

Cass County EMA Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
May 7, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7PM.

PRESENT: Herb Bowman, Alvin Beckman, Rocky Buffum, Liz Troxell, Phil Rains, Mark Strong

Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting was tabled due to lack of a quorum.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**GRANTS**

Alvin Beckman applied for a grant to provide rehabilitation equipment for servicing fire departments and other emergency response agencies during cold and extreme weather. This is a competitive grant through Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). Alvin stated part of the reason EMA was approached is the downsizing of the Red Cross who now has one paid person for a thirteen county area. The grant request includes funding for a light tower, tent and propane heater. Alvin is waiting on the state to process documentation for other funding.

**DISTRICT 4**

Alvin served on the state committee to evaluate the organization and composition of district response task forces. The group had four meetings and forwarded 24 recommendations to IDHS Executive Director Hill. The group recommended keeping ten districts and changes to district oversight committees.

Alvin participated in the Cass County Health Department preparedness exercise last week which also served as the district exercise.

**NIMS**

No updates.

**WINTER STORM/BLIZZARD 2014**

The process was very complicated with IDHS adding and removing counties from the declaration request multiple times. Alvin Beckman is not hopeful Cass County will receive reimbursement funding at this time.

**ANY OTHER OLD BUSINESS**

Alvin Beckman received a quote for insulation for the EMA Facility. The cost was estimated at \$19,960.00. Alvin indicated this funding was not in the budget. Rocky Buffum suggested opportunities might be available through USDA weatherization programs.

**NEW BUSINESS**

## P25 RADIO UPDATE

Alvin attended a meeting in Lafayette earlier today. Federal standards have been implemented that are mandatory for public safety 800 radio systems. All radios on the state system will need to be "touched" 2-3 times with a cost of \$34.6 million for the state. The updates will be implemented using a district approach starting in the Southeast, then the South west then north central. Each agency will have to pay for a program/template fee of \$400-\$500 per radio. Effective September 2016 radios will not be usable if not touched.

## WTH MAPPING

WTH mapping has been reinstalled on EMA computers. 39 degrees north software does not work for public safety.

## UPDATES ON PLANS

Bob Ehle from Cass County Solid Waste District is assisting with the Debris Management Plan.

Rocky Buffum from Logansport Housing Authority is assisting with the Disaster Housing and Continuity of Operations Plans.

Other plans being reviewed or updated include the county comprehensive plan, HAZMAT plan, special needs plan, evacuation plan and animal plan.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Historical Society Bike Ride is scheduled Saturday. May 31 is the ADM Barnyard Boot Camp. Alvin might attend WebEOC planning Thursday. Alvin purchased coloring books for the 4H Fair.

## CLAIMS

Claims were approved in the amount of \$1,136.30 on a motion duly made and seconded.

## ANY OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Gary Armstrong is working to affix decals to the new vehicle. He also installed emergency lighting, sirens, radios and other equipment.

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2014 at 7PM.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion duly made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rocky Buffum  
EMAC Secretary