



## Clayton County Emergency Management Commission Minutes November 25, 2025

### Call meeting to order

Meeting was called to order at 1803 by Vice Chair Kaitlyn Kuehl-Berns.

### Roll call of voting members

Fred Schaub (Guttenberg), Dennis Koenig (Postville), Nioka Schroeder (Garber), Marcus Kahrs (St. Olaf), Doug Reimer (BOS), Kaitlyn Kuehl-Berns (Vice Chair, Clayton), Brent Ostrander (CCSO) Russ Crawmer (McGregor), Elaine Follon (Volga), Sarah Moser (Secretary)

### Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kahrs to approve the agenda, second by Schroeder, motion carried unanimously.

### Approval of minutes

Motion by Ostrander to approve the minutes, second by Schaub, motion carried unanimously.

### Election

**Chair-** Dan Torkelson volunteered to remain as Chair. Nominations ceased. Motion by Schroeder for Torkelson to remain as Chair, seconded by Schaub, motion carried unanimously.

**Vice Chair-** Kaitlyn Kuehl-Berns was asked if she would remain Vice Chair, she accepted. Nominations ceased. Motion by Doug Reimer for Kuehl-Berns to remain as Vice Chair, seconded by Schroeder. Motion carried unanimously.

### Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan

There is a meeting scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6-7:30 at the county building. Moser encouraged everyone to attend or send someone in their place if unable to be there.

### Command Trailer

Moser advised she doesn't have a need for the trailer anymore and asked for direction on what the Commission would like done with it. Ostrander suggested reaching out to other EMAs and Sheriffs to see if any of them would have an interest in it. Prior to



selling it, we would need to remove radios/paging equipment and lettering on the side. Moser will continue to work on this and follow up with Ostrander.

### **Command Van Policy**

Moser asked what the Commission would like to ensure is included in the policy for the command van. First, we need to check with insurance to see if non county employees could be allowed to operate it. Currently four people (Samantha Rumph, Dylan Rumph, Joe Zittergruen, and Sarah Moser) are the only people familiar with the van and able to operate it. We discussed different uses for the van and how that could play into who operates it. Moser stated she has already taken the van to different meetings and events to train on operating it and educate responders and the public. Follon commented on how much the responders in Volga appreciated Moser bringing the van to their meeting. Follon advised that Moser came and spoke with city officials about disasters, specifically flooding, and how valuable it was to have that discussion. Commission members commented that the van needs to be utilized so that when an incident happens, we know how to operate the van effectively and efficiently. Moser advised now that she has more directions on what they would like to see, she will continue to work on drafting a policy for the Commission's review. Kahrs motioned until the policy is adopted, Moser has the discretion to use the van to educate the public, conduct training, respond to incidents and any other situation that arises that she deems appropriate for the van to be present; seconded by Dennis Koenig, motion carried unanimously.

### **Outdoor Warning Siren Policy**

Moser and Chris Scott attended a workshop in La Crosse with the National Weather Service along with Emergency Managers and Dispatchers in the La Crosse service area. One of the topics brought up was outdoor warning sirens. Most communities have a policy in place that provides additional guidance for activation beyond a tornado warning. Most communities no longer activate the siren for fire calls either. Moser wanted input on direction Clayton County should pursue or to leave everything as is. It would need to be standardized countywide as it would be too challenging for dispatch to have different activations for each community. After discussing who even has the authority to determine when a siren is activated, it was suggested that at this time Moser will work with stakeholders on an official policy for activating the siren for weather incidents other than a tornado and to talk with fire chiefs to see where they



stand currently on siren activation for fires. Nothing is being adopted at this time, more discussion and research need to be conducted.

### **Budget Workshop**

Moser presented the draft budget. We reviewed each line item and discussed any changes that may be needed due to cost increase/decreases. Moser advised the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) will likely have the amount distributed to counties lowered again. The grant is currently held up in federal litigation as well and we are unaware of when that will change. Discussion on salary suggestions. Moser advised she is aware of challenges within budgets that make it difficult to provide monetary increase to have her salary comparable to other counties. She asked about looking into shifting hours around in the week and how it is tracked. Reimer would like Moser to speak with HR (Tiffany) about if that is a possibility. Ostrander asked Moser to bring back more information at the next meeting.

### **Open session/new business**

Moser advised the casino in Marquette is interested in possibly donating HESCO barriers to EMA, she will meet with them next week. The county disaster recovery group is in need of updating and new members. Moser attended a tabletop discussion in Buchanan County about recovery that provided a lot of ideas and potential contacts for new members. If any community has someone that would be interested in being part of the disaster recovery committee or learning more, have them contact EMA. Moser shared about the partnership of working with the Family Resource Center in Guttenberg and how EMA is helping them get food and resources to residents. If there is a change in your communities representative on this commission, contact EMA. Moser will also send out a notice to all members and city clerks.

**Next meeting scheduled for January 27, 2026 at 6 PM.**

### **Close of meeting**

Motion to adjourn by Ostrander, second by Schaub, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1943.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Moser