

Steele County CAER Minutes

April 17, 2013

7:00 PM

Location:

Steele County EOC

Introductions:

Call To Order:

Meeting was called to order by Tom Karnauskas.

Attendees:

Karen Fountaine, Tom Karnauskas, Mike Johnson, JoAnn Eichten, Iris Johnson, Raymond Truelson, Emily Heimerl, Chris Gannon, Jill Bondhus, and Dee Kirchner.

Routine Approvals:

- Minutes of March 20, 2013 General Meeting were approved.
- The Treasurer's Report was unchanged and had no expenses.

Old Business:

1. Tom reported that SKYWARN and RACES are continuing to get waivers signed for badges instead of each person requesting their own. It is working well.
2. Training and Events were discussed.
 - a. The SKYWARN workshop on April 13th had good speakers.

New Business:

1. MRC Conference is on May 11, 2013 at the Ramada Inn in Rochester from 8:30 – 2:30 pm. This is an opportunity to network, learn, and gain practical skills for responding to events and emergencies. The link to register is <http://Semnmrcconference.eventbrite.com>

Member Reports:

- SCPH/MRC - Karen shared information about the H7N9 virus and had a Q & A handout. As of now there is no vaccine for it. So far there have not been any cases outside of China.
- SKYWARN – Chris reported they are working with Dodge Co, to help them start their own group. Training was provided to Medford FD and will be teaching Blooming Prairie FD this month. Chris is doing a presentation during Kids Camp.
- County Commissioner – Ray reported doing a presentation to Dodge 911 Dispatch who is considering joining RSC 911. Some 911 cell calls are now coming directly to Steele County Dispatch Center.

- CAP – Dee reported the Fly-In Breakfast is on the last Sunday of August. Five members will be participating in MN Wing Conference at Breezy Point Resort from April 26th – 28th. Awards will be presented at both General Assembly and Banquet. One of their cadets, C/CMSgt Alec Newbowers, has been nominated for Group 4 Cadet of the Year.
- RACES – Tom reported that the Field Day on June 18th will be held at the Fairgrounds at 18th and Oak. There now is a Memorandum of Understanding between Red Cross and Amateur Radio for SE MN.
- Emergency Manager – Mike reminded everyone that the State Tornado Drill was on April 18th. He discussed the importance of receiving warnings, knowing shelter plans for places you frequent and having a disaster kit. Mike has an ID Badge making kit he got with a grant. He needs volunteers to learn how to use the badge printer. One thing learned at the communication drill is that more training on radio use is needed. Training material for the radios is being set up. Mike is trying to set up a FEMA 300 class. There is a shortage of instructors so it will be at least 4 months before he can hold a class. Mike wants to train CERT on how to do disaster assessment. He will discuss with Sandy Hardy Hagen and Iris will discuss with Red Cross to get agreement from both groups. The new sirens are being installed and 4 of them will have voice announcements. Mike received shelter supplies on a grant; they are stored at the armory. Iris and Mike are going to look at them on Friday to decide where we can store some of them besides the armory. Mike wants to educate retailers on watching for unusual volume sales of chemicals so that they can notify the police since they can be used to make IEDs. Mike will contact Judith Bostrom who wants to do a presentation on a free Red Cross program called Ready Rating. Repeater Tower 9 might be available for use by RACES. Mike is looking at ways to recognize volunteers in the community that is like a program some state fire departments are using. The flood gauges on the website are working well.

Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.
- Next Meeting is scheduled for May 15 at 7:00 PM.