

Black Hawk County Emergency Management Commission Meeting

Thursday September 15, 2022

Meeting called to order at 4:08 pm

Roll Call of Members Present: **Black Hawk Co. Sheriff, Black Hawk Co. Board of Supervisors, Cedar Falls, Dunkerton, Elk Run Heights, Hudson,**

Visitors Present: Cedar Falls Fire Chief John Bostwick, Laura Benson

1. Motion to approve the agenda by Dunkerton, second by Cedar Falls, motion carried.
2. Motion to approve Minutes of August 2022 meeting minutes by Hudson, second by Dunkerton, motion carried

Coordinator report

August/September 2022

Trainings/Drills

August 19-NIMs Course here at the Training Center

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

Meetings

IDHRC (chair elect), ISICS board meeting (EMA appointee), 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.

Misc.

Organization

- Response/Weather-
- Lead Focus group for Black Hawk County Public Health Response to COVID-19

Planning-

- Meeting with Schools reference to the Radio Grant through the Governors School Safety program. (Sheriff Thompson, Judy Flores)
- Started working on Emergency Support Functions for 2023

Exercise(s)-

- Pending Table Top Exercise with Waterloo Airport for August, pre-planning for full scale 2023

Mitigation-

- 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
- 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

1. COVID-19- (Ongoing) nothing to present.
2. **Drone Update-** only call out was in Gilbertville for a missing person August 31. Used drones along river and football field, the missing person was located 20 minutes after start of search. Later that evening supported Tri-County search warrant entry in Independence. Drones are all up and fully functional, 4 drones' total. Also still looking at tactical drone for the team.
3. **Funding Options for 911 Communications-** Sheriff Thompson sat through lengthy meeting with Deltaworks the consultant for the work study of the 911 center. Notable items from Deltaworks Black Hawk County Consolidated Dispatch are considered a medium sized public safety answering point. Deltaworks stated we

are larger than medium, understaffed technical support. Governance topic of consideration is that Waterloo and Cedar Falls have less influence, than the smaller communities because they shoulder the same expenses. They will give presentation 1st week of October; this will be presented to the 911 board and oversight committee at the same time and/or same day. What they are finding, as well as recommended taking a strong look at is operations. They start making recommendations for alternative funding which is the EMA levy. We have been talking about and working through so far, is what their findings are. Will be sending invite to review with Deltaworks soon. Invite will either come from Judy or Kayla.

4. **Black Hawk County Trails** – Mike Hendrickson BHCO Conservation. Mike started by clarified a few things; Black Hawk County Conservation is only tasked with management of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail from Waterloo to Brandon. All the urban areas around here with the trails are all managed by the cities they fall in. Mike always wants to know when there is an event/incident on the trails in case the trails are dangerous. And they are always looking at that topic. Only way to move forward with safety and other items we need all entities sitting at the table. We are doing that by bringing them to the table with the EMA Commission. Conservation always make sure trails are considered safe, and regardless of an incident happens on the trails, whether they are in secluded areas or open areas, Conservation doesn't ever want to not find peace of mind for citizens. Mike agreed he doesn't not feel the trails are unsafe, now however there maybe time when unsafe things happen.

Mike also elaborated that we need to keep in mind that the trails are used by tens of thousands of people every week.

Laura Benson also commented that, we are on the same page, we can work well together moving forward, regarding her view on unsafe trails. Laura agreed that yes, for the most part they are safe. The problem is women, even older generations, and kids we are constantly being told they aren't doing safe things. There was a newspaper item on social media and all the comments were all women, at least 85% were women, things do happen, but women are "taught" to be unsafe and always feeling threatened.

EMA Benson added that as a first steps, what we need to do as we work forward is start getting public education and information out to our residents. We can do this by using social media, and websites to share short public education clips on using USNG signs along the trail. As well as other phone apps that will aid in find your location if you need to call 911. This topic will continue to be of conversation at additional Commission meetings.

5. Weather Radio Program-documents-need to table since this is still a work in progress.

New Business, no new business.

Items for General Discussion, no items for general discussion.

Next Meeting: October 20, 2022 @ 4PM

Motion by Dunkerton, second by Cedar Falls for adjournment at 5:01PM