

HIDALGO COUNTY  
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
March 20, 2019

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**BE IT REMEMBERED** that the Local Emergency Planning Committee met in regular session on March 20, 2019 at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at the Board of County Commission Chambers at 305 Pyramid Street, Lordsburg, New Mexico, for the purpose of business matters to come properly before the Board.

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

David Whipple, Chair  
Oscar Sosa, Vice Chair  
Scott Richins, Alt Vice Chair  
Priscilla Maxwell, Secretary

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Elizabeth Escobar, Rodeo Fire  
Tisha Green, Hidalgo Mgr.  
Jim Jarvis, Playas Fire  
John Hill, Lordsburg Fire  
Tommy Chavez, Hidalgo Fire  
Andrew Arredondo, HCSO  
Jeannie Madrid, City Clerk  
Jason Laney, NWS  
Joe Tafoya, NMDOT  
Leo Rodriguez, NMDOT

Ramon Escobar, Rodeo Fire  
Guy Kellogg, Cotton City Fire  
Marsha Hill, Chamber of Commerce  
Beverlie Fralie, Animas Fire  
Rulene Jenson, Virden Mayor  
Joe Gulliam, Road Dept  
Savannah Graves, Extension  
David Hefner, NWS  
Gene Paulk, NMDOT  
John Alexander, NMDOT

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Whipple called the meeting to order at 1:01 am.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Chair Whipple advised board needs to approve the Agenda for 03-20-19. Vice Chair Sosa made motion to approve the Agenda for 03-20-19. Alt Vice Chair Richins seconded the motion. Chair Whipple advised motion made and seconded to approve the Agenda for 03-20-19, motion carried. Chair Whipple advised board needs to approve the Minutes for 02-20-19. Vice Chair Sosa made motion to approve the Minutes for 02-20-19. Alt Vice Chair Richins seconded the motion. Chair Whipple advised motion made and seconded to approve the Minutes for 02-20-19, motion carried.

## **GUESTS:**

National Weather Service – Jason Laney advised has taken over John Foust position as warning coordination meteorologist. John is still with NWS just moved up in position. Jason also brought David Hefner who is the climate specialist. Jason proceeded with the presentation. Jason also advised if anyone is interested, he can come down and give a weather spotter class. He will get with Scott to coordinate this.

Union Pacific Railroad – Scott advised they do have a lot of training that can be offered to the fire departments maybe they can attend another time to discuss the training.

New Mexico Department of Transportation – Scott asked if they could give update with the project west of town. John advised digital message boards up to give more notice to the traffic, also series of variable speed limit signs that will change the speed limit which could progressive slow traffic down during a storm and could potentially slow traffic down to 35 – 45 MPH however they are not fully operational at this time, millings on the outside shoulder of the road, this was done to provided a pull off for travelers in the event of a dust storm, the intent was not to create another driving lane for emergency services, they continue to work closely with NMSP and also keep traffic control devices on the side of the roads ready to go, communication has improved with ADOT. DOT commissioned projects one is by Road Forks fencing off 200 acres area.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion /Action – IAP Road Closure – Scott advised last meeting there were requests to make some changes. These changes have been completed. No action taken at this time. Chair Whipple reminded everyone to sign up for CodeRED, if they haven't already done so.

Discussion – NIMS Training – Scott gave out packets that states what Hidalgo County and City of Lordsburg need for trainings to be compliant. If you have completed the courses simply get him a copy of the certificate so he can update the information.

Discussion / Action – IAP Javelina Chase – Scott advised IAP is basic as there will be no road closure. Most of the course will be on the back roads. No action taken at this time.

Discussion – DHSEM & Hidalgo County Communication Update – Scott advised we are currently waiting for HB51 to get through the Legislature then of course Governor to sign. If successful we have a strong chance of upgrading our communications. We tentatively have a meeting with DHSEM and Cabinet Secretary on April 29 to further discuss this.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Chair Whipple advised next meeting will be Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 1:00 pm.

Round Table Discussion:

Savanna Graves advised is the new county agent for Hidalgo County and would like to get some large animal emergency training for the community. If there is a lot of interest, she can coordinate training to be held here. Chair Whipple advised this would be a great idea. Savannah advised will start working on getting the level 1 awareness training done here.

Scott handed out a flyer for the AGRO GUARD. Scott handed out a flyer for the New Mexico Baptist Disaster Relief.

Chair Whipple gave special thank you to Roger and Louise Payne for providing lunch for the group.

Chair Whipple advised GRMC is becoming a Level 4 Trauma Center.

**AJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the Board, Chair Whipple moved to adjourn meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:56 pm.

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Chair	Date
_____	_____
Vice Chair	Date
_____	_____
Alternate Vice Chair	Date
_____	_____
Representing Government	Date
_____	_____
Secretary	Date