**MINUTES**

**Homeland Security Advisory Committee**

**Monthly BVCOG (Region 13) Meeting**

1330 October 26th, 2022

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| Committee Chairman | Shelly Butts – Emergency Management Coordinator  Madison County Office of Emergency Management | | | |
| Committee Vice Chair | Erik Maiorano- Emergency Management Coordinator- Robertson County | | | |
| Type of Meeting | Monthly HSAC Meeting with Virtual Option | | | |
| BVCOG Staff Members in Attendance | Cagan Baldree – Public Safety Planning Manager  Addison Walker – Homeland Security Planner | | | |
| HSAC Guests in Attendance | Leah Mishket BCSO Intern; Jason Ware Brazos County Deputy EMC; John Murrell Washington Co. GIS; Rick Edwards TAMU SOC | | | |
|  |  | | | |
| Homeland Security Advisory Committee Members in Attendance | | | | |
| Brazos County | | | | |
| Eric Buske |  | Patrick Corley |  |
| Peggi Goss | **Present** | Leslie Lutz |  |
| Monica Martinez |  | David Dibello |  |
| Michele Meade | **Present** | Steve Aldrich |  |
| Paul Martinez |  | Kenneth Utz |  |
| Curtis Darby |  | James Arnold |  |
| Rodney Sigler | **Present** | Scott Smith |  |
| Santos Navarette | **Present** | Tradd Mills |  |
| Jeanelle Gottlob | **Present** | Rich Giusti |  |
| Burleson County | | | | |
| Charles Barnes |  | Dennis Gaas |  |
| Gene Hermes |  | Bill Perry | **Present** |
| Duane Strange | **Present** | Jake Sullivan |  |
| Grimes County | | | | |
| Katherine Dornak (Lee) |  | Todd Greene | **Present** |
| Jason Katkoski |  | David Lilly | **Present** |
| Neal Wendele | **Present** | Sinda Phelps |  |
| Ryan Rutledge |  |  |  |
| Leon County | | | | |
| Byron Ryder | **Present** | Jerrod Jones |  |
| Jim Carrigan | **Present** | Bobby Walters |  |
| Linda Richardson | **Present** | Victor Smith |  |
| Jim Scott |  | Jackie Morrow |  |
| Kyle Workman |  | Jimmy Gifford |  |
| Jason Sullivan |  | William Bud Trammel |  |
| Madison County | | | | |
| Bobby Adams |  | Richard Morris |  |
|  |  | Shelly Butts | **Present** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Robertson County | | | | |
| Adam Gallagher |  | Karen Box | **Present** |
| Diana Ferrell |  | Rosa Hoyt |  |
| Erik Maiorano | **Present** | Gerald Yezak |  |
| Chuck Hairston | **Present** | Joe David Scarpinato |  |
| Nester Leamon | **Present** | Dr. Stacey Allen Cude | **Present** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Washington County | | | |
| Kirk Hanath |  | Kevin Deramus |  |
| Dant Lange |  | Larry Neveux | **Present** |
| John Chancellor | **Present** | Bryan Ruemke | **Present** |
| Jamie Woodall |  | Trey Holleway |  |
| Damon Cunningham |  | Brian Sheffer | **Present** |

1. **Call to Order** – Ms. Shelly Butts called the meeting to order at 1340 hrs.
2. **Invocation-** The invocation was delivered by Ms. Butts.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Introductions** – Introductions were made by all members and staff physically present.
5. **Action Items**
   1. **Consider for Approval September 29th, 2022, HSAC Meeting Minutes:** 
      1. Mr. Bryan Ruemke made a motion to approve the September 29th HSAC meeting minutes. Mr. David Lilly seconded the motion for approval. The motion for approval carried.
   2. **Texas Association of Counties guest speaker, Rhita Koches**
      1. Ms. Koches presented to the committee the various resources that TAC has to offer in aid and support of counties in the region.
   3. **Consider for Approval 2023 BVCOG Implementation Plan**
      1. The committee made the decision to table approval of the 2023 BVCOG Implementation Plan to the November HSAC meeting. Ms. Addison Walker gave insight as to how the document is formatted and requested all changes wished to be made to the document be sent to her.
   4. **Consider for Approval DHS Blue Campaign Partnership**
      1. After thorough discussion of what a DHS Blue Campaign partnership entails, Ms. Meade made a motion for approval of the DHS partnership. Mr. Erik Maiorano seconded the motion. The motion for approval carried.
6. **Committee Reports**
   1. **Communications Subcommittee**: No updates given.
   2. **Intelligence Subcommittee- Mr. Rob Santarsiero:** No updates given.
   3. **Strategic Documents Subcommittee:** No updates given.
7. **County Updates:** 
   1. **Burleson:** No Updates Given.
   2. **Brazos County:** Brazos County currently has scheduled 300 and 400 courses for next February and March which are listed on preparing Texas. Skywarn courses are scheduled on March 9th.The basic course will be from 1PM to 3PM with the advanced course scheduled from 6PM to 8PM. The PIO course is coming up in November and still has several spots open. The county is currently getting ready to start on the HMAP update.
   3. **Grimes County:** The county is getting close to completing the draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan with the goal to have it submitted to TDEM by the end of the year. The county is experiencing heightened drought levels and is currently under a burn ban.
   4. **Leon County:** The county is currently under a burn ban and is moving froward with the building for the communications tower that will then allow the county to move forward with communication upgrades.
   5. **Madison County:** The State Health Department location in Madison County is shutting down with Madison County now required to utilize the Leon County location.
   6. **Robertson County:** A burn Ban continues for Robertson County.
   7. **Washington county**: The County is currently under a burn ban and has received a new County Liaison Officer. Mr. Brian Sheffer is doing a 300 and 400 course on November 16th and 17th and December 7th and 8th, encouraging other to sign up on Preparing Texas.
   8. **Weather update**: No updates given.
   9. **Brazos County Health District**: COVID is going down in the region, but flu cases are extremely high, seeing the highest numbers since 2011. The region is dealing with Monkey Pox, there are 7 cases in the county. The County is also tracking Ebola currently.
   10. **VOAD**: Red Cross is still hiring for an Executive Director; Brazos United Way is currently searching for a CEO. VOAD is hoping to hold a November meeting but assume that the next meeting will be in January.
   11. **Crime Stoppers Conference**: The Crime Stoppers Conference discussion revolved around youth and getting Crime Stoppers involved with schools.
   12. **STEAR**; Ms. Meade asked the committee which Counties are participating in STEAR stating that new requirements have been released in Senate Bill 968 in terms of emergency management interfacing with citizens during disaster. Ms. Meade inquired what partners in the region were doing to revive STEAR program.

Mr. Carrigan suggested Meals on Wheels as an avenue to address STEAR program citing his experiencing working with them and enlisting the help of County Commissioners.

Ms. Meade responded that Brazos County currently has 160 people listed but knows there are thousands more. Ms. Meade also pointed out the challenges in attempting to renew everyone every year and how to contact the individuals.

Ms. Butts informed the committee that Madison County took old phone numbers from those previously enlisted in STEAR and used the emergency notification system to gauge if they did require assistance or no longer required assistance as well as sent brochures with information with Meals on Wheels and Home Health individuals.

Mr. Lilly told the committee that COVID aided the STEAR program with National Guard going door to door to inform individuals that those unable to go out and receive a COVID vaccine would be able to have vaccinations brought to them. This indicated how many individuals might require evacuation assistance during disaster.

Discussion continued on the complicated nature of trying to call individuals with many thinking the call might be a scam hindering their ability to talk to individuals.

Ms. Meade will email out the new requirements and guidance of Senate Bill 968 to the committee.

Ms. Goss then suggested utilizing Meals on Wheels to use drivers to register individuals. Ms. Goss also suggested entertaining he idea of utilizing the 211 calling if it were a county wide disaster to see what people need assistance evacuating. This will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next VOAD meeting.

1. **Homeland Security Planner Updates- Addison Walker, BVCOG:** 
   1. Ms. Walker informed grant awardees that grant activation must be completed within 45 days of the awarding of the grant. Once the grant is activated a grant general assessment is required to complete. All accounts have fund holds in egrants. These holds being the National Cyber Security Review and grant resolutions.

Ms. Walker informed the committee she has begun updates to the Mass Fatality Plan, with ways of collecting data to be upcoming conversations. Mr. Carrigan spoke on the AWR 232- Mass Causality Workshop.

Ms. Walker asked the committee to keep grant projects in mind. Ms. Walker spoke on the State and local cybersecurity grant. The state currently does not know who will be in charge of the grants process but has submitted an application. Once guidance is given on the program that information will be sent out to committee members

1. **Program Updates**
   1. Brazos Valley Communications Project- No updates given.
   2. Community Emergency Response Team- No updates given.
   3. Criminal Justice- No updates given.
   4. Capital Area of Texas Regional Advisory Council- No updates given.
   5. Hazard Mitigation: Cagan Baldree- Public Safety Planning Program Manager-. Mr. Baldree informed the committee that the COG is currently still rolling out the MIT MOD. The public comment period is still open and the hearing information is on the PSP page on the COG website.

Mr. Baldree was able to send all second round of Public Notice of Funding. The second round comes from the decision to take the first four counties that were disaster declared during Harvey and awarding them the funding that would have been originally received, with the remaining allotment of money to be distributed between the remaining counties. Mr. Baldree also discussed that the RAC is doing trainings this year and for the committee to watch for when those trainings occur.

Ms. Meade inquired if everyone had sent inn signed agreements with CATRAC for this year and Mr. Ruemke informed the committee he would send the documents and information to all committee members.

Mr. Baldree encouraged all members to encourage elected officials to reevaluate the new letters and to turn them in by the end of the business day on Friday.

1. **Important Dates-** Ms. Walker summarized the following important dates:
   1. **11/30**- November HSAC Meeting
   2. **11/8-11/10-** Public Information Basics Course
   3. **1/18-** Mass Fatality Planning and Response Training
   4. **2/9, 2/16, 2/23-** Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents
   5. **2/23, 3/2-** Advanced ICS Command and General Staff
2. **Public Comments:**  Ms. Goss informed that the FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter Program just allocated money for the counties in the region. Ms. Goss will be reaching out to the counties that received that award, which are all but Madison County.

Ms. Butts announced that the steel has arrived for the Sunshine building.

Mr. Lilly reminded everyone about the BVSAR meetings and discussion the BVSAR exercise that will be happening in the spring, tentatively planned ot be hosted in Leon County, encouraging committee members to participate.

Mr. Ware requested that for future wildland fire assistance request, that if desiring the Wildland Task Force, to specifically request that, but if only one or two boosters is needed then calling the dispatch center to request the lower number would be best.

1. **Adjourn at 1510 Hrs.-** Mr. Ruemke made a motion for adjournment. Ms. Meade seconded the motion.