

Black Hawk County Emergency Management Commission Meeting

Thursday August 18th, 2022

Meeting called to order at 4:01 pm

Roll Call of Members Present: **Black Hawk Co. Sheriff, Black Hawk Co. Board of Supervisors, Cedar Falls, Dunkerton, Elk Run Heights, Evansdale, Gilbertville, Hudson, La Porte City, Raymond, Waterloo.**

Visitors Present: Laura Benson, Andy Milone

1. Motion to approve the agenda by Dunkerton, second by Raymond, motion carried.
2. Motion to approve Minutes of July 2022 meeting minutes by Dunkerton, second by Board of Supervisor, motion carried

Coordinator report

July/August 2022

Trainings/Drills

August 16-18 Rescue Task Force-Hostile Event interdiction. Instructors for both classes are provided by outside agencies.

August 19-NIMs Course here at the Training Center

August 23-24 Medical Preparedness & Response to Bombing incidents.

Training for a virtual simulator for Table Top Exercises, purchased with HSGP Grant through NIRG LEPC\

Meetings

IDHRC (elected vice chair), ISICS board meeting (EMA appointee), State 911 meeting, EMA District 6, Iowa Emergency Management Association Meeting, IEMA Awards Committee Meeting, STEP-C-ISAC, Black Hawk County 911, Safety Committees-Waterloo Schools, Service Areas 6 Healthcare Coalition. County Department Head Meeting.

Misc.

Organization

Response/Weather-

- RC Systems has the new siren server operational

Planning-

- Working with other EMA's on the Safe School initiative, also spoke to Jason with RACOM regarding radios.

Exercise(s)-

- Pending Table Top Exercise with Waterloo Airport for August,

Mitigation-

- ISAC Grant Awarded for Weather Radio Program.

Other-

- Grants-EMPG ARPA 2021- Quarterly report submitted awaiting reimbursement
- EMPG 2022 is submitted waiting on funding from FEMA to the State.
- EMA has fulfilled the Training Requirements and exercise requirements for this year, received verification letter from the State
- STEM presentation for kids at the Black Hawk County Fair.
- Meet with Kristina McBurney from Congresswoman Ashley Hinson office.
- IEMA will have a booth at the upcoming League of Cities here in Waterloo. I as well as Winneshiek, Dallas and Clayton will be staffing booth.

Old Business

- A. COVID-19- (Ongoing) good news is we continue to retreat with the numbers since the slight spike in the summer. Monkey pox in the headlines.
- B. Drone Update- Dolf not present, Sheriff Thompson did go out at end of July and witness training the two new drones. The new drones are micro drones have them and integrated them with updates. That is also work in progress, they did fly for county engineer during production of Grundy Road. Will be getting ready to open next week. There will be a ribbon cutting with the 2 counties at the end of this month. They are available to communities in a non-emergency response as well.
- C. Funding Options for 911 Communications- Sheriff Thompson spoke to the members present that this is more of an issue as of late, advised last month there would be a meeting with our county finance director to talk with Johnson County counterparts. Our Black Hawk County Finance Director is leaving. On the horizon so the mayors know, first Wednesday of September, in the afternoon at 1pm Deltaworks the consulting company will present the work flow to the 911 Board. Once the board digests the findings, then it will be turned into action plans then turn over to the oversight committee. Assuming Deltaworks findings and the funding option for consolidation communications all blend together into one composite package that can be presented before October for budgetary plannings. so, there is a transparent view so when things come to the table with findings. Document will be sent out and the oversight committee, as well as be brought together for review. After that will be asking for guidance on how we can proceed. Sheriff Thompson will have results by the next ema meeting, or at least a draft that can be spoken to.

New Business

- A. Laura Benson (Guest), Trail Safety- talking about trail safety, trails have been expanded within Waterloo and the county. Laura stated in 2017 there was issues with trail system where a female was assaulted. And various other items happen on the trail as well. Laura stated she has talked to couple entities in regard to safety protocols. Laura would also like to see a blue light system on the trails since this works at college campuses. The blue light boxes can be placed on the trails in the event someone has an accident or incident. She would also like to see trail cameras at the parking lots and at the trail heads. Laura stated that the trial cameras would not be monitored if there was an incident the investigator could back a few days to obtain video. Laura stated she has been posting the topic of trail safety on social media there have been some negative comments as well as those that want to come together to fund raise on this topic. This topic will need to involve conservation, partnership of trails, and many more. Laura stated the beacon could also be used as a two way, to alert of weather and dangers. Sheriff Thompson asked about miles of trails around the county any idea how she wants to cover 200 miles of trails? Laura advised this is a 10-year plan or have to be long term planning. She wants to come up with a plan and a budget, maybe start with a pilot program for a park or a community, as this will be a long process. List of people Laura would like to be involved, black Hawk County Conservation, Troy Olson from Association of Trails, as well as any statewide items that need to be looked at too. Laura stated that Logansport Indiana has one trail that has safety features. Coordinator Benson stated she did ask the emergency managers from across the state, this has not been done anywhere else in the state. Polk County is just starting to work on USNG (United States National Grid) for their trails.

Mindy spoke on the usage of USNG while utilizing the trails. Sheriff Thompson spoke on the use of the USNG signs. Sheriff Thompson stated it is a fear this is going to be costly, budgets for communities don't have that funding mechanism. The funding piece is what is the big question. Right now, Laura wants to be put together a team to get this started. Hudson said yes, it is a good idea to put this together. Or a pilot program would this be better to put it into place where the trail is completely covered, that can't be viewed by citizens that are driving by. Figure out the high-risk areas make that a focus, the other open areas not covered as much. What would commission like to do for next steps. Supervisor Laylin asked what Laura is looking for from this board? Laura stated she wants people from the county. This will be almost an exploratory committee. This item will be kept on the agenda for further discussion as more information becomes available.

- B. Black Hawk County Weather Radio Program-Coordinator Benson informed members present that she applied for and was the recipient of the ICAP grant for \$1000. This grant assisted in the purchase of 35 weather radios from Midland Radio Corporation. The purpose of the radio weather program is to provide a free weather radio to schools, churches, as well as other non-profit organizations. There will be a stipulation that requestors will need to have and provide a copy of their Emergency Plans. Benson is working on terms and conditions, news releases, and other related items for obtaining a weather radio. Cedar County Emergency Manager Jodi Freet has done a project like this in her county, so Benson will be reaching out to her for guidance.

Items for General Discussion. Nothing presented

Next Meeting: September 15th, 2022 @ 4PM

Motion by Dunkerton, second by Raymond for adjournment.