

Rockbridge Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Minutes

Date: March 9, 2021

Volunteers Present: In-person at the Fire and Rescue Administration Building (FRAB): Brandy Flint, Randy Harris, Jutta Hopkins. Online: Alan Porter, Kirk Rumburg, Margaret Ann Paxton.

- 1. Brandy Flint, Team Leader called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.**
- 2. One item added to agenda:** EERP as separate team.
- 3. The February 9, 2021 minutes were approved.** Motion by Randy, second by Kirk, all in favor.
- 4. Training:**
 - a. Marianna was unable to be present for the Emergency Responder Rehabilitation Program (ERRP) review so it will be rescheduled for next month. The training will focus on medical and rehab aspects of responding to an ERRP event.
 - b. The Crisis Track Training Update. Jutta and Brandy were separately unable to log in, so we were not able to attend the session. Brandy will let the team know when it is scheduled again.
- 5. Team and After-Action Reports:**
 - a. Emergency Responder Rehab Program (ERRP).
 - i. Brandy reported that she and Misty responded to a request for ERRP support for a search and rescue event on Feb 21, 2021. Since it was a short event (4-5 hours) and parking was limited at the Route 501 Command site, the rest of the team was not called out. She reported it was cold and rescuers appreciated the warm coffee. Lessons learned included:
 1. Test all equipment prior to use. The coffee maker, although new and still in its box, did not work and Brandy had to leave and get another one. The generator had not been used before, so they had to become familiar with it.
 2. Since we have not been active due to the Pandemic, we haven't inventoried the perishable items (snack bars) which were stored in the shed. They were hard from the cold and age but there were no complaints.
 - ii. Brandy has prepared lists of items available for ERRP and reported on the status of purchases and what is still needed. Kirk recommended that supplies be inventoried and perishables replaced at least quarterly. All attendees agreed with the recommendation.
 - b. Emergency Operations Center Support: No report
 - c. ARK (Animal Response) – No report
 - d. SAR (Search and Rescue) – No report
 - e. Communications – Radios should be inventoried and recharged. Alan agreed to work on this.
 - f. Pandemic Response Support – Kirk, Brandy and Jutta have assisting with COVID-19 vaccination clinics sponsored by the VA Dept of Health (VDH) and Carilion Clinic. Brandy will forward requests for volunteers as they are received from Nathan and will coordinate scheduling and logistics. The County has arranged for future clinics to be held at the former Peebles store in Lexington. Please let Brandy know if you are interested in volunteering for any of these non-medical roles.
 - g. **Team Objectives and Goals.**
 - i. Brandy reviewed a draft of team objectives and goals for EOC, ARK, RockSAR, Communications and Medical Operations. Team leads will be discussed next month. Alan agreed to continue as the Communications lead. Attendees agreed the drafts look good and will be helpful.
 - ii. Brandy will check with Misty about the social media policy.
 - iii. Please let Brandy know of any suggestions for organizational structure or policies.

6. Old Business

- a. The CERT T-shirts are here. Please contact Brandy if you ordered and paid for one (or more).
- b. Operation Reach Out. Brandy has updated the volunteer contact list. Please let her know if your information changes.
- c. The CERT brochures which were approved by the team last year are completed. Brandy will forward the updated version soon.
- d. Volunteer Qualification Tracking. FEMA has not released the final qualifications yet. In the meantime, if you take any of the proposed courses please let Brandy or Jutta know so we can update your volunteer training record.

7. New Business

- a. Recommendations for training.
 - i. Use of generator, heater, cooling fans.
 - ii. Crisis Track (for EOC Team)
- b. In anticipation of organizational document updates, a motion was made by Jutta to make EERP a separate team rather than part of medical operations. The motion was seconded by Randy and approved by all. Brandy will check to see if Marianna would like to continue as the lead since this was previously under Medical Operations.

8. Upcoming events

Volunteer opportunities. CERT volunteers are being asked by Emergency Management to assist in non-medical roles at local COVID-19 clinics. Brandy will send out the requests on behalf of Nathan and will coordinate all CERT volunteer responses.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm

Administrative and Finance Chief: Jutta Hopkins

Next Meeting: April 13, 2021 at 17:30 @ Fire and Rescue Administration Building – 100 Baner Lane, Buena Vista, VA 24416 and online via ZOOM.