

**Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management  
Public Awareness, Education & Training Committee  
May 11, 2016  
Minutes**

The Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) Public Awareness, Education, and Training Committee met at the Jefferson County EOC on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 0830 hours. Those present were Amanda Bock, WVU Healthcare – Jefferson Medical Center; Clair Brendel, American Red Cross; Dottie Kracke, Jefferson County Animal Welfare Society; Barbara Miller, JCHSEM; Brandon Vallee, JCHSEM; Jill Upson, West Virginia House of Delegates; and Annie Wheat, Ameriworks.

In absence of Katherine Dunbar, Chair, Ms. Miller, called the meeting to order at 0841 hours.

**I. Old Business**

1. Quarterly Partnership Meeting
  - a. The Quarterly Partnership Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 3 at 1200 hours at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown. Ms. Miller stated that the presenter John Yemin, TSA, discussed transportation security for rail, mass transit, and buses.
2. MGT-318 Public Information in an All-Hazards Incident Course
  - a. Mr. Vallee stated that on April 20 and 21, he attended MGT-318 in Flatwoods, WV. He detailed the premise of the course and stated that while it was more of a review, it was an excellent networking opportunity and enjoyed working public health officials on public information issues.
3. G-290 Basic PIO Course
  - a. Ms. Miller mentioned that Ed Smith, Independent Fire Company, attended G-290 at Cacapon State Park on March 22 and 23. She reported that Mr. Smith enjoyed the class and that the state will be hosting more PIO courses in the near future.
4. G-108 Community Care and Emergency Assistance and Mass Care Course
  - a. Ms. Miller said that she attended G-108 in Flatwoods, WV on April 26, 27, and 28. She stated that while she enjoyed the networking aspect of the class and the concept, the class itself needs improvement and the class was able to provide recommendations for future classes.
5. JC Council on Aging Presentation
  - a. Mr. Vallee stated that on Monday, March 7, he went to the Jefferson County Council on Aging to give an emergency preparedness presentation. Topics that were discussed include, power outages, flooding, extreme heat, severe weather, and tornadoes. Mr. Vallee reported that approximately 25 people attended.
6. JC LEPC Mass Casualty/Active Shooter Workshop

- a. Ms. Miller mentioned that the Active Shooter Workshop was held at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center in Shepherdstown on Wednesday, March 30. She reported that was a success and well attended by a variety of agencies.
- 7. National Weather Service (NWS) Skywarn Storm Spotter Convection Class
  - a. Ms. Miller reported that the NWS held a Skywarn Storm Spotter Convection Class at Independent Fire Company on Thursday, March 10 at 1900 hours.
- 8. 2016 WV Homeland Security Region 3 Exercise Series
  - a. Ms. Miller stated that the 2016 WV Homeland Security Region 3 held a table top exercise on Tuesday, April 19 at the Bryd Center in Berkeley County. She explained to the committee that during a table top exercise, agencies work together to solve critical issues, such as responding to a massive blackout or hazmat issue, by working together and using their emergency operations plans.
  - b. Ms. Miller mentioned that there will be a functional exercise on June 21 at the Augusta Church in Hampshire County and a full scale exercise which has not been scheduled.
- 9. America's PrepareAthon
  - a. Mr. Vallee detailed what PrepareAthon is for the committee and outlined some the activities that occurred in Jefferson County during the month of April and events that are upcoming in May and June.
  - b. Ms. Brendel stated that on Saturday, April 16, the American Red Cross partnered with Independent Fire Company, Jefferson Medical Center, Jefferson County Health Department, and Charles Town Rotary to test and install smoke detectors in homes around Ranson, WV. Ms. Brendel stated that the American Red Cross conducted two Pillow Case Projects during the month of April.

## **II. New Business**

- 1. Social Media Figures
  - a. Mr. Vallee detailed the social media figures for the committee. He stated that:
    - a. Facebook has grown by 37 to a total of 2,204.
    - b. Twitter has grown by 8 to a total of 154.
    - c. Nixle has grown by 16 to a total of 1,439.
  - b. Mr. Vallee reported that Jefferson County Government now has a Facebook page and encouraged committee members to like it. Facebook page link: <https://www.facebook.com/jeffersoncountywv/>
- 2. Disaster Ready Kids Summer Program
  - a. Mr. Vallee explained the program and its goals to the committee and thanked Ms. Brendel and Ms. Upson for their assistance in volunteering their time to the program. He stated that the volunteer training has not been scheduled and that he will contact them once it is.
- 3. Letters to residents who live in or near the floodplain
  - a. Ms. Miller stated that as a part of the Community Rating System (CRS), JCHSEM sends out letters to properties located in or near a flood plain which

- explains how to purchase flood insurance and flood mitigation information. JCHSEM reaches out to properties in the county located outside of the municipalities. The municipalities are responsible for contacting residences located in a flood plain.
- b. Ms. Miller stated that this is one of the 18 mitigation and preparedness activities that Jefferson County does for CRS. The end result is that flood plain insurance for individual policy holders is reduced. Currently, Jefferson County is a rated class eight community which provides a 10% discount for policy holders.
4. Dog Fest
    - a. Mr. Vallee stated that on May 14-15, Shepherdstown will be hosting their annual Dog Fest event. The event runs from 1000 to 1600 hours. He mentioned that JCHSEM provided Jefferson County Animal Control emergency preparedness brochures to be distributed at the event.
  5. Bark in the Park
    - a. On Saturday, June 4 Jefferson County Animal Welfare Society will be hosting their annual Bark in the Park event at Jefferson Memorial Park in Charles Town. The event will be from 1000 to 1400 hours. JCHSEM staff will be setting up a table and distributing emergency preparedness information at the event.
  6. Disaster Management for Water Wastewater Utilities
    - a. Ms. Miller stated that on May 24 and 25, West Virginia Rural Water Association will be holding a Disaster Management for Wastewater Utilities training at -100 Young Street in Scott Depot, West Virginia. Registration can be completed by contacting Amy Swann @ 304-201-1689 or [amyswann@wvrwa.org](mailto:amyswann@wvrwa.org).
  7. G-318 Hazardous Materials Contingency Planning
    - a. Ms. Miller mentioned that on Wednesday, May 25, WVDHSEM will be offering G-318 at WV State Police Academy. Registration can be completed on Coursemill.
  8. AWR-308 Natural Disaster Awareness for Caregivers of Senior Citizens
    - a. Ms. Miller stated that on Tuesday, July 12, WVDHSEM will be offering AWR-308 at the WV State Police Academy from 0800 to 1200 hours. Registration can be completed on Coursemill.
  9. G-290 Basic Public Information Officer Course
    - a. Ms. Miller stated that on, June 14-15, WVDHSEM will be offering G-290 at North Bend State Park. Registration can be completed on Coursemill.
  10. WV State Emergency Management Conference
    - a. Ms. Miller mentioned that the WV State Emergency Management conference will be held in Canaan Valley on June 8-10.
  11. WV State Floodplain Manager's Workshop
    - a. Ms. Miller said that the WV State Flood Plain Manager's Workshop will be held in Blackwater on June 13-15.
  12. Jefferson County Government Surplus Sale

- a. Ms. Miller reported that on Friday, June 10 Jefferson County will be having a Government Surplus Sale at Jefferson County Sheriff's Department.
13. Jefferson County Fair
- a. Ms. Miller mentioned that the Jefferson County Fair will be the week of August 21-27, 2016.

### III. Member Sharing Time

1. Ms. Upson said that the State Representatives said what a wonderful job Jefferson County EOC did during Snowstorm Jonas and applauded the efforts of first responders and partner agencies. Ms. Miller complimented the state representatives and local politicians for their work during the storm to assist us keeping the National Guard when they were being called back too soon. Ms. Upson stated that on Monday, May 18, she will be returning to Charleston to continue working on the state budget.
2. Ms. Wheat requested committee members to assist her in finding places where individuals with access and functional needs can work.
3. Ms. Kracke stated that Jefferson County Animal Welfare Society started a campaign and raised over \$24,000.00 for a generator for the facility and it has been installed. She said that the cat area was renovated in late 2015. Ms. Kracke identified that there is a feral cat problem in Jefferson County and encouraged all committee members to spread the word about cats being spayed and neutered. She stated that it costs \$65.00 to spay and neuter cats and that they are able to microchip animals for \$20.00.
4. Ms. Brendel stated that the American Red Cross has hired a new Disaster Program Specialist, Alan Coberly, to work in the Northeast West Virginia Chapter in Elkins. She mentioned that that she is working on arranging two shelter priority agreements for each county she represents.
5. Ms. Miller mentioned that Steve Allen has been hired as the new Deputy Director for JCHSEM and will begin working for the office on Monday, May 23.

Ms. Miller adjourned the meeting at 0935 hours. The next meeting of the Public Awareness, Education & Training Committee will be on Wednesday, July 13 at 0830 hours.