

Cass County EMA Advisory Board
November 2, 2011

PRESENT: Alvin Beckman, Herb Bowman, Wally Bennet, Rocky Buffum, Randy Pryor, Phil Rains

CALL TO ORDER: Herb Bowman, 7:05pm

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Tabled due to lack of quorum

OLD BUSINESS

GRANTS:

2010 BZPP: Involves Koch Nitrogen Facility. Proposal has been sent and approved as has budget. Waiting on official documentation from IDHS. From here it must be endorsed by commissioners and then funding can commence. This is a \$200,000 grant. This will include MDT's for fire departments. The average will be 2 per department with extras for Walton and Galveston due to their proximity to the Koch facility as currently planned.

RACES GRANT: Intended for amateur radio operator group. This is a \$2,519 grant which will help the local group connect to Tippecanoe County for emergency communications for a larger disaster or incident where primary communications apparatus have been disrupted. Everything has been submitted and approved, we are waiting for official documentation to forward to commissioners.

2010 SHSP: Will fund EOC improvements. Alvin meets tomorrow with grants administrator to update pricing.

DISTRICT 4: District meeting is November 17th. Emphasis is being placed on task force development. The mutual aid agreement is also an important discussion point.

NIMS: No developments. Alvin will be visiting departments to assist with NIMS typing and assessment

SIREN POLICY: Copy provided in read file. Sirens will now be activated anytime a Tornado Warning is issued by the National Weather Service for Cass County or a part of Cass County as spelled out in the policy. Sirens will also be sounded if a tornado is spotted on the ground by a certified spotter. Alvin is researching proposals to enable dispatch to set off all sirens remotely.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: Randy Pryor reported the Sheriff's department has older MDT's not being used. Alvin said they may be of use to the highway department.

Alvin reported Vicky is listed on both the EMA and County Highway budget as part time. Alvin will be following up with the auditor to ensure she will still receive full time benefits. The budget has been approved with Advisory Board Member pay eliminated.

NEW BUSINESS

EMA ASSESSMENT: State wants local EMA out of “boots on the ground” position for non emergency management functions such as traffic control. Cass EMA will need to take more of an advisory role for HAZMAT and defer to local fire departments as the primary responders chiefly responsible for incident management and outcomes. For many departments they are already doing most of the legwork. There is a 1996 ordinance appointing Cass County EMA as the primary organization for HAZMAT that would need to be changed to make this work. Alvin indicated EMA would still respond but more for guidance than management. The fire association may be a group to help establish a fire department based response capability. EMA no longer meets the requirements to be an official “team” as defined by state statute and the budget does not facilitate the needed activities to gain this accreditation. There is also a need in the county for technical rescue capabilities. At this time there are a number of liability issues present should someone be injured providing a service they are not trained or properly equipped for.

SENATE BILL 267: Requires every county to adopt an ordinance following a standardized form for travel advisories, watches and warnings. This establishes a uniform definition for each scenario across all 92 counties in Indiana.

NOTIFICATION SYSTEM PARTNERSHIP: EMA is partnering with local paper, Cass Info and paper to extend outreach for notifications of emergency situations. This includes changes to traffic flow due to fires, tornado watches & warnings, etc. The texting and social media ability of Cass Info is already being used and is very effective and efficient. The Red Cross also uses this service for shelter openings and closures and says it works well. The National Emergency Alert System will be tested nationwide on November 9th.

AMY BEECHY: A contract was presented to hire Project Matters, LLC to research grants for EMA projects including funding source identification and application as well as assistance in management. The contract cost is \$500/annually. One of the first projects would be to find a funding source for siren activation software and other related items.

BOARD RE-APPOINTMENTS: Phil Rains, Rocky Buffum, Herb Detrick, Logansport Police/Fire and all 4 towns as well as the sheriff and Cass County EMS, Fire Department Northeast and Southwest positions are up for appointment this year. Alvin has re-appointment letters prepared to send to the respective authorities.

CLAIMS: The executive board approved October claims due to lack of a regular meeting. Claims submitted for this month \$1,596.19. Motion to approve by Rocky Buffum, second by Wally Bennet. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Alvin has five boxes of weather alert radios containing 85 units. They were purchased by IDHS and do not work. Alvin is waiting to see if they will be repaired or replaced. He does not want to distribute non-functional units.

The EMA Christmas party will be on December 10th from 530pm to approximately 9pm. Alvin will provide main components and encourages others to bring side dishes. Bingo and prizes will be included.

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Wallby Bennet, second by Phil Rains at 801PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Buffum
EMAC Secretary