

WARREN COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

July 11, 2007

Present:

Pat Auer
Pat Belden
Chief Joseph Bethel
Joanne Conley
Mark DeSimone
Ginelle Jones
Marv Lemery
Amy Manney
Angela Meade
Barb Orton
Shane Ross
Gary Scidmore
Laura Stebbins
Helen Stern
Allison Williams
Rob York

Marv Lemery called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

- Barb Orton attended a SEMO sponsored sheltering summit in June. The primary focus was to find out who would be doing what in case of mass sheltering including the special needs populations.
- Barb Orton's spring volunteer training was Psychological First Aid. The fall training will focus on sheltering and Red Cross will assist. Barb made a presentation to the Lake George Town Board meeting and is scheduled to present to Chester Town Board in August.
- Ginelle Jones said there have been three NYSDOH sponsored communication drills to test satellite phones which have been very frustrating as the satellite signal is difficult to maintain. Response back to NYSDOH has been made via satellite, cell phones and blackberries. She elaborated thereon.
- Amy Manney spoke on the Hazards Analysis Workshop stating this was a once every three year requirement for the county. She said 22 people attended and reviewed every possible hazard that might happen in Warren County. Flooding was determined to be the number one hazard followed by dam failure.
- Shane Ross reported that some dam facility operators wanted to test their EPA flow chart and when the call came into the Sheriff's Office, it failed miserably. He noted the Communications Center had four dam plans and

each one was different, and it became a nightmare. Consequently, Shane noted the need for simplification, and now there is one policy for the county which basically notified key people. He said the plan has been tested, and the county is in much better shape. Shane said he also attended a tabletop and functional drill with several other counties regarding the Conklinville Dam which was also a learning experience.

- Pat Auer asked how many dams there were in Warren County. Amy responded there are six high hazard dams, about 20 moderate hazard dams and the count for low hazard dams is unknown. In addition, there are three or four high hazard dams outside of Warren County that would affect Warren County dramatically.
 - Shane Ross added FERC (a federal regulatory agency) regularly checks dam facilities. He said FERC is also pushing counties to adopt a Reverse 911 System with pre-recorded messages to be used in emergency situations.
 - Mark DeSimone reported he and Shane Ross were presenters at a two-day training seminar in Rochester which included five counties and a total of 120 attendees. He said all counties were looking to develop Mass Fatality Plans and Warren County was ahead of the curve and much better prepared than many counties. Mark said the Ethan Allen Disaster has become the model for Mass Fatality Planning as this size disaster could happen anywhere.
 - Rob York said one of his goals was to create capacity for mental health emergency response. He said they have developed a team of 30 trained clinicians. This team has been appointed by both the Warren and Washington County Boards of Supervisors under separate resolutions. Rob said he was now asking this team to complete the ICS/NIMS courses. In addition, Rob said his office oversees contract services for mental health disabilities and chemical dependencies. He said he is forming a committee of these agencies so they will look at their special needs populations and come up with emergency plans.
 - Allison Williams reported HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration) has come out with program guidance for community health centers and what to do in a response. HRSA is also now talking about liability coverage. General discussion ensued.
-
- Laura Stebbins reported on the following:
 1. The hospital will be holding a county-wide full scale exercise on October 28, 2007 at Skye Farms Children's Camp. A planning meeting will be scheduled in August.
 2. The hospital will be having an internal hazmat exercise on August 27th at 9:00 a.m. to determine if the hospital could stand alone in an emergency.
 3. Today's tabletop topic will focus on an outbreak of E coli at a children's camp and members of Albany Medical Center would be participating.
 4. The hospital will be receiving two 16 foot trailers from a grant to house surge capacity supplies.

5. Laura also participated in the county hazard vulnerability meeting; and the hospital would now add forest fires to their hazard vulnerability analysis.

6. Laura noted a concern for cooling shelters, if needed.

7. Laura asked how would the Glens Falls Hospital know who was in trouble with power outages. Amy offered to add Laura to a list she sends out when she receives notices from National Grid listing the towns in trouble and contact numbers. Shane added National Grid has a website that shows where outages are and expected time for power to be turned back on.

- Marv Lemery reported that since the last meeting there was an incident at Traveler's Insurance that tested the emergency response plan. He pointed out Warren County was light years ahead of many counties and very well prepared.
- Marv also explained the new configuration of the Warren County Office of Emergency Services included Fire Prevention & Control, Natural Disaster & Civil Defense, EMS and HazMat/WMD. He said they would be relocated to the old Communications Center at the Municipal Center. He said Amy is the full-time Deputy Director. Marv noted this change would streamline Warren County's readiness.
- Gary Scidmore reported he recently attended a meeting and the State was pushing "Operation Safeguard", a network for anyone to report to if they saw something suspicious happening (1-866-SAFE-NYS); one way to maintain vigilance for terrorism. For more information, please contact Gary. He added they were in the process of doing an inventory and organization of the trailer.

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.