

Muscatine County Emergency Management Commission

Minutes

May 10, 2023 5:30 p.m.

Muscatine County Administration Building

Members Present: Quinn Riess, Jeff Sorensen, Susie Garrett, Brad Bark, Sheryl Lenker, Omar Martinez

Others Present: Chris Jasper

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Chair Bark.

A motion was made by Sorensen with a second by Lenker to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor.

A motion was made by Sorensen with second by Riess to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2023 meeting. All in favor.

A motion was made by Sorensen with a second by Lenker to reaffirm the claims that were previously approved via email from January 23, 2023 thru May 1, 2023, 2022. All in favor.

Jasper gave the group an update on this year's flood response. Jasper informed the group that this was the first year that the City of Muscatine put up a HESKO wall. He thanked the city staff for their constant communication with EMA. Jasper also stated the Governor visited today and walked along the riverfront and had a tabletop discussion about the flood response. Bark gave kudos to Jasper for the work he did and the leadership he showed during the flooding. Sorensen also stated that he has been on the board for 13 years and he felt this was the best response we had for disaster response/recovery and there were just some small areas of improvement.

Jasper also gave a brief update on an EF-1 tornado that hit outside West Liberty on 5/7/2023. Jasper stated there was minor damage to residences within the city due to hail and wind. The Dutton Sports Complex and some outbuildings in the county have major damage.

Jasper stated that the Governor did sign disaster proclamations from the Governor for the Tornado and the Flooding so there is some assistance available along with case management services. Sorensen asked how we communicated this with community members. Jasper stated it was put on social media and the municipalities have been sending information out. These services are also managed by Community Action of Eastern Iowa and they put a press release out.

Jasper stated that he had been having some discussion with the State of Iowa to move a 6-inch water pump to Muscatine County to store. This pump is owned by the state but we would maintain it and store it and then would have first use of it in the even of a flood. A motion was made by Sorensen with a second by Martinez to authorize Jasper to sign the agreement. All in favor.

Jasper presented the updated ESF-11 Agriculture and Natural Resources to the board. He stated that he met with Public Health and the County Environmental to review these. A motion was made by Garrett with a second by Lenker to accept the changes to ESF-11 and submit to HSEMD.

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Jasper presented the updated ESF-12 Energy to the board. He stated he met with energy partners to review the plan and this is the final draft. A motion was made by Riess with a second by Sorensen to approve the ESF-12 and submit to HSEMD.

Jasper presented the Economic Recovery Support Function to the board. Jasper stated the state did a tabletop exercise a couple months ago and based off that exercise he wrote a plan for economic recovery and then sent it out to the participants for feedback. He stated he got minimal feedback and made a couple changes and the final copy is presented to the Commission for approval. A motion was made by Sorensen with a second by Riess to approve the RSF-Economic. All in favor.

Jasper informed the group that the Wapello and Henry County Emergency Managers have been working on a Search and Rescue group for our EMA Region. Since we have a trailer that was already declared surplus, Jasper would like to donate it to Wapello County. Wapello County will insure it and take over maintenance and upkeep of it but it would be a regional asset that we can use and deploy to Muscatine County, if needed. A motion was made by Sorensen with a second by Martinez to donate the surplus old rehab trailer to Wapello County EMA. All in favor.

Jasper informed the group that he will be holding "townhall meetings" on May 30th and 31th. The 30th will be at the West Liberty Community Center and the 31st at Musser Public Library. Jasper will give a short presentation on 911, severe weather and outdoor warning sirens. He encouraged any community members to attend if they had questions.

Garrett stated that she was concerned because Jasper was supposed to go on vacation a couple weeks ago and did not go because he had no back up. The group had a discussion about back up and having someone trained to do the job in the event of a disaster and Jasper is out of the area. Sorensen stated he felt that there was someone within the county that could attend the trainings and cover. Jasper stated he would look into the training requirements for someone to cover when he is out of the area.

The meeting adjourned at 6:07pm.

Chris Jasper, Secretary
Director – EMA/911