MINUTES OF THE BROWN COUNTY LEPC

The Brown County Local Emergency Planning Committee met on October 26, 2022 at 3:36 p.m. at the USD430 South Brown County School Board Office, 522 Central Ave., Horton, KS.

Emergency Manager Don Pounds, presided and called the meeting to order.

Those present were: Don Pounds, Steve Markham, Jason Cline, Greg Bebemeyer, Stephanie Knudson, Robin Downard, Mark Junker, Curtis Stahel, Lonnie Moser, Jennifer Brockhoff, Patrick Sheldon, Robbie Parker (for Sheriff Merchant).

Those participating via ZOOM were: Nestoria Wright, Jeremy Forkenbrock, Bryce Haverkamp, Mickey Gruber,

Excused: Jon Boller.

Unexcused: Nathan Gray, Duke Koerperich, Lamar Shoemaker, Kristina Romine, Jason Bare

The minutes from the October 27, 2022, meeting was read. Motion by Steve Markham to accept the minutes. Seconded by Lonnie Moser. Motion carried.

The meeting was opened to public comment on the Brown County LEPC. No public comment was made.

Old Business:

Don Pounds shared a letter from the State of Kansas stating the Brown County LEPC was in full compliance for the year of 2021.

Robin Downard commented on the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Don Pounds gave overview on 500 gallon oil spill and cleanup in Hiawatha.

Don Pounds reported on the Foreign Animal Disease tabletop exercise held in Hiawatha. This was attended by Brown County Commissioner, Health Department, Sac & Fox Tribe, Road & Bridge Dept., Extension Office, Dr. Aaron Schaffer DVM

Jeremy Forkenbrock reported on Burn Surge tabletop in-person exercise. Sac & Fox building was the target of the exercise the limitations of transport options discussed. Good exercise.

USD430 Superintendent Jason Cline gave report on completion of updated crisis plan for the school district. Training for the staff and reference materials have been provided.

Don Pounds reported on a tabletop exercise at Maple Heights Nursing Home. Power failure was the disaster presented to the participants. The biggest challenge identified was keeping temperature from falling too low that would require relocation of residents. Remote power over the roof top directly to the heating units was identified as a possible action to explore with an electrician.

Don Pounds reported on an electrical fire on a railroad locomotive with 4000 gallons of diesel. Fire was extinguished by local officials.

Don Pounds reported on a search and rescue exercise at mission Lake involving; Brown County Sheriff, Horton PD, Horton Fire, Kansas Game Warden, Brown and Nemaha County Emergency Management, and Brown County Rescue. Both Sheriff’s drone and Brown County Rescue boat was used.

Jeremy Forkenbrock reported that a table top and full-scale exercise is planned for the local hospital in the next several months.

New Business:

Melissa Gromley resigned and a new PIO (Public Information Officer) is needed. Kristina Romine will be asked to take this position.

Don reported that a new process will be coming online in the Spring for the State of Kansas to complete a new LEOP (Local Emergency Operations Plan).

Don brought up that the bylaws require attendance at the LEPC meetings. Some members on the Committee have never attended a meeting. This will be addressed at the 2023 meeting.

Horton Chief of Police Jon Boller has requested to become a member of LEPC.

Openings due to resignations on LEPC are:

 Kelly Bryant – City of Robinson City Clerk

 George Bruning – Brown County Noxious Weeds

 Gene Atland – Hiawatha Fire Department

 Debra Tucker – American Red Cross

 Patrick Luckenbill – Cross Winds (facility operator)

 John Defore – Hiawatha Chief of Police

New members approved by LEPC membership:

 Kelly Bryant – City of Robinson City Clerk (nom by

 Richard Rodvelt – Brown County Noxious Weeds

 Patrick Sheldon – Hiawatha Fire Department

 Xena Hoye – American Red Cross

 Mickey Gruber – Hiawatha Chief of Police

 Jon Boller – Horton Chief of Police

 Lonnie Moser made motion to approve all new members that were nominated.

 Stephanie Knudson seconded motion.

 All in favor. Motion passed

By-laws were reviewed with no comments made.

Officer elections. Nominations:

 Chairman: Don Pounds

 Vice-Chairman: Jeremy Forkenbrock

Secretary: Robin Downard

Information Coordinator: Greg Bebemeyer

Curtis Stahl motioned to cease nominations, seconded by Lonnie Moser. Motion accepted. Vote – All in favor of officers as nominated.

 Committee members needing filled: Nominated:

 Right to Know (Vice Chairman) Curtis Stahl

 Hazardous Materials (Vice Chairman) Mark Junker

 Public Education (Vice Chairman) Lonnie Moser and Xena Hoye

 Lonnie Moser won by ballot count 9 to 7

Curtis Stahl discussed that Ag Partners is required to have an exercise involving anhydrous ammonia before December 2023. Local emergency services dispatchers and the local Emergency Management Department will be involved. Curtis reminded everyone of the increased movement of anhydrous ammonia in the County this time of year.

The next meeting will be October 25, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at the Hiawatha Middle School Library.

Don Pounds adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.