

## **Black Hawk County Emergency Management Commission Meeting**

Thursday May 20, 2021 4:00PM

Meeting began at 4:00 pm

Roll Call of Members Present: Black Hawk County Supervisor, Cedar Falls, Dunkerton, Gilbertville, Hudson, Gilbertville, LaPorte City, Raymond.

1. Motion to approve the agenda by Dunkerton, second by Black Hawk County Supervisor, motion carried.
2. Motion to approve Minutes of April 15, 2021 meeting minutes by Raymond, second by Gilbertville, motion carried

### **Coordinator report**

Benson advised she's attended her regular monthly meetings which consists of EMA District 6 meet, Iowa Statewide Communications Interoperability Board Meeting. State 911 Board Meeting. Public Health-COVID updates. Waterloo Schools-Career Security Meeting, County Security Meeting, County COAD/VOAD meeting, Met with Mark Abernathy & Kris Hansen from Western Home, Michelle Teymeyer with Waterloo Exchange Club, Mary Janssen with Children & Family Services, Tavis Hall with Waterloo Community Foundation in regards to Ragbrai, and Nick Heintz from Unity Point. Benson Also attended Disaster Recovery Workshop, University of Okoboji Conference, Storm Spotter Training, Advance Storm Spotter Training.

Benson also informed members present she has been working with the State of Iowa on RAVE which will be the new vendor for the AlertIowa system. The product software appears to be great, very user friendly, however there is some questions as to our current vendor WENS/Inspiron providing us with our current data lists so we can use place our current users into the new system.

The EMA vehicle did take a rock to the windshield, it is a significant break and can not be repaired, the windshield will have to be replaced. Also took the Tahoe to RACOM to have the radio programming updated which it has not been done since the radio was installed with the new radio system. The EMA handhelds were done as well.

Benson is also working with the National Weather Service and the ISICS Board on a pilot program for the statewide National Weather Service channel. This pilot program will allow a few chosen counties to have direct radio contact with the National Weather Service (NWS) in severe weather situations rather than time delays with phone calls, emails or voicemails. In order to take part of the pilot program EMA will have to become a level 1 user, which will need some state forms filled out and sent in for approval, as well as radio programming done from RACOM. Once we do have the bugs worked out on the pilot program and this is made available across the entire Des Moines NWS myself, the Sheriff and Judy from dispatch can discuss access if we would like dispatch to have access.

Benson is also currently working on an email group for the Weather Service Situational Report (SitRep) that are sent out prior to a severe weather event. At the date of the meeting there has not been on SitRep sent out. But the email group that has been started has approximately 90 email recipients listed, including Law, Fire, EMS, city clerks, streets department, water department, COAD/VOAD, and health care.

## **Old Business**

- A. COVID-19 Ongoing-County Community wide vaccinations have been taking place. The Governor signed into law that masks are no longer required in any building or facility.
- B. Drone Update-no current updates
- C. By-Law-there are a few mayors that Benson still needs a signature from.

## **New Business**

- A. COAD/VOAD: Lauren Finke from Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley along with Janna Diehl were present to speak on behalf of the local VOAD/COAD.
- B. Interoperable Channels for EMA/National Weather Service-(ISICS) Pilot program-Benson will obtain signatures from EMA Commission Chair for the acceptance of the ISICS channels for EMA radios.
- C. AlertIowa System with Rave Mobile-New vendor has been chosen for the Alert Iowa system. Effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 we will be switching vendors. There will not or should not be any change in alerting. If any facilities would like to retain their capabilities to notify their employees, please contact Benson for further information.
- D. Assistant Coordinator Position. Benson as well as board members present held open discussion in regards to the Assistant Coordinator position. Benson informed members she has had a lot of interest in the Assistant position, as well as would like to work with members as to what that position would/should look like. After discussion no action was taken.

**Items for General Discussion-** Cedar Falls advised that the Civil Air Patrol will be receiving a new Cessna which will be housed at the Waterloo Airport.

Next meeting June 17, 2021 4:00pm

Motion to adjourn by Dunkerton, second by Raymond, adjourned at 4:49pm