

**Chesterfield Emergency Planning Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2022**

Members Present:

Ken Smith, HCA-CJW (Chair)
Paul Clements, Citizen
Craig Eckrich, CPD-NW

Brian Fox, Univar Solutions
Ruth Scharr, EPA Region 3
David Woods, CHD - MRC

Consultants/Guests:

Brian Ankney, VDOT
Leslie Cascell, RIC 2 Amazon
Bradford Conner, CPD
Bethany Ezell, Columbia Gas
Crystal Foster, Columbia Gas, Training
Rebecca Glidden, Columbia Gas
Greg Hunt

Eric Jones, Sheriff's Office
Rena Meteye Parker
Douglas Pasquinelli
Robert Paxton, VDEM
Donna Pletch, VDEM
Jennifer Reynolds, Chesterfield Risk Mgt
James Ross, First Call Environmental

EM Staff:

Jess Robison

Chris Clark

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Ken Smith welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Presentation: None.

Reports

Chairman's Report –

- None.

Emergency Management –

- September is National Preparedness Month. Please reshare CFEMS-EM posts if possible & discuss preparedness measures with your staff.
- Bringing on two VCU student volunteers to dig through critical infrastructure information & clean it up.
- National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) plan Tabletop Exercise will be Fri. Oct. 7, 2022.
- Woodland Pond Tabletop exercise will be Wed. Oct. 19, 2022.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) –

- October 2022 Introduction to CERT classes just opened up; 23 people registered so far. Chesterfield does have a waiting list, so new people can register for the waiting list: [Register for CERT](#).
- Many outreach events have been occurring this summer; Chesterfield County Fair this weekend.
- Setting up CERT outreach classes now.
- Participants were encouraged to sign up for ChesterfieldAlert.com & share news about our \$260 Preparedness Bag Raffle that was created to encourage greater participation from people that work, live or play in Chesterfield county. People already signed up for ChesterfieldAlert.com can enter by commenting “Signed up” on the CFEMS-EM Facebook post & tagging someone to sign up: ends Sept 7.

Health Department/Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

- Current focus is ongoing COVID19 response (30 months now). Currently chesterfield is in a medium transmission state.
- Worldwide outbreak of Monkeypox; 50,000 cases around the world, 309 in commonwealth, and some in our region. Currently able to control due to available vaccines, awareness & treatments. It is transmitted most commonly by direct physical contact from legions to human body parts. A person would have to be in contact with someone for numerous hours for successful transmission. West African version is in US; not as contagious as other version. Only 11 hospitalizations so far. Additional information on their website. Smallpox vaccine does help to provide immunity.
- Chesterfield Health Department now has a Facebook page and Twitter account (new as of today).

Homeland Security

- None

Neighborhood Watch

- Neighborhood coordinator meetings will be held on Oct 11, 2022.
- Over 100 National Night Out events occurred in our region.

CEPC Spotlight – None

Unfinished Business –

- Bylaws Update: Committee meeting Fri Sept 9 @ 1pm to prepare draft bylaws for the Th. Oct. 6 CEPC meeting. Plan is to simplify current bylaws. Ken invited others to join committee; no one added.
- Vice Chair Solicitation: Ken invited nominations for a vice chair. None received.

New Business –

- Reimagining the CEPC
 - Ken Smith invited those present to encourage others whose focus is on safety, security, and emergency planning/response/recovery to participate in the CEPC. We would like more participation representative of our whole region. Please forward meeting invite.
 - Group discussed timing of CEPC meetings: would you like to shift to quarterly meetings? Yes, unless a need arises for an extra meeting.
 - Group discussed switching to Lunch & learn time, with companies sponsoring lunch: no change at this time.
 - Group noted that the Thursday 3:30 pm time does conflict with the Emergency Management Alliance Mass Care meetings.
 - Emergency Management can introduce a CEPC SharePoint site so that participants can share resources behind secured accounts (eg AAR, exercise templates, directories, etc).
 - Robert suggested to report at each CEPC meeting: any spills; hazmat release; what went good/bad, lessons learned.
 - Robert also suggested having a Chemical of the Month; processes that use it, mitigation techniques, how do users prevent releases to the environment. Group participants were interested in this option from user & responder perspectives.
 - Request for social media platform training was presented. How to use various platforms, contacts, best practices, lessons learned. Crisis communications from VDEM regional PIO or VOST social media for business (Liz Caroon) were presented as possible options.
- Ken Smith presented a **motion to move CEPC meetings to quarterly meetings after the next Thursday Oct 6, 2022 meeting**. Craig Eckrich seconded the motion. None opposed; **motion passed**.

Roundtable Member Discussion:

Robert Paxton shared that Hazmat classes are going on this fall & that the Hazmat conference will be in Newport News in 2 weeks.

Donna Pletch shared that VDEM is currently looking at dams and how the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) manages dams. Currently they have presented numerous questions to DCR to better understand how they are managed. There are numerous high hazard dams; currently 9 in Chesterfield with a 10th to be installed when “The Lake surf park” waterpark is built near River City Sportsplex.

Donna Pletch also shared that there were 5 cases of avian flu in Caroline County, VA. They determined that a vulture had infected a flock of birds. All identified birds have been mulched for containment since avian flu is highly contagious.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 pm. The next CEPC Meeting will be on October 6, 2022 via in person at the Public Safety Center and via Microsoft Teams.