



MEMORANDUM

MEETING TYPE: REGULAR BOCC MEETING

MEETING DATE: JULY 25, 2023

ITEM NAME: Sonic Bloom After Action Report

SUBMITTED BY: Brittney Ciarlo, Emergency Manager
Cheri Chamberlain, Building Department

SUMMARY: Please find an After Action Report for your review of this year's Sonic Bloom event. This report includes an executive summary, what actually occurred, what went well and areas that could use improvement.

RECOMMENDATION: Informational only

BACKGROUND: The After Action Report meeting included those that assisted from the venue, County employees and administration and members from the local Fire Department that were on scene.



HUERFANO — COUNTY — C O L O R A D O

To: Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners
From: Brittney Ciarlo, Emergency Manager
Cheri Chamberlain and Ryan Sablich, Building/Code Enforcement Technicians
CC: Carl Young, County Administrator
Sky Tallman, Land Use Director
Date: July 25, 2023
RE: Sonic Bloom After Action Report/Improvement Plan

Executive Summary

Sonic Bloom, a 4-day music fest was held from June 15-18, 2023 off Lascar Road in Huerfano County. Many conditions were set prior to the event taking place. An estimated 3500 tickets were sold and/or given to Huerfano County residents making this about half of the size of last year's event. The community impact shows that sales tax was collected on a total of \$17k in sales tax with additional estimates of \$60,000 expended to the County Road and Bridge, Fire Department and Sheriff Office, and Huerfano County Land Use Department \$20,369,24 spent at First Choice, \$1620.80 at local hotels and \$3,032.81 tab at Walsenburg Lumber. The emergency access road added \$18,107.35 to Paul Morgan Excavating and \$1300.00 to Cruz Management. A Farmer's Market was added this year for local business opportunities. There were a total of 11 vendors present on Friday until 5pm. Food and ice donations were made through First Choice Market to serve a town recently hit by a tornado. Also discounted tickets were sold to patrons at 10% discount at Corinne's (was also at H&H but they had terminated their business prior to the event.) \$3179.00 was donated to Dorcas Circle on July 20, 2023 with at least three food boxes as well as miscellaneous donated items.

What was expected?

Multiple fights, drug overdoses and hospitalization or transfer requests were expected. Many sound violations and issues with surrounding neighbors were also expected. Traffic issues were expected to occur during festival start/end dates.

What occurred?

6 hospital transports by EMS Unlimited. 3 transports were the result of a head on MVC outside of the venue and the other 3 were "stable" and transported for polysubstance use. 1 FFL transport took place due to polysubstance use with underlying mental health concerns. Spanish Peaks EMS nor Hospital transported or received any patients as requested by their EMS

Director. About 50 on-site "contacts" were treated in the medical tent ranging from full range basic first aid to substance use that were released to the on-site Harm Reduction team. There were 3 noise complaints made, 1 trespassing call, 1 theft, 2 missing persons and 1 MVC reported during the event. One complaint was received from a local homeowner that their phone service was affected and no text messages or emails could be received or sent. The Emergency Access road was being utilized by patrons. Complaint/concern was discussed regarding an advertisement that showed the river being dammed to create "pools" and if this type of action interferes with water rights. Awaiting response from the Water Commissioner.

What Worked Well?

The improved traffic management plan was successful for all entry traffic. No major backups were experienced on Lascar Rd or I-25. County presence and oversight was constant, similar to last year's event, including code enforcement from the building department, constant SO patrol, Huerfano Fire District daily patrol with equipment on scene from 3p-12a. Sound data being checked and reported routinely was also beneficial. A local port-a-potty service was contracted with and was able to provide full service twice a day for port-a-potties and handwashing stations. Moving the Harm Reduction Team "Sanctuary" was a plus to allow for more medical supervision and treatments. The Farmer's Market was thoroughly enjoyed as a business opportunity for the locals. The smaller crowd helped create a more manageable environment.

Indigenous Neighbors Land Project, SONIC BLOOM & The Permaculture Action Network mobilized more than 50 people to our indigenous neighbors' land project, Aztlan Cultural Center, during this year's Permaculture Action Days right before the festival. Here's what we did:

- Rebuilt the community kitchen from the ground up
- Removed 16 dead trees from the riparian buffer
- Restored the stream adjacent ecosystems
- Build a garden from last year's compost
- Built soil with this year's composted food scraps
- Removed an entire dumpster of pollutants
- Fed everyone who showed up before sweat lodge

The action day featured music by Ghost Meteor & Ryan Sorrell and included an overnight campout between Wednesday's and Thursday's hands-on projects with evening sweat lodge.

This builds on seven years of Permaculture Action Days in the county installing rainwater catchment systems, perennial food crops, greenhouses, solar power systems, and more at the local high school, library, community center/garden, and a low income housing project.

What Needs Improvement?

1. Need to have adequate cell service to accommodate for the event.

- a. Look at a satellite or wifi system to cover the area
 - b. Placement of COWs (Cell tower On Wheels)
 - c. Radio communication needs improvement as well as wi-fi services.
2. The Emergency Access Road needs to be locked and/or access limited for future events.
3. Advertising: Ad showed “pools” accessible to all. The Water Commissioner will be reviewing photos and videos and providing feedback.
4. Continue to have the Huerfano County Land Use Office send out application related notifications to ensure the neighbors/land owners are receiving the correspondence. (Sonic Bloom to reimburse the Land Use office for all postage). Addresses used are the same as the Huerfano County Assessor has on record for the landowners within 1200 feet of the border of Hummingbird Ranch. (It is the responsibility of the land owners/residents of the Lascar area to provide current/different addresses for correspondence of all to the Huerfano County Land Use Office)
 - a. Regular Post for preliminary letters.
 - b. Certified Letters for Public Hearings
 - c. Certified Letters for pre-event happenings
 - d. Information posted to the Huerfano County Website
 - e. Notification of Public Hearings posted in the Huerfano World Journal at least 10 days prior to the Public Hearing.
 - f. Notification of Public Hearings posted to the Huerfano County Website at least 10 days prior to the Public Hearing.
 - g. Notification of Public Hearing posted to the Huerfano County Social Media Page at least 10 days prior to the Public Hearing.