



MINUTES

LEMC MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2009 AT FESA HOUSE 79 NEWCASTLE ROAD, NORTHAM COMMENCING AT 10:00AM

1. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Attendance

Bert Llewellyn	Chairperson	Shire of Northam
Linton Mincherton		FESA
Jeanne Lawler		Main Roads WA
Ulo Rumjantsev		Shire of Northam
Peter McLean		Wheatbelt Police (OIC)
Julie Brown		DCP
Steven Douglas		SJA
Drew Richardson		SJA
Phil Steven		Shire of Northam
Harry Lauk		Dept of Agriculture & Food
Jennifer Lee		Department of Health
George Tiedke		Western Power
Anne Foyer		Wheatbelt Public Health
Kim Reader		DCP
Mark Gubanyi		WAPS Wheatbelt IMU
Jasmin Clarke		Main Roads WA, Northam
Natasha Clements		St John Ambulance

Visitors

Trevor Turnock	Northam Resid College
Glenda Kirkman	UCH
Jim Smith	Northam's Avon Descent

Apologies

Terry Brooks	Department of Water
Yvette Grigg	FESA
Alan Kietzmann	DEC
Dave Flaherty	Northam Police

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared the meeting open at 10:05am.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 October 2008 were acknowledged by the Chairperson.

Moved: Ulo Rumjantsev

*Seconded: Peter McLean
Carried*

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

4. UPDATES – MEMBER LISTING

The separate sheets for Committee Members, and the broader list of Contacts were circulated by email prior to the meeting for updating. The amended listings are circulated with these minutes.

5. General Business

Avon Descent Emergency Plans

Jim Smith (Race Director) explained that he is in control of the event start. It is the 34th year of Avon Decent. Emergency Plans are based around the river. The event is held in the 1st week of August each year. The Avon Descent Association meet monthly or fortnightly throughout the year.

When the Avon Descent first ran, there were no rules or regulations or Budget. Now the event has expanded to have a budget of \$1,000,000 and has more documentation.

Documents include a Crisis plan (including who speaks to Media), Risk Management Plan, Environment Management, Traffic Management Plan, and Rescue & Recovery Plan (most important)

At the event there are 120 trained personnel, plus Volunteers, who know the area really well

Rescue teams have about 15 people in each, but more at riskier locations, eg 25 at Extracts. Teams are made up of divers, ambulance & helicopter, race doctor in aircraft.

All are in radio contact, including to Police

Insurance is costly to cover the days

The Association liaised with the LG, CALM, Police. Over the years they have had 1 fatality which had an inquest.

With the Traffic Management Plan, Royal Life (RLSS) do office administration, Northam townsite gets hectic, road closures are in place – Shire handles these.

The Plan covers Northam, Toodyay and beyond.

There is also a Western Quarries Campsite Management Plan (Toodyay). The Camp was closed down to public because it was causing a problem, but will re-open again.

Volunteer Fire fighters man the campsite and raise some money out of it.

There are 2,600 Volunteers altogether, all very dedicated.

Linton asked about a derailment that may occur at any time and suggested the Avon Decent Association may be able to make suggestions to the Swan LEMC. Access to get to the rail is difficult due to locked gates.

If members would like a copy of any of the Plans, please contact the LEMC Secretary.

Northam Residential College Emergency Plans

Northam Residential College – Trevor Turnock

An evacuation plan was circulated. They also have a student list (current), building layout and evacuation plan displayed.

They have an induction showing emergency equipment and exits.

The assembly point is near the front entrance.

The last drill took about 2 ½ minutes

They regularly maintain fire exits and equipment.

They also have a contact list of all parents / guardians. Staff are well trained.

There are smoke detectors in every room, linked to Perth & Fire Brigade

Currently the Hostel is at 2/3 capacity, 36 kids at the moment, average is usually 36-50 students

The Hostel is a possible evacuation building for the Town (one of) eg in school holidays, there would always be at least 1 person on site.

DCP have done MOU's with Hostels in other areas. There is already one with Muresk

Northam Residency and Bethavon Emergency Plans

Uniting Church Homes – Glenda Kirkman

The Residency – 40 Bed (high care)

Bethavon – 32 Beds (low care & respite)

(Total 72 beds)

They are seeking feedback on where to put people if there was to be severe fire or flooding

The Residency – ¾ would have to be evacuated by bed, transported by ambulance, but need to know where to take them

They have information about a person's health & mobility. Emergency backpacks for each person. Perhaps evacuate to the hospital.

They could evacuate to the Uniting Church on Duke Street (13x13m).

They could evacuate to Bethavon

The main concern is how to evacuate people out of Northam (transport issue)

Once in Perth, there are facilities available.

They have put measures in place to be better prepared for flooding (Residency was worse affected than Bethavon)

DCP have this same issue across the state. Most organisations have plans to evacuate to carpark, but do not have information on where to from there.

Dementia patients are an issue because they need special care. The hospitals refuse to accept these residents unless they have an urgent medical need.

In Northam's situation, the Hospital may be able to accept them but this may compromise their ability to care for other patients – would not like it to be the primary evacuation point.

UCH & DCP can meet to discuss the issue

Need to accommodate carers as well. 1 carer to 3 residents, 1 registered nurse (RN) to 10 residents. Residents could use a bus if they are able to sit.

4 Ambulances + 2 other vehicles = 18 people

Buses in town – Community Bus, Hostel Bus, Bethavon Bus, School Buses

Can their guardians take them for a week? - Possibly in many cases. Perhaps UCH could do a list of which residents can do this. Some bed patients can go into a wheel chair for a period of time. Need to have a trigger point of what to do depending on the situation.

Can you get people out of town & which people are priorities? Do you choose to evacuate, depending on severity. – Emergency controller will have to make that decision on the day.

Do we have a list of safe sites – DCP are doing an audit to select suitable sites eg: schools

If evacuated to Northam Hostel, need clearance to work with children etc, which may make preclude it.

There are RN's on site so if needed elsewhere in an emergency, they may be able to assist.

Northam Hospital Emergency Plans

Northam Hospital – Jennifer Lee

They run a drill monthly during peak and non-peak times.

Staff have designated roles in an emergency.

There is an emergency system to warn of the type of emergency

They maintain a regular list of who is on site at any time (staff & patients)

There are zones within the hospital of where to move to first, before evacuating out of the buildings and off-site.

There is a large manual detailing emergency procedures, plus flip folders for each section.

Staff are well trained in using fire extinguishers & evacuation procedures.

Once evacuated externally, the Department of Health take over and decide where to take the patients from there.

For an external disaster, they have a plan for dealing with injuries from that.

The hospital ward can take 42 Patients. They have day surgery, day rehabilitation, 4 bed hospice, most can walk or wheelchair.
Total staff – 30 in the day, 6-8 after hours, 4 at night

6. CORRESPONDENCE

NIL

7. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Linton suggested LEMC has a Foot & Mouth Scenario, for someone from the Ag Department to run it in the future. Next meeting will see if we can have a derailment scenario run by the Railways Department.

The next meeting will be held on the tentative date of 9 June 2009 at a venue to be confirmed.

9. CLOSE

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance.
The meeting closed at 12 noon.