

Steele County CAER Minutes
September 20, 2017
6:30 PM

Location:

Blooming Prairie City Hall
138 Highway Ave. South
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Tom Karnauskas.

Attendees:

Alec Newbowers, Dee Kirchner, Jerry Ibberson, Mike Johnson, Roger Wencil, Tom Karnauskas

Routine Approvals:

- Since CAER had not completed a formal business meeting since 18-Jan. Meeting notes published on the SCEM Portal reflect the 18-Jan meeting and Member Reports for 15-Mar, 17-May, and 19-Jul. Those postings were accepted, with motions by Jerry Ibberson and Roger Wencil.
- Tom Karnauskas presented copies of the US Bank statement for 31-Dec-2016 and 31-Aug-2017. The statements showed no activity. The statements were accepted as the Treasurer report, with motions by Dee Kirchner and Alec Newbowers.

Old Business:

- Tom updated the group that all of the Volunteer Badge requests have been completed. A total of 96 badges were printed, of which 76 have been distributed to the volunteers. Some Registration Forms were placed in an inactive category due to missing information or pictures.
- CAER Shirts – Bonnie Johnson reported at the January meeting she would be checking with local providers.

New Business:

- CERT training classes are scheduled for 01-Feb-2018 thru 15-Feb-2018. Over 30 contacts are on the list of potential participants.
- Amateur radio and SKYWARN will schedule those annual classes now that the CERT schedule is known.
- The 15-Nov CAER meeting is the Annual Meeting. Elections will take place for President and Treasurer. Membership is reminded to be thoughtful of nominations for those positions.
- Tom noted the CAER By-Laws should be reviewed. Suggested areas include meeting schedule, meeting location, last minute meeting changes. Membership was asked to provide thought and offer any changes to the By-Laws at the November meeting.
- Tom noted there was a planned national test of the Emergency Alert System is scheduled for 27-Sep.

- Tom worked with Chad Forystek to determine the cache of old Kenwood hand held radios in the basement can be continued to be used. The “Civil Defense” frequency remains active. The radios should be reprogrammed to eliminate all of the inactive frequencies. New batteries would cost approximately \$300.

Steele County Emergency Manger:

- It was good to have Mike at the meeting, making the long drive from the AMEM conference in Bemidji.
- The first floor of the Fire Station is now available for use. Schedule time through Bonnie Hermel. The third floor will continue to be used by the Courts.
- The public input period for the Mitigation Plan is complete.
- Mike would like to plan an EOC activation drill in March.
- Chris Gannon is working on the EOP for review by the State.
- The Holiday Train is expected to come through Owatonna again this year.

Next Meeting:

15-Nov-2017 @ 6:30

Owatonna Fire Station – 1st Floor

Annual Meeting

Member Reports

Sept. 20, 2017

American Red Cross

Responded to a mobile home fire in Owatonna. Attended 12 hours of training in Mankato. There are many volunteers from MN deployed to Texas, Florida & US Virgin Islands. Held a DAT (Disaster Action Team) meeting. Thanks to Bob Beier allowing DAT to use his storage locker, we are now able keep more supplies locally.

CERT

CERT manned a booth at the SCFF. There are 30 people signed up for the next Basic Training Class to be held in Feb 2018. There are 6 members applying for FEMA Train-the-Trainer Course and the Manager Course. Bonnie Johnson attended a Red Cross shelter drill.

RACES/ARES

Working to move the repeater. The current location hampers the coverage area. We also have trouble getting quick access when there is a problem. Moving the repeater will solve both issues.

SKYWARN

Like most of the dislocated volunteer organizations who normally call the OFD "home", SKYWARN has remained "homeless". We are very grateful to the businesses and schools who have opened space for us to meet while the courthouse is being repaired. The next few months we are meeting in the conference room at the Owatonna Airport.

SKYWARN is continuing to upgrade our SweetSpot map. This month we are reviewing the northeast quadrant.

SweetSpots are predetermined locations with good visibility and multiple exit routes (usually) or nearby shelter. Using SweetSpots such as NE11 (Northeast 11) is much more concise and precise than telling someone to drive to the field access on the southwest corner of Steele County 12 and Steele County 13. Our original SweetSpots project was nearly ten years old. Since then, trees have grown up, streets have changed names or locations, and multiple maps of different age don't always agree. Our goal is to start 2018 with fresh maps and good locations.

If you haven't already, join us on Facebook

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SteeleCountySKYWARN>). Nearly 850 people from around the country follow our group to stay abreast of severe weather in Steele County.