

Steele County CAER Minutes  
May 16, 2012 7:00 PM

**Location:** Steele County EOC

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**ntroductions**

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Tom Karnauskas

**Attendees:** Doug Ployhar, Mary Fink, Chris Gannon, Karen Fountaine, Mike Johnson, Tom Karnauskas, Iris Johnson, Bea Oberg, Sandee Hardy-Hagen, Roger Wencel, and Rick Ellingson

**Approvals:** Routine business review included:

- Minutes of April 18, 2012 General Meeting were approved.
- The Treasurer's Report was approved with a balance of \$1,800.77.

**Old Business:**

- Mike and Chris reported that they are continuing to work on getting the new SCEM Portal operational. Chris said that the goal is to have the system live by the end of May
- Mike gave an update on the 800 MHz status. He said that the goal is to have the system fully operational in Steele County by the end of 2012.
- It was decided that CAER will not pursue a corporate membership drive until CAER has received legal guidance on tax exemption issues. If any CAER member knows of anyone who could assist CAER on this issue Tom would welcome their input.
- A Business Recovery Program has tentatively been scheduled for March of 2013. CAER will work with the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce to plan the program.
- The Formidable Footprint Exercise for June will be a tornado response. At this time the exact date is not known.
- Mike reported warning voice sirens will be installed in several areas of Owatonna. Some of the areas that will have sirens installed include Downtown, Fairgrounds, Water Park, and Lake Kohlmier.
- Chris reported that there were some issues with the automated flood gauge at Dane Road. Emergency Management will continue to monitor the gauge.
- Mike gave an update on the Everbridge notification system. The system will be ready for implementation beginning in August. The new system will replace the current Code Red notification system.
- Tom reminded members to share CAER program ideas with him.

**New Business:**

None

**Citizen Corp Reports:**

- **CERT:** Sandee reported that CERT has started to plan for an October Drill.
- **Medical Reserve Corp/Public Health:** Karen reported that MRC, Steele County Public Health, the Owatonna Hospital, and Steele County Emergency Management had

participated in a statewide communication drill on April 30th. Karen said that as part of the drill all MRC volunteers were contacted via the MN Responds notification system. She said that about 25 of the 68 volunteers registered on this site did not respond to the alert message.

- Hospital: Bea Oberg reported that the hospital continues to work on the 800 MHz project. The hospital will be conducting an internal Code Orange Drill in June.
- Ellendale Emergency Manager: No Report
- Salvation Army: Roger reported that the Salvation Army is conducting Safe from Harm training for new volunteers
- Emergency Medical Services: No Report
- Civil Air Patrol: Doug reported that the Civil Air Patrol has been participating in statewide trainings for the past 4 weeks. They have conducted 11 training flights (Search and Rescue), 9 training ground sorties (SAR), and 1 HLS training ground sortie
- MN VOAD: No Report
- RACES/ARES: Tom reported that a Field Day has been scheduled for the last weekend in June. All CAER members are invited to attend the event. Operating begins at 1:00PM and continues for 24 hours.
- Red Cross: Iris reported that the Steele County Red Cross Chapter has switched to a new paging service. The new system is not working as well as Iris had hoped that it would as problems still exist. Iris reported that some people have expressed an interest in volunteering with the Red Cross. She hopes that some new DAT members can be available for responses.
- Skywarn: Chris reviewed the past month events. Volunteers discussed new radar tools that are available to spotters, such as Radar Scope, GR Level 2 versus GR Level 3.
- Law Enforcement: No Report
- Chamber of Commerce: No Report
- Steele County Clothesline: No report. Mary was thanked for writing an article for the Blooming Prairie Times about CAER.
- City Council Representative: No Report

#### **Steele County Emergency Manager Report:**

- Mike reported on upcoming trainings that Chris and he will be attending in June.
- There will also be a drill in Anoka County on June 23 involving a tornado that hits the airport. If you are interested in volunteering contact Mike or Chris.
- He also reminded CAER members that the Have a Safe Summer event will be held on June 13 from 5:30-7:30 at the Four Seasons Building. Volunteers are always needed to assist with the event. If you are interested in volunteering for this event contact Stephanie Olson at the Owatonna Clinic.
- Chris gave a short presentation on the Wireless Emergency Alert system for cell phone users. He said that the system has potential but most people presently do not have the type of cell phone that allows them to receive the notification.
- Mike also reminded CAER volunteers that whenever there is an emergency event in Steele County an Incident Commander is assigned to the event. The Incident

Commander will be wearing a vest that identifies that person as the Incident Commander. As part of NIMS an Incident Action Plan will be developed for each 24 hour period of the incident.

**Program:** Mike and Chris facilitated a Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) with the CAER members.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.  
The next meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on June 20.  
Planned Program: ESF#18 Debris Management