Central Peace
Regional Emergency Management Committee
Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 2nd, 2021 Supper: 6:00 p.m.
at Birch Hills County ECC (and GoTo link) Meeting: 6:30 p.m.

Attendance:

In Person:	GoTo:
Brice Daly – SHC	Dee Deveau – SR
Larry Davidson – BHC	Monica Randell - SHC
Jo Chelick – Rycroft	Cary Merritt – SHC
Paul Reum – BHC	Chris Graham – AEMA
Peter Thomas – Rycroft	Darryl Martin – AHS
Wayne Meyer – SR	Mike Archer – SHC
Tom Morgan – BHC Fire Department	Phil Sauder – ATCO Electric
Jenna-lee Natrasony - AER	Dianne Nellis – MD#133
Lorne Johnson - AEP	Nick van Rootselaar – MD#133
Dion Hines - BHC	Shelley Abram – ATCO
Brian Kroes - CPFR	Brenda Stanich – SR
Gerry Richard - SHC	Gavin Hoika – AB Ag & Forestry
Emily Bolch - SHC	

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Paul Reum to accept the agenda as presented. **Carried Unanimously**

3. Minutes

Moved by Paul Reum to adopt the June 17th, 2021 minutes as presented.
Carried Unanimously

4. Administration

a) Regional EM Plan updates

Council, staff, and agency partners have had some changes. A new, updated copy of the EM plan will be distributed in paper, electronic format, or both.

b) ESS plan

A copy of the ESS plan can be distributed to those who require them. There is a new electronic reception registration tool available.

c) 2021 CP-REM Budget

$4000 that was budgeted for training has been removed from expenses. Funding for the live training exercise has been deferred to March 2022. Brice reviewed the budget and explained how the money has been spent, what the budget lines are for, and why costs have been slightly lower this year. The equal share per partner for 2021 is $8368.20. Brice also reviewed the sources of revenue.

Moved by Nick van Rootselaar to approve the 2021 CP-REM Budget as presented **Carried Unanimously**

5. Response Operations

a) COVID 19 (ongoing)

Peter Thomas reported that Rycroft has had staff missing for tests or illness, but business as normal with the office being open to the public. Observing social distancing. No major challenges to report.

Larry Davidson reported that Birch Hills County is functioning similar to Rycroft. The public is getting impatient with masking and new variant. Council explored implementing a vaccination policy but didn't approve it. They are not experiencing supply issues, but there are delays for grader supplies.

Dee Deveau reported nothing unusual for the Town of Spirit River – staff stays home if they're sick. Public has been masking, and no issues with acquiring supplies as far as sanitation, masks etc.

Cary Merritt said all well at Saddle Hills County. Some cases of COVID-19 here and there among staff, but overall things are going well.

Dianne Nellis reported that all is well at MD #133. If staff are sick, they stay home.

Brice discussed the supply chain issues that existed at the beginning of the pandemic. CP-REM will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and share strengths and experiences.

Darryl Martin reported that there are 750 active cases in north zones, 10 of those in the Central Peace. Provincially there are 4,619 active cases, 424 hospitalizations, 79 in ICU, and the R value is below 1. Cases are trending downwards in North zone, but Provincially it is unclear is cases are plateauing or slightly increasing. Alberta Health services is preparing for the possibility of a 5th wave. Darryl discussed the characteristics of the new Omnicron variant. Darryl discussed staffing and the challenges that have existed in the North zone.

6. Recovery Programs

a. Active DRP's

No recent major recovery operations.

The impact of the 10% DRP funding threshold on small municipalities was discussed.

Dianne Nellis advised that the next program application will be in January.

Peter Thomas advised that Rycroft has submitted final paperwork for 2020 DRP – water intake and Weir. Rycroft was provided with an advance of just under $200,000. They submitted their final paper a couple weeks ago.

7. Mitigation Programs

Mitigation for fire risk for communities in forests.

8. Training & Preparedness

Chris Graham discussed AEMA training and timelines. Currently still under restrictions about in person training, but online training is available for BEM, ICS100, MEO, DEM, ICS 200 & 300 courses. Anticipating that in-person training will resume next year.

As of January 1, 2020, new regulation states that elected officials must complete the MEO Workshop within 90 days of taking office. Chris advised that every effort should be made by municipalities to meet the 90-day requirement unless special circumstances are arranged.

There are 5 AEA Authorized Users within CP-REM – 2 at Saddle Hills County, 2 at Birch Hills County, and Bill Mortland at MD133. Brice asked those who were interested in taking the course to let him know.

Training Priorities for 2022

a. MEO course –will hopefully be offered by the end of January
b. AEA Authorized User Training – 2-3 new users in the Central Peace would be ideal
c. DEM course – Have held 2 online. If offering the DEM course in person is not possible in the near future, the course will be offered online
d. ICS 100/200/300 - Will offer ICS 200 & ICS 300 in person

9. Exercises

a) Tabletop Exercise – Feb, 2022 (TBA)
b) Live Exercise - March, 2022 (TBA)

The date of the live exercise will be coordinated via email in the coming weeks, with a tabletop exercise prior to the live exercise. The live exercise is to be held a Thursday or a Friday in the Woking area of Saddle Hills County and will involve partner agencies.

10. Partner Agency Updates

- Alberta Emergency Management Agency

Chris Graham shared that AMA is providing support to BC with flood response. There have been some changes to office of fire commissioner as it has been merged into AMA. A formal announcement will be made once the merge is complete.

- Agriculture & Forestry

Gavin Hoika shared that the name of the Ministry has been changed to Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Economic Development. Fire season ended October 31, 2021. There were 105 fires, which is a bit above average. Fire season was busy provincially as well, with resources being dispatched to BC, Manitoba, Ontario, and to the United States later in the year. Happy Valley Fire base is going to be downsized and most likely closed for 2022 fire season due to budget cuts. The lingering affects of the pine beetle are looking serious in Jasper and southern Alberta.

- Alberta Health Services

Daryl Martin advised that AHS will be facilitating moving into the new hospital in Grande Prairie this weekend

- Alberta Support & Emergency Response Team

Lorne Johnson advised that there has been an uptick in motor vehicle accidents due to winter conditions, and that they will begin helping with the BC floods.

- Alberta Energy Regulator – FIRST

Jenna-lee Natrasony can participate in live exercises. Oil and gas related emergencies have been minor over last 8 months.

- AHS/EMS
- RCMP
- Alberta Transportation/DG
- ATCO/BHNGC/CPNGC

Phil Sauder shared that offices are closed, and that there have been no operational issues throughout the pandemic.

11. Round Table

Peter Thomas inquired about NG911. Dispatch contract has been reviewed and SHC had a 70% reduction in dispatch fees due to cost calculations being population based. These cost savings can be re-directed to next generation 911 (NG911).

Next Meeting:

March 10, 2022	Supper at 6:00 p.m.
Location: MD#133	Meeting to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.