

**EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION
PLANNING MEETING
Wednesday, April 2, 2008
Tusket, NS 7:00 p.m.**

Present

Roll call completed by Peggy Boudreau.

EMO Coordinator and Francois Lagrandeur attended a regional EMO meeting in Clare on March 27, 2008.

At the meeting, the group discussed mutual issues, including 911 civic addressing inconsistencies. The coordinator commented that the Provincial Government has not established a standard for civic addressing, and that such a standard would make this numbering system more consistent with the help

Michel Melanson comments that the Province has guidelines, but has not set a standard. According to the Coordinator, Queens Regional Municipality has instituted a bylaw to enforce a standard with fines associated.

Best bet for EMC's to ask Councils to be more involved via purchase of signs and/or bylaw enforcement.

TMR Radios

TMR radios – The contract for TMR radios is to be extended an additional year, to 2011. According to the Coordinator, the new system is not ready and will take some time to complete.

Satellite Phones

Satellite phones – EMO NS suggested we keep trying these phones, and that each region keep a record (date and time, and how long it took to get a signal, and how long it takes before the signal is dropped). The big problem is that 2 satellites were destroyed and not yet replaced thereby impacting the service in our area.

Training Calendar

Training calendar for EMO personnel was distributed at the meeting. The Basic Emergency Course will be held on June 24-26 2008 in Halifax.

JEPP Program

JEPP program – we will hear from our request by the end of April. Vernon stated that there were more applicants than money available so certain adjustments will be made.

EMO Plan

There was discussion as to the need to update the plan for revised equipment lists, both at the fire departments and in the village.

The EMO coordinator discussed the issue of offering shelter versus being prepared for 72 hours in your own home in cases of emergency. Eugene was concerned that the communication may be confusing to the residents. The Committee discussed that it was important that our residents be prepared to stay in their homes for 72 hours, but in case of extreme emergency, shelters and additional assistance will be required.

Janine discussed a new document prepared for seniors and those with disabilities instructing how they should respond to emergency situations. The Municipality should receive copies of this booklet, which is a useful tool for our residents.

The Coordinator discussed a ribbon system for times of evacuation. In cases of evacuation, ribbons would be placed at each home where the resident was either unable or refused to be evacuated. This would be an important measure for visual tracking. Other initiatives discussed at the Provincial level were the potential benefits of documenting the number of people that need electricity to operate their medical equipment. The Coordinator will look into this initiative and get additional information.

911 signage

The group discussed a bylaw for enforcing a standard for 911 signage. Claude Bourque explains that the Municipality of Argyle should take action to ensure our residents have proper signage. Michel Melanson states that Argyle is short 900 signs for complete compliance which is much better than other communities, but still an issue.

Motion by Claude Bourque seconded by Francois Lagrandeur is that the Coordinator requests that Council look into options to improve 911 signage in the Municipality, and to consider making the appropriate signage a mandatory requirement.

Motion carried unanimously.

Cell Service

Claude d'Entremont requested an update regarding cell phone service in Quinan. The Coordinator had no update on cell phone use, but Home Support Service is using a new technology that appears to work well in Quinan. The use is still preliminary, as it was only used for one week.

EOC

Peggy updated the Committee on the new EOC construction. Council approved the construction costs, and work will commence in early April, with work expected to be virtually complete by months end.

Public Information Manager

Alain updated the Committee on Francois' work, and stated that we will look to appoint Francois as Public information manager, with the EMO's approval. EMO was more than pleased with Francois' participation.

Self Evaluation

Alain asks for volunteers for the self evaluation. Francois Lagrandeur, Clinton Saulnier, Janine Doucette, Claude d'Entremont, Eugene Doucette, George Eamon, John Surette, and Joe d'Eon have volunteered to assist with the Self-evaluation. Date has been set for April 10, 2008 at 7 pm.

Joint Exercise

Eugene discussed the need to input issues for the joint exercise. Volunteers will be required. Eugene asks for inputs from all volunteers, and has requested a meeting for Thursday, April 3, 2008.

It was suggested that the inputs can also be sent to the office.

Being no further business Janine Doucette moved adjournment of the meeting.