

# Muscatine County Emergency Management Commission

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Muscatine Co. Administration Building – 414 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street – Muscatine, IA. 52761

Thursday, May 20, 2021

## Minutes

The Muscatine County Emergency Management Commission convened with Jeff Sorensen, Quinn Riess, Russ Grim, Bob Schmidt (Virtual) and Sheryl Lenker present. Chairperson Diana Broderson presiding.

Present – Chris Jasper, Jim Barry, Ron Goodwin, Adam Bailey and Brian Wright, EMA

### Quorum established.

1. Call meeting to order. Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 5:36 p.m.
2. Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of February 18, 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Sorenson to approve the minutes and second by Mrs. Lenker. Motion passed.
3. Receive comments from the public. No comments.
4. Discussion and possible action on the 28E Agreement for the EMA Rescue boat. Muscatine County Attorney Mr. Jim Barry discussed with the Commission that the process started last May to develop a 28E Agreement with the Emergency Management Commission, Muscatine Fire Department, Muscatine Sheriff Department, and Muscatine Police Department. There was an interest in others operating the boat, particularly the Muscatine Fire Department. The purpose is to bring together equipment and personnel and utilize the boat for effective rescue in water and ice.

There was discussion among several Commissioners regarding the agreement. Mr. Sorenson indicated, “That it should be certified trained operators in the boat.” “If something should happen to the equipment, we as the emergency management organization replace or repair.” “Is there a need for a rider or not?” Mr. Barry indicated, “That every department is responsible for their people and equipment.” “The only equipment jointly utilized is the boat.”

EMA Manager Wright commented, “That he wanted it understood that Search and Rescue personnel will not be on the shore when the boat is in the water.” The Chair agreed and stated, “I think it’s completely fair to say they (Search and Rescue) need to be on.”

Mr. Adam Bailey who is a member of Search and Rescue commented, “It’s a lot different than our john boats when driving this boat.” “It’s a huge learning curve.” Chairperson Broderson expressed, “Even if they wanted to get a couple people trained (Muscatine Fire Department) they would be in the same boat, what if they’re not on duty?” “Train

all of them or there is no point in training any.” Mr. Sorenson stated, “Specialty craft like that, it doesn’t make sense that you’re going to train everybody.” “Because it’s a specialty craft and you gotta stay current on the equipment.”

Mr. Grim commented, “When we mutual aid with different departments for fires, we don’t jump in their rigs and drive them.” “Everyone is different and operates different and the last thing you want to do is break equipment.” Chairperson Broderson followed up by stating, “Theoretically, if our guys (Search and Rescue) are driving it and doing the sonar and we’re just giving them (other agencies) a ride basically to do their job.” “Then our insurance would cover it because we would be the one driving it.”

Mr. Barry commented, “As I envision, an emergency call where nobody from emergency management can get there in a time frame and you have an emergency and you got the boat sitting.” “That’s the scenario I see and want to avoid.” “So, I don’t know who gets there first but, I do know the quickest response is what I assume the public’s after.” “But, it’s not my boat.” “If this is what the Commission wants to do, it needs to be clear because I heard from both sides of the argument and we need to draft this thing to be consistent with what the board wants to do.”

Mr. Ron Goodwin, Captain of Search & Rescue commented, “Fire department has a zodiac just as well as we do.” “That’s what they’ve been using.” “They should be first on scene and we should always be paged out too.” “This rig is not a fast response vehicle (Chair commented, “It’s going to take a minute to get in the water.”) “I would like to see them take their boat out first and if they need assistance, we will bring this down, our members will staff it.” “We’ll take EMTS, divers, whatever to the scene.”

Sheriff Riess stated, “Historically, I’ve been involved with water rescue and dive team for almost twenty years and I don’t remember a time that when Search and Rescue was paged and they weren’t there in a short amount of time.”

The Chair asked, “Do we have a consensus to make that a condition that Search and Rescue be the driver?” (General agreement from Commission members) Mr. Barry responded, “I’ll do the work on this.” “That gives me the direction I need.”

5. Updates with Emergency Manager. Mr. Wright informed the Commission that he was working with local Public Health the last couple of months with PODs – Point of Distribution at Central Middle School and several industries. Helped set-up, assisted, and tear down. He also indicated that he was in the process of taking Basic Academy Courses from the Emergency Management Institute (EMI).
6. Old Business. Mr. Wright discussed the ESFs – Emergency Support Functions that are required to be submitted to the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD). The plans to be reviewed by the State are; Public Safety, Fire/EMS, Search and Rescue, and Hazardous Materials. Mr. Wright had concern that those departments under city/county may not follow the ESFs if instructed by EMA. He would like for those departments to report back to their appropriate commissioner that they received them. Mr. Sorenson pointed out that many lack understanding on their roles, a need to educate everybody in how to participate, how they get involved, and

they are the representatives disseminating the information. Mr. Grim suggested that the sections be broken down for organizations and highlight what pertains to them. Mr. Wright will continue to work with these agencies.

7. New Business. Mr. Wright updated the Commission that Mr. Chris Jasper and he were working with Allison Bright of Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department on the new Alert Iowa program. It's consisted of many meetings virtually/ in person and training. It took effect July 1, 2021.

Mr. Wright was at a conference that discussed the Derecho and inquired if any communities had a debris management plan or that he will look into it. Lastly, he indicated that he plans to attend the Muscatine County Fair and have a booth under the Grandstand.

8. Adjournment. Mr. Sorenson moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m.