



# LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 8, 2023, at 12:00 PM

Zoom Webinar

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## 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](mailto:city.clerk@juneau.org)

**A. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Ed Williams at 12:00

**B. ROLL CALL:**

**Establish Quorum:** Michelle Brown confirmed quorum was present.

### Welcome – Introductions - Farewells

**New Members:** Paul Kelly, Elected Official seat. Rhonda Butler, AK Native Tribal seat alternate. Krag Campbell, Law Enforcement seat alternate. Dec. 11 the CBJ Assembly HR will approve these applications.

**Members Present:** Paul Kelly, Ed Quinto, Travis Wolfe, Destiny Sargeant, Louisa Phillips, Evan Price, Britt Tonnessen, Loren Jones, Chris Russell, Ryan Sand, Ed Williams, Ken Murphy, Eileen Hosey, Erin Walker-Tolles, Sabrina Boone, Elaine Hickey, Tom Mattice, Michelle Brown

**Members Absent:** Scott Erickson, Nathan Rumsey, Jennifer Pemberton, Warren Russell, Karen Wood, Nicole Ferrin, Jamie Bursell

**Others Present:** Celeste Lopez, Chip Wisner, Chelsea Swick, Daniel Blount, Kathy Shea, Mark Keplinger, Pat Dryer, Rich Peabody

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** - November 08, 2023 – approved

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

1. October 11, 2023, Draft Minutes of the Juneau Local Emergency Planning Committee – approved with changes from Sabrina Boone to Alaska Native Tribal report.

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

**F. STAFF REPORTS**

**Elected Official Report** - Paul Kelly reported being new to the position and uncertainty of what he should be reporting to the LEPC about. He attended his first meeting with the city about rezoning the emergency shelter location, they will be voting on that at their next meeting.

**Emergency Programs Report** - Tom Mattice reported on information about the last Mendenhall Flood and future concerns. More flooding at the same or greater levels is expected going forward. There are concerns about the storm drainage system, flood water came up through the drains into Meander way and neighboring streets. Discussions continue about options to harden the drains for the future. Typically, we don't see the Mendenhall River leave its bank. This was one of the few events causing widespread flooding. Long-term considerations are being discussed. Three categories of people were affected by this event. 1. View drive historically sees flooding. There is no known solution to stop flooding in that area. 2. Flooding into channel areas. It would require huge changes to fix this. A dike would have to be built between every house on Meander Way and homes would have to either raised/lowered. At a 15ft river flooding occurred at Killewich Drive, over 15ft, we expect flooding down Riverside Drive. 3. Bank erosion. People who hardened their banks after previous flooding still

experienced some issues. Those who did not harden their bank saw more serious issues. The Mendenhall River flooding issues are complex and need to be addressed on an individual basis. There are some federal grants available to those affected. Some grants can extend the life of the house by redirecting the water around it. Some require the city to continue working on them. Regardless of the funding source grant applications take a long time to get the funding, they are not timely enough to prepare for next season's flooding. The city is working through a lot of options to determine the best path forward.

The city is currently working with 2 organizations regarding flood stabilizations options, The Army Corp of Engineers, and National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Some of the issues being looked at include where the river leaves the corridor, options for draining suicide basin, or creating bypasses or spillways to keep the water away from homes. The Army Corps of Engineers dedicated \$100,000 to prepare initial study. If they make recommendations, the city will need to determine if we will participate through the States 50/50 cost share to implement the project.

A lot of avenues for public assistance opened up during response to the flooding, unfortunately many people don't qualify for them.

The city is moving forward with new mitigation maps. Work is ongoing with outside organizations to create new flood maps, theoretical flood maps, and build theoretical models again to determine inundation areas and decide the best response. One goal is a series of tabletop exercises next year, both internal with CBJ and with external partners and organizations.

NOAA has a grant for streambank stabilizations for fisheries. The city is working with partner organizations to deal with the debris from the recent flooding. We are looking at a winter clean-up day when the water gets lower.

We have re-written and redeveloped the Emergency Programs Grant Coordinator position, since Michelle plans to retire in February or March. Her position will be posted soon.

**JPD** – Celeste Lopez reported JPD upgraded their 911 radio system. They intended to go live this morning, however there was a delay due to technical problems. It will go live in the first quarter of 2024.

**CCFR** - Ed Quinto reported they continue to be short staffed and are trying to get as much done as they can right now while responding to calls.

Travis Wolfe reported CCFR was doing their annual Santa run again. It will include the Grinch this year and information will be on their website soon. Dates are December 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. They have a brand-new website. They are finishing the EMT 3 program, it adds a level of service CCFR can now provide. If you've got folks interested in volunteering, firefighting 1 academy is starting in January. Everything will be on the website for them to sign up in about a month.

**Hospital** – Evan Price reported the opening of the BRH Aurora Behavior Health Crisis Center December 18<sup>th</sup>. Filling the positions is a struggle currently. The hospital is undergoing recertification as a level 4 crisis trauma center. There is one level 3 facility in Southeast and one level 2 facility in Anchorage. The higher the level facility, the less they can do.

**Red Cross** – Britta Tonnessen reported a revamp to the volunteer program. They have struggled since Covid. More people are needed to volunteer. They have movie night this week to watch Aftershocks. She is developing a holiday schedule to know who is available for response. The Red Cross Real Heroes award is coming up, there are 10 categories. This is the main fundraiser for RC Alaska. Companies sponsor an award category. In the past couple years, no one was nominated from the southeast. If you know of anyone, please let her know. Nominations must be submitted by December 11th and the Ceremony will be in March 2024. Winners that wish to attend the ceremony up north usually find sponsors to pay their travel expenses. A link is in the agenda. There were 6 fatalities across the State last

week for home fires. RC continues to provide free smoke detector installation, reach out if you or someone you know could use this service

**Haz/Mat-Weather Service - Nicole Ferrin** – Not present but sent notice to Michelle for everyone to be safe and cautious. The next weather incoming event has very high round winds predicted. Due to the saturated ground, fallen trees should be expected.

**Alaska Native Tribal** – Sabrina Boone reported participating in multiple steering committees. They are working with FEMA to develop a robust Region 10 plan. Also, beginning work with Bethal to do a search and rescue mock planning, Additional meetings upcoming include the Southeast Alaska Emergency Preparedness Taskforce. FEMA leadership came to Juneau to consult about things they are working on, what's working and what's not. Sabrina assisted them in developing training videos that will be used nationwide. They have been awarded grant funding for projects they submitted. Within a month position descriptions are to be released to fill multiple positions and roles. Sabrina Recently completed CPR train-the-trainer course. Tom Mattice requested information on the Southeast Alaska Emergency Taskforce mentioned What does it cover and who is involved? Sabrina replied that It is an offshoot of Alaska's Emergency Preparedness Taskforce and they are currently ironing out the details. SEARHC is the coordinator. Steven Karnazes was hired as the new SEARHC Emergency Program Director, he is the point of contact. Sabrina will send info to connect him with Tom, the LEPC, and the city.

**Other Member Reports** – none

## G. NEW BUSINESS

**Invitation to Comment on CBJ's Annual Legislative Capital Priorities List** – Michelle Brown advised that all CBJ committees were asked to look through the capital priorities list to see if there is anything we want to add. It is available in the online agenda packet. Evan Price said he was confused about the listing about the hospital's request for reimbursement for the Aurora Building, as that is an old request. He believes it's already been taken care of and awarded. Paul Kelly responded that he believed that was a draft and will be coming off the list. Evan asked if it is too late to submit additions to the list. Tom Mattice said the list was a moving target and changes all the time. The info on submitting is on the agenda. Input for the new draft is due by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. **Juneau Recent Disaster Response/Recovery Q&A – Emergency Programs**, Tom Mattice reported on this as part of the Emergency Programs Report.
3. **Working Drones in Juneau Presentation and Q&A (20 Minutes) DOT, Pat Dryer** – Pat is the director of Juneau Mountain Rescue, his wife is the director of Alaska State Mountain Rescue. Pat presented a DOT video and discussed the DOT Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) drone capabilities and response. They have 107 programs and pilots. They try to keep to a 1-to-1 ratio of pilots to drones. They're utilizing resources throughout the state. The program is structured to be managed under the statewide aviation group under the DOT safety program. Each of the programs have different uses. This presentation focused on the UAS enterprise fleet - supported through the remote sensing lab in southeast. There are lab spaces in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks. If not focused on enterprise fleet, they are focused on the blue UAS for their more sensitive missions, (is a Department of Defense designated ones that require security clearances). They are developing workflow so they can share in near real time that happens in minutes to hours instead of days. Drones can be used to scan under bridges, hard to inspect areas, airport runway inspections, and other capital improvement projects, that greatly reduce the time and staff otherwise required to travel to those places. Avalanche programs utilize drones heavily, especially in Juneau. Drones are being used to response to emergency events for scene safety and size up before sending people in. Response vehicles have Starlink panels installed and screens to review all drone activity, They are able to do remote inspections. They continue working with DPS to develop workflows, search and

rescue responses. Here in Juneau, they're working from drone docks, essentially a hanger for the drones where they are housed and activated remotely. This is being done in Thane with an approved airflight closure. Recently they have worked with FAA to ensure these operations would not conflict with airport operations. They can fly the drones from Juneau, to nearly 1,000 miles away with solar and self-generated power and a network .

4. **Airport Exercise Lessons Learned – Airport M&O, Andres Delagado** – Moved to December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting
5. **LEPC Recruitment – Emergency Programs, Michelle Brown.** – committee and community partners are encouraged to apply and/or recruit to fill positions. Open Seats: none
6. **Term Renewals: Destiny Sargeant, Louisa Phillips, Evan Price, Nathan Rumsey, Ken Murphy** – if you come in partway through a term, your renewal comes up at the end of the term. Destiny will be putting in a new application. Ken Murphy will advise. Everyone else approved using their current application.
7. **All Hazard Mitigation & Whole Community Input Planning – Tom Mattice** - No change to report
8. **LEPC Future Monthly Meetings Discussion – Michelle Brown** – Nothing new to add. When we get closer and know what options are available, we will look more at it then.

Questionnaire/Poll will be sent to LEPC participants in 2025.

Phil Adams, Deputy Manager, JNU Airport – Alaska Room available starting in Spring 2024.

**Note:** Date change from 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month **or time change** would be necessary.

**I. ACTION ITEMS**

**J. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Red Cross**

Real heroes Award Nominations

Presentations at the Juneau Red Cross Office

Movie Nights at the Red Cross

**K. NEXT MEETING DATE**

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023, Noon to 1pm – Please attend in-person when possible.**

Hybrid 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month

**M. ADJOURNMENT – 1:12pm**

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