

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Video Conference Meeting
Oshkosh WI
May 4, 2020**

Members present: Paul Eisen, Tom Ellis, Vicki Schorse, Bill Wingren

Also present: Linda Kollmann, Eric Rasmussen, Becky Powers

Chairman Eisen called the Emergency Management Committee virtual meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and confirmed that the meeting notice was published as required.

1. Approval of Minutes

Vicki Schorse moved to approve the January 6, 2020 meeting minutes as written; Tom Ellis seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried.

2. Comments and/or correspondence from the public

None have been received.

3. Coronavirus COVID-19 Report

- COVID-19 is a health emergency, and as such, Health Dept. is the Lead; Doug Gieryn has done just an outstanding job in leading this response – very impressed with his leadership.
- Emergency Management is functioning in a support role. This is true on the state level as well. Becky’s hours have been increased to full-time for the foreseeable future; Linda and Eric both worked the first 28 days straight without a day off but things are beginning to level off to a more sustainable schedule. At this point, additional staffing is not needed.
- Our primary focus has been on supply/coordination of resources, in particular personal protective equipment (PPE). For the first six weeks or so, the state sent PPE from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) directly to hospitals and healthcare providers, and directed a separate stream of PPE to first responders through emergency management. Now that the SNS supply is exhausted, all PPE shipments are coming directly to emergency management and we are tasked with dividing it and distributing it to all in need.
- There are about 180 facilities (hospitals, first responders, long term care facilities, dental providers, etc.) that we must survey weekly to determine what PPE stock they have. The goal is to try to get a seven-day supply to each facility. Their responses are combined and Eric then sends a report to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) requesting the PPE that will be needed to meet that level of fulfillment.
- Each week a shipment comes from the SEOC, and we divide that among the agencies that have needs. We have assistance from two Health Department employees that assist with organization of the PPE, and Eric tracks the surveys, supply requests, shipments received and prioritizes distribution. Due to national shortages, we don’t get everything that everyone needs, and a Task Force has been formed to oversee the allocation. PPE stock being shipped now is what the SEOC has been able to

acquire from various sources – FEMA, the state’s PPE Buy-Back program, some supplies purchased by the state.

- We also coordinated shipments of PPE designated for municipal clerks in support of spring elections, and have worked with county departments to get supplies to for county essential employees.
- A large portion of our time is consumed with conference calls and email; we are collaborating/coordinating with health care providers, first responder agencies and county municipalities, as well as neighboring counties and state agencies.
- Currently, Winnebago County has joined Outagamie County in setting up an Isolation Center in Neenah; and with Outagamie and Calumet counties, a community-based testing center is being located at Fox Valley Tech in Appleton.
- We have assisted the City of Oshkosh in connection to their efforts to extend the “open” season of their homeless shelter in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Becky is preparing for our anticipated application for grant funding through FEMA’s Public Assistance program, including additional online training and coordinating the distribution of this information to other municipalities and private non-profit organizations that may have COVID-19 expenses eligible for partial reimbursement through Pubic Assistance.
- We had four 55-gallon drums of liquid sanitizer donated to our department, and after the location and purchase of many spray bottles, have distributed that to first responders and health care facilities in need.

4. Director’s Report

- This is not the disaster we anticipated this spring! Fortunately, the flood outlook has improved and at this point is not really a concern. There are two areas that still have “slow/no wake” zones, but water levels are continuing to go down.
- Our current financial status is about the same as a normal year, with the exception of cost over-run due to labor and some COVID-19 -related purchases. Those costs should be eligible for reimbursement through Public Assistance.
- The Mobile Command Post is actually ahead of schedule in the building process, and we may have it in July. EAA has been cancelled this year, Country USA was postponed until August but we have not heard anything yet about Lifest or Rock USA.
- 2020 Siren Season has begun and our sirens are looking good. Health Stumpf, the county electrician that works on our sirens, does a really nice job – we had only one siren with a dead battery over the winter. A siren on County Road A will be relocated due to the road-widening project there.

Tom Ellis congratulated Eric Rasmussen on achieving his Certification as an Emergency Manager. **Due to the pandemic, the next meeting will be scheduled at another point in time.**

MOTION to adjourn by Vicki Schorse; seconded by Tom Ellis; all in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Powers