

WHITE PINE COUNTY (WPC)
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) MEETING AGENDA

Meeting date: Tuesday, July 18th, 2023

Time: 2:00 pm

Place: White Pine County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), 1150 North McGill Highway, Ely, Nevada, 89301

Present: Shane Bybee, Samantha Elliott, Scott Henriod, Pat Stork, Ross Rivera, Robin Peterson, Matt Walker, Martin Troutt, Mike Johnson, Bob Winder, Russel Weston, Bernadette Sena, Shannin Pierce, Marian Perez, Delaney Marich, Janet Van Camp, Gary Hart (Bald Mountain Mine), Representatives of MedEx

I. Roll Call/Call to Order

Chairman Pat Stork called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

II. Public comment

Ross mentioned that he was present at the Homeland Security (HSGP) Grant decision meeting and that while Tabatha did the best she could she was unprepared for the technicality of the questions that the Evaluating Committee had prepared for her. He said there was not enough information on the equipment we were requesting and that Tabatha could not answer why White Pine County would need terrorism preparedness supplies and so we were not awarded. He said it would be beneficial to have an entire panel of people at the meeting to answer questions about the requested items. Delaney stated that Tabatha did include in the application and in her answers to the Evaluation Committee that White Pine County has a lot of critical infrastructure including a State Prison and several major highways but that the Granting Agency only awarded grants to Clark and Washoe County although it was supposed to be for rural counties and felt that we were disadvantaged from the start. Scott agreed that the grant stated it was for rural communities but did not prioritize rural counties. Mike Dalton asked if the grant was State or Federal. Delaney said it is a state grant and Ross reiterated that it is Federal funding passed through the State. Delaney did voice that she agreed with Ross that members of the committee being present for the Evaluation if White Pine County applies again can bolster the application. She mentioned that the County recently applied for the Cyber Security (SLCGP) grant and was ranked first and she thinks that having the head of IT, Jasen Hutchens, available to answer questions helped the application. Ross then mentioned that he would like to discuss the re-obligated funding from EPWG and did not see it on the agenda. Pat noted that it was an agenda item and the discussion was left until later.

III. Discussion For Possible Action: Approval Of Agenda

Scott motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Russel and the motion carried.

IV. Discussion For Possible Action: Review & Approval Of Minutes From 4/18/23

Scott motioned to approve the minutes from 4/18/2023. Ross seconded the motion. Martin stated he did not think he received the minutes from the last meeting. Pat told him to give his email information to Delaney to make sure he is receiving the information for meetings. Martin said that he was mistaken and he likely did receive the minutes. The motion carried.

V. Discussion For Possible Action: Selection of Committee Officers (Chairman, Co-Chair,)

Delaney stated that this item would need to be tabled as Tabatha stated she forgot to include on the BOCC agenda to have Mike Dalton sworn in as a member and as this item was brought forth in order to potentially vote Mike in as the Chair it would have to wait until after he was a member.

VI. Discussion for Possible Action: Reports/Updates

a. Grants

Delaney updated the committee on the status of four grants: the OPTE 2023 grant was completed. There was only a few thousand dollars left in the operating budget that we would be de-obligating. She noted that the operations budget is de-obligated nearly every year. The OPTE 2024 grant had been awarded recently. The County requested an extension on the UWS 2023 grant and it had been extended to September 30, 2023. Some of the remaining funds had been used to extend the EOC Radio Antenna and there was a remaining \$4048 that the committee would need to decide what to spend it on. She noted that this item would need a motion today as the next meeting would likely happen after September 30th. Lastly, the County was still awaiting the award for the UWS 2024 grant. Pat asked Scott what he chose to apply for on the remaining \$15,000 of the UWS 2024 application. Scott mentioned that he was only able to apply for \$4-6,000 and he committed part of his budget to the remainder but that they were purchasing a secondary base station in case the primary base station ever goes down the Sheriff's Department is not without communications.

b. County Commission/Manager

There was no update from the County Commission or the County Manager.

c. Public Health Office

Shannin stated that the Public Health Office was relatively slow just trying to get back to normal after Covid and they are preparing for back-to-school immunizations.

d. County Emergency Management

Mike Dalton introduced himself and stated that he was hired in May as the White Pine County Emergency Manager. He thanked the committee and expressed his respect for each member on the committee for their knowledge, skills, and abilities. He said the goal he has for the Department is to earn the trust of each member on the committee and the trust of the commissioners and the State of Nevada, other government entities, and tribal entities.

i. EPWG FY19 Funding

Mike re-opened the conversation brought up by Ross during public comment regarding the EPWG funding. He explained that the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) got permission from the Department of Energy (DOE) to forward the last contract funding for those that had funding between the years of 2016 and 2020. He noted that the DEM and DOE have requested a plan for how each county plans to use those funds by the end of day this Friday, July 21st, 2023. He stated he would announce rounded amounts. White Pine County has available \$14,000 from 2016, \$96,000 from 2019, and \$3,000 from 2020 for a total of just under \$115,000. He asked the committee what is needed and asked if they would like to spend the funds on one big purchase or split it among the different groups that comprise the committee. Delaney noted that Tabatha believes the DEM and DOE may be mistaken on the amount remaining from 2020. Our files indicate that all of the funds from EPWG 2020 have been spent. The actual total of re-obligated funds is \$111,215.17. She also noted that she had a list of items that she and Tabatha had applied for in the past through other grants that did not get funded that this money could possibly pay for and asked if the committee would like her to read it aloud. The list is as follows: Sheriff's Office: Vests, E-911, Radio, SAR items; Fire: SCBAs, Command Vehicle, Ambulance, Turnouts, Radios; School: Emergency Supply Kits; Airport: Air Rescue Training; Tribe: SAR Training, All Training; OEM: Planning and Training. Delaney noted that the one thing the funding cannot go toward is

private entities so the hospital would not be eligible for any of the funding. Pat asked if there were any limitations on what the funds could be used for. Mike explained that the grant requirements say “assist in a radiological event”. Pat noted that funding is often used on expensive supplies that cannot be used and asked if there was a way that we could use the money for Planning instead of Supplies. He also stated that it is difficult to request funding for items that would be helpful in a radiological event when the County does not experience many radiological events. Shane mentioned that when items need to be maintained they are a further burden as they are more liability than asset. Pat stated that the Ely City Fire has a radiological detector, as does the hospital, that was just recently recalibrated in spring and the Ely City Fire was recently re-trained on the equipment as well. Mike noted that the funding needs to be spent by June 30, 2024. Pat noted how difficult it is to come up with something good to spend the funds on in 15 minutes and Mike proposed coming up with something for now so we did not lose access to the funding and then request an amendment later if necessary. Ross announced that at one of the Emergency Management meetings the DEM considered how to re-obligate the funding to other counties and Ross advocated for White Pine County to receive the money again now that we have an Emergency Manager on board, which is ultimately what the DEM decided to do. He also reviewed the list of potential items to apply for and stated that he did not think all of it would qualify. The items he believes would qualify are: E911, Radio, SAR items, SCBAs, Command Vehicles, Ambulance, Emergency Supply Kits, and any Training related to incident command. He then noted that the state offers free training that cannot be charged to a grant. Delaney noted that her and Tabatha had been informed that all 75 SCBAs would need to be replaced in the next few years. She said that they have applied for 25 SCBAs through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and 25 SCBAs through the HSGP grant. The County is still waiting on a decision on the AFG grant and was not awarded the HSGP grant. Mike asked how much an ambulance costs and Pat stated it costs around \$260,000. There was discussion on SCBAs and many members noted that it would not be beneficial to apply for too many SCBAs at once as that would require replacing a large amount each time they need replacing. Pat asked Scott what progress the Sheriff’s Department had made on the update of the E-911 services. Scott stated that they had purchased the new system that should be starting in September so Delaney could remove it from the list of needed items. Pat stated he had two emergency vehicles that could use new radios mounted inside. He stated that each costs about \$7,000. Shane asked if repeaters are needed and if there are any dead zones throughout the County. There was discussion on where the various repeaters are located. Scott said he could use a repeater and asked if the repeater Pat has located on Kings is solar powered. Pat stated that the repeater on Kings belongs to the Fire District but that it probably was. Scott said that the Sheriff’s Office could use a repeater on Kings and in McGill. Mike asked for a cost estimate. Scott said the repeater would likely be about \$30,000 and the solar unit for Kings would be about \$5,000. Mike asked if there are existing sites or if it would include ground disturbance. Scott affirmed there are existing sites. Ross thought a repeater in McGill would qualify because it is along one of the existing nuclear waste routes but that Baker likely wouldn’t as it is not. Scott said it should qualify as it is a

National Park. Mike said we should apply and if it is not eligible we will find another way to fund it. Ross asked if Search and Rescue (SAR) needed radios. Scott said SAR just purchased new supplies. Mike noted that based on the estimates the County would still have \$60,000 to use. He estimated an additional \$20,000 for training. There was some discussion about Fire Shows West and ICS training. Mike said he would reach out to his State Department contact to see if he could get a training set up in Ely. He asked Pat when he would prefer the training to which Pat responded that spring would be best.

e. State Department of Emergency Management

There was nobody present from the State Department of Emergency Management

f. Calendar/Schedule

The schedule was reviewed. Pat asked Shannin if they had plans for the flu pod tent in October. Shannin said they have not begun planning yet as they do not have the order but that they normally hold the flu pod in October or November.

VII. Discussion For Possible Action: Possible additions to LEPC agenda/priorities

Delaney explained that these items were requested by Bodie and since he was not in attendance the committee could choose to table the item until later. Ross asked if they could discuss the Goals of LEPC.

a. Goals of LEPC

Mike noted that Ross had previously voiced that the group should be more involved in the grants. Ross said that the Tribe, White Pine County, and Eureka County are working together on the Hazard Mitigation plan and thinks that the group should focus on that and be available for meetings. He also noted that the current Hazard Identification Risk Analysis was previously done by an Emergency Manager out of California and is due for a review and possible update. He then voiced that the LEPC used to make a five-year “wish list” so that when funding opportunities arise, the list may be referenced instead of trying to rush to decide what to use the money on. Pat asked if anyone would like to discuss the remaining items without Bodie present. He stated he wasn’t sure if Bodie was going to remain a member of the LEPC since he recently took a new job in Idaho. Pat suggested that the items be tabled until more was known about Bodie’s future with the committee. Martin motioned to table items VII b, c, and d until a later date. Russel seconded that motion. The motion carried.

b. Inviting guest speakers for training, trends and more

c. Short training topic each meeting

d. Position descriptions for voting members

VIII. Discussion For Possible Action: Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for August 29, 2023 at 2:00 in the EOC Conference Room.

IX. Public Comments – Additional public comments are encouraged on all public safety matters for LEPC the consideration, both on and off the agenda. The Committee may prohibit comments if the content of the comments is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being slanderous, inflammatory, irrational, or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

No further public comment.

X. For Possible Action: Adjournment

Scott motioned to adjourn the meeting. Russel seconded the motion. The motion carried. Pat adjourned the meeting at 2:41 pm.