Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Local Emergency Planning Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, January 15, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Hentges at 2:00 p.m.

Committee Members present: In Person: Mr. Tom Hentges, Ms. Lisa Schmitt, Mr. Steve Wall, Sheriff Mike Osmond, Ms. Jamie Weaver, Mr. Justin Sass, Mr. Cale Severson, Mr. Dennis Bork, Ms. Lisa Olson-McDonald, and Chief Deputy Jake Laehn. Via Teams: Mr. David Brommerich, Mr. Leif Tolokken, and Ms. Lindsey Murphy. Mr. Lee Engfer was excused. Ms. Carri Renchin, Mr. Karl Noeldner, and Mr. Jeremiah Redemann were absent.

Others Present for All or Part of the Meeting: None.

Public Comments: None

Review/Discussion/Action Regarding Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting were presented. Mr. Wall made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Sass. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action Regarding Annual Review of Bylaws: Chair Hentges noted that the Bylaws were included in the meeting packet for the committee to review. No changes were requested by Mr. Wall. No further discussion was needed and no changes requested by the committee.

Review/Discussion/Action Regarding Election of Officers: Chair Hentges advised that the election of officers was omitted from the August 2025 agenda and action is being taken at this meeting instead. Chair Hentges informed the committee that the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary positions are up for election.

Chair Hentges called for nominations for Chairperson position. Mr. Tolokken nominated Mr. Hentges for Chair. No other nominations. Mr. Wall made a motion to appoint Mr. Hentges as Chair, seconded by Sheriff Osmond. All were in favor of the nomination. Carried.

Chair Hentges asked for nominations for the Vice Chair position. Mr. Hentges nominated Mr. Tolokken as Vice Chair. No other nominations. Mr. Sass made a motion to appoint Mr. Tolokken as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Wall. All were in favor of the nomination. Carried.

Chair Hentges asked for nominations for the Secretary position. Mr. Wall nominated Ms. Schmitt for the Secretary position. No other nominations. Ms. Weaver made a motion to appoint Ms. Schmitt as Secretary, seconded by Mr. Laehn. All were in favor of the nomination. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action Regarding Review of Strategic Plan: Chair Hentges stated that the Strategic Plan was sent to the committee ahead of time for their review. Mr. Wall advised that there was an update to the DNR, GIS and Chief Deputy committee members. Facilities will also be updated by Mr. Wall to make them current.

Review/Discussion/Action Regarding Designation of State as LEPC Compliance Inspector: Chair Hentges mentioned that this is a standard appointment. No questions or discussion from the committee. Mr. Wall made a motion to designate the State as the LEPC Compliance Inspector, seconded by Ms. Weaver. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action Regarding the Spill Report: Mr. Wall mentioned that the spill report will be removed from the main Strategic Plan document and be submitted as an attachment to the plan instead. There have been two reported spills since the last meeting. Dairyland Power had a hydraulic oil spill, and a semi had a reported diesel and anti-freeze leak. No further discussion or questions about these spills.

Review/Discussion/Action Regarding the Financial Report: Mr. Wall did not provide an updated report as we are only a short time into January as of this meeting. There are no major changes to the finances, things are on track to receive the grant from last year, and the fiscal year 2026 grant has been applied for. A printed report will be provided for the next meeting. No comments or questions on this matter.

Review/Discussion/Action Regard the IPP Workshop: Mr. Wall informed the committee that IPP stands for Integrated Preparedness Plan. The plan was provided to the committee for their review ahead of the meeting. The State requires a three-year plan. Some of the focus areas are a continued operation plan, disaster recovery and awareness, weather related extremes and mass casualty. This was put together with input from Sheriff Osmond. Mr. Wall mentioned incorporating cyber security into a future plan. Cameras and door access at the courthouse will be reviewed as well. Sheriff Osmond mentioned the importance of WiCAM cards getting completed for the Sheriff's Office and local fire/EMS departments. Chair Hentges said this item can be brought up at the upcoming fire association meeting.

Review/Discussion regarding Emergency Management Directors Report: Mr. Wall advised that training towards his Emergency Management certification is around 70-75% complete. He is working with the Fountain City mayor, and will be including law enforcement, regarding future flooding issues along Highway 35 including sandbagging and barricades. Chair Hentges said that Fountain City has relied on the Corps. of Engineers for this information in the past.

Review/Discussion Regarding the LEPC Chair Report: None.

Review/Discussion Regarding the LEPC Members' Reports: None.

Public Comments Not Related to Agenda Items: Chair Hentges mentioned that there has been a lot of community discussion regarding the large tire fire that occurred recently in the Town of Milton. The public is asking what can or should be done regarding this issue. Sheriff Osmond mentioned that he is working with the DNR regarding investigation and accountability for this matter.

Review/Discussion/Action Regarding the Next Meeting Date and Time: The next meeting will be on August 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjourn: Mr. Laehn made a motion to adjourn at 2:29 p.m., seconded by Mr. Wall. Carried

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Schmitt
Buffalo County Clerk