

Quarterly Emergency Management Commission Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Story County Emergency Management Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Rick Sanders

Attendance:

John Haila-Ames	Steven Kovarik-Cambridge
John Wilson-Colo	Jon Popp- Gilbert
Jane Walter-Kelley	Chris Erickson-McCallsburg
Steven Gast-Maxwell	Brett Barker-Nevada
John Kahler-Slater	Mike Jensen- Story City
Paul Fitzgerald-SCSO	Rick Sanders- BOS Keith Morgan-Coordinator
Melissa Spencer-Deputy Coordinator	Rob Bowers- ISU PD
Rich Higgins-Ames Fire	Tom Hackett-Ames Fire
Jerry Moore- Story Co P & D	

Consent Agenda

- Consider approval of January 2019 Meeting Minutes
 - Consider approval of April 2019 Agenda
- Motion by Haila, 2nd by Jensen to approve the Consent Agenda, MCU

Presentations

Debris Management Site Discussion- Jerry Moore, Director, Story Co. Planning & Development (P & D)

During any disaster, there is a need for space to sort and hold disaster debris. Story County Planning and Development has developed a debris management plan for the unincorporated areas of Story County. They are now attempting pre-identifying and contracting with landowners for land to hold debris until it can be sorted and sent to the landfill or recycling. P & D contacted potential landowners to see if they were interested in contracting with Story County to provide their land for debris management after a disaster, but they have been unsuccessful getting any landowners to commit. When working with other landowners, they have planned for a 20 acer site. Director Moore approached Commission members to see if any community was interested in working with Story County to identify a site either within their jurisdiction or to see if there could be a collaborative effort to secure a commitment for private land. P & D is willing work with what space is available in a community. Director Moore provided an information sheet and asked communities to fill it out and return it to his office if they can assist.

Morgan stressed having a debris management plan that covers not only the holding site, but also how the public should sort the debris prior to placing it at the curb, is an important part of a local plan. The plan should include ordinances with emergency powers and processes that are separate

from daily garbage operations. Debris may remain at the local holding site as it is “drip-fed” to the landfills in the area.

Sanders also asked Moore to provide and update on the Census process. Moore reported the goal of the next census is for individuals to self-enumerate. Funding for counties is dependent on complete census data. Moore is serving on a committee working on plans to encourage Story County residents participate.

The process for review and comment on the FEMA flood maps is continuing. The mapping has become much more accurate from the previous year. Planning & Development hosted three public informational meetings with 15-20 attendees at each meeting. Story County jurisdictions have until 2020 to review and respond to the updated maps.

Radio System Update- Tom Hackett-Ames Fire Department

In March, StoryComm, made up of City of Ames, ISU and Story County Board of Supervisors, started negotiations with RACOM/Harris for the new radio system. They have a goal to sign a contract by May 1, 2019. The overall cost of the system will be \$11 million, with \$5 million for infrastructure, \$2 million guaranteed radio purchase, and \$4 million operational costs for the 15 year system life. There is ongoing negotiations for five tower sites. The current site plans are for towers on Wallace Hall, Story County Justice Center, Gilbert Middle School and two field sites near Cambridge and Zearing. The new system will be a public safety grade system, which is a significant improvement over the current commercial system in use.

A key aspect of the contract will be the establishment of an initial operating capability within six months of signing the contract through the development of four RACOM tower sites. The temporary sites should provide service equivalent to the current system, while the full system build out is completed over an 18-24 month schedule. With this proposed timeline, there may be a quick turnaround on determining radio needs and making purchases. There is no plan to migrate to the temporary system until after the last ISU home football game towards the end of November. There will be a transition period where both systems will be operational to ensure communication.

The current estimated costs of radios are as follows:

- Portable Fire Radio- \$3900. This is an intrinsically safe and high heat radio.
- Portable Public Safety- \$3000-\$3225. This has encryption but is not high heat or intrinsically safe.
- Portable Public Works- \$1400-\$1900. Does not have encryption, high heat resistance or intrinsically safe.
- Mobile radios \$3370-\$3800 depending on features.
- Portable should provide 95% coverage to the hip at 12db in light construction. May still have issues in concrete building.

RACOM will honor the pricing until 1 year after the final system acceptance and is offering 0% interest loan until December 2021. If radios are purchased during this time, maintenance and updates are included in the cost with a 2-year manufacturer warranty. RACOM will also provide

system training. There are still discussions on if StoryComm will mandate specific radio capabilities to be on the system.

Final ongoing operational costs, (tower fees) are yet to be determined. A high estimate based on operations costs are \$26.00 per month, per radio, before the contribution from the 911 Board. It is anticipated they will continue to contribute at the same level.

The E911 Board has agreed to purchase pagers for all Fire & EMS agencies. Swissphone is the recommended pager. The new tower and pager configuration should eliminate the overlap of signals that have caused problems within the current pager system.

StoryComm has a Request for Proposals (RFPs) out for legal and financial services, since no StoryComm agency has the capacity to provide these ongoing operational services.

It is anticipated that Electronic Engineering will significantly increase fees after the current contract expires. StoryComm is in ongoing negotiations with them as well. There is no answer on what those fees will be during the transition time.

Ames Fire applied for a \$2 million dollar Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) on behalf of all Story County fire departments to cover some of the cost of radio purchases. Grant applications are still being reviewed and an announcement should come sometime after May 1, 2019.

There are still some details to be worked out during the ongoing negotiation that can't be answered at this time. Once negotiations are complete there will be a clearer picture of cost strategies and costs of future purchases.

Old Business

Hazard Mitigation Plan Revision

The Story County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been approved by Iowa Homeland Security and FEMA. The Story County BOS will adopt the plan at the April 30, 2019 meeting. After April 30, all other jurisdictions to include school districts can adopt the plan. Morgan will send out a copy of the final plan along with a sample resolution for communities to use. Morgan asks that each entity adopting the plan send a copy of their resolution to be kept by the SCEMA office.

New Business

Damage Assessment & Volunteer Management Process

Iowa Administrative Code 605 requires local jurisdictions provide damage assessment information for their communities. To make this process easier for all involved in damage assessment, Iowa HSEMD developed an internet based damage assessment application to be used on an internet or wireless enabled tablets or phones. The app, called Collector for ArcGIS, can be downloaded for Android and iPhones and for tablets through the Windows Shop. Within

Story County, the Story County Emergency Management Agency (SCEMA) has developed procedures to utilize this tool to meet the requirements of Iowa Code.

While the app is very easy to use, the SCEMA is hosting training on April 30th 1-3pm and May 15th 10-Noon to educate those responsible for damage assessment on how to integrate this resource into their damage assessment processes. Jurisdictions were requested to provide the name and date of who will be attending this training. Commission members were reminded Emergency Support Function (ESF) 14, Long Term Recovery, calls for each community to have at least two individuals trained on damage assessment for the first 5,000 population and one additional person for each additional increments of 5,000 residents. Spencer will provide Ames, ISU and Nevada with the numbers of people they should train.

Morgan is working with Central Iowa RSVP to improve volunteer management for immediate and long-term volunteer response needs. Lessons learned from the Marshalltown tornado is that an online registration process could greatly improve the management of volunteers. Morgan is working with RSVP to develop a process that manages and accounts for the large number of volunteers that routinely flood into the community immediately after a disaster. Using the online process will hopefully allow volunteer management to identify potential volunteers with required skill sets and pre-assign them to task identified by the incident commander. The online system should also enhance documentation of volunteers and improve FEMA reimbursement. One aspect of the process that is still in development are improved processes to coordinate volunteer taskings between the Incident Commander and the SCEOC.

Quarterly Report

I-35 closed starting February 24 for a day and a half. Spencer was on call and handled a bulk of the coordination. One important aspect of the response was the use of social media to communicate with the public. One Facebook post, made in coordination with secondary roads, reached 32K people. The down side of social media operations is that it took a considerable amount of staff time. The SCEMA continues to evaluate how best to use social media during a disaster response given the limited resources available to manage this communications channel.

Another issue from the closure was the parking of semis in Ames. Truckers were not aware that they should go to the ISU parking lots or just did not want to move. There will be additional meetings locally and with the Iowa DOT and trucking industry to discuss communications and notifications.

African Swine Fever is a significant threat to pork producers in Iowa. Morgan is working with producers, USDA, and IDALS to develop emergency plans should there be an outbreak. The planning focuses on the effects on the economy, the possibility that producers would walk away from their production operations, and the impact of potential stop movement orders.

Story County participated in the state wide tornado drill, March 27. There was a high percentage of participation with eleven of fifteen communities reporting back and 42 of 45 outdoor warning sirens activating. The communities that had activation issues are following up with their providers.

The SCEMA hosted a jurisdictional executive workshop. There were very good discussions on the need for cities officials & council members to take training on the incident command system to be able to interface with first responders. There was a follow-up email sent with training guidance and request for numbers needing training.

The business resiliency committee sent out a preparedness survey with over 90 business responding and 25% of those businesses asking for additional training and planning assistance. Vermeer is presenting on the tornado response and recovery on April 24 which will be a good introduction of what businesses should consider when developing emergency plans.

Significant time has been spent improving Command & Communications Trailer capabilities. The Coordinator has been working with the Story County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to identify what communications equipment on the trailer is compatible with local systems and what new resources should be procured. Additionally, the trailer was included in Story County Sheriff Office abduction training to expose supervisors to the capabilities of the trailer.

Budget Update

The FY19 budget incurred unanticipated expenses for repairs to the F-250 of \$1900 due to major preventative service and the replacement of the transfer case. The Coordinator was able to negotiate with Ford to have them pay for half of the cost to repair the transfer case. Despite those expenses, the anticipated budget savings will be \$5352 due to decreased expenses in some line items. Closer to the end of the year, savings from the current fiscal year may be used for additional expenditures on the command trailer to increase its mission readiness. Funds may also be retained for radio purchases and expenses when the timeline for the new system is known. It is anticipated the FY 19 year will finish at 1-2% left.

Adoption of Basic Plan

The Basic Plan section of the Story County Comprehensive Emergency Plan is general guidance that is applicable to all the Emergency Support Functions nested under the Basic Plan. It was last reviewed and approved in 2018 so there were very few changes. Motion by Wilson, 2nd by Kovarik to adopt the Basic Plan as presented. MCU

Adoption of ESF 10-Hazardous Materials

This plan is reviewed every year so there were no major changes to this plan for 2019. Motion by Jensen, 2nd by Haila to adopt ESF 10 as presented. MCU

Other:

Mayor Haila had the opportunity to listen to presentations about the emergency response to the tornados in Bondurant and Marshalltown. These presentation gave him a deeper understanding of emergency management's role in disaster preparation, response, and recovery and he expressed his appreciation for the job SCEMA staff does in Story County and thanked EMA staff for their hard work. He indicated he felt the county is in good hands.

Morgan informed Commission members that the SCEMA is looking to conduct a joint exercise involving a community Incident Command Center (ICC) and Story County Emergency Operations Center (SCEOC). The focus of the exercise would be activation and communications procedures. The timeline for the exercise would be approximately two years down the road and the SCEMA wants ensure the plans are in place and training is done on these plans well ahead of the exercise to ensure the time and effort invested in the exercise is well spent. If a community is interested, please let the SCEMA know.

Tax Bill

Morgan briefed the Commission on the potential impact of proposed legislation to modify tax laws. The legislation would eliminate the current funding mechanism used by the Commission to fund the SCEMA. Additionally, it would severely restrict the ability of local jurisdictions to raise revenues to meet the needs of first response agencies they support. Barker informed members he had a draft resolution for his city council to consider that outlines for law makers the impact of this legislation. Baker agreed to provide the draft to the SCEMA for distribution to Commission members.

Next Meeting:

Adjournment: Motion by Kling, 2nd by Henry to adjourn. MCU Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.