**MINUTES**

**Homeland Security Advisory Committee**

**Monthly BVCOG (Region 13) Meeting**

1330 July 27, 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 | Cory Matthews- City of Bryan; Jason Ware Brazos Co. OEM.; Rob Santarsiero Brazos Co. Sheriff’s Office; Jeanelle Gottlob EMC Bryan FD; Ryan Rutledge Police Chief Todd Mission; Joshua Wood EM TAMU | | |
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| Homeland Security Advisory Committee Members in Attendance | | | |
| Brazos County | | | |
| Eric Buske |  | Patrick Corley |  |
| Peggi Goss | **Present** | Leslie Lutz | **Present** |
| Monica Martinez |  | David Dibello |  |
| Michele Meade | **Present** | Steve Aldrich | **Present** |
| Paul Martinez |  | Kenneth Utz |  |
| Curtis Darby | **Present** | James Arnold |  |
| Rodney Sigler |  | Scott Smith |  |
| Santos Navarette |  | Tradd Mills | **Present** |
| Burleson County | | | |
| Charles Barnes |  | Dennis Gaas |  |
| Gene Hermes |  | Bill Perry |  |
| Duane Strange | **Present** | Jake Sullivan |  |
| Grimes County | | | |
| Katherine Dornak (Lee) |  | Todd Greene |  |
| Jason Katkoski |  | David Lilly | **Present** |
| Neal Wendele | **Present** | Sinda Phelps |  |
| Leon County | | | |
| Byron Ryder |  | Jerrod Jones |  |
| Jim Carrigan | Present | Bobby Walters |  |
| Linda Richardson | **Present** | Victor Smith |  |
| Jim Scott |  | Jackie Morrow |  |
| Kyle Workman |  | Jimmy Gifford |  |
| Madison County | | | |
| Bobby Adams |  | Richard Morris |  |
|  |  | Shelly Butts | **Present** |

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| Robertson County | | | |
| Adam Gallagher |  | Karen Box |  |
| Diana Ferrell |  | Rosa Hoyt |  |
| Erik Maiorano |  | Gerald Yezak |  |
| Chuck Hairston | **Present** | Joe David Scarpinato |  |
| Nester Leamon | **Present** | Dr. Stacy 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 |  |

1. **Call to Order** – Ms. Shelly Butts called the meeting to order at 1330 hrs.
2. **Invocation-** The invocation was delivered by Mr. Cagan Baldree.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Introductions** – Introductions were made by all members and staff physically present.
5. **Action Items**
   1. **Consider for Approval May 25, 2022, HSAC Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Chancellor made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Carrigan seconded. The motion carried.
   2. **Discuss WebEOC Training:** Leslie Lutz discussed the upgrades that have been made to WebEOC allowing for additional capabilities such as notifications via email or mobile app. Mr. Lutz in an attempt to revive the WebEOC working group for the region proposed EMCs and partners meet each month for a WebEOC working group meeting focusing on utilizing specific boards. The first working group meeting is occurring on August 2nd with the discussion revolving around the utilization of the resource request. The WebEOC working group is building up to the VOAD WebEOC exercise on August 24th.
6. **Committee Reports**
   1. **Intelligence Subcommittee- Mr. Rob Santarsiero:**

Mr. Santarsiero expressed that with the approval of the Real Time Crime Center, he wishes to hold an intelligence subcommittee meeting on August 11th at 2:00PM, Mr. Baldree will email out the invitation and information for the meeting on behalf of Mr. Santarsiero. Mr. Santarsiero wishes to discuss with multiple agencies what equipment and coordination will be required between agencies for the Real Time Center to be operational. Mr. Santarsiero hopes that this meeting will provide feedback on what would be beneficial for the individual agencies and aid him in spotting what Mr. Santarsiero might have missed in the planning process. Mr. Santarsiero is requesting the attendance of law enforcement, those that have worked around crime centers, fusion centers, and dispatchers, but the meeting is open to any that wish to attend.

Mr. Jim Carrigan then communicated support to Mr. Santarsiero, citing the issues with communication and shortfalls Leon County had to overcome during the manhunt which was a multi-agency operation.

* 1. **Strategic Documents Subcommittee:** No updates.

1. **County Updates:** Ms. Meade informed that there is a discussion going on around the region about whether to initiate disaster declaration for drought. Ms. Meade inquired as to why none of the counties in the region were on the governor’s disaster deceleration for the state. The determination to be included in the disaster declaration is prepared by the drought preparedness council and tied to the level of drought in the county, rather than if a county has declared disaster. For the drought preparedness council to include a county in the declaration, the county it required to be in category D3, extreme, or D4, which is exceptional. The two counties that will be added next will be Washington County and Burleson County. The rest of the counties will be out of it until drought levels go up. This opens ag assistance for some counties. With assistance coming from USDA, currently Madison and Leon County will receive assistance from USDA, but it is also tied to level of drought allowing ranchers and farmers to seek loans and grants for ag assistance. Grimes County is currently on contingency list for Ag assistance.

Ms. Meade reiterated that a county declaring disaster did not mean that the county would be included in the governor’s disaster declaration.

Brazos County has been experiencing fires and currently possess two bulldozers, one of which is currently housed at station 5 and a helicopter with water drop capability stationed at Easter wood. The day previous Brazos County experienced a Fire totaling 17 acres and claimed a dilapidated barn. Ms. Meade also informed that Brazos County in 30 days has experienced 61 fires. Ms. Meade communicated that while Brazos Valley Volunteer Fire Department staffing is an issue, to not hesitate in reaching out and they will make arrangements to send out at least one unit to aid your county as they did in Madison County. Brazos County is also in possession of drones that can respond and assist on large wildland fires.

Mr. Strange expressed the idea of a drone identification system to create markers on top of fire units and law enforcement units, allowing unit numbers to be visible for drone identification and increase communications.

Mr. Ware informed that Brazos County currently possesses or is currently adding unit numbers to the top of all units for drone recognition purposes. Mr. Ware will send out the contact information of the individual that added the unit numbers to regional partners if they desire.

Mr. Darby informed the committee of a “fire bug” in Brazos County that currently possesses a warrant out for their arrest and spoke of coordinating with fire marshals to apprehend the “fire bug”. The individual’s MO is utilizing fireworks to start grass fires. Ms. Gottlob will send out the suspect’s information to EMCs.

Mr. Strange expressed that Burleson County is also experiencing grass fires.

Grimes County has experienced two major fires in the previous two weeks, one being the Big Barns Luke Fire. From this fire, one home was lost, and no injuries occurred. Madisonville fire department, North Zulch volunteer fire department, and the Texas A&M Fire Service all provided aid and saved several homes. The fire in the past week was on highway 90 and spread to 60 acres, requiring an air asset to be brought in. Grimes County is facing challenges attaining volunteer fire fighters.

Mr. Wendle asked the committee if any partners had resources for fire department rehab or if the committee knew of avenues to obtain resources for the volunteer fire department. Committee members shared organizations to reach out to for resources and what types of resources are best to ask for.

Leon County Sheriff’s Office is hosting an active shooter training. The training is full, but the county expects to host another training and will alert partners when that occurs. Leon county planned to implement a disaster declaration but will not wait until reaching D3 or D4 drought level. Leon County is putting in a VHF system on the Homeland Security Tower in Centerville. The county has received a quote from Motorola and is currently working to put everything together and begin moving forward with communication capability. Mr. Carrigan thanked the City of Bryan for providing aid to a fire at the mine, with an area of 300 acres. TFMIS personnel requested access to the Leon County command trailer during the fire, but the trailer is still in-operable after the usage during the Leon County man hunt and from several storms, the City of Bryan aided Leon County with supplies and personnel. The County is pushing for departments to follow ICS after noticing several volunteer departments not following ICS. The City of Buffalo Volunteer Fire Department is holding ICS training for their department and surrounding departments. Mr. Carrigan expressed a desire for the COG to host ICS trainings. Mr. Carrigan then discussed the necessity of ICS, which was highlighted during the manhunt in Leon County earlier in the year, which was a multi-agency operation. Mr. Carrigan informed of a program, intrepid response, expressing that it would be utilized as a helpful tool to keep tabs as to who is on the scene of an incident and deployed during an incident. Mr. Carrigan expressed that the program would be beneficial for ICS accountability, especially with multiple agencies present. Mr. Carrigan then introduced Linda Richardson, the new 911 coordinator.

The City of Bryan has partnered with the Brazos Valley transit district to station a 30-foot bus with AC to expanding fires for rehabilitation of fire fighters. The committee discussed ways to optimize fire fighter usage of the bus listing medical services and food. Bryan is hosting an active shooter exercise on August 3rd. The training is specific to Bryan Police Department Tactical Response and Crisis Negotiation Team, but leadership will support with the mobile command post. The CEOC will host basic PIO training on November 9th through the 11th, and invitations will be sent out to partners soon. Brazos County is doing a county specific cyber security exercise with IT leadership, put on by DHS CISA on August 30th. The invitations have been extended to jurisdictional partners.

Blinn is hosting ALERRT training on the 16th, 17th, and 18th at the Brenham campus. The training currently has openings that have been extended to Washington County and the City of Brenham. If there remain open slots for training, they will let jurisdictional partners know. Mr. Chancellor also notified the committee that Kyle Rittenhouse will not be attending Blinn in the fall.

Washington county has been experiencing fires, one of which was at the lake on Saturday. The fire required the use of several dozers and a crane helicopter borrowed from College Station and Brazos County, proving to be helpful in the wooded area where the fire was. The Washington County Sherriff’s Department is hosting an active shooter training in the Burton school district. Washington County is experiencing issues with attaining volunteers as well and will hold fire school this week.

Ms. Meade reminded the committee that Completeness reports have an August 1st deadline. Mr. Baldree informed Ms. Meade that he had been in contact with the necessary counties to monitor completeness averages.

Madison County thanked Brazos County for sending personnel to aid in combatting a fire. Madison County has also noticed the lack of ICS use. Ms. Meade reminded the committee that every city and county signed an agreement that they will use NIMS and ICS in all training, exercises, and operations and can use this agreement to enforce ICS use, knowing grant funding is contingent upon upholding the agreement.

Mr. Chancellor informed the committee that the State House Committee report on the Uvalde shooting displayed the failures of instituting ICS.

Mr. Ware asked Ms. Butts if Madison County would do a hot wash of the fire. Ms. Butts informed that some training would occur in response. Madison County had radio issues at the incident and, knowing that there were radio troubles, an individual was still sent out in a unit alone. This should act as a reminder to remind individuals responding to the incident of safety rules that there should not be any less than two people at a time. Discussed taking a volunteer and using them as accountability to see all who is on the scene. The Texas A&M Forest Service allows all their units to be tracked, and they can see a visual of where their vehicles have been on a fire scene and map out the perimeter of the fire. Madison County also utilized the St Joseph EMS supervisor vehicle, which is equipped with Wi-Fi, tablets, and whiteboards. They used in the Madison County fire and Ms. Butts reminded everyone to keep in mind the work hour limitations the Forest Service possess.

Ms. Goss informed she was working with Ms. Meade on updating annexes and that the next VOAD meeting will be held on August 24th and will occur at the BVCIL.

Mr. Reilly wanted to ensure all were familiar with how to request spot forecast for wildfire support and that an hourly weather report for an incident can be given. If uncertain how to request that information, reach out to Mr. Reilly. There is no change in weather patterns, no rain forecasted to end the drought, and the tropics remain quiet.

1. **Homeland Security Planner Updates- Addison Walker, BVCOG:** Ms. Walker reminded the Committee that the annual State Cyber Security Training is due August 31st and if a hold is placed on your DIR account, to reach out to Ms. Walker. The 2022 National Cyber Security Training does not open till October, so please verify this is not the training being submitted. The PSO is receiving calls about threats to faith-based organizations and non-governmental organizations. If an organization notifies that they have received threats, please pass along their information to Ms. Walker or the PSO. The organization may qualify for NSGP and the PSO is attempting to maintain a list to notify the organization what grants are available to them. Ms. Walker would like to meet with EMC and other committee members to gain a situational awareness of jurisdictional needs and will email a survey for meeting times.

**The OOG has**

1. **Program Updates**
   1. Brazos Valley Communications Project- The SERI grant project has officially been closed out and Mr. Baldree will update on future projects when updates are available
   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- CDBG-MIT MOD remains roughly the same. The GLO has had turnover with the position Mr. Baldree works with and he is hoping to gain traction and have a date sent out to jurisdictions in August but will maintain communications with the GLO. Call Cagan Baldree at 979-595-2801 ext. 2028 in the meantime with questions.
2. **Important Dates-** Mr. Baldree summarized the following important dates:
   1. **8/2-** WebEOC working group meeting
   2. **8/11-** Intelligence subcommittee meeting
   3. **9/7 & 9/8-** BVRAC symposium and courses for EMS professionals
3. **Public Comments:** Ms. Butts informed that Madison County has a new interim County Judge, that will be on the ballot in November.
4. **Adjourn at 1401 Hrs.-** Mr. Ruemke made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Carrigan seconded. The motion carried, and Ms. Butts adjourned the meeting.