the project requesting it. The Hazard Mitigation grant is only a 5-year grant cycle, which does not land on this budget year. Expenditures for LEPC are estimated to be the same except for the match to go to the Hazardous Materials team as laid out in the contract with them.

Kirkpatrick made a motion to send the proposed budget with discussed changes to the Finance and Personnel Committee, seconded by Brewer. Motion carried.

6. The next meeting is scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm to review the Plan of Work.
7. Brewer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kirkpatrick. The meeting adjourned at 12:17pm.