

Local Emergency Services Study Group
Minutes
Tuesday May 25, 2021
9:00 am

1. Call to Order & Attendance

Chair Tom Cooley called the meeting to order. Each attendee introduced themselves, the following were present:

City of Portola: Tom Cooley, Pat Morton, Lauren Knox

EPRFPD: Jeanne Graham

Gold Mtn. CSD: Cary Curtis, Bill Seney
Bill Robinson– via zoom

Sierra Valley Fire: Robert Holbrook

Plumas LAFCo: Jennifer Stephenson – via zoom

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Cary Curtis, seconded by Jeanne Graham, to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021 meeting. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3/4. Agency Reports and Actions

Gold Mountain CSD - Cary Curtis noted that there was nothing new to report since the resolution had been approved.

EPRFPD – Jeanne Graham reported that the board had approved the resolution and she would get a signed copy to the study group as soon as possible. She also noted that they are continuing to work on the MSR update.

Sierra Valley Fire – Robert Holbrook reported that the resolution had been approved and the firefighters were supportive of the direction being taken by the study group. He noted that their board members still had some concerns.

City of Portola – Pat Morton explained there was nothing to report since the last meeting.

5. Review Resolutions adopted by each Participating Agency

a) Tom Cooley explained that the City, Gold Mtn. CSD, Beckwourth Fire, EPRFPD and Sierra Valley Fire had each adopted resolutions that were similar in nature as requested by the study group. He explained that he was able to speak with Debbie Thompson of C-Road and she stated that they did not wish to participate. He continued to explain that the resolutions adopted by the five agencies included C-Road as a participating agency. He had discussed this with the City’s legal counsel and concluded that the resolution would need to be revised to only include 5 agencies. This would mean each board will need to consider a revised resolution. Mr. Cooley then presented a revised

resolution for each agency to consider, noting that by adopting the new resolution each board will be aware of C-Road's withdrawal.

- b) Tom Cooley presented two scenarios for splitting the cost of the consultant with examples of a \$45,500 cost and a \$50,000 cost. For two agencies that approved \$1000 he used the full amount in his examples and based the remainder of the cost on the percentage approved by the other three agencies.

After a brief discussion it was moved by Cary Curtis, seconded by Pat Morton to approve the cost split as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. Review and consider approval of the Draft RFP

Tom Cooley explained that the RFP would need to be revised to remove C-Road and would be presented at the next meeting. He also explained that comments made by Jeanne Graham at the last meeting had been incorporated in the draft with all participating agencies being included in the insurance and indemnity clauses. Distribution dates for the RFP will be considered at the next meeting.

7. Communications and outreach plan

Bill Seney continued his discussion relating to communications and public outreach. He stressed the need to have uniform answers to questions that may be raised by the public, i.e. Why do we need to do it?, What is the problem, What is the opportunity?, What benefit is it to an individual home owner?, What is the value to the community?.

It was suggested that the memo outlining the study groups actions to date could be revised as a document that would be added to each agency's website as the start of the public outreach effort.

The group continued to brainstorm different ways to communicate with the public including the Plumas News website, Plumas County Hazard Watch, making presentations to community organizations and agency boards. There was also discussion about reaching out to other communities that had successfully accomplished consolidation of agencies and were successfully with ballot issues and funding approval.

Bill Seney indicated that he would like to meet separately with a couple representatives of each agency and he would like to include the front-line firefighters in the meetings. Bill Robinson offered to attend the meetings when scheduled. Bill will draft a recommended plan that includes actionable steps to conduct a public outreach effort.

8. Review of the next meeting schedule

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 22, 2021 9:00 am at Portola City Hall, zoom attendance will be provided.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 am.

Respectfully Submitted
Leslie Chrysler, Secretary

