

## SIOUX FALLS REMSA MINUTES SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 P.M. by Chair Myers.

### Roll Call

McQuisten: present, Pankonin: present, Wahlstrom: present; Wheeler: present by phone, Myers: present

Others present: Mike Bureau, Jason Leach, Jeff Luther, Mark Bukovich, Amy Marsh, Scott McMahon, Jesseca Mundahl, Justin Faber, Jason Gearman, Matt McAreavy, Sandy Frentz, Julie Charbonneau

### Approval of minutes

- 19-22 Motion by Pankonin, seconded by McQuisten, to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2019, meeting as distributed. Vote was as follows: McQuisten: yes, Pankonin: yes, Wahlstrom: yes, Wheeler: yes, Myers: yes.

### Annual meeting

- 19-23 Motion by Wahlstrom, seconded by McQuisten, to elect Myers as Chair. Vote was as follows: McQuisten: yes, Pankonin: yes, Wahlstrom: yes, Wheeler: yes, Myers: yes.
- 19-24 Motion by Wahlstrom, seconded by McQuisten, to elect Wheeler as Vice Chair. Vote was as follows: McQuisten: yes, Pankonin: yes, Wahlstrom: yes, Wheeler: yes, Myers: yes.
- 19-25 Motion by Myers, seconded by McQuisten, to elect Pankonin as Board of Health Liaison. Vote was as follows: McQuisten: yes, Pankonin: yes, Wahlstrom: yes, Wheeler: yes, Myers: yes.

### New business

Sioux Falls had three tornados on September 10, 2019, followed by flooding a few days later. The agencies involved reviewed their response.

MACT – Multi Agency Coordination Team / Emergency Operations Center is tasked with coordinating the response and supporting the response operations. Sandy Frentz noted how well the Incident Command structure worked for this response. She was involved in the MACT at the EOC for 10 days after the storm as the Communication Officer. She noted that when drills or actual responses fail, breakdown in communication is usually one of the main reasons. As was demonstrated in this response, our local agencies that plan together, train together and respond together had a great coordinated and collaborative response.

SFPD – Jason Leach discussed the Police Department's involvement in assisting in moving patients from the damaged behavioral hospital, helping hospital security maintain accountability for patients on holds and assisting with grid deployment in assessing damage. They used EverTel, a communications program that allows photos to be uploaded directly to the Emergency Operations Center and to GIS for assistance in plotting damage. He noted that the City's preparedness and resilience was apparent in each stage of the response.

Metro Communications – Scott McMahon noted that Metro was aware and monitoring storms headed toward our area starting at 9:56 PM. Overall, Metro monitored 23 weather watches and warnings during the event. Impacts in Sioux Falls started at 11:24 when a rash of burglar alarms and fire alarms came in, resulting from power disruptions. Metro immediately was aware this was more than the usual storm. By 11:28 there was a tornado warning for Sioux Falls and calls started to come in for structure damage, property damage, downed power lines, gas leaks and injuries. In the first two hours, Metro handled 10 X their normal call volume. Within 30 minutes, they had activated their backup/overflow center and had 19 call taker/dispatcher positions active (normal for that time of night is 7). In total, Metro handled 639 calls for service from 10:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. Metro also provided a tactical dispatcher for area command as noted below.

SFFR – Mark Bukovich noted that as soon as storm related calls started coming in, the on duty Battalion Chiefs recognized that this was going to be a large scale event. Because of prior planning and experience in past events, SFFR immediately sent a BC to Metro Communications to assist in

## **SIoux FALLS REMSA MINUTES SEPTEMBER 25, 2019**

triaging calls as they know their resources can rapidly become depleted. SFFR mobilized the MACT initially at Fire Headquarters and then moved to the EOC at the LEC when the scope became more apparent. Chief Officers were called in and 11 of 13 responded within the first hour. SFFR called in additional staff in order to double their on duty staff, including a USAR unit staffed and out the door within 30 minutes of the initial damage reports. While responding to multiple calls for structure damage, collapse, power lines and gas lines down, they rapidly started a damage assessment to identify the scope of the incident. They set up an area command in a Western Mall Parking lot, with a tactical dispatcher from Metro taking requests for service and working alongside a SFFR Division Chief who then allocated resources that were staged at that area command. In the 2013 ice storm, utility issues were identified and a process was developed to bring utilities into the plan. This worked well with City Power, Excel and MidAmerican Energy working alongside SFFR in handling downed power lines and gas leaks, both potentially dangerous situations. The planning and training that has been done prepared us well for this event. We have actually done a drill of this exact scenario in the recent past. All calls were handled without needing to call in mutual aid. There were no responder injuries during the entire response.

PC EMS – Mike Bureau noted that there were 4 ambulances on duty when the storms hit. They called in extra staff and increased that number to 7. They handled 40 calls between 10 P.M. and 6 A.M with 30 transports. They also maintained staff in reserve, knowing that ambulance responses to weather events like this come in three waves, first being the initial response, then inter-facility transfers to make room for an influx of patients and then transfers back as operations return to normal. One ambulance was damaged during the initial response by a manhole cover that had blown off. The CAAS site review team was in Sioux Falls the night of the tornado after finishing their onsite review that afternoon. They had reviewed the company's processes and plans during their review and were actually able to observe part of the response from their hotel windows as those plans were put into place. PC EMS did not need additional resources beyond their own during the event but noted that they could have called for mutual aid or task forces if needed. PC EMS did provide mutual aid to surrounding communities during the flood event that followed while maintaining resources cover our community and to transfer several patients to out of town facilities for ongoing care.

Minnehaha County Emergency Management – Jason Gearman discussed his role as Emergency Manager in gathering resources if needed from the state. Handling resource allocation at the EOC allows face to face communication so that needs can be rapidly identified and met. Emergency Management was involved in the flood response that followed the tornadoes as well, including handling water rescue. Knowing that we are going into winter with saturated ground, we expect spring flooding and planning is already underway for that response.

### Provider Reports

Metro – six new employees started Monday.

Sioux Falls Fire Rescue – getting back to near normal after the tornado and flood response. ALS field training is underway.

PatientCare EMS – Mike Bureau gave the monthly report covering accreditation, technology status, hospital interactions, retention, hiring/training, accreditation and community events. The CAAS site visit was successful and accreditation will be voted on in October. He also discussed the ET3 application process.

### Compliance Report

Mike Bureau reported August response times. Response times for August were reviewed and are found to be within contractual requirements.

### Minnehaha County

**SIoux FALLS REMSA MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019**

There will be an EMR class in November and hopefully another after that.

Executive Secretary

Julie Charbonneau discussed the community opioid event this morning.

Medical Director

Dr. Luther discussed his meeting with the physician CAAS reviewer and the tornado response.

Public input

Call for public input, none received.

Adjournment

19-26 Motion to adjourn by Wheeler, seconded by Myers. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 P.M.

Submitted by

Approved by

---

Julie Charbonneau  
Executive Director/Executive Secretary

---

Gary Myers  
Chair