

CAER Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2024

Location: Room 40 (lower level) at the Steele County Administration Building (630 Florence Ave) and Teams.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 3:33pm by Tom Karnauskas.

Attendees: Tom Karnauskas, Annette Duncan, Jennifer Jorgensen, Robin Starr, Zach Roberts, Bonnie Johnson, Jerry Ibberson, Thad Rosenberg, Sean Farley-Cowdin, Melissa Kofstad, Alec Newbowers, and Tim Penny.

Absent: Kristen Sailer

Introductions: Attendees introduced themselves.

Routine Approvals:

- 1) **Secretary's Report** – No changes. Jerry made a motion, Bonnie seconded. Motion passed.
- 2) **Financial Report** – Approx. \$1800 in the account, no funds have been spent.

Old Business:

- 1) **Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan** – Had turned in the plan and received several items that needed to be updated. Corrections made and resubmitted to HSEM.
- 2) **June Flooding** – No new business to review around the flooding.

New Business:

- 1) **Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG)** – Tom shared that after our visit with FEMA we have been encouraged to develop a LTRG to assist with the aftermath of disasters once the primary services are no longer available. The CAER group provides a great foundation to formulate a Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG).

A local long-term recovery group is a community-based organization that helps individuals and communities recover from the long-term impacts of disasters. These

groups work to address unmet needs that persist long after the initial disaster response has ended. They often provide services such as food, water, case management, financial assistance, housing support, and mental health services.

LTRGs typically collaborate with various local, state, and federal agencies, as well as non-profit organizations, to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive recovery effort.

They play a crucial role in helping communities rebuild and recover in a sustainable and resilient manner.

Tom has done some research on these groups to identify the following topics that he believes we should discuss.

- a. **Develop a Mission / Purpose / Need** – Focus on unmet needs, provide financial assistance, provide emotional and mental health support, assist with physical recovery, and assist with community rebuilding.
- b. **Identify potential participants** –
 - i. SMIF – has the ability to provide fast cash grants to businesses during the time of disaster to initiate recovery. Depending on funding sources and typically no greater than \$10,000.
 - ii. SEMCAC – has provided Emergency Housing support in the past for previous.
 - iii. United Way of Steele County – can connect people to resources, manage a disaster fund and community fundraising, provide volunteer support, coordinate donations.
 - iv. Community Pathways – can provide food, clothing, and potentially furniture in the future. They can also help to coordinate donations.
- c. **Discuss organization** – Start with individuals and families, and as capacity and resources allows, aid small businesses and organizations and other entities.

The consensus is that the development of this group is good, there are just concerns about getting participation outside of an actual disaster.

Alec commented that this appears to be duplicating the Hazmat plan. Tom explained that the current plan does not have the level of detail that we could have.

Melissa was curious as to whether LTRG belongs under CAER or if it should be separate.

Tim believes we should develop a network of organizations that can assist and identify what people are able and willing to do in an emergency. We could then create a binder with all the resources and how we plan to coordinate.

Robin mentioned that organizations need to know why they are being invited so that they know how to participate in this. Zach suggested that each organization

in the county work on what their plan could be and then we bring it to the larger group to see how we all fit together.

Alec was curious as to whether it makes sense to have this group as part of CAER, holding the county accountable for long-term recovery, or should it be its own entity.

Jerry wants to make sure that we aren't forgetting that we also need for-profit resources for things such as cleaning basements, etc. Also, all churches could be added to the lists as a resource as well for a variety of services.

- d. **Identify future tasks to move forward** – Review the supports that we would like covered by this plan and identify which organizations can provide these services. Tom shared the www.RecoveryMayfieldGraves.com to help us identify who needs to be at the table.

Action Item: Annette will attach the Public Health Listing of services to the minutes, and we will review at our next meeting.

Action Item: Team, what are other potential resources that would be needed that aren't necessarily nonprofit that should be part of the plan.

Steele County Emergency Manager Report: Kristen had a conflict and was not able to attend this meeting. No report.

Member Reports:

CERT

- Next training scheduled for Spring 2025

SKYWARN

- Next training is planned for March 2025.

RACES

- No update.

No updates from the team.

Adjournment: Tom adjourned the meeting at 4:36pm

Next Meeting: January 15, 2025, at 3:30pm at the Administration Building and Teams