

Latah County
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
Latah County Courthouse
522 South Adams – PO Box 8068 – Moscow, Idaho 83843

Phone 883-2265 - FAX 883-2288 - e-mail address: disaster@latah.id.us

Elizabeth King, LEPC Chairperson
Latah County LEPC
PO Box 8068
Moscow, Idaho 83843
Phone 208-310-2330

Geoff Billin
Vice-Chairman
PO Box 8068
Moscow, Idaho 83843
Phone: 882-6755

LEPC Minutes
Meeting of February 12, 2015

Geoff Billin opened the meeting at 9:03 am. The meeting began with introductions.

There were in attendance (21):

Geoff Billin, LEPC Vice Chair; Amateur Radio Emergency Services Coordinator and Search & Rescue
Mike Neelon, Latah County Disaster Service and LEPC Coordinator
Ryan Bender- Health Care Liaison for Public Health
Laurel Caldwell, Director Latah County Information Technology Services
Dan Carscallen- Clerk-North Latah County Highway District, Council Member-City of Moscow.
Charles Craig- Gritman Medical Center
Robin Cocking- Whitman County Emergency Management
Austin Cole- Latah Co. ITS Dept., Community Emergency Response Teams, & ARES
Matt Dudley- Program Manager for Public Health
Mike Heston-Pullman Fire Department
Sandy Johnson-Rollins-City of Kendrick and Community Emergency Response Teams
*Greg Koch- Spokane Nation Weather Service
Penny Martinez- Director of Campus Security for University of Idaho
Kayla Springer-Planner of Public Health
Brian Nickerson- Chief of Moscow Fire Department
Todd Perry, Emergency Manager for University of Idaho
Casey Schooley- Training Exercise Coordinator for Public Health
Tom Storer- Amateurs Radio Emergency Services and Community Emergency Response Teams
Richard Walser- Latah County Commissioner
Bill Ward- Amateurs Radio Emergency Services and Search and Rescue
Joe Williams- Moscow Fire Department

(* Indicates new attendees)

Minutes from December 2014's meeting were approved by Dan Carscallen and seconded by Penny Martinez.

1) Avista Utilities

Guest Speakers: Paul Kimmell 9:07 am

The goal of Avista is to keep disruption of power to a minimum. Since tracking began in 2007, there have been about 1.4 per outages per customer, and the average length of a power outage in 2014 was less than 5 minutes. The main cause for outages is still weather related

incident (37%). Some other reasons for outages are pole fires (12.5%), tree branches (7.5%), equipment failure (7.8%), and planned outages (7.2%). One of the most unique issues concerning outages is the “Other” category (28%). This category includes outages that are caused by man, like vehicle crashes or theft, or caused by nature, like squirrels or turkeys. To help minimize this, Avista is planning on spending about 365 million dollars to upgrading their system. While most outages are unexpected, Avista is continuing to work on physical vulnerabilities to their operations. Copper theft is still ongoing, and now Avista has to consider technological attacks such as Cyber Security attacks and impulse generated threats.

Recently, Avista is dealing with state legislations that are limiting what type of power can be provided to their customers. Some states have placed sever restrictions on the transmission of coal generated energy to their states. This has cause Avista to look at alternative forms of energy like the wind turbines on the Palouse. Other projects include the use of LEDs in street lights, which are expected to provide 40-50% in savings over the long run, and the use of natural gas/fuel in vehicles. Research has been leaning towards products that can provide renewable energy from wind, wood, or solar energy. And as customers and states request greener energy, Avista is looking at increasing the use of Hydro plants since they are better received as an alternative energy producing method verses coal generated energy.

Avista has increased their monitoring and surveillance systems across their networks. Not only does this help in theft prevention, but it also helps in preparing for possible outages due to storms or disasters. By watching the weather and anticipating its effect, Avista is able to respond efficiently and address the situation when an outage occurs. This method of monitoring allows Avista employees to be flexible and coordinate their responses efforts when there are critical infrastructures at risk. By making certain infrastructures a priority, like hospitals and city water pumps, Avista can help a community keep moving during outages or disasters.

Avista is constantly looking into the future as technology advances. Avista knows that technology can and does make the customer’s experience pleasurable. Recently Avista has redone their billing system and with over 80 million customers on the new billing system, it was not long until cell phone and internet technology creped over into Avista’s productivity. Avista created a website where customers can logon to make payments on bills, or as a central location to gain valuable information about what Avista is doing for their customers. A new mobile app was recently added for customers to get firsthand knowledge about outages in their area. The app will also continue information about when a crew is expected in their area and an estimated time on how long the outage is expected to last. By looking at new ways to conduct business, Avista is able to look ahead at when equipment will need to be updates to better serve customers in the most reliable and effective way.

Avista customer can get more information at www.avistautilities.com, or by calling 1-800-227-9187, or by visiting Facebook and Twitter.

2) Old Business or New Business

Mike Neelon- Latah County is discussing buying a mass alert system.

Geoff Billings- Amateur Radio looking an exercise in the future.

Sandy Rollins-Johnson- CERT participated in 19 events in 2014. They are in limbo for a while.

Mel Johnson, Nez Perce Emergency Manager, is retiring on May 1, 2015.

On April 11, 2015, the LDS church will be hosting the 4th Preparedness Fair.

Dick Walser- Provided thanks to everyone.

Robin Cocking- Whitman County has a new disaster trailer.

Mike Heston- Talked about the upcoming full scale exercise in Pullman, WA.

Charles Craig- Gritman is working on updating their mass notification system, lock down procedure and updating their Emergency Operation Plans after the shooting. People wanted more security, but did not like being limited as to where they were able to travel in the hospital.

Joe Williams- Wanted to thank Disaster Service for the map books.

Matt Dudley- Working on time sensitive emergencies within Region II. This program is addressing trauma, stroke, or stemi types of patients to improve their outcome during a possible life threatening emergency.

Ryan Bender- Received a grant for a diabetic program that will last about a year. Talking with MRC about the class. MRC will also be participating in the Kamiah full scale exercise on April 25, 2015. Also working with the new regional VOAD that is forming in the area.

Casey Schooley- Finishing the project list for the Kamiah full scale exercise.

Dan Carscallen- The Viola bridge project is ending. It is expected to be paved in spring. The next project will start in 2018 and will be at the bridge on Robinson Park Road and Olsen Road. There are also plans in the future to replace the bridge near Little Boarder Camp Ground.

Todd Perry- Revisited the University of Idaho notification system after the Moscow Shooting. The campus was not directly involved and thus did not need to report any information by law. Now looking at whether region information based broadcast would've been useful.

Bill Ward- Amateur Radio is working with Disaster Service to move the HF radio out to the Latah County Fairgrounds.

Greg Koch- National Weather Service is predicting mild weather this year.

Some of the recording was inaudible, so sorry for any inconvenience. If anyone would like to listen to the recording of the minutes, please contact me so we can set a time for you to do that.

The next meeting is April 9, 2015, at 9:00 am.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Neelon