



LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 13, 2023, at 12:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

VIRTUAL MEETING INFORMATION

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/99118835453> or 1-253-215-8782 Webinar ID: 991 1883 5453

Questions Call: 907-209-9207 or e-mail city.clerk@juneau.org

A. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Ed Williams at 12:03

B. ROLL CALL:

Establish Quorum: Michelle Brown confirmed quorum was present.

Introductions – Farewells – Welcome

Farewell:

Erin Walker-Tolles – Vulnerable Populations Alt Seat, though she promised not to be a stranger.

New Members:

Rhonda Butler – AK Native Tribal Seat Alt (Appointed 12/11/23)

Krag Campbell – Law Enforcement Seat (Appointed 12/11/23)

Welcome:

Steven Karnazes, SEARHC Emergency Preparedness Manager will be applying for the Vulnerable Populations seat that Erin relinquished.

Members Present: Paul Kelly, Scott Erickson, Ed Quinto, Travis Wolfe, Louisa Phillips, Nathan Rumsey, Jennifer Pemberton, Britta Tonnessen, Loren Jones, Karen Wood, Ed Williams, Nicole Ferrin, Erin Walker-Tolles, Rhonda Butler, Elaine Hickey, Jamie Bursell, Tom Mattice, Michelle Brown

Members Absent: Krag Campbell, Destiny Sargeant, Evan Price, Warren Russell, Chris Russell, Ryan Sand, Ken Murphy, Eileen Hosey, Sabrina Boone

Others Present: Andres Delgado, Celeste Lopez, Chelsea Swick, Daniel Blount, Josh Bentz, Kathy Shea, Michael Pierson, Steven Karnazes,

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: - December 13, 2023 – approved

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. November 08, 2023, Draft Minutes of the Juneau Local Emergency Planning Committee – Unanimously approved.

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (10-15 Minutes):

Steven Karnazes introduced himself. Currently he is in Hoonah, as the new Southeast Alaska Regional Emergency Preparedness Manager for SEARHC.

F. STAFF REPORTS

Elected Official Report - Paul Kelly – reported Assembly passed the new hazard maps ordinance Tuesday, December 12, 2023. Old maps were replaced with just an avalanche hazard map that will go into effect in about 28 days. At Assembly December 2nd Retreat (8hr full workday) a lot was discussed. The day finished with discussing goals for the future. One purposed goal is around public safety: Implementing action around studying our community for potential natural disasters. This is still being discussed and is not official yet.

Emergency Programs Report - Tom Mattice – reported CBJ started work on the proposed budget. Some trainings are coming up in January and more are in the works for March and April. New grant applications opened for next year. Meetings are in place to determine what projects to request in 2024. Soon will be ready to advertise a new hire position for Michelle Brown's position. Regarding the recent flooding, the Emergency water shed protection program didn't fit. It would have taken 18-34 months for NRCS to start actions. Unique condition that came forward from NRCS report is that we have got a lot of issues due to the flood leaving the mapped river floodway. Many solutions discussed, amongst other options; equipment that can bore into the basin to create a drain path before it gets too high. A study will be done to explore options. The Army Corps of Engineers begins with an initial proposal of \$100,000 and after that is a 50/50 cost share for any plans they develop.

JPD – Scott Erickson - Nothing new to report, still trying to figure out new chiefs, deputy chiefs, and hiring.

CCFR – Ed Quinto – reported fire fighter one academy would begin in January. They are currently down to 5 staff on the line from 46. The FAA inspector came by and said the current ARF (airport rescue firefighting) backup truck is no longer usable. Therefore, they must prioritize purchasing a new truck. Production of a new ARF truck takes 500 days/2 years. Until a replacement is found, if the current truck goes down, the airport will have to reduce how many large aircraft can land in Juneau each day. This does not affect medivac services but would affect large commercial planes coming into Juneau. Reducing the size of planes from ones that carry around 120 passengers down to around 80.

Santa run this Saturday. This year they have the Grinch and Micky Mouse.

Hospital – Nathan Rumsey – reported the hospital is going through Trauma level recertification, site visits are scheduled to start next week. They are in the middle of transitioning the emergency department to a new documentation of case work and records system. This is proving to be a real challenge but once it's up and running, will be a vast improvement. Should be moving smoothly by next week. Evan is currently getting more Emergency Management training. Aurora Health Center construction was completed summer 2023, the soft opening is next week. Outpatient services for youth that are neurodivergent are being moved to that facility. They're not currently advertising this service. Once it's up and running it will be the first in the state geared towards adolescents.

Michelle asked for an update on the staffing issue reported in last months meeting. Nathan reported they are fine with staffing for youth support right now. When they first started it was to focus on adults with a youth component. Due to staffing challenges, it has switched to focus on youth at this time.

Paul Kelly asked if the new facility is now primarily for youth, what happens to the adult services? Nathan reported that no services have changed for what they can now provide for adults.

Red Cross – Britta Tonnessen – reported being largely focused on Wrangell and Prince of Whales the last few weeks. They worked on the home fire campaign and a training with one community partner and canvased a local trailer park for smoke detector needs. 2 additional community partners joined them for smoke detector installs. They continue to work with the Faith Community Group, the LEPC supported building. She reminded the LEPC committee that everyone here is encouraged to attend those meetings and the upcoming training.

Haz/Mat & NWS Preparedness - Nicole Ferrin – reported on a really busy month of weather and advised that it's not stopping anytime soon. The next round of heavy rain can be expected after midnight tonight, strong wind but not as strong as last night. NWS is actively supporting the State Emergency Operations Center for Wrangell. They assisted with the Coast Guard helicopter recovery and mud slide in real time. If anyone in this group is not getting weather emails that they push out ahead of weather events, contact Nicole to be added. Email her at nicole.ferrin@noaa.gov

Alaska Native Tribal – Rhonda Butler – reported they have been extremely busy. Primarily working on attendance at FEMA's 9th Annual Tribal Nations training upcoming in March. They're working with leaders in Juneau and throughout the Southeast Region on this. Their local team has expanded vastly recently. They

received a Homeland Security Grant and are working to fill a position for Emergency Preparedness soon. They prioritize their ability to respond to their tribal citizens' needs. Currently they are looking at opportunities to incorporate behavioral health into their offerings. Their capabilities are broad to provide their tribal citizens with the aid needed in any area of need.

Other Member Reports – Jamie Bursell advise that the Southeast Alaska Surgery Center is required to have an all-hazard approach emergency program. Encompassing every possible disaster and emergency situation. Steven Vorderbruggen, Generation System Engineer at AELP gave an excellent presentation on the Salmon Creek Dam Emergency Program, to the SE AK Surgery and Juneau Bone & Joint centers. The presentation covered the dam's history, construction, emergency mitigations, and evacuation plans. She recommended the LEPC invite him to present at a future meeting. All facilities in the flood plain could benefit from this presentation by gaining a knowledge of the sirens and timelines to evacuate the area in the event of an emergency.

Jamie reported on rumors that Bartlett Regional Hospital bought Juneau Bone and Joint. She explained that Juneau Bone and Joint rent the building they are in. Both buildings in that area are owned separately from the business by a couple of physicians. The owners are selling the building. There was an offer for the hospital to buy the buildings and the land they're on. The offer is under consideration.

- G. ACTION ITEM** – Ed Williams conducted a committee vote to request the AEL&P Salmon Creek Dam presentation at a future meeting. The vote passed anonymously.

H. NEW BUSINESS

Wrangell Recent Disaster Response/Recovery – Tom Mattice reported that Wrangell had multiple slide areas. Many organizations were involved in response to the slides. The drone operation reported during last month's meeting was a part of the response and found the first 2 missing people within minutes.

Rhonda Butler, CCHITA reported they responded and set up on site with the drone team and SEADOGS. They were able to set up communications on the north and south side of the main slide to help all residents who were without communications. They worked directly with Wrangell Corporative Association (WCA) and the City of Wrangell. There have also been 12 minor slides in Prince of Whales, with 2 of them significantly impacting the community.

Britt Tonnessen, Red Cross reported the Red Cross paid for hotel rooms for those stranded by the main Wrangell slide. For many reasons they were unable to provide mass care in Wrangell, funding from the State came through quickly and that increased the resources that could be provided. There have been requests from the community for training. The people that were previously trained were involved in the response effort, so they didn't have as many people as needed. RC sent down an integrated care team, a case worker, disaster health services, disaster mental health and others. The slide continues to slide causing additional challenges with providing care. It is Unclear who will be affected by the slide. The city must make specific disaster declarations to open up the services the Red Cross can offer. The Salvation Army, City of Wrangell, and the Tribal Government, are trying to come up with financial assistance for those who are displaced. Many need to pay their current mortgage and now rent for lodging since it's not safe to go back. DOT put in culverts because the main one was overwhelmed. Yesterday additional inches of rain resulted in highway closure. Between Wrangell and POW, much has been learned about the connections and relationships needed for a better response in future emergencies. RC will follow up with individuals who chose to remain in their homes. A volunteer is being deployed to provide psychological first aid to the community.

AlaskaEx 2026 – SE AK Regional Exercise sponsored by SOA – Planning Discussion – Tom Mattice

Received flyer from state. Some initiatives from 103rd Civil Support Team and CCFR. Looking forward to State initial planning, mid planning, and final planning meetings. Might be all over Southeast Alaska or just in

Juneau. Each meeting will have 3-5 days of trainings around them. Will have meetings this week with police and fire to determine direction. Hazardous Materials response is an ongoing need. Other organizations can attend these meetings and plan their participation independently. Reach out to Tom for more information.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 2. Juneau Recent Disaster Response/Recovery Q&A** – Emergency Programs - Tom Mattice- No discussion
- 3. Airport Exercise Lessons Learned and the Path Forward** – Andres Delgado, Airport M&O – due to time constraints this item was moved to the January 10, 2024 LEPC meeting.
- 4. All Hazard Mitigation & Whole Community Input Planning** – Tom Mattice – No discussion
- 5. LEPC Future Monthly Meetings Update** – Michelle Brown

Questionnaire/Poll will be sent to LEPC participants in 2024.

Phil Adams, departed his position as Deputy Manager, JNU Airport

Alaska Room available starting late Spring 2024. Waiving parking fees is a problem with the new parking lot automated system. They are working on it.

Note: Date change from 2nd Wednesday of each month **OR** time change would be necessary to use this facility.

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

6. MGT 405 Mobilizing Faith Based Community in Preparing for Disaster

Sponsor: City & Borough of Juneau and Red Cross of Alaska in Juneau

Date: Saturday, January 13, 2024

Time: 9am to 5pm

Location: Chapel by the Lake (11024 Auke Lake Way, Juneau)

Registration Required (see attached flyer)

POC: Tom Mattice (907) 586-9207 – tom.mattice@juneau.gov

- 7. Red Cross Real Heroes Award (Red Cross Fundraiser)** – Each donors across the state sponsor one of ten Real Heroes. The Red Cross creates professional videos to help tell the story of the heroes and presents them at a big gala in ANC (March 2024). The RC does not pay for the travel of the hero but often the hero finds scholarships or donations to be in ANC in person for the ceremony. The event highlights everyday people in AK serving humanity and brings in funds for the American Red Cross of Alaska. Hero categories include Adult Good Samaritan, Alaska Safety, Fire Rescue, Marine Rescue, Medical Rescue, Military/Law Enforcement Rescue, Transportation Safety, Wilderness Rescue, Workplace/Slope Safety, Youth Good Samaritan
- 8. AlaskaEx 2026** – SEAK Regional Exercise with events beginning in 2025 through 2026.

Currently Planning Juneau's Participation Events

POC: Tom Mattice – (907) 209-9207

K. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, Noon to 1pm

Blended Meeting w/ZOOM Webinar Capabilities

Location: Nat'l Guard Armory/UAS Rec Center Joint Use Facility - Room 116

PLEASE ATTEND IN PERSON WHENEVER POSSIBLE

*Regular Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday of each month

L. ADJOURNMENT – 1:08pm

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, TDD 586-5351, e-mail: city.clerk@juneau.org.