



**DOUGLAS COUNTY LEPC &
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BOARD**
111 East Eleventh Street, Unit 200
Lawrence, KS 66044-2909
(785) 832-5259

July 3, 2024

Lecompton Community Empowerment Building

Emergency Management Director Robert Bieniecki welcomed members of the Douglas County Emergency Management Board/Local Emergency Planning Committee on July 3, 2024.

LEPC Board Members present in the meeting included:

John Stipetich	David Ernst	Chad Voigt
Shannon Wells	Ruby Johnson	Kathy Porsch
Lane Sekavec	Matt Matheis	John Mathis
Scott Fewins	Justin Dunnaway	Chris LaMar
Teri Axman	Jamie Hofling	Ethan Unfred
Joe Hardy	John Harris	James Druen
Kay Johnson	Mike Russell	Greg Gardner
Chris Johnston		

Emergency Management staff included:

Joshua Taylor	Rachelle Iriving
Robert Bieniecki	Erin Huneke
Jillian Rodrigue	

Others attending: Terry Kegin, Truman Waugh, Misty Bosch-Hastings, Joshua Gapetz, Cicely Thornton, Mitch Young, Ben Harris, Janet Stallard, Troy Calkins, Greg Dillon

Welcome

- EM Director Robert Bieniecki called the meeting to order, and members introduced themselves.

Executive Committee Business:

- The 2024-2025 Executive Committee was voted in. Kathy Porsch moved to approve the new roster and Mike Russell seconded. The motion passed.
 - 2023-2024 Executive Committee:
 - Brad August, Chair
 - Mindy Andrsevits, Vice-Chair
 - Tony Foster, member
 - Teri Axman, member
 - Greg Gardner, member
- Tony Foster was recognized for his service as chair.

Minutes of April 3, 2024:

- Teri Axman moved to approve the minutes of the April 3 Full Board Meeting. John Stipetich seconded and the motion passed.

Bylaws update:

- In June, the Executive Committee approved a new draft of the LEPC bylaws for adoption by the Full Board. Mike Russell moved to adopt the bylaws and Teri Axman seconded. All voted in favor to approve.

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
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Hazardous Materials Update:

- Jillian Rodrigue updated the board on hazardous materials incidents since the previous Full Board meeting, including a gasoline spill into Clinton Lake. Incident cleanup is overseen by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and is the responsibility of the offending party.

2024 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:
 - Homeless Solutions Division, City of Lawrence
 - Information Technology, Douglas County

Presentation:

- Teri Axman presented the results of the 2024 Hazard and Vulnerability Analysis for LMH Health.

Staff Updates – Jillian Rodrigue, Josh Taylor, Robert Bieniecki, Erin Huneke

- Plans:
 - **LEOP:** The new draft of the EOP was sent to the Board of County Commissioners, who returned some questions. EM Staff is working through comments and will put the plan up before the BOCC for adoption in the next month.
 - **COOP:** EM is working with City of Lawrence on COOP plans. Additionally, EM has a template that private sector groups can use. Josh will send this out.
 - **IPP:** Continue to fill out the quarterly survey to maximize the utility of the plan.
- Grants:
 - **HMEP:** The HazMat transportation tabletop exercise will take place on August 14th. On the 13th, the contractor is also offering two sessions of Incident Action Planning training. For 2025, EM has applied for the funding of lithium-ion battery training.
 - **EMPG:** No updates.
- ARPA Project Updates:
 - Sirens, Digipeater Project and Cellular Backup Project: Both projects are complete.
 - Main EOC: Updates are complete except for signage.
 - Alternate EOC: Updates are complete except signage.
 - EM Vehicle: This project is complete.
 - EM Trailer: This project is complete.
 - PPE: Initial project is complete. The plan is to spend down the fund in providing other departments and county agencies with PPE stock.
 - All ARPA projects will be complete by the end of 2024.
- EM Budget:
 - EM's budget hearing is Monday, July 8th. EM is requesting a new full-time position for Training and Education to create more opportunities for outreach and exercising. Also new this year is budget for an intern.

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- Volunteer Groups:
 - Seventeen individuals graduated from the April CERT Weekend Class. The next class is September 13-15 at the Flory Building.
 - Volunteers participated in a full activation drill on June 27th, which included full accountability and the EM trailer.
 - Later this summer, volunteers will take part in damage assessment training.
 - The volunteer training schedule is set for the rest of the year, including a Recognition event on Sunday, November 3rd.
 - The EOC Support team is meeting regularly to build out resources.
- Outreach:
 - EM is participating in both Lawrence Police Camp (younger kids) and Academy (high school) throughout the summer.
 - EM Intern Rachelle has been working on social media materials for September (National Preparedness Month). This campaign is designed to make preparedness approachable.
 - Kate Dinneen led a mini-CERT course at Babcock Place this summer and will teach one at Vermont Towers in August.
 - County residents can now sign up in Everbridge to receive notifications when burn bans are in effect in unincorporated areas.
 - EM is working with the City of Lawrence to create automated systems for the use of Everbridge for their employees.
- Personnel:
 - Jillian Rodrigue's last day with the county will be August 1st. A farewell open house will be held July 23rd.

Information Sharing

- John Mathis, Consolidated Fire District #1: Introduced himself. He is getting to know the job and how CFD fits into the county. Kirsten Rhoads has been teaching and doing outreach at Ballard, Police Camp, and elsewhere.
- Mike Russell, KU EHS: Campus is working on Potter's Lake repairs.
- Ruby Johnson, Headquarters Kansas: HQ is fully funded and 988 is fully operational. The organization's Breakfast of Hope will take place on 9/9.
- Scott Fewins, Lawrence MSO: City is watching flooding events and river levels. Road construction continues on 6th street.
- Greg Dillon, EPA: EPA is responding in the field to flooding events. 24-hour response line is open.
- John Harris, Amateur Radio: Keeping on top of repeater operations. Participated in a 24-hour Field Day where people make as many contacts as possible across the country to demonstrate the capabilities of the system.
- Chad Voigt, Public Works: the KDOT Trafficway project is moving forward to make the rest of K10 four lanes. Work may start as early as spring. PW can act as a liaison to KDOT if any county agencies have issues providing services during construction disruptions.

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- Ben Harris, Zoning & Codes: Finishing flood mitigation grants to clear structures. The Open Space Team is looking to install a picnic table and bike repair station in this area. Z&C now has 3 Certified Floodplain Managers on staff.
 - Troy Calkins, Kansas Division of EM: Troy is the new WebEOC administrator.
 - Terry Kegin, Kansas Division of EM: Keeping an eye on river levels and may need to deploy. Terry also gave an update on what 2026 FIFA World Cup in Kansas City may look like for surrounding counties.
 - Shannon Wells, Lawrence Humane Society: Working on inventorying the CART (County/Community Annual Response Team), establishing training.
 - James Druen, KU Police: Preparing for next semester and the possibility of protests.
 - Matt Matheis: KU Emergency Management: New officers just did a full scale exercise on active threat response; in July, a cybersecurity seminar/workshop is planned with administration; a G402 class will be provided for the Chancellor's Cabinet; a functional EOC active threat exercise is tentatively scheduled for October; KU just got the Storm Ready University designation; an After Action report is being finalized following protests in May; emergency notifications system was just tested during an incident.
 - Chris Johnston, DgCo Sheriff's Office: DGSO just added a patrol boat (to the Search and Rescue boat), which is mostly patrolling Clinton Lake.
 - Jamie Hofling, DgCo Sustainability: The Climate Action and Adaptation Plan was adopted by the BOCC in April. The plan is available online.
 - Joe Hardy, Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical: 52 people were put through communications training and a swift water training will be held in September and October (both grant-funded). Budget and staffing issues continue.
 - Janet Stallard, American Red Cross: ARC is getting together a list of volunteers to be on standby for flooding deployment.
 - Lane Sekavec: Union Pacific is holding a course for leaders who are not directly in fire response. Jillian Rodrigue will attend.

Adjourn:

Greg Gardner called for a motion to adjourn. Mike Russell so moved, and Lane Sekavec seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned.

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