

Jan 21, 2016
City Council Chambers
100 E Ave A
Jerome, Idaho

Attendance

Clint Blackwood – Jerome County EMA, Gary Davis – IBHS, **Jay Gardner** – Jerome Police Department, **Larry Goolsby** – Jerome County EMA, **John Hathaway**- IDHW, **Bill Allred** – Jerome City Fire Dept., **Thomas Hughes** – Jerome City Fire Dept., **Diana Ochsner** – Red Cross, **Dan Olmstead** – Idaho Power, **Tom Snow** – USDA - Farm Service, **Angie Durham** – SCPHD, **Staci Schneider** – Intermountain Comm, **Natalie McCoy** – Farm Service Agency, **Glenna Lawrence** – Jerome County OEM Assistant,

Welcome

Jay Gardner, Chairman, called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone in attendance and invited members to introduce themselves.

LEPC

Minutes for Dec, 2015 LEPC meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved.

Old Business

Grant Update: Receiving bids for the Security System at the Radio Tower Site. Relating to the grants is an update on the Emergency Operation Center as part of the Jail Facility. They are running a little behind on the construction of the Jail on the detention side but are on track for the Administrative section and we may be looking at April or May before a move in time. At that point we will be getting serious about the move and moving our LEPC meeting to the new facility and in conjunction with that will start hitting the training and exercising very heavily so we can become functional in the new facility for when a disaster might hit.

All the local jurisdictions within Jerome County have signed off by resolution acceptance of the *Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Clint is forwarding it on to FEMA for their final approval and should be finalized in the near future.

New Business:

Jay turned the time over to Tom Snow for a presentation from the USDA – Farm Service Agency. He introduced himself and Natalie McCoy. Natalie started the presentation off by introducing them as being a division of USDA and basically serves all farmers, ranchers, agriculture partners and their job is to provide a safety net during administration rather it's their program or disaster programs. They spoke on and passed out information as an overview of what they do; Emergency Disaster Designation and Declaration Process, types of disaster designations, what does a Disaster Designation specify and The Secretarial Disaster Designation Process. He also passed out a Farm Loan Information Chart which summarizes FSA farm loan information; Program, Maximum Loan Amount, Rates and Terms, and Use of proceeds. Handed out a Reference Guide – USDA Disaster Resources for Farmers, Ranchers and Communities; Technical Assistance, Disaster Payments for Agricultural Losses, Loan/Credit, Risk Management/Insurance, Conservation and Land Management and Household and Community Water Supplies. Then he shared the FSA County Food, Feed and Seed Facility Listing along with the Fertilizer listing.

Tom Snow reminds us that it is a good thing to be aware of what is going on in the community, and Tom mentions particularly in the dairies; that if someone is out there that is not supposed to be, or you see something out of the ordinary, report it. It could mean being prepared in the first line of defense if a disaster should be just around the corner.

Clint says also that the USDA/APHIS is in the planning stages for an animal disease outbreak full scale exercise in Jerome County later this year.

Jay then invited Gary Davis to share with the LEPC group as to what his job and responsibilities are. He has served in Homeland Security now since June of 1993.

Jay applauds Gary for a job well done in his many years of service. He has always been dependable in any situation.

Jay also expresses the great need for all of our agencies to come to our LEPC meetings and how important they are in preparation for disasters and are in need of everyone's help. He has given the LEPC group a challenge to take one online course in the next 3 months at www.trainingfema.gov.

Training Opportunities / Exercises:

There will be an Emergency Operation Planning class held in May and will be a great EOC exercise, held in Pocatello, Idaho.

Agency Reports:

Tom Snow – One of their functions in GIS is they contracted for credit on behalf of the farm service and they contract every two years, next one is due May and August 2017, when they take Idaho again. For the large part when we do have a disaster they will know how many acres, people involved and have a method they can actually report what is happening in a very short time, called a '*Storm Report*'.

John Hathaway – They are working on legislation that provide coverage and classes for 78,000.

Dan Olmstead – Idaho Powers 100th birthday. They have a lot of security in place for any terrorist attack on our power outage. They have the unique ability to what they call, '*Island Ourselves*' because of our Snake River and resources around the River and the power plant. If everything goes down they can actually bring the system back up, separate from the western bridge, if they had too. Not very many utilities in the country can do that. They might not be able to serve all the needs of all the customers in that kind of disaster but they can keep the emergency; running water and hospital supplied. They have a big substation between Jerome and Shoshone called '*Midpoint*' and this is the midpoint of what they call the western bridge which is all the states around us including California and part of Canada and Hawaii. We can separate us from the other utilities if we have too. Cyber Security and Electrical Grid are on people's minds and because we are so automated with computers that run our power plants, it is always a threat. We do have the ability to manually start all of our power plants if needed.

Last year they started what they call an '*Emergency Storm Room*', located in Twin Falls. We have meteorologists on staff that are always looking at the weather storms and can predict a big one that might come through, then we can prepare for them way in advance and mobilize our resources and line crew, contact media, counties, cities, jurisdictions, etc. etc.

Question was asked about a transmission line; Dan says they have a transmission line that runs from the Hagerman lower Salmon Power Plant, just north of Hagerman on the Snake River. Going up close to Fairfield it runs over the hill and terminates just north of Hailey. That line was built in 1962 and is one of the two lines that serve the Wood River Valley. Because it is subject to fire year round it will be rebuilt with new technology and upgrade. Idaho Power serves about 525,000 customers.

Larry Goolsby – Has been distributing the Community Emergency Preparedness guideline handbooks to 25 different businesses' in hope they get used and filled out for what we intended.

Diana Ochsner – Reports about the new Civil Air Patrol program, "The Great Start Program" for the Cadets ages 12 to 17 years old. They just graduation from their first class, which is 6 weeks of basic training and ready to start their 2nd class.

The Air Force has interjected a new officer position as a '*Disaster Emergency Preparedness Officer*' and Diana was given that great privilege.

The Red Cross had been pretty quiet up until Christmas Day then they got hammered; mostly between Shoshone and Twin Falls, with fires and floods that kept them moving and in fact so busy they ran out of critical supplies and had to have them shipped over night.

They kicked off their Pillow Case Project with 83 third graders in Twin Falls. A one hour class was held to teach them about natural disasters (that included in house fire prevention). They are taught how to take the information home to teach their families.

Thomas Hughes – Things have been quiet in Jerome but also reports on the great amount of fires and floods over Christmas between Shoshone and Twin Falls. He reports of one power outage on December 21st at a school on the North side of town, where a squirrel had bit into a power line. Thomas says there had been a tremendous amount of car accidents, off the interstate and around town. They have recently taken ownership of some rescue equipment, well needed and overdue. It's has hydraulic tools that cuts larger, stronger steel, is battery operated vs gas power hydraulic.

Clint Blackwood – In our February meeting he will be giving the presentation on Tier 2. Then for the March meeting there is conflict with a Critical Infrastructure Resilience Symposium in Utah for the 17th and 18th that Clint desires to attend. All agreed that our LEPC meeting would be moved to the following Thursday the 24th.

Our Next Jerome LEPC Meeting

March 24, 2016

1 pm – 2pm

Jerome City Council Chambers