

Minutes of the Quad Cities Emergency Planning Committee

January 29, 2021, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting called by: Decker Ploehn, Chair

Attendees: Decker Ploehn, Todd Whitchel, Darin Keith, Bethaney Conklin, Nicole Glass, Donald Hahn, Tammy Speidel, Kevin Lange, Denny Frisch, Kate Meyer, Eric Bradley, Jeff Koenig, Lt Laura McDonald, Robbin Dunn, Rich Flies, Chance Kness, Finas Brock, Jamie Temple, Keith Kimball, Leslie Johnston, Michelle Sims, Brian Payne, Dave Kelly, Mindy Meyers, Dave Donovan, and Rich Kinney, all via Zoom

Call to Order – Introductions

The meeting began by reviewing those on the call via virtual roll call.

Minutes of the December 4, 2020 Meeting

Dave Donovan motioned to approve the QCEPC December 4, 2020, meeting minutes; Keith Kimball seconded the motion. All Ayes. Corrected last names of two attendees within the minutes.

I-74 Bridge Project

Jeff Koenig gave an update on work being completed on the bridge. Currently working on the Moline and Bettendorf viaducts. Lunda is currently working on the arches. Will soon be working on the cables and getting the deck done by Spring. Hoping to have the second structure completed by November.

Homeland Security/EMA/IMT/PIO Workshop

Brian Payne, Scott County EMA, reported that the Genesis Water Well project is in design and permitting. He also said that EMA is working with Iowa American Water to explore additional grants and wells. Lastly, June 29 is the date for the Quad City Generating Station exercise that was postponed last year. This exercise will be a modified scope with some credit given for real world events of the past year.

The Quad City Area Maritime Security Committee is planning to conduct a tabletop exercise in late summer.

The vaccination center, located at the former Sears store in Northpark Mall is working very well. Scheduling remains a challenge as we open into phase 1B and add individuals 65 and older, which is a very large group.

QCLEPC: Training, Planning, Exercise

Dave Donovan stated that QC CAER is meeting again and hoping to meet in person soon. Will be working on an exercise for later this year.

Communication Center Updates

Doris Moreno, QCOMM911, reported that they have been working with other dispatch centers, including SECC on a new bridge response plan for I-74. This is required because the new bridge does not have a turn around to aid in response in different directions.

Tracey Sanders, SECC, reported some internal promotions for their new Quality Assurance and Training Specialists, Todd Malone and Courtney Pershall. Sanders also said that they will be ordering radios soon for the Radio Project. She is finalizing those numbers, and there is a fleet mapping work group on February 10.

Ploehn asked if we have identified all the users and involved them in the process. Sanders replied that we believe we have done so.

David Donovan reported the QC P-25 Radio project's progress, specifically on tower construction and installation work in the dispatch centers.

Healthcare Coalition Updates

Bethaney Conklin gave a Healthcare Coalition update. Hospitalizations due to COVID continue to go down, and they see lower numbers of ICU admissions and ventilator use. Have five long-term care facilities currently in out-break status, but they continue to see the number of long-term care cases go down as well. The Coalition is in good standing with PPE and doesn't have any significant concerns about getting any if needed. 18 of their 22 facilities in the region are conducting elective surgeries. They continue working on an EMS Advisory Council to help the counties that have needs.

Other Hospital/Healthcare Reports

Kate Meyer, Rock Island County Public Health, gave an update on Covid numbers in Rock Island County. They had to reschedule their drive-thru clinic this week due to the weather and moved those appointments to the following week. They are working with their community partners like CHC and local pharmacies to help provide the RI County vaccine.

Eric Bradley, Scott County Health Department, reported that they had the last Phase 1A (first dose) vaccine clinic the night before. They are working on getting Phase 1B started. There is a high demand from those in that group. Their department website crashed due to the number of persons trying to schedule a time for their vaccination. CASI will help with scheduling and outreach for the 65 and older group.

EMS Reports – QCA Opioid Crisis

Kevin Lange, Medic EMS, reported that the Scott County EMS Association had met the previous night in a joint meeting with the Scott County Fire Chief's Association. He reported that Scott County EMA has been an outstanding partner in getting personal protective equipment for the Association.

Chuck Gipson, Medic EMS, reported that the use of Naloxone appears consistent, month to month. He also said that the grant for Naloxone will now also fund IV administration if needed.

Fire Service Reports

Steve Knorrek, Bettendorf Fire, advised the group that MABAS 43 is working on finalizing radio talk groups for the new radio system.

Law Enforcement/TSA/Intel Reports

Keith Kimball, Bettendorf Police, discussed that a lot of their crime is related to methamphetamines. Law enforcement has been experiencing high volumes of meth. He told the group that Davenport P.D. has started the program "Lock It Down QC" for stolen vehicles. The numbers of stolen cars remain high.

Mindy Meyers, RICO, reported no issues during the inauguration. The sheriff's office will be assisting with the vaccine clinics. They will be working on their active shooter plans soon.

Dave Donovan told the group that he would be sending a bulletin to the group reference continued extremist threats.

Education Update

Jamie Temple advised that if there are any last minute needs for education hours, the Illinois EMS Association has a Zoom class on 2/19 for eight hours of credit. The college is finishing an Emergency Medical Responder class in Donahue and will be graduating 18 new providers. They are not holding their large refresher classes due to COVID. However, they have found the Prodigy Refresher, which is virtual and is great training. Thousands around the country are using that option and it is free. Registration is open until March 31. Contact Jamie for more information and he will send to the group.

Other Public/Private Sector/COAD Reports

No reports.

Other Items of Interest

No reports.

Next meeting Friday, February 26, 2021 at 8:30 AM

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.