

Torrance County LEPC

General Meeting Minutes

January 23rd, 2024

Commission Room

205 S 9th Street, Estancia NM

1. Call To Order:

Samantha O'Dell called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

2. Welcome and Introductions: Samantha opened the meeting with an introduction to all attendees. (See Attendance List)

3. Information about LEPC: Samanta discussed the startup of Torrance County LEPC after not meeting since 2009. She invited all attendees to share their expertise and experience on ways to reestablish the committee to better serve the needs of the community. Samantha explained that she will coordinate the LEPC meetings, but a board of members will be nominated and elected to run the LEPC committee.

4. Board Nominations/Elections:

a. Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary:

Samantha suggested that nominations and elections be held to appoint new board members by the next meeting. It was discussed whether the Committee or the Commission would nominate and elect board members. This discussion will resume at the next meeting.

5. By Laws: Samantha passed out copies of the previous By Laws for attendees to review for updating. An attendee suggested researching the By Laws from other LEPC's to assist with this. Committee members will also share any information they have. Samantha told the committee she would address the By Law changes for the next meeting.

6. Sub-Committees: It was discussed among attendees that Sub-Committees would be formed should the need arise or as incidents escalate.
7. Torrance County Plan Updates: Samantha updated the committee on the status of Torrance County's Emergency Operations Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
8. Training/Exercises: Samantha offered agencies her assistance with training and exercises to help with their emergency response efforts and to meet their annual requirements.
9. Code Red Emergency Alerts: Samantha explained the basics of the Code Red alert system. She shared a great story on how well Code Red performs in times of emergency. She explained how and where to sign up and encouraged attendees to participate in the program.
10. Future Meetings:
 - a. Commission room
 - b. February 29th, 2024 -9:00 am
 - c. Company Presentations: Presentations will be held as to what different agencies do, and what hazards may be in the area.
 - d. Suggestions For Future Meetings:

Hybrid /Zoom meetings are suggested for the future. Others suggested moving meetings to different locations depending on the needs of Sub-Committees or as necessary. The 4th Tuesday of every month has been chosen by the committee as the best time to attend general meetings.

11: Discussions/Comments:

- a. Public Outreach: Social media, websites, flyers, utility bill mailers, and radio stations. Getting the public informed in advance of the open meetings to encourage more countywide participation.
- b. Not getting focused on just one hazard but looking at what could possibly occur.
- c. Getting more stakeholders and the public involved and the core committee formed. Focus on the basics before proceeding forward with updating the By Laws.

12. Call to Adjourn: Samantha made the call to adjourn at 9:53 am.