



# DOUGLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD

111 East Eleventh Street, Unit 200  
Lawrence, KS 66044-2909

Office: (785) 832-5259

Fax: (785) 832-5101

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**July 5, 2023**

*Eudora Public Safety Building*

Chair Mike Patrick welcomed members of the Douglas County Emergency Management Board/Local Emergency Planning Committee on July 5, 2023.

**LEPC Board Members present in the meeting included:**

Truman Waugh	Sara Kerkhoff
Gabi Sprague	Mike Russell
Greg Gardner	Tony Foster
Veronica White	Chad Christie
Hubert White	Ron May
Kim Murphree	Scott Fewins
Brad August	Ben Harris
Chris Johnston	John Stipetich
Elizabeth Keever	Mike Baxter
Teri Axman	Mike Patrick
Mindy Andrasevits	Jamie Hofling

**Emergency Management staff included:**

Robert Bieniecki	Erin Huneke
Joshua Taylor	Jillian Rodrigue

**Others attending:** Shannon Lowe, Gregory Dillon, Kirsten Rhoads, Janet Stallard, Justin Temple, Wes Lovett

**Welcome**

- Chair Mike Patrick called the meeting to order, and members introduced themselves.

**2023 Preparedness Partner Awards**

- Each year, the LEPC presents awards to community agencies or individuals who demonstrated a strong commitment to emergency preparedness and partnership over the past year. This year's awards were presented to:
  - Justin Temple, Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical
  - Jessi Harris and the Northeast Kansas Library System

**Presentation:**

- Teri Axman presented on the results of the 2023 Hazard and Vulnerability Analysis for LMH Health.

Common Acronyms:

Volunteers: Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Auxiliary Communications Team (ACT)  
Grants: Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP), Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)  
Plans: Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)  
COVID-19 Related: Unified Command (UC), Emergency Support Function (ESF), Recovery Support Function (RSF)  
Procurement: Request for Proposal (RFP), Request for Quote (RFQ)  
IPPW: Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop  
ARPA: American Rescue Plan Act



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### Executive Committee Business:

- The 2023-2024 Executive Committee was voted in. Greg Gardner moved to approve the new roster and Mike Russell seconded. The motion passed.
  - 2023-2024 Executive Committee:
    - Tony Foster, Chair
    - Brad August, Vice-Chair
    - Mike Pattrick, member
    - Mindy Andrsevits, member
    - Veronica White, member
- Tony Foster recognized Mike Pattrick for his service as chair and presented him with a plaque.

### Minutes of April 5, 2023

- Mike Baxter moved to approve the minutes of the April 5 Full Board Meeting. Brad August seconded and the motion passed.

### Staff Updates – Jillian Rodrigue, Josh Taylor

- Plans:
  - **LEOP:** The 2023 ESF review process is nearly complete. State standards for a rewrite of the EOP, due in June 2024, will come out this fall. These new standards will include a requirement for a recovery plan, which is in progress.
  - **COOP:** The spring 2023 series of COOP workshops just finished. More dates will be offered in the fall. In the meantime, a COOP 101 class will be held at Consolidated Fire District #1, date to be determined.
- Grants:
  - **HMEP:**
    - 2023: The gap analysis project is well underway. Workshops are being held in July and August to involve agency partners in the process.
    - 2024: EM has applied for funding for a Tabletop Exercise.
    - Robert presented to the CEPR (State Commission on Emergency Planning and Response) on June 1 about our recent HMEP projects and outcomes. LEPC Committee member Brad August was in attendance. Angee Morgan from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management was very complimentary of the Douglas County LEPC as a leader in the state.
  - **EMPG:** No updates.
- ARPA Project Updates:
  - Sirens, Digipeater Project and Cellular Backup Project: Digipeater project is complete. The cellular backup project materials have been sent to Blue Valley Public Safety for installation.
  - Main EOC: This project is in a holding pattern until the alternate EOC is complete.
  - Alternate EOC: Upgrade project is actively moving forward.

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- EM Vehicle: The vehicle ordering process has made little progress, and we've begun discussing buying off the lot with the dealership to expedite things.
  - EM Trailer: The trailer has come in and planning is in process for building it out.
  - PPE: Improvements to volunteer safety vests are in progress.
  - EM Budget:
    - EM's additions for the 2024 budget include funding for new sirens and additional funds for the maintenance of technology added by the various ARPA projects.
  - Volunteer Groups
    - Volunteer groups have been participating in increased radio training, including a monthly radio check-in for Skywarn storm spotters.
    - Volunteers recently participated in an activation tabletop exercise, which will be followed up this summer with a drill out in the community.
    - Additionally, EM will be hosting and funding CPR & AED training for volunteers later this summer.
  - Outreach and Training:
    - EM is working with the DgCo IT department to develop a cyber security tabletop; exercise with county department leaders.
    - EM has been busy in the past couple of months with outreach events, including severe weather presentations and outreach to cub scouts and Lawrence Police Camp.
    - The next CERT weekend class, a free class on disaster preparedness, will be held in October in Eudora.

### **Information Sharing**

- Brad August: Brad annually hosts a lunch with other industry facility partners. Please reach out to him if you have industries in your area that would be interested.
- Gabi Sprague: The Douglas County Housing Stabilization Collaborative has provided \$452,000 in assistance so far in 2023. The need is much higher. Evictions are on track this year to be significantly higher than last year.
- Jamie Hofling: The climate action and adaptation plan is in a first draft, which should be ready to share with the public soon. The open space plan is in early stages.
- John Stipetich: KU has developed an integrated planning and threat team for KU, which functions similarly to the LEPC. This team includes leaders from around KU. The team has begun their own hazard analysis, IPP, and EOP.
- Kim Murphree: LDS Church will be hosting a preparedness fair in September. Please reach out if you would like to participate or collaborate.
- Ron May: The USD 497 School Resource Officer team was nationally recognized this year.

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- Ben Harris: Ben provided an update on an ongoing grant to remove structures from flood prone areas in Lone Star. Zoning is nearing FEMA approval for the acquisition of one property as part of this project.
  - Elizabeth Keever: Heartland Community Health is working on risk management, staff training, and expanding same-day access
  - Justin Temple: The Active Threat plan is being revisited, thanks to John Stipetich for facilitating this planning.
  - Mike Pattrick: Mike emphasized the importance of recognizing and preparing for cyber threats.
  - Chad Christie: ICL has 50 full face masks available for free to a volunteer fire department or other agency; reach out if you are interested.

### **Adjourn:**

Brad August called for a motion to adjourn. John Stipetich so moved, and Greg Gardner seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

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