

Cass County EMA Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
August 1, 2012

Meeting was called to order with Herb Detrick presiding.

PRESENT: Rocky Buffum, Randy Pryor, Herb Detrick, Alvin Beckman, Tom Heflin, Ed Schroder, Phil Rains, Mark Strong

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Phil with a second by Ed. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Grants
  - The spending on the RACES grant for the radio club is done
  - The BZPP grant (\$200,000) is being used to fund the early notification system with EverBridge, 36 Tough book computers, a Generator/light tower trailer, gas monitors, and twelve jersey barriers with a trailer to move them. The original plan was for 27 computers but we were able to get more due to a price reduction.
  - The EOC grant is being used to purchase regular laptops, a TV and smart board for the EOC. Five recently attended WebEOC update training in Monticello and Alvin is looking into hosting another class in Cass County so we can more fully take advantage of the added technology resources.
- District 4
  - Drought conditions continue. EMA directors have been asked to compile lists of firefighting equipment with off road capability and wild land trained personnel in case they are needed.
  - Collaboration with VOAD/INVOAD/WCICOAD was encouraged. We have a strong organization in district 4.
- NIMS
  - NIMSCAST reports are due from agencies by August 31. Alvin will again be assisting agencies that have problems
- MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM
  - The EverBridge system has been selected as it is the most user friendly and cost effective. A Webinar will be held next Wednesday at 1pm at the Sheriff's office to answer questions from agencies. Alvin will be working on a public education plan to teach the community how to opt in to communications. The system can also be used for department call outs and other functions.
- Tornado Sirens
  - 3 sirens have maintenance issues. The one at France Park, 500 South and Chlymers need repaired. The siren purchased by the Town of Onward needs to be installed.
  - With new regulations from the state Alvin will have to report testing dates and times, test results, activation protocols, reports when sirens are activated and submit information to IDHS electronically. New rules also require maintenance issues to be addressed and prohibit removal of existing sirens. This rule might be softened or modified due to the growing use of Mass Notification Systems and other technologies that are more cost effective and efficient.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Cass County 4H Fair Concert
  - Alvin said the event went well. There were some concerns with heat issues. Other concerns included lack of sectioning in the crowd. The solid mass of people created accessibility and health concerns but no incidents were reported.
- Burn Ban
  - A burn ban was issued June 22 due to the extremely dry conditions and has since been lifted due to rainfall. We are still much dryer than expected for this time of year and another ban could become necessary. At one time 89 of 92 Indiana counties had burn bans in place. The scope of the drought has been compared to conditions in 1934. Alvin was concerned the ban could generate burn complaints but the March 1-July 20 call log shows only 18 calls above last year's numbers for the same time frame with 9 of those in the city where no burns are permitted any time.
- Approval of Claims
  - Claims were submitted in the amount of \$1,668.81. Alvin pointed out this is higher than normal due to the lack of an August meeting so some items go back to June. A motion to approve was made by Herb Detrick with a second by Phil Rains. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Phil with a second by Ed. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be September 5, 2012, 7PM at Cass County EMA.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Buffum  
EMAC Secretary