

MINUTES
of the Meeting of the
Carson City
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
March 3, 2020

The Carson City Local Emergency Planning Committee held a public meeting on March 3, 2020, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Fire Station No. 51, 777 S. Stewart Street, Carson City.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Sean Slamon.

2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Voting members present were Nicki Aaker, Rick Cooley, James Freed, Curtis Horton, Tom Raw, Matthew Shafer, Sean Slamon, Jerome Tushbant, Sandy Wartgow, and Dave Yohey which constituted a quorum.

Voting members absent were Ann Cyr, Mark Cyr, Ken Furlong, Al Kramer, and Chris Vaughn. Non-voting members absent were Jerry Evans, Keith Forbes, and Chris Smallcomb.

Also present were Jeanne Freeman (Carson City Health and Human Services), Craig Robinson (Western Nevada College), Steve Yingling (Western Nevada College), Alex Lanza (Nevada Division of Environmental Protection), Edan Weishahn (National Weather Service), and Todd Reese (Carson City District Attorney's Office).

3. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

4. For Possible Action: Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2019

It was moved by Nicki Aaker, seconded by Tom Raw, with all ayes in favor that the minutes of the December 10th meeting be approved as submitted. (*James Freed arrived at the meeting*).

5. For Possible Action: To review and approve the Fiscal Year 2021 State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Planning, Training, and Equipment Grant Application

Tom Raw reported on the SERC Operations, Planning, Training, and Equipment Grant. He said the Commission was a bit delayed in releasing this grant, so Emergency Management had just put this grant application together.

Tom said the items being requested are part of the continual replacement for equipment on the Hazardous Materials 52 unit for equipment that is no longer serviced by the manufacturer. He added that this is the second year of this replacement and similar equipment has been included on this application: one wireless monitor which will have radiological capabilities and two Bullard Thermal Imagers. In addition, a replacement for the weather station on HazMat 52 is being requested as well as the \$4,000 Operations funding for a total of \$25,730.00 being requested.

(Sandy Wartgow arrived at the meeting).

Dave Yohey asked if any first responders use the HazCat System. Tom responded that they do not; Carson City Fire's HazCat System has been discontinued as it was too maintenance intensive. Carson Fire uses identification equipment now. Dave added that the Mini Rae air monitoring units are great for organics. Dave asked how the inorganics were addressed and Tom said they are addressed through two other pieces of equipment – the Ramin Spectrometer and an IR Spectrometer.

Jerome Tushbant said the details just discussed sound like important equipment that Carson Fire needs. Tom said it is important and it replaces existing equipment that is at end of service life. Jerome said from his perspective he is glad that Carson Fire has this equipment when he needs it.

Sean Slamon noted that Carson City Fire Department's Hazard Materials Response Unit is the primary response rig for the Quad County – Douglas County, Lyon County, Storey County, and Carson City. Carson City hosts the apparatus and equipment. Nicki Aaker asked if the other counties contribute to the cost. Sean responded that this contract is being redone. He said the other counties do contribute by trained members, but as far as maintenance and upkeep of equipment Carson solely pays for this for right now.

It was moved by Jerome Tushbant, seconded by Curtis Horton, with all ayes in favor that the Committee approves the submittal of the FY 2021 SERC Planning, Training, and Equipment Grant application as described to the State Emergency Response Commission.

6. For Discussion Only: Update on the Hazard Mitigation Plan
(Tom Raw)

Tom Raw reported that the planning grant application was submitted in December for \$115,000 to hire a firm to re-do the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan. Tom said he won't know anything until possibly the September LEPC meeting. The current plan expires August 2021. The Hazard Mitigation Plan keeps Carson City compliant with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) so the City can receive disaster funding.

7. For Discussion Only: Report and discussion on activities associated with the Citizen Corps Council Initiatives *(Tom Raw, Jerome Tushbant, and Jeanne Freeman).*

Jeanne Freeman had nothing to report for Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). She noted that MRC will be participating in the shelter exercise on March 18th at Fuji Park. Volunteers are welcome; they need at least 50 volunteers to go through this. Jeanne added that they are working with the Nevada Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities and Aging and Disability Services with the State so they can reach out to their partners so those with access and functional needs can go through the exercise. Jeanne noted that the Public Health Nurse Triage Process will also be exercised in the shelter drill.

Jerome Tushbant said Carson City Sheriff's Office will be sending 10 people to assist with the shelter exercise.

Jerome reported on the following VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service) activity:

- In the last quarter the VIPS completed 14 days of mobile radar in patrol vehicles and 32 days of mobile radar using the radar trailer resulting in 42 letters sent to violators.
- 90 Veteran transports were completed in the quarter. Jerome explained that the Veteran transports are conducted by Volunteers in Service taking Veterans from as far as Douglas County to Reno for medical appointments and bringing them back.
- An American Red Cross event involving Carson City Fire is scheduled in April. This will be headed up by Dave Ruben and smoke detectors will be installed. 18,000 notices will be sent out by Carson City Public Works. The School District has allowed for members to target places where the schools are in the higher risk areas and Walmart has allowed members to set up in front of the store. Jerome will reach out to F.I.S.H. (Friends In Service Helping) as well. Some resources from the Sheriff's Office will be involved and Carson Fire will have an engine at the event.

Tom Raw reported on the following Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) activity:

- CERT will be involved in the sheltering exercise and will be setting up the shelter before the Red Cross arrives to take over. Nicki Aaker noted that initially this will be an evacuation center. Tom said CERT will be there to provide direction and take names and needs. Lyon County's Large Animal Rescue Team will be participating also.
- CERT has grown by six as new members have joined the team
- Looking to plan another academy sometime in the spring
- MRC and CERT volunteers are a lot of the same people

8. For Discussion Only: Reports of Committee Members

Sandy Wartgow reported that Carson City Fire Department completed training on new

protocols which are Quad/Tri-County Protocols that include having more capabilities to do interfacility transports out of the Hospital with medication drips on a pump.

Edan Weishahn reported on the National Weather Service (NWS) services that are changing this year. Handouts were distributed. She said on March 2nd they had a change in their fire weather zones which will impact some in attendance at the meeting. Edan gave a quick overview of 2019 which she said was a relatively below average fire season. Edan gave an outlook for spring and summer in 2020. NWS members are working on mitigating errors and complaints; she said to let them know if anyone has issues. Aviation forecast has been added to the Minden Airport and is updated four times daily. Edan noted that the Freakout Briefings will continue as they have been and said to share any feedback on these with their staff. Lastly, Edan reported that NWS does have three trained incident meteorologists on staff and one trained emergency response meteorologist.

James Freed reported that the Coronavirus is keeping a lot of members busy, but this will be discussed later in the meeting. James said that Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center (CTRMC) is preparing for their CMS Accreditation mock survey this month which is getting them ready for their real survey scheduled in December. They have been reviewing policies and plans and working on Coronavirus related stuff.

Craig Robinson reported that Western Nevada College (WNC) got their Communicable Disease Plan out in November and began discussions and looking at this. WNC is still trying to roll out an update of their Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Craig said he is taking on more of the emergency preparedness roles of the campus. Craig introduced Steve Yingling the Acting Public Information Officer (PIO) for the College. Tom Raw asked Craig if he was updating the College's EOP. Craig said he is trying and added that the EOP has not been updated since 2015. He said he wrote a Continuity of Operations Plan last June. Tom offered his assistance on this, if needed.

Dave Yohey reported that the Tier II reporting deadlines have come and gone. He said their facility has remained static throughout the years. Dave said they are seeing a significant slowdown due to the Coronavirus. They recently brought on some key personnel and they are assigning them Emergency Coordinator positions which will affect their Emergency Preparedness and Contingency Plans.

Jerome Tushbant noted that last LEPC meeting members from NDEM (Nevada Division of Emergency Management) talked about their Incident Management Team (IMT). Jerome said he talked to them today and they said they are filling positions for the State's Incident Management Team and for the Committee who oversees the IMT. More information is to come, probably at the next LEPC meeting.

Jerome said he is looking forward to the discussion on PPE (personal protective equipment) and is open to information and suggestions on infection control at the Carson City Jail.

Jeanne Freeman reminded everyone that she sits on Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee with the State so when more information comes out, she will give that to Jerome.

Nicki Aaker reported that Carson City Health and Human Services have activated their Department Operations Center (DOC) and have various positions filled to deal with the response to COVID-19. They are working very hard to get communications out; they are getting communications from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and are in communication with the State. Nicki reported that she was just recently in Washington D.C. and had meetings with two of Nevada's Congressmen and meetings with a few healthcare representatives. Nicki said these two health individuals know what some of the needs are. Nicki said one of the main requests was when money is allocated for this response that it comes down to the locals rather than being held at the State.

Nicki said currently Health is working on putting together information for workplaces; they will get this information out.

Jeanne Freeman reported that Health is in the process of putting together an electronic kit for businesses which will include information that came out from the Environmental Protection Agency about cleaners that are recommended, what that cleaning process is, different travel recommendations and what they mean, etc. The business kit will include things that can be posted.

Jeanne added that Health is anticipating information to come out of Washoe County and Clark County related to casinos and gaming and the visitor policies and things they are looking at.

Jeanne said currently Health sends one daily update to a list of contacts and they are happy to expand this list. She noted that anyone can go to the gethealthycarsoncity.org website and click on the red banner at the top for updates related to COVID-19.

Jeanne said there are questions Health is posing to the State regarding schools as they are getting a lot of questions from the School District. There are some things Health needs to get clarification on from the Department of Education.

Jeanne said there is guidance from the CDC regarding PPE and N95 masks and how to maintain or make supply last longer. She added that information has been released on certain lots and certain brands of N95 masks that date all the way back to 2003; the integrity of these is being looked at.

Jeanne added that there was a report released on March 2nd, and the Health Department's Liaison Lauren Staffen should have put this out about other brands and types of face masks that can be utilized during this response. Jeanne noted that she was on a conference call on March 2nd and the federal government is working with other industries to try to redirect the distribution of N95 masks to healthcare and first responders.

Jeanne said Health is anticipating a Presidential declaration of an Infectious Disease within the next three days. Nicki added that there is a fit test component with the N95 masks to ensure they fit properly. Tom Raw asked what a Presidential declaration of an Infectious Disease would get the City. Jeanne said this opens the door for FEMA funding; funding

streams have not been released yet.

Craig Robinson reported that all NSHE (Nevada System of Higher Education) Officers have been asked by the Governor's Office to put together initial cost estimates of preparedness activities. Jeanne said one of the challenges is the accountability piece; this is really going to be pushed back on individuals and community partners.

Dave Yohey reported on the private sector that last month when this all started, they tried to locate N95 masks and they were sold out; eventually they found some. Dave noted that there is also a N99 mask. Jeanne Freeman said N95 and N99 masks have to be fit tested.

Jeanne said the same protocols are in place here: wash your hands, stay home if you are sick, don't be around sick people, don't touch your face, clean your phones, etc. Health is uploading as much information as they can on the gethealthycarsoncity.org website.

Nicki reported that Public Health Preparedness (PHP) is a Quad County and efforts are being done in all four counties. She added that no one is under investigation at this point in time.

Alex Lanza inquired if the casinos were monitoring people coming in from outside. Nicki said this is all done through a normal monitoring system through the CDC and it goes to the local health authorities.

Sandy Wartgow noted that it is flu season also and allergy season is coming.

Sandy added that Carson Fire is reminding crews to mask the patient if they have signs and symptoms. She said in general everyone should be doing all things we do consistently to mitigate infection: wash your hands, avoid being around sick people, stay home when you are sick, wipe down doorknobs and grocery carts.

Dave asked how COVID-19 compares to H1N1 Outbreak in 2009 as far as cases. Jeanne responded that the challenge with H1N1 was it was out of control before anyone tried to do anything to get it under control. Nicki added that COVID is a virus that has not been seen before, so there are no immunities to it. Nicki said what we know is that more people are dying from the flu. Jeanne said Health is monitoring this and trying to stay ahead of it.

Jerome Tushbant asked what the incubation period is for this. James Freed responded that CTRMC is currently using 21 days. Jerome noted that Washington State lost five people who resided in a convalescent home to Coronavirus and 25 firefighters and the building itself are quarantined.

Nicki said to direct people with inquiries to the Get Healthy Carson City website. Jeanne requested if there questions not being answered to direct these to Lauren Staffen, Liaison Officer. James noted that information related to COVID-19 has been changing on a daily basis.

Curtis Horton reported that Public Works is working with Building Maintenance and the Health Department on some procedures they are going to get out to City departments. The Janitorial Crew is very small so departments will have to do a lot of this cleaning on their own.

9. For Discussion Only: Next Meeting Date: June 2, 2020

10. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

11. For Possible Action: To adjourn

It was moved by James Freed to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

Recorder: Shelby Price