



ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023

Welcome & Self-Introductions

- Meeting Started at 9:02 a.m. by Elgin Browning.
- Quorum determined by Elgin Browning
- **Present Voting members:** Arlanxeo, Chevron Phillips, DOW, Industrial Rescue, Invista, Jefferson Railport Terminal, Orange County ESD #2, Orange County Emergency Management, Solvay, Wilson Warehouse
- **Present non-voting members:** CERT, Ham Radio/CERT, Orange County Public Health, Red Cross, TDEM, Texas GLO
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August 2023 meeting minutes approval:

Motion: Jerry Ziller; **Second:** Regius Guillory; **Motion carried.**

Approval of August Treasurer's Report – Jeremy Carlock

Expenditures: \$2,987.59 Income: \$2,100.00 Ending Balance: \$54,498.54

Motion: Bruce Stone; **Second:** Regius Guillory; **Motion carried**

Committee Reports:

Communications – Leon George (not present) - No report

Warning Signs/ warning signs upgrade - Regius Guillory

- All signs have been checked.
- Sign at FM 1006 & Hwy 87 currently not operational. It was put back up yesterday but battery went out. Hopefully it will be charged today.
- Testing sign needs repair and cost is \$2,945.24. The amount is budgeted.
- **Please e-mail all the reports and direct any questions to regius.guillory@arlanxeo.com**

CERT - Lori Nash

- October class is still a work in progress. Working with TDEM to get class scheduled.

Bylaws - Robert Crane (not present) – No report

Planning/Programs - Stephen Tew

- Still would like U.P. to do a presentation. Need a good contact.
- Starting tomorrow (9/14/2023) FM 1006 and Hwy 87 intersection will be closed for 5 days, Hwy 87 will still flow.

Membership - Elgin Browning – No report

Public Health – Sandee White

- There are 143 new COVID cases, however showing a decline this week. Symptoms are flu-like.
- COVID 19 is no longer subsidized.

Industry Group - Jerry Ziller

- Sheltering during storms in the LEPC room has been prepared.
- Will be working with Regius Guillory for sign placement with new construction.

TDEM – Caci Groom

- The expiration date on COVID test has been extended to December.

- Hazardous Mitigation Grant for Winter Storm Uri DR #4705 still available for local governments, state agencies, and private non-profits regardless of whether you were affected by the storm. Caci Groom will send an email for Mary to forward to the group.

Old Business:

- Folders have been sent to all the schools.
- Evote was sent out on August 11th for request to purchase forty “Burn Ban” signs and eight “Burn Ban” banners for the County totaling \$1,740 (\$580 for signs and \$1,160 for banners). Votes-24 yes/0 no.

New Business:

- If any entity needs more “Burn Ban” signs, let Elgin Browning know. Burn ban enacted for 90 days beginning August 8, 2023.

Presentation: No presentation.

Announcements/Additional comments:

- Joel Ardoin spoke about the changes with the STAN system. The new company is Everbridge and it will be a slow transition. Blackboard will terminate at the end of September. Pat Grimes will be working to get everyone on board. Everbridge is easier to operate than Blackboard. The system will still be referred to as STAN.
- STAN was used during the evacuation of the Gist Fire. Only 50 of the evacuees were signed up for STAN. The majority evacuated were by door-to-door contact.
- Doug Cramer spoke about a recent event which used IPAWS. Joel Ardoin advised that we do not have IPAWS in our region.
- Doug Cramer with the National Weather Service stated there possibly be rain for the next few days.
- Joel Ardoin recognized the Red Cross for setting up a shelter at Pine Forest Baptist Church during the evacuation for the Gist Fire.

News/Recent Emergencies

Terry Road fire-burned approximately 15 acres. No houses lost. Many agencies assisted.

Little Cypress fire at Hwy 87 and Hwy 12.

Vidor Old Hwy 90 railroad tie fire near Jefferson Railport Terminal.

Gist Fire burned 417 acres. No houses lost. 75% contained. SCNA activated. Several agencies assisted.

Training:

- Check www.preparingtexas.org for more training in our area! <https://www.preparingtexas.org/Schedule.aspx>
- HotZone Conference in Houston, October 19-22, 2023.

Meeting adjourned: motion: Elgin Browning; **Second:** Regius Guillory; **motion carried.**