

**Quarterly Emergency Management Commission Meeting**

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Story County Emergency Management Commission was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chair Rick Sanders

**Attendance:**

Ann Campbell-Ames	Shawn Bayouth-Ames Fire
Freddie DuPont-Collins	Scott DeYoung-Cambridge
Earl Otto-Colo	Jon Popp-Gilbert
Craig Henry- Huxley	Lynn Lathrop- Nevada
Elizabeth Quinn-Sheriff's Office	Steve Ransom-Slater
Mike Jensen- Story City	Rick Sanders- BOS
Edwina Amundson- Zearing	Keith Morgan-EMA Coordinator
Melissa Spencer-Deputy Coordinator	John Pieper-DuPont
Jeff Chambers-Oakridge National Lab	

**Consent Agenda**

- Consider approval of July 2017 Meeting Minutes
  - Consider approval of October 2017 Agenda
- Motion by Popp, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Henry to approve the Consent Agenda, MCU

**Old Business**

Corn Stover Update- John Pieper & Jeff Chambers

DuPont is focusing in the areas of prevention, response and confinement for fire response to DuPont stover storage sites.

Prevention activities are addressing accidental ignition which and storage methods. Accidental ignition is still a high risk. Lighting protection equipment has been installed in at approximately 62% of DuPont storage sites. Storage is at its maximum right now. As the plant becomes fully operational there will be a reduction of large storage sites with transition to smaller storage at the harvesting sites.

Design of stack structure and layouts continue to evolve. Testing with the Oakridge National Lab showed changes to the stack design should restrict airflow to the stack on fire and slowing the spread of a fire which should improve the ability of firefighters to reduce losses. DuPont continues to upgrade storage sites and look at alternate siting locations. Current storage sites may not be restocked after current stocks are used up.

Isolation of embers is still difficult. The fire resistant tarps were effective but age does degrade their effectiveness. DuPont will continue to examine the effectiveness of tarps to keep embers from spreading fires.

A high pressure firefighting systems holds some promise for fighting these fires. There will be a demonstration of this system in November with Nevada Fire. More information will be forthcoming on the dates and times.

DuPont will be installing a Verizon intelligent video system at the storage site south of the plant. This system detects heat signatures, which should allow for rapid reporting and responses to a fire.

DuPont continues to pursue data and science to drive improvements to the prevention, response and confinement of fires.

#### Oakridge National Lab Testing- Jeff Chambers

DuPont collaborated with the Oakridge National Lab to conduct fire tests of stacks of corn stover. The tests were to measure the temperatures and travel of embers from these fires. The third fire test using the current stacking configuration progress so fast and was so hot the test was terminated early as there were concerns the safety of the test facility was going to be compromised if it continued. This was the hottest fire the lab had ever experienced. Smaller scale testing continued using a cement board as a firebreak. The firebreaks did slow the fire from progressing up the seams of the stacks and prevented total consumption. As cement board between all stacks would not be feasible, modifying the current stacking configuration to create natural firebreaks was studied next.

In cooperation with Iowa State University, smaller scale tests were conducted to address how fire would behave with a modified stacking configuration. The modified stacking configuration involved turning bales within the stack to create a natural firebreak. Tests showed while bales under the firebreaks burned, the fires progress was greatly slowed and could possibly be extinguished through traditional firefighting methods. A high-pressure water system was also tested and it rapidly reduced the temperatures of the fires only using 300 gallons of water to extinguish the stack.

DuPont was asked if they will continue to rely on volunteer departments to extinguish the fires as there is a concern about the negative impact of utilizing volunteers over several days to monitor the fires. DuPont has changed the way they respond to fires to reduce their impact on the volunteer fire departments. DuPont will work with the local fire departments to secure the site and call them back as needed. DuPont hires security companies to monitor the site after the fire department is released.

#### **Hazard Mitigation Update**

For the next update of the Hazard Mitigation Grant, Story County will be included into a grant that Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) will manage on behalf of

the county. The approximate cost to the Commission for this process will be \$8900.00. The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed and the County will be working with AMEC again for this update. The current timeline will allow for the updated plan to be adopted the month before it expires.

## **New Business**

### **FY19 Preliminary Budget**

EMA staff are asking for general direction from the Commission to prepare for the January budget hearing and meeting.

Story County Human Resources conducted a survey of all County job titles and compensation. The Coordinator position was reduced from a Grade 13 to a Grade 12 and the Deputy Coordinator stayed the same at Grade 10. The update of the job grade caused a reduction in the Coordinators minimum salary and the midpoint. The Deputy Coordinator's minimum salary increased but the midpoint stayed static.

Previous direction from the Commission from during FY18 budget planning was to provide up to a 3% merit increase with an annual \$2,000 salary increase until both positions were brought to midpoint of the salary schedule. For the FY19 budget it is proposed the Coordinator receive a cost of living increase and up to a 3% merit increase. The Deputy Coordinator would receive a cost of living increase, up to a 3% merit increase with a onetime \$3,000 salary increase. All merit increases are dependent on performance evaluations and will be presented at the January meeting. The FY19 proposal will bring the salaries and compensation in line with Commission salary policy more rapidly. After the FY19 budget, salaries will fall into the Commission policy of cost of living and merit increases. No vote needed but would like direction from the Commission. The Commission directed the Coordinator to develop the FY 19 budget salaries and compensation as proposed.

There will be a \$3,673 of funds carried over from the FY17 budget. \$2,265 of those funds are not committed. \$1,408 will be used to cover the costs for the CDR Coordinator position as grant funds are no longer available to fund this position. These funds will be used along with the \$1,200 provided by the Mayors Association to fund the CDR Coordinator position. The FY19 budget will have a \$3000 asking to continue the position.

Per the HSEMD Grant Administrator, a majority of the work on the Hazard Mitigation plan update will be completed in FY 18. The FY18 allocated \$3,000 for the Commission share of the plan revision, but the actual cost will be closer to \$7,000. With only \$3,000 budgeted in FY 18 we will be looking for budget savings to cover the difference.

For FY 19 there will be another \$16,600 set aside for radio updates with the new system.

Energy Transfer, who manages the Dakota Access pipeline, has donated \$20,000 to the Commission. How the funds will be spent has not been determined but will be used for the benefit of the entire County. Options will be brought back to the Commission for approval.

### **After Action Reports Review**

The Deputy Coordinator has assembled the lessons learned from events and exercises from 2016 & 2017 with over 100 after action items identified. A list of completed items was presented. All communities are encouraged to develop a process to review and complete identified after action items from events or exercises in their communities.

- Mass Fatality Workshop
  - Radios for ME Staff
  - Position of the ME within Incident/Unified Command structure
- Huxley Gas Leak Incident
  - Program fire Tac Channels into police department radios to increase communications capabilities.
- EOC Exercise
  - Request to install the dispatch software into an EOC computer. This was rejected by the Sheriff so the item is closed.
- Jail Active Shooter Workshop
  - Completion and adoption of Mass Casualty Incident Guidance by the EMS Association.
- I-35 Closure Plan Exercise
  - Change of notification procedures and updating of Red Cross contact information
- Coalition for Disaster Recovery Shelter Exercise
  - Registration of CDR partners for notification from Story County Iowa Alerts. Will be ongoing with new members.
- Hwy 30 Animal Transport Accident
  - Added animal cooling techniques and personal protective gear to checklists.

### **Other:**

Chair Sanders thanked the Mayors who have served on the Commission this last year as this meeting will be the last for many.

The email address for the EMA office has been compromised and you may be receiving spam emails with links or attachments. Please let the office know if you are receiving them. Staff is continuing to monitor the issue with IT.

**Next Meeting: January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Budget Hearing and Approval meeting.**

**Adjournment: Motion by DeYoung, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jensen to adjourn. MCU Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.**