



ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2022

Welcome & Self-Introductions

- Meeting Started at 9:00 a.m. by L. Brown.
- Quorum determined by L. Brown
- **Present Voting members:** Acadian Ambulance, Arlanxeo, Chem 32, Chevron Phillips, City of Orange, DOW, Industrial Rescue, Orange County Health, Orange County Emergency Management, Sabine River Authority, Solvay
- **Present non-voting members:** CERT, Ham Radio/CERT, SETRPC, TDEM, TCEQ

May 2022 meeting minutes approval:

Motion: Elgin Browning; **Second:** Robert Crane; **Motion carried.**

Approval of May and June’s Treasurer’s Report: Lee Anne Brown

Expenditures; \$9276.10 Income; \$3600.00 Balance \$42,695.42

Motion: Joel Ardoin; **Second:** Jerry Ziller; **Motion carried.**

Committee Reports:

Communications – Leon George - No report

Warning Signs/ warning signs upgrade - Regius Guillory

- The sign at FM 1006 has not been functioning since the road was resurfaced. Vendor has been contacted to come out to see why it is not communicating. It is possible that it may be the batteries.
Motion: By Regius Guillory to pay up to \$1,000 to replace batteries for the sign, if needed.
Second: Jerry Ziller
Motion carried.
- Need to include replacement of batteries for the signs in next year’s budget.
- Working with Invista to see who is taking over the warning signs.
- **Please e-mail all the reports and direct any questions to regius.guillory@arlanxeo.com**

CERT - Lori Nash - No Report

Bylaws - Robert Crane – No Report

Planning/Programs - Stephen Tew

- Prepping for Hurricanes and emergencies-would like to get information to the schools and community to register for STAN. Kaylan Arendale (SETRPC) briefly explained that it is up to the citizens to register for STAN and it is up to the local government to push out the information. Citizens need to verify information on STAN annually. **SETRPC will be having a mass notification exercise on July 26, 2022.** Folders for the elementary schools will have the STAN flyer printed on the back of the folder.
- Ask for suggestions/volunteers for a presenter for the next meeting. Joel Ardoin is going to see if Don Corona will come and speak about the levee system.

Membership - Elgin Browning

- Speaking to other companies to try to get them to join.
- Mary will email invoices for past due memberships from the LEPC email instead of Quickbooks just so that it doesn’t look like spam.

- Discussion about raising membership fees due to cost of living increases. Elgin suggested that we publish the budget and plan to review the by-laws to make sure no changes have to be made to raise dues prior to sending out 2023 invoices.

Public Health – Joel Ardoin

- COVID numbers are going up. County is reporting that cases have doubled. Discussion about the numbers most likely being much higher due to “at home” test and positive cases not reported.
- Robert Crane verified the hospital is due to be completed by the end of 2022. It will be a stand alone facility with out-patient rooms.

Industry Group - Jerry Ziller

- Scheduling for disaster sheltering in the LEPC room is being arranged and several industry partners have already verified utilizing the room. Get with Jerry Ziller or Mary Low if you would like to be added to the list.

Old Business:

- Conrad Shipbuilding requested to their organization be removed from membership list.
- Cops and Kids was at Claiborne Park on June 10, 2022. At April’s 2023 meeting, we need to preplan for Cops and Kids 2023: ordering supplies, stuffing bags, and staffing LEPC booth.
- Additional payment sent from Entergy Transfer that was thought to be an overpayment was paying 2020 membership dues. Their accounting group was clearing out aged open checks and the check issued in 2020 for dues was never cashed.
- Chem 32 had overpaid, and a refund has already been processed.

New Business:

- Past due membership invoices resent through QuickBooks
- E-vote for folder purchase due to order having different criteria than the last order. Members voting yes: Blue Beacon, City of Bridge City, City of Orange, Orange Co. EM, City of Vidor, Lion Elastomers, IRIS, Dow, Arlanxeo, Honeywell, Jefferson Railport, Solvay, and Chevron. Total Yes-13, Total No-0. Yes Carried. Folders for Elementary schools ordered. Cost was \$7,228.30.
- Executive board voted via e-vote to purchase and have installed new graphics on the existing aluminum Emergency sign at Highway 87 and Roundbunch from image360 for \$1,917.96.
- CPA needed to review LEPC tax exempt status. Joel Ardoin will contact Edgar, Kiker and Cross to get a quote.
- Elgin Browning asked Kaylan Arendale the process of SETRPC funding banner advertisement for sporting events, etc. Interest shown in placing STAN QR code on banners or posters to help get the information out to the community.

Presentation: Kaylan Arendale – Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission
Presentation on STAN (Southeast Texas Alerting Network) and the industry partners role.
Information and registration can be found at www.thestan.com

Announcements/Additional comments:

- Lee Anne Brown asked that members remind employees to rehydrate due to the heat index and be mindful of the contractors. Use a 3:1 ratio. Remind employees to also cool off.
- Mosquitoes are also bad. Spray your yard and empty standing water.

News/Recent Emergencies

- The City of Orange has promoted John Bilbo to Fire Chief, Payton Smith to Deputy Chief and Randy Ener has been reassigned to the Fire Marshal’s office. Congratulations to all of you!
- Solvay employee passed away. The plant shut down for the day. Many employees were very close to him. Grief counselors were brought in to help employees cope with the sudden loss.

- Large brush fires in ESD4. Acadian Ambulance dispatched its Ambus. The Ambus available is upon request and usually takes about 45 minutes to an hour to get on site.

Training:

- Check www.preparingtexas.org for more training in our area! <https://www.preparingtexas.org/Schedule.aspx>
- TDEM G-2300 Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Function course offered at the Beaumont EOC on 07/19/2022 – 07/21/2022.

Meeting adjourned: motion: Jerry Ziller; **Second:** Joel Ardoin: **motion carried.**