

**SEWARD COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Regular Monthly Meeting
February 23rd, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Greg Standard at 9:30 am.

Those in attendance:

**Greg Standard
Melissa Parker
Rusty B
Lisa Macius
Chad Mease
Rick Richardson**

**Gregg Freelove
Andrea Nix
Skeety Poulton
Alicia Hildago
Yazmin Moreno
Robert Chaffin**

**Leslie Bissell
Eli Svaty
John Ralston
Ryan Roehr
Brian Fornwalt**

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2020 by Gregg Freelove, second by Chad Mease. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Gregg Freelove and seconded by Chad Mease to approve the Agenda for today's meeting. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Radio System Update

Greg Standard reported that the radio tower is complete but we are experiencing building coverage issues in a few locations. Some agencies will need a technician to resolve programming issues. Waiting for Mobile Radio Service to come back and fix these issues. John Ralston added, old mobile radios and handhelds still need to be returned for redistribution.

EOP Review and Upgrade

Due to computer and projector malfunction, it was agreed that ESF's would be emailed out to the group to be reviewed and approved at the March meeting.

COVID 19 Update

Greg Standard reported the positivity status of the county is better than we hoped for at the moment. Citizens are being more careful and vaccination is underway. Vaccination POD's are limited by number of vaccines we get from the state, we are seeing success in the Mass POD's and citizens are able to get through the entire process at about 30 minutes.

Isolation/Quarantine sites have been maintained through the state. They have helped hotels stay open by renting the entire hotel for those who need to isolate/quarantine. They also care for their needs and provide meals three times a day.

Testing John reported they have been open for almost a year. They are open 7 days a week. He is seeing decline in use lately 10-15 a day. The rapid test reports a good footprint of where our community is at. SCCC is running random tests to help keep their situation monitored and students and staff safe. Also, most airlines are requiring a negative test to board the planes, so they have seen quite of those go through as travel has increased.

RadX – Eli Svaty gave an update on the RadX program that the Liberal Coalition has taken on. It is a grant from KU med to study different demographics and the testing process. They are hoping to get the new Oral Take home testing kit soon.

New Members

Eli Svaty, was commended on his work on the CARES act that helped the community immensely. Melissa Parker gave KDHE updates. Leslie Bissell offered mental health stress management sessions for businesses through her COVID grant. Andrea updated everyone on the new ConnectSeward.net website.

New Business:

Election of officers

John Ralston was nominated for Chair by Chad Mease and Yazmin seconded it. Greg Standards was nominated Vice Chair by Gregg Frelove, and Rick seconded it

Andrea Nix was nominated Secretary by Greg Standard, Leslie Bissell seconded it.

Effects of Artic Weather

Power outages stayed limited to small areas around the county. There were some equipment failures (downed lines) and Liberal experienced rolling blackouts, to prevent widespread outages. City, County, schools closed to help with energy conservation. National Beef reduced energy consumption during this time as well. Skeety Poulton reported there were quite a few water lines break. Notably the JCPenny building had 7 inches of water that also seeped into Maurices. Hatchers Building on Western had 10 inches of water when a waterline busted.

Declaration of Disaster Greg Standard explained that even though he was asked to make a declaration of Disaster, Seward County had not exceeded the health safety or infrastructure damage requirements to receive FEMA money.

Member Comments:

Yazmin reported that the Health Department would be receiving an addition \$200,000 in COVID funding.

Eli reported the Genesis has conducted two Food Distribution drive through and continues to aid in distribution of vaccinations. He also suggested a vaccination scheduler be hired.

Brian Fornwalt reported he had to close the airport due to ice on the runway during the extreme cold. He is receiving \$1 million for airport operations through the CARES Act. Masks are required in the air terminal. Greg Standard informed everyone that the EOC

has been moved to its final resting place at the south end of the courthouse. The PPE Stockpile will be maintained, but will need a plan to refresh the items to avoid expiration. SWMC is willing to help with that.

Leslie Bissell announced that Greg Standard has been nominated as the 2021 Community Service Award Winner for the Cimarron Valley DAR.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be March 23rd, 2021

Adjournment:

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Skeety Poulton. The motion to adjourn carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Nip
Secretary

Approved

[Signature]
Chairperson

Minutes Approved April 20th, 2021