

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Manitowoc County Office Complex, Room 300
4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc, WI
March 10, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Shavlik at 9:00 am.

Roll Call: Gary Shavlik, James Falkowski, Karl Puestow, Travis Waack, Kayla Beckerdite, Jessica Backus, Steph Lambert, Jamie Aulik, Deb Holschbach, Bob Wegner, Jerry Wendt, Paul Tittl, Todd Bergman, Dave Funkhouser, and Dave Murack

Approve Minutes of September 23, 2020 Committee Meeting: Chairman Shavlik brought forward three edits to the September 23, 2020 meeting minutes. Ms. Holschbach motioned to approve the minutes with the three edits, Mr. Aulik seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment: Chairman Shavlik opened for public comment, no public was present. Public comment was closed at 9:02 am.

Review of Bylaws: Chairman Shavlik asked to edit some of the wording on page five of the bylaws. Proposed edit would include the words “or hired out” when referencing off-site plan creation for EPCRA facilities. Discussion ensued and the decision was made to leave the by-laws as they currently are.

Update on Hazmat Responses: No hazmat responses have occurred since last meeting. Mr. Waack opened a discussion to inform committee of planned shift of hazmat services for Manitowoc County. The County is seriously considering a move from a County-run hazmat team to a contracted hazmat team through the Appleton Fire Department. Mr. Waack explained that moving away from a County-run hazmat team ensures the long term sustainability of hazmat services in Manitowoc County. Presently, interest is waning on fire departments to join the county hazmat team, and has been doing so in the last few years. Mr. Waack explained that we want to ensure in the long run the availability of a hazmat team for service throughout the county. Additionally, the proposed cost of contracting with the Appleton Fire Department is less than half of the current cost of the county run hazmat team. Mr. Waack assured the LEPC Committee that hazmat response times will be similar to what they are currently due to Appleton Fire Department pulling an initial response crew from on-duty fire fighters, rather than off-duty hazmat techs as we presently do. Current Wisconsin hazmat structure has the Appleton Fire Department team as our primary response team for large incidents anyway, we would now just be utilizing them for smaller responses as well.

Mr. Waack explained that we would pay a small, annual retainer fee for the contracted service that would then obligate Appleton Fire Department to respond to all hazmat responses for which they are requested in Manitowoc County. The fee per actual response would be billed to the spiller just as they are now. In any instance where there is no billable party, Manitowoc County would maintain a reserve fund to reimburse Appleton Fire Department with- ensuring that no bills are sent to the responding local fire department. In addition to the retainer fee and budgeted funds for non-billable spills, Manitowoc County would also now maintain a budget for a large, yearly full scale hazmat exercise with Appleton Fire Department and any local fire departments that would like to participate. Mr. Waack let the committee know that the annual retainer fee, exercise, and budgeted money still totals approximately half the cost of the current county led hazmat team.

Mr. Waack explained that at this time, Manitowoc County Emergency Services has met with current hazmat team members to explain the proposed changes and to offer them a new opportunity through Manitowoc County. All of the current hazmat team members are able to refocus on preparing to operate the Reception Center at the Highway Department that the County must open in the event of an emergency at Point Beach Nuclear Plant. This would increase readiness for any potential response there.

Mr. Waack also sent a letter to all local fire departments to inform them of the pending but likely changes. All of these fire departments are able to provide feedback through the end of March to Mr. Waack and if no negative feedback is received by that time, a resolution will be presented to the County Public Safety Committee. The Emergency Services Department will then meet with Corp Counsel and the Appleton Fire Department to finalize the contract. Mr. Waack shared that the current timeline of this transition is looking like June or July of this year.

Update on Emergency Management Operations: Mr. Waack shared that the COVID-19 response remains the focus of the Emergency Services Department. March 11th marks one year since the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic for COVID-19 and the Emergency Services Department is now in the phase of the response where roles are being transitioned back over to the Manitowoc County Health Department. Mr. Waack shared that the last National Guard COVID-19 testing site was held on March 9th in Manitowoc County and approximately 12 tests were conducted. This shows that the demand is no longer present for COVID-19 testing in our community or that demand has now shifted back within the capabilities of our local healthcare systems. Mr. Waack shared that as of March 9th, 6,000 vaccines have been given by the Manitowoc County Health Department at the Manitowoc County Expo Center. An additional 400 doses were scheduled for March 10th and another 500 doses were scheduled for March 11th. In addition to the Manitowoc County Health Department, several healthcare providers in the community are now also offering vaccinations.

Mr. Waack explained that this year is a Point Beach Nuclear Plant exercise year so the Emergency Services Department is working to prepare for a practice exercise and the actual drill later this year. In addition to preparing for the nuclear exercise, the Department is gearing up to respond to any severe weather events that the County may see this year. Mr. Waack also shared that in addition to planning for the nuclear exercise this year, the closure of Silver Lake College meant that Two Rivers schools and daycares had to evacuate to a new location in case of an emergency at Point Beach Nuclear Plant. That new location has been determined to be UW-Manitowoc and an agreement was signed with them earlier this year cementing that change.

Mr. Waack shared that for non-COVID related updates, Manitowoc County now has defined water rescue jurisdictions. This means that for any call received in the Joint Dispatch Center that is suspected to be on or near water, the closest Zodiac Boat in the County can now be dispatched. Manitowoc Fire Department, Two Rivers Fire Department, Kiel Fire Department, and Valders Fire Department have agreed upon their response territories and those are being uploaded into the Joint Dispatch Center systems later this month. Finally, Mr. Waack shared that the County is hoping to replace the current dual command post/hazmat vehicle for a true command post vehicle in the next few years.

Adjournment: Mr. Puestow moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Funkhouser. The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 am.