

# LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 12, 2024 at 12:00 PM



## In-Person with Zoom Capabilities

In-Person at: Nat'l Guard Armory/UAS Rec Center (12300 Mendenhall Loop Rd)

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

### A. CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Ed Williams

### B. ROLL CALL

**Establish Quorum** - Michelle Brown

**Farewell and appreciation:** Evan Price was recognized with appreciation for his participation in the Primary Hospital Seat since January 2023. The group was glad to see he would continue attending representing UAS and backing up Ryan Sand in the Right to Know Seat.

**Members Present:** Paul Kelly, Ed Quinto, Destiny Sargeant, Louisa Phillips, Nathan Rumsey, Loren Jones, Karen Wood, Ed Williams, Nicole Ferrin, Ken Murphy, Steven Karnaze, Sabrina Boone-Grubitz, Elaine Hickey, Jamie Bursell, Tom Mattice, Michelle Brown

**Members Absent:** Krag Campbell, Travis Wolfe, Jennifer Pemberton, Warren Russell, Britt Tonnessen, Chris Russell, Ryan Sand, Eileen Hosey, Rhonda Butler

**Others Present:** Alisha Sell, Andres Delgado, Brandon Bagwell, Chelsea Swick, Daniel Blount, Evan Price, Mark Keplinger, Michael Pierson, Petr Janousek, Rich Peabody, Zachariah Fisher

### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - June 12, 2024

### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. May 08, 2024, Draft Minutes of the Juneau Local Emergency Planning Committee

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

Michael Pierson, USCG CIV Repeated last month's invitation to the change of command ceremony on July 19<sup>th</sup> at USCG Station Juneau on Egan Drive. No formal invitation required for LEPC members.

### F. STAFF REPORTS

**Elected Official** - Paul Kelly participated virtually via Paris France. He reported that upon public request the CBJ Assembly was investigating potential safety buffers around Glory Hole. This issue was postponed until they reach an understanding about what they can do. Assembly met with BRH Hospital Board who have been digging into saving to fund operations. This is not sustainable beyond 3 years. Additionally, the Assembly of the Whole voted to introduce a bond ordinance on the ballot for 12.75 million for Public Safety communications upgrades. Tom Mattice added that CBJ Emergency Programs had managed grant funded phased projects to prepare Public Safety to implement a robust encrypted system to support Police and Fire and coordinated communications with Anchorage and other partner services.

Michelle Brown requested an update on the Thane campground facility to support the homeless population during the summer months. Paul answered that they have not been able to determine a good location and do not have a solution now. Michelle asked if there were any temporary solutions such as fee waivers at an

existing campground. Paul said he would take the suggestion to the city for consideration. Others mentioned transportation and liability.

**Emergency Programs** - Tom Mattice said that last week he participated in a great public meeting about the Mendenhall flooding presenters included UAS, USGS, CBJ, and the National Weather Service. They answered many questions and discussed the summer program for suicide basin. Lidar capabilities provided information that is greatly improved over the old 2013 maps which clearly identify how the riverbank has shifted. New maps are being developed off the lidar. NOAA funded a 1.5-million-dollar grant to the Southeast Watershed Coalition to study and design solutions. SEARHC is advertising a new Emergency Response Coordinator, Steven will be leaving SEARHC at the end of July. He would like to continue in his seat on the LEPC at this time. Continue to advertise for a Grant Administrator for Emergency Programs.

**JPD** – Not present

**CCFR** -Chief Ed Quinto advised that CCFR was currently in the middle of a Firefighter 2 class. A SHSP grant funded Special Collapse Course in July is scheduled for 8 days over 2 weeks. There are no prerequisites. It will include 4 instructors providing specialized training on collapsed buildings, landslides, extraction of individuals trapped in large buildings. They will have a crane and participants should be ready for a lot of work. CCFR is inviting participation from partners and other communities, there is plenty of room.

Chief Quinto announced his retirement on July 31, 2024, from CCFR after 45 years starting as a volunteer while he was in high school. Brandon Bagwell will be stationed at the Valley Fire Station and will be taking on Ed's duties including participation in the next tabletop exercise.

Hospital – Nate Rumsey followed up on Paul Kelly's report on Bartlett hospital's financial situation. They are analyzing all programs for sustainability moving forward. The Board will continue to take public comment and work through the city to assure they are developing and maintaining stable practices moving forward. Public comment sessions were held June 4 and June 10 and there is a web-based portal where the community can submit comments through June 18. A special Assembly meeting is planned, and the most scrutinized programs are focused on behavioral health.

Last month Bartlett applied for grant funding to support hospital preparedness including 2 mini CRD units through Starlink to support backup communications in an emergency. This will be able to provide limited cellular, internet and imagine for radiology. They will work with Tom to ensure they understand regional needs associated with that. Bartlett is participating in a Medical Surge Response tabletop exercise on June 13.

**Red Cross** – Loren Jones reported that Britta had a baby girl on May 19<sup>th</sup> and named her Tempest Ruth Tonnessen. Britta will return to her Red Cross duties in the last week of September. Mark Keplinger will finish his Jesuit Volunteer role with the Red Cross the end of July. The Regional Red Cross is closely monitoring the fires outside of Fairbanks and is ready to respond if an evacuation is necessary. A lot of hurricane activity is anticipated this year and Maui I still an active disaster response operation.

**Haz/Mat & NWS Preparedness** – Nicole Ferrin reported on the Mendenhall River outcome. The March tabletop exercise hosted by NWS resulted in a protocol to send emails with a *preliminary* forecast of "if suicide basin released today, this is what the levels would look like". These emails will begin on Thursdays with distribution to individuals who participated in the March tabletop once water levels hit a hypothetical minor flood stage. Minor is 8 feet and gets critical after 9 1/2 to 10 feet when View Drive gets flooding. Mendenhall visitor center begins closing trails at 7 feet and last year's flooding wat at 14.95 ft.

Nicole traveled with Alisha from CCTHITA to talk with smaller communities' leaders about hazardous weather. Angoon will be the next stop. This will be her first time in Angoon, and she is looking forward to signing up some new weather spotters to partner with NWS.

Last week's thunderstorm began with lightning hitting a small island near Juneau. This is a rare occurrence for a Juneau summer. She advised that if you see a cloud getting very tall and are on a boat to seek safe

harbor. Turn your bow into the wind, which shifts suddenly making it very dangerous. She gave her email address to the group for further information [Nicole.ferrin@noaa.gov](mailto:Nicole.ferrin@noaa.gov).

**Alaska Native Tribal** – Sabrina Boone-Grubitz reported that Alisha Sell would be report on her CERT activities after Sabrina's report. CCTHITA staff will accompany Alisha in providing Narcan training and kits. She was excited to hear that many groups are working on communication projects which tribal identified as an ongoing need that is much larger/longer than anticipated. They are preparing 2nd round of applications for Tribal Homeland Security Grants; there are village public safety officer interviews upcoming; July 10th they will hold internal domestic violence training.

She gave a thank you to partners who assisted with the canoe landing event on June 4<sup>th</sup>. It was extremely successful. June 7<sup>th</sup>, she met with Patricia Pudwill the small state rural advocate, career position for FEMA who was new to the position.

Alisha Sell reported that the first tribal CERT training was held in Juneau. After that she traveled to Pelican, Kake, Prince of Wales, and Klawock, delivering tribal CERT trainings and certifications, next week Saxton and the following Angoon. The 2nd CERT course was scheduled for Prince of Wales. She asked the Juneau LEPC to reach out to their contacts and partners and direct those interested in the CERT program to contact her. A USCG participant in Juneau is interested in having all Juneau coast guard members and their families participate in CERT training and certification. Mike Lopez in Juneau will be managing the CERT program in Juneau.

**Public Health** – Elaine Hickey reported that Public Health held Joint Dispensing Point of Distribution (POD) planning meetings. They are working to get their POD plan updated and tested.

**Community Group** – Karen Wood with Juneau Animal Rescue said that they are currently dealing with a significant hoarding case. 52 cats out of a single residence last Tuesday and there are still more they need to retrieve from that residence. Michelle recommended that they work with Merideth Thatcher the CBJ Public Information Officer to further get the word out to the community.

**G. NEW BUSINESS**

**H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**All Hazard Mitigation & Whole Community Input Planning Update** - Tom Mattice advised that a draft request for proposals was being developed and would be sent out to contacts soon. Once a contactor was selected advisory meetings would begin.

**J. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**AlaskaEx 2026** - SEAK Regional Exercise with events beginning in 2025 going through 2026  
More Information to come.

**POC:** Tom Mattice (907) 209-9207 - [tom.mattice@juneau.gov](mailto:tom.mattice@juneau.gov)

**K. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Blended Meeting with ZOOM Webinar Capabilities

**Location: Nat/I Guard Armory/UAS Rec Center (12300 Mendenhall Loop Rd - Room 116)**

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

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

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.gov](mailto:city.clerk@juneau.gov).