

**Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**August 18, 2022**

The Jefferson County LEPC held a hybrid meeting at Hospice of the Panhandle and via Go-To-Meeting on Thursday, August 18, 2022. Those present were: Steve Allen, JCOHSEM, Director/LEPC Chair; John Sherwood, Chamber of Commerce/LEPC Co-chair; Jennifer Blood, 167<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, LEPC Secretary; Dick Myers, JCOHSEM, Deputy Director; Sanford Green, WV EMD Region 3 Liaison; Mason Weikle, Jefferson County Health Department; Walt Dewalt, Hospice of the Panhandle; Rich Clawson, Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County; Gustavo Renteria, CBP/ATC, George Butler, CBP/ATC; Lt. Robert Sell, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department; Lynn Costello, Jefferson County ESA; Sara Considine, Jefferson County ESA; John Bresland, Community member; David Tabb, Member of the Public; Daniel Lutz, Member of the Public.

- I.** Call to Order - Chairman Allen called the meeting to order at 0823 hours. The opening prayer and pledge of allegiance was given by John Sherwood.
- II.** Minutes
  1. Minutes of the previous meeting were presented by Chairman Allen. John Sherwood moved to approve the minutes with changes as noted and corrected for the June 15, 2022 LEPC meeting, seconded by Jennifer Blood. All approved.
- III.** Financial Report
  1. Mr. Allen advised we currently have \$4,791.71 in the regular account and \$13,223.08 in the mass fatality account. Walt Dewalt moved to approve the financial report, John Sherwood seconded. Report was approved by the membership.
- IV.** Appointment of LEPC Support Officers by the Chairperson
  1. Recorder/Secretary
    - a. Jennifer Blood was reappointed by Chairman Allen. It was noted that emails need to go to Ms. Blood's Gmail account.
- V.** Unfinished Business
  1. Exercises
    - a. Exercise Sub-Committee – Donnie Grubb – Chair
      - i. Mr. Grubb was not present to give updates.

b. 2020/2021 WV Homeland Security Region 3 Exercise Status

i. Smoking Mountains II

1. Mr. Green had finalized the date for the Smoking Mountains Functional Exercise to be held at Hardy County OEM 911 Center on October 4, 2022. Participation is encouraged and there will be a virtual link to allow participation.
2. Mr. Allen advised that the functional exercise will continue on from the Table Top Exercise for Smoking Mountains II.

ii. Sheriff's Department

1. Lt. Sell stated the Sheriff's Department had notified the committee that the Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (ALICE) training was successfully completed and that it was an instructor-level course, involving schools, the community, and local businesses.
2. He informed the committee that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), in coordination with the local drug task force, put on a training that allowed law enforcement to test their response to an active threat situation. There was participation within the community schools and students and at Jefferson High School and Wildwood Middle School. Those in law enforcement who were involved included Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Berkeley County Sheriff's Department, Morgan County Sheriff's Department, the West Virginia State Police and many municipal police departments.
3. Additionally, Lt. Holz and Sgt. Williams of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department conducted active threat training for Jefferson County employees.
4. Lastly, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department is working on dates for the exercise later this fall that to include their command structure.

2. Grants

a. SERC and LEPC

- i. Mr. Green stated that SERC and LEPC will continue to receive grants at \$3,000 each. At this point, we will continue to receive the \$3,000 grant on a reimbursement contingency for the next year.

b. HMEP GRANT

- i. Mr. Green stated that he has not heard anything in regards to this grant and had no additional news or updates.

3. Training

- a. Sanford Green stated that State Fire Marshall Ken Tyree, in conjunction with the F.B.I./Fire Marshall Collaborative Training, was requesting a location in Berkeley County for holding a WV Faith-Based Security Summit (active shooter preparedness for houses of worship) course.

b. Stop-the-Bleed

- i. Chairman Allen stated that the need for Stop-the-Bleed training for county employees was mentioned during the active shooter training exercise. JC ESA Captain Considine informed the committee that Jefferson County ESA has the ability to provide training for Stop-the-Bleed and it could be a requested training class or a sign-up type of process. Mr. Green stated he would aid in providing any resources that would be needed for the training.

c. Emergency Management – Chairman Allen

- i. Chairman Allen stated that the ICS 300 and ICS 400 are being offered online through The Blue Cell, LLC. Also offered with this platform is the G-191 EOC Operations, if anyone would like to take it. Chairman Allen can provide information for these classes.

d. JC ESA- Captain Sara Considine

1. HazMat Awareness Class on September 9<sup>th</sup> at Station 11
2. CPR Re-certification on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Station 11

4. Planning

- a. Chairman Allen informed the committee that he has not heard anything else since applying for the 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant.

- i. There is a meeting planned in Martinsburg at the Berkeley County Sheriff's Department providing training for hazard mitigation planning and any program changes that would apply. The dates were not available.

b. BERP/Animals in Disaster – Dick Myers

- i. The March 2022 Training went well with a good turnout. Some of the participants wanted to work on an emergency operations plan. Chairman Allen stated that the next meeting would be in September at 6 p.m.
  - ii. Mr. Myers additionally stated that the Animals in Disaster Plan would be presented to the Region 3 EPEMA Group and Pendleton County, asking for any changes, corrections, or additions. Once that was completed, it would be presented to each of the county's commissioners for their approval.
5. Tier II reporting facilities
  - a. Mr. Myers stated they have received no additional reports from facilities.
6. Public Inquiries on Rockwool
  - a. Mr. Myers stated that there have been no new inquiries regarding Rockwool.
  - b. Mr. Daniel Lutz, an elected Jefferson County Conservation District Supervisor for the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District alerted the committee that Article 19 of the West Virginia Code was revised and provided more control to the conservation districts over the water quality in West Virginia. Additionally, he stated that the particles that are emitted from the Rockwool location can travel roughly 10 miles and get into the water supply. He advised that the particles contain three known carcinogens, including lead, formaldehyde, and benzene.
7. WV Division of Highways Rockslide Mitigation Project – Route 340
  - a. There was no one from the Department of Highways present at the meeting.
    - i. The project is being delayed a year and is expected to start in September 2023.

## **VI. New Business**

1. 2022 Jefferson County Fair booth registration, tickets, and sign-up.
  - a. It was announced by Chairman Allen that there were still volunteer slots available and Mr. Myers announced which slots and which days were still able to be filled.
  - b. Motion to pay the registration fees totaling \$275 and purchase advance tickets at \$5 a ticket for a total of 25 tickets was requested by Chairman Allen.
    1. Walt Dewalt motioned.
    2. John Sherwood seconded the motion.
    3. Committee approved the motion.

2. Mr. David Tabb - Community Member

a. Radiation

1. Mr. Tabb is concerned about the public education of in regards to what could happen during fallout from radiological means. He encouraged the monitoring of possible sheltering, food sources, and water sources.
2. Mr. Green informed the committee that, at the state level, there is a Radiological Emergency Preparedness Plan, and that to the best of his knowledge, we do not have any nuclear plants within the vicinity of Jefferson County which would cause concern from nuclear fallout.
3. Mr. Tabb would like to add an item to review radiation so community members do not forgot about the potential threat of radiation.

b. Barge Incident

1. Mr. Tabb stated that he was called by the fire company to help respond with heavy equipment.

3. Mr. Daniel Lutz- Community Member

a. Electronic Communications

1. Mr. Lutz stated that West Virginia needs to upgrade its current telephone and data communication capabilities and that he knows that there is availability to do so.

b. Water Quality

1. Mr. Lutz stated that Jefferson County needs to have a laboratory that will monitor the water quality and conditions as well as the ability to supply water to our communities. We indicated that his vision is that there will be an “eastward migration” of people and business from the western areas of the United States to relocate in West Virginia because of our abundance of clean water. He additionally stated that this need for clean water is an emergency services and public services and human services issue.

**VII. Member Sharing Time**

1. Animal Welfare Society – Board Member – Rich Clawson stated that there are many animals that are available for adoption at the Animal Welfare Society and August is Clear the Shelter Month. Additionally, August is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AWS.

2. Customs and Border Patrol/Advanced Training Center CBP-ATC) - George Butler – Mr. Butler states that the CBP-ATC is a designated, alternate site for force-multiplying staging location and back-up communications infrastructure should something go bad in DC. CBP-ATC is participating in a National Continuity Exercise (a major cyberattack and residual civil disturbance exercise). The CBP-ATC is on the map for national awareness with a lot of people attending conferences there. During COVID CBP-ATC was the COOP site for field operations academies (boot camp). Many organizations, local, tribal, state, Federal, and international, have been able to utilize the facility and its services for training. Mr. Butler would like CBP-ATC to be recognize and to contribute in regard to any major emergencies in Jefferson County and its surrounding counties. The goal is to have fully-functional exercise capabilities in the next year or two. He did inject that the LEPC has the full support of the CBP-ATC.
3. Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department - Robert Sell – Mr. Sell stated that the Sheriff’s Department has hired four new deputies.
4. Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management – Dick Myers, Deputy Director- Mr. Myers thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stated how vital the organization and committee are and that with their participation, the committee can move forward.
5. Hospice of the Panhandle - Walt Dewalt- Mr. Dewalt informed the committee that some of the employees of the Hospice of the Panhandle attended the Beacon Active Shooter training about two weeks ago. He expects that around 120-150 employees will attend further training dates in August, September, and October. Mr. Dewalt added that Dr. Terrence Reidy reached out to have the Jefferson County Health Department participate in the training also.
6. Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management – Steve Allen, Director – Chairman Allen announced that later that day, he would be at the County Commission Meeting and would be on the agenda to get the approval for the new Public Information Officer/Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

1. Co-Chair John Sherwood moved for the closing of the LEPC meeting, and Jennifer Blood seconded the motion. All approved. Mr. Allen adjourned the meeting at 1005 hours. The next meeting of the Jefferson County LEPC will be held 8:15 on October 19 2022 and will be held at the Hospice of the Panhandle.