

Johnson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency

Dave C. Wilson, IA-CEM

Coordinator/Director



4529 Melrose Avenue

Iowa City, IA. 52246

PH: (319) 356-6761

Fax: 319-338-0028

E-mail: dave.wilson@jecc-ema.org

October 3, 2024 at 5:30 PM - Johnson County EMA Commission Meeting Minutes

1. Opened the meeting and determined the quorum was met of at least 7 of 13 elected Commissioner members, Tim Chairperson Tim Kemp – Hills Mayor, Dave Wilson – EMA Director/Coordinator, Travis Beckman – EMA Deputy Director/Deputy Coordinator, Julie Persons – Swisher Mayor on site in person
2. Roll call via Conference Call of Commission members:
Present via Conference Call were: Meghann Foster – Coralville Mayor, Jim Hennes – Oxford Alternate (Fire Chief), Randy Lamm – Johnson County Sheriff Alternate (Chief Deputy) Brian Wayson - North Liberty Councilperson Louise From (**Vice Chair**) – University Heights Mayor, Greg Morris – Solon Alternate (Fire Dept), Scott Lyon – Iowa City Alternate (Fire Chief)
3. Open the meeting and determine a quorum of at least 7 elected commissioner members: (9 of 13, members or alternates participated).
4. Roll call of Elected Commission members:
5. Action on consensus items:
 - A. Motion to amend or accept the present agenda
 - B. Motion to amend or accept the meeting minutes from the last meeting
 - C. Action on the current financial report

Motion by Greg Morris, Second by Julie Persons, All Approved
6. Comments or topics from the public: **Lone Tree resident noted the new outdoor siren in Lone Tree was “too loud”**
7. Topics from the Commission: **Greg Morris noted great coordination and execution of the Full-Scale Exercise in Tiffin by EMA and their partners,**
8. Director Report:
 - The new siren has been on order since our May meeting, and as a reminder that bid went to “LMI” out of the Quad Cities. It is awaiting arrival of the main unit and will be installed east of Hwy. 1 on Gable Avenue just south of the String Town Grocery (map of coverage attached in packet). This ASC T128 is an all solar siren, and will not have an ongoing utility bill. All but 6 of the 14 rural sirens are solar and require no commercial electrical. As soon as it is in, the pole is onsite awaiting install of the siren, anticipated prior to next meeting at end of October.
 - Lone Tree recently installed the same unit, but as an AC/DC version without solar. It replaced two old 1950s era model sirens. According to a resident it is much louder than the older 2 were that it replaced. It is operational and covers the whole town where previously they required 2 sirens that had no DC backup.
 - Siren issues plagued outdoor sirens countywide most of this year in both the rural area as well as Tiffin, Iowa City, Hills, Oxford and Lone Tree. Swisher is relocating one siren and looking to replace it, but has not moved forward yet. We signed a new storage agreement with them and JMFD to relocate the MCI trailer to the old streets building a few yards from its present site. Siren issues this summer, ranged from storm damage, to motors that burnt up on two separate units, another two had faulty batteries, one a bad antenna, one a faulty receive board programming issue, and others had various issues with electronics. All but one is repaired, and it is awaiting a new motor (Morse).
 - For old business: The Stafford Act Disaster request by Iowa for the January blizzard has been denied by FEMA as was the appeal.
 - For the most part Johnson County avoided most severe weather this summer, though we did have Tornados confirmed in May and in July in the County. No injuries and only property damage. None that rose to what western Iowa ran into nor did we have the flooding that many parts of Iowa encountered. We sent pumps to other counties to fight floods this summer, the 8”, 6” and several 3” & 4” pumps went to various parts of Iowa. The STR com trailer went to Spencer Iowa.
 - That trailer has 36 new portable batteries funded by the State that are due in any day now. Half of the batteries were due for replacement and had to be discarded after the call out.
 - Much of the summer was spent on logistics support for events throughout the County. Nearly all message boards, light sets, barriers, and water monsters, as well as several generators and the new Archer vehicle barriers all saw use this summer and it has continued into the fall and football season.

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- Herky on Parade hit the streets again this summer and some support was provided for that to Think Iowa City.
- A few “house moves” happened as well, (one resulting in a contractor fatality which occurred recently), this summer. Numerous bike races and small-town festivals kept the equipment in use. Add in the Iowa City Summer of the Arts events that took place nearly every week over the summer and it made for a fast summer. EMA is of course helping with the return of fall Football with the 3 consecutive home games from August well into September which all drew EMA resources. Travis and I are splitting home game coverage again this year.
- We conducted two table tops leading up to the full-scale active shooter exercise at the Tiffin High School on August 2nd. That event took up a fair amount of time. Over 130 participants and over 50 agencies participated in the drill along with Fire, Law, EMS, EMA, Public Works, Med 1, Aircare, the local hospitals and an area church. State and Federal agencies also participated in various ways. The bomb and hazmat teams participated as well as medical examiners office, which all had time to sharpen their skills during the training exercises.
- ICCSD has adopted both the “I Luv You Guys Foundations” school “standard reunification plan” model and is integrating that Foundations all hazard “Standard Response Protocol” into the longstanding “ALICE” response options training, that they use for the District. A functional drill was held in early September with them again to practice the “reunification operations” at the Fairgrounds.
- The after-action review and formal written report is due any day now from the contractor. It will be shared upon its arrival.
- The largest take away was the need to provide new responders - county wide, that have come on board since the 2019 exercise, formal training in the “Rescue Taskforce” concept and plan. To that end we have 3 classes scheduled that are included in the packet. Two are for Responders needing full rescue taskforce training (LSU & ALERRT) are doing those at Hills Elementary, and a third, which is an LE only “Stop the Shooter” course - from LSU. That course follows the ALERRT curriculum. Those are all booked and funded with grant funds and will be done by Thanksgiving week.
- Sadly, we had a busy summer with drownings. 3 occurred this season, two at Lake MacBride and one at a golf course. We have new equipment on the boat stationed at Lake MacBride that was in place after the first drowning, and prior to the second drowning. This equipment was helpful in speeding the recovery on the second drowning, but ultimately the outcomes were all fatalities in each case. That said, search and recovery operations have certainly been sped up with the new equipment assigned to boats. The same base sonar unit is now on each boat at the Lake, JCSO, Dive, NLF, JMF, and Solon. Next year Hills and Coralville will get the same model of Sonar. The dive team recovered one body they were called to in less than 10 minutes under water this summer. That was largely due to the use of the Helix 10 and Mega 360 sonar on the boats on the second drowning. We are working with Eric and the Iowa DNR to teach the formal class to more VFD members both this fall and in the spring.
- A vehicle reported stolen in the 70’s that was discovered on sonar not far from the water outflow gates of the Coralville Lake was recovered by the dive team, JCSO and Tegler towing this summer.
- The dive team has 5 members headed next week to Wisconsin for an underwater salvage course.
- This winter we plan to send 5-6 divers out of state to get their ice dive certifications. This has been problematic finding ice suitable for the training locally in recent years and we are down to less than 6 certified ice divers out of the 12-person team.
- All plans and required training and exercises are turned into the State and HSEMD has issued our annual “compliant program” letters for Training and Planning and we expect the formal exercise letter any day now.
- We are already starting on the 2025 updates and Bonnie Ruben and Two Rivers will be helping with those edits this year due to the need for me to focus on the new storage building and Tiffin agreement.

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- I met three times over the summer with Doug B. the Tiffin City Administrator and in your packet is the property agreement that Tiffin legal is working on with the EMA Commission on the property. As soon as the agreement is ready for signatures (hopefully for the end of October meeting) we will have that as an action item to authorize the Chairperson to sign. It is still being bounced back and forth presently.
- After that I will be working with the County special projects manager on the RFP for the design build proposal and we hope to have that back for action no later than the end of January 2025 with a goal of starting construction summer of 2025.
- I have another active shooter table top exercise with NLPD, NLPD, and others, scheduled at the request of Chief Venenga the week of Thanksgiving at their agency.
- I participated in additional trainings and exercises of a smaller scale at multiple schools throughout the County between August and now. Too many to report on. Training for active shooter response, TECC, Stop the Bleed, School Reunification drills and Emergency Radio and other related school safety projects have taken a substantial amount of time this past summer and fall.
- Election security and preparations have also been ongoing statewide, table top exercises and other related preparedness efforts will continue through election night.
- The Dive, Hazmat and Bomb Teams have all been doing monthly training and having calls.
- The new river boom is in and the training is being scheduled with a Buckeye Pipeline contractor for this fall. Date and time to come. Travis has the lead on that and is working to secure a date that works.
- We continue to host training classes and meetings. Travis will cover some of that below.
- We had two stranded boaters (one DNR) up in the mud bogs and assisted Iowa County with another event this summer. The USACE presently has the only boat with a mud motor and staff to operate it.
- We will need to consider a hover craft in the future.
- The Lone Tree boat has a warranty issue and developed a stress leak at the transom where the port side bladder meets and it is awaiting the company to act upon this. It is presently down for that repair.
- The UTV for Lone Tree had its upfit done and is with JCAS supporting football operations until November. The med bed is on order for it (backordered) so JMFd has allowed us to use one they had until ours is in.
- The Lone Tree Shelter Cart is in and needs delivered to the Wellness Center. The generator is also in but the transfer switch part of the project has been coming in high and that is being worked on still.
- Message boards will be out for early voting as will light sets. Some are at Football presently but they will be re-tasked for the elections.
- I am awaiting a response from the County Fair board on the inside cellular BDA and weather station we proposed to install down there.
- At Lone Tree the two FirstNet BDAs are in as well as for the Hill Crest Academy and were covered with outside funds from FirstNet. The Lone Tree School move of the WeatherSTEM unit from the LTVFD to the School had a cost to the Commission but it was not very high. It has been moved and is stable and online now at the School.
- The City of Oxford shelter generator at City Hall/Fire is online and operational.
- The City of Shueyville was not interested in using City Hall as a shelter site, Travis can expand on that as he attended that meeting. We will instead place that shelter cart with either the City of Swisher or JMFd (talks ongoing with the JMFd Fire Chief on that). They have concerns about the stability of their stations generator they presently use. Typically, we prefer to use community center space over fire station space as much as possible.
- We are assisting Iowa County with their drill next week.
- Drone Team has been busy and in-house training was completed at ICPD recently by Bruce Sexton.
- Copies of the current signed and updated dive team 28E were sent out so please make sure your clerks have a copy if you are a signatory to it.
- Starting heavier work on the EMA storage project and next steps with builders etc. for civil work. The next stages on that project continue as it was approved for bonding this FY25 by the County Board for not to exceed \$1.2 million.
- The Bomb team rad equipment renewals are done and training is ongoing plus some call outs and football JHAT missions.

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- Lots of community outreach events and in house courses this summer including the fair.
- Undoubtedly, I have forgotten something as it was a whirlwind summer so my apologies.

9. Deputy Director Report:

• HAZMAT –

- A meeting between ICFD and EMA occurred discussing the current burden of ICFD. A joint decision was made to conduct a recruitment effort in trying to obtain additional non-ICFD members. We currently have **three new volunteer member applications in** with 1 more coming and 1-2 pending that have not been sent our way at this time. Goal is a 9 ICFD and 9 non ICFD mix. Let us know if you have interested FD, EMS or LE members.
- Monthly trainings resumed in September after taking summer off.
- Rail Car response was September's class.
- 1 Call out since last meeting. HM1 shore power issue. Engine 2 utilized. No HM1 bill time or consumables were used.

- The 1,000 feet of replacement river boom for the hazmat trailer arrived to replace the old one that predates 2007. That old boom still needs disposed of at the landfill and we are working with ICFD to accomplish that and load the new boom on the trailer. That cost was just under \$15K and was grant funded for the new boom. This is an important capability to maintain as Iowa City and the U of I are the only two water systems in this county that use a mix of river surface water and wells to supply their purification plants. The U of I plant is very reliant on raw river water over wells to supply their purification plant. With that in mind, it is important to maintain this capability for containment of spills upstream of the two plants intakes. All other Johnson county communities use “well water only” to supply water to their purification plants. Though the amount of river water for the City varies daily, and though they have the ability to use only wells, in the event of an emergency, it is important to communicate contaminants on the river to the plants asap. Other cities locally do not draw any surface water into their supply systems or plants and therefore have less risks from contaminated river water.

• ARES –

- Group is moving forward with creating reference documents for the equipment they utilize at our center.
- Have recruited several new members over the last few months.
- Thank you for the many storm nets early on this severe weather season.

• CERT –

- Recruitment efforts ongoing – 2 new members recently added.
- Working on re-creating the normal meeting/training schedule for this group.

• LEPC –

- 1st 2024 meeting was held on 9/19 and Scott was ill so Dave chaired the meeting. An additional meeting will need to be held before 12/31 and the group will work to review the ESF-10 annual update for that plan.

• COAD –

- Meeting held in June. Group had been updated and aware of ongoing storm responses this spring. COAD and long-term recovery was not needed for any of those events.

• Healthcare Coalition (Service Area 5)

- The HCC continues to support JCEMA in way of grant funds. New Salamander Badge printer. PPE storage for FY25 and the EMS Association has also submitted to cover my EMR course. (more info later in report)
- Assisted with regional HVA.
- Continue to assist with the communications platform.
- Participated in HCC debrief/AAR after nationwide phone outage issue.

• COVID19

- Finally CLOSED out since our last meeting.

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- Project Lifesaver
 - Serving 4 Clients at this time.
 - Due to multiple reasons for delays, we are now holding are upcoming ESS course on Oct 2nd likely with a second class to follow based off availability.
- Updates on Grants
 - HMEP 22 –Project complete and in closeout.
 - EMPG 23 –. Project complete and in closeout.
 - HSGP 23 – River Boom purchased, obtained, billed and submitted for reimbursement. Attempting to line up county wide training. The new foam trailer remains on this grant as our next purchase.
 - HMGP – Phase 1 of Part 2 is complete and being billed. If you receive additional emails from Michael Morlan with TREM, please ensure someone from your municipality is responding in a timely manner, and completing all necessary tasks so that we can include you all in the plan without issues or concern of non-involvement. Please participate as requested. The State has a large amount of buyout funding available.
- Exercise – August 2nd
 - Exercise was held on August 2nd. TREM is completing an After-Action Report for the agency.
 - Multiple meetings and pre-planning and staging conducted leading up to the exercise.
- I have registered for the EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) course through Kirkwood. Due to calls we assist with and my teaching, this will help with my requirements to have formal ems training on classes like TECC and STB. Dave and I felt this was necessary to help us keep moving forward and adds additional capability and capacity. It was also a goal of mine during my annual review this year. Course was postponed from 9/9 to 9/30 due to low enrollment. Course was slated to start Monday 9/30 with a completion date in December. This is a hybrid course with the majority of it being completed online.
- We have increased our Pub Ed events this year. While we have had to obtain extra swag for such events, the PR and education we are out there doing with the community, including a lot of children who are the ones that can help get the parents on board, is really invaluable.
 - I attended the PrepWise workshop – Iowa City Library
 - Dave and I supported the Swisher Library Safety Fair
 - I worked the Iowa City Emergency Services Youth Camp
 - We supported the Johnson County Fair all week
 - National Night Out (Dave attended North Liberty, I attended both locations in Iowa City)
 - I attended the Coralville FD/Dunn Bros 1st Responder Meet and Greet
 - Sorry to Royceann Porter as we were set to come to the school drive but we ended up overbooked and had to send materials with ICPD.
 - I attended the Oxford CCE Fire Alarm/1st Responder Extravaganza
- We had a Preparedness Month event set up with United Way but that had to be cancelled to due host site (NCJC) not able to accommodate as the Resiliency Hub work wasn't quite ready to incorporate this preparedness fair.
- Dave and I attended Dr. Krajewski's retirement (Iowa Flood Center). Dave presented him with a plaque from EMA/Commission.
- Assisted Regina with updating their Emergency Operations Plan and conducted and ALICE course for staff. Teen CERT assisted.
- EMA hosted and attended AWR 148, Crisis Management for School Incidents for Public Safety & School Systems
- Have continued to participate (as able) in FEMA R7 training webinars.
- Continued with monthly ALICE training webinars.
- Dave and I participated in a Grain Bin Training at Stutsman's/Hills Fire.
- I participated in PrepWise meetings, Iowa County Exercise Meetings, HCC meetings.
- We worked the Johnson County Fair.
- We hosted and attended MGT 417, Crisis Management for School Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers.

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- I attended and participated in the Secretary of State District 6 TTX for Election Security with Capt. Hendricks, as well as the Auditors and Elections staff.
 - I completed and renewed my EVOS Training Certificate as required by code and policy.
 - Attended and participated in UI Athletics TTX.
 - Attended and participated in LTC Extreme Heat TTX at Oaknoll.
 - Attended and participated in statewide Emergency Response Drill with Oneok
 - Assisted with ALICE training at North Liberty Rec Center with Dave.
 - Worked a UI Football game.
 - Hosted and attended AWR 147 – Rail Incident Response Course – well attended.
 - Dave and I attended and supported ICCSD reunification exercise at the Fairgrounds.
 - Completed my recert in CPR/AED.
 - Attended the Don Hampton conference in DSM.
 - Dave and I attended/Recert in TIMS training at North Liberty.
 - It was a busy past couple of months since we last met.
10. Old Business: Morse Siren fix underway, New Siren will be up and operation soon, Shelter Cart for Lone Tree is in, waiting on additional estimates for the switch for the generator. (Lone Tree CSD covers that cost), Municipalities were reminded to cooperate with Michael Morlan of two Rivers Emergency Management (MEA Contractor) as he works to complete the Mitigation Plan update and show participation by those municipalities which is tied to funding opportunities for the next five years.
 11. New Business: Working Swisher Fire Chief Sexton on sheltering options for Swisher. FD generator is small and at end of life. Shueyville was not keen on sheltering site located at their community hall due to storage concerns.
 12. Other Business: Will have one or two vehicle proposals on the next agenda for action. The 1 ton we have tried to order since 2020 now is expected to be able to be acquired from the State bid as Chevy is caught up per Karl Chevy. The 2015 replacement Tahoe for FY26 will also need ordered in October as it has a 6 month build time unlike the 90 days now for the 1-ton truck.
 13. Next Meeting Date: October 24, 2024 at 5:30
 14. Meeting adjourned by Chairperson at: 5:54 PM

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