

March 14th, 2019
Antelope County Board of Commissioners
Neligh, Nebraska

The Antelope County Board of Commissioners convened in special emergency session on Thursday, March 14th, 2019 at 11:00 AM in the County Commissioner's Room, Antelope County Courthouse Annex, Neligh, Nebraska. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Borer, with the following board members responding to roll call: Jacob, Bentley, Henery, Smith and Borer. Chairman Borer stated that the open meeting laws are posted on the east wall of the Commissioner's room with more copies available at the County Clerk's Office.

Meeting was called to address the State of Emergency declared by Antelope County on Wednesday, March 13th, 2019 regarding Weather, Flooding, road conditions and documentation throughout Antelope County.

In attendance was: Sheriff Robert Moore, Antelope County Emergency Manager, Mike Mortensen, Antelope County Deputy Emergency Manager, Casey Dittrich, Antelope County Road Superintendent, Dave Jacobsen, Deputy Fire Chief, Neligh; Greg Henn, Elgin Fire and Rescue, Jim Kittelson, Elgin Fire and Rescue; Aaron Kinnan, Oakdale Fire and Rescue; Craig Forbes, Brunswick Fire & Rescue; Gary Ober, Orchard Fire and Rescue; Joe Hartz, Neligh Mayor, Dean Bly, Neligh City Superintendent; Greg Meyer, Royal Fire and Rescue. Clearwater was turned around on the highway, as it is impassable. Denise Kurpoweit, Nikki Kane, Tessa Hain, Deb Branstiter, and Kelly Mueller.

Commissioner Henery addressed the meeting as the Region 11 Emergency Manager Board member with a request to ban together and working together. He has started with a call to Region 11. He stated communication and documentation of all action has to be priority. In the past working with FEMA and NEMA it is imperative to documents. At present there is not a great assessment of what damage Antelope County will have to face but we will get through it as soon as possible. The emergency manager is in Norfolk, and we need to be her eyes and boots. This flood area is county wide, not a river corridor as in the past. Casey Dittrich, will be coordinating county relief, construction office.

Mike Mortensen, Deputy Emergency Manager reiterated the importance of the documentation of everything, from beginning to end. Forms 202-2014 were discussed. All documentation of man hours, equipment, everything from now until the end. There are forms available at the Fire Hall. Traffic Control, who, what, were, why, pictures. For reimbursement, all has to be documented. If there is going to be reimbursed at a reasonable rate document, document, document. The Neligh Fire Department has started documenting already. An ICS 214 – Activity Log was distributed and reviewed. Everything needs documented – sand bagging, pumping basement, batteries, fuel, etc.

The Neligh Fire Hall is currently housing 30 people because the roads are not passable to through traffic. They are feeding and housing. This will be documented. The city/villages asked if they should be declaring a State of Emergency in the Villages/Cities. It was agreed all of the cities should be declaring. The Clerks in Elgin and Clearwater have been through this and they are willing to help. Please utilize all resources.

It was asked about personal residence. Yes, they need to document. Pictures before, during and after. They will need to apply at the time. Personal residence should contact their personal insurance. Any man hours utilized by the city/villages/fire departments needs to be documented by the agency also.

Responsibility – the Emergency Declaration gives us a broad base to make decision in the best interest of the public and Antelope County Residence. The Good Samaritan Law is in effect in Nebraska – so as long as you are trying to render care and are careful and professional about it you are covered. They have to prove willful recklessness.

Casey gave a report. Brian McDonald will be working with us through out. We will need EVERYTHING documented. There is a threshold at the County level. Please continue to move the 214 to Lisa, County Clerk – so the preliminary is available if NEMA or FEMA is requesting. The smart phones are a good picture document because there is an inscription on each picture. The road department will have project numbers on a white board. Make sure you are keeping the documentation as to where, who, what, etc.

Currently, there is a large ice jam east of Highway 275 downstream from Spuds (529th Ave). The bridge at 529th Avenue is compromised – 100 yards north of the highway east of Oakdale. They Road Department, Neligh Fire and Oakdale Fire have been working hand and hand throughout the night – it has been an awesome effort by a number of people. At this time, we do not believe anyone is stranded without a pass to the highway for EMS purposes. Right now, there are only two (2) impassable asphalt roads in Antelope County. The approach to the Oakdale Cut Across bridge is going. West of Elgin, you cannot go north of Highway 70 except for Eight Mile Road, please call mutual aid from Clearwater if needed. South of Oakdale is impassable for general traffic, EMS only. Every bridge on the Clearwater Creek SW of Clearwater is compromised. There is damage northwest of Clearwater, tubes have washed out, and 20-foot gaps – 10 foot deep. There is damage up on the county line. North of Grove Lake 10-foot tube washed out. Priority one right now – we know of no one who is stranded. Barricades were prioritized this morning. Sinclair does not have power. We have 14 trucks hauling 14 tons of concrete starting tomorrow. Maps were distributed. Showing damage, impassable roads, and a quick assessment. There were multiple road conditions shared and discussed by multiple individuals regarding closing.

There was a map shared for EMS only. No roads are safe as of now. There are a lot of areas included. We are in need and search of material. We will start slowly and progress as to what roads are safe, impassible, and closed. Picture taking documentation was emphasized. The roads will continue to be monitored. We will try to keep the traffic flow to every individual.

Multiple ideas where shared about getting resources and how to get them here. National Guard, Nebraska Forestry and other entities.

The Declaration of Emergency was issued yesterday, and will remain in affect until further notice. The Emergency Managers are in charge of the Emergency Declaration. No travel is recommended. We will keep the Declaration in place for as long as we need to. We need to get ahead of the 'monster' it may be six (6) weeks to a couple of months. Clean up will be much longer and tedious.

At this time, we are telling people to protect their own property. We are trying to make a general safety net. Advisories have been in affect since yesterday. We need to request the public respect the travel ban. We will have a better handle after a couple days of boots to the ground. Highway 275 is closed and nobody knows when it will reopen. Norfolk has shut down at this time.

Diane Colson, Antelope Memorial Hospital CEO, asked about transferring of patients to hire level of care. It was discussed emergency vehicles will be cleared, and County personnel will help get transfers through.

The shelter at Neligh Fire Hall is County wide. At present, there is no power outages in Antelope County. Sandbags are available at the Sheriff's Office and in Clearwater – please call. Command post in Norfolk did not answer. Antelope County Red Cross has been disbanded and is not available for assistance. Neligh Fire and EMS ran with the request and have rocked. From food to cots things have been taken care of. Nobody has been turned away. Neligh City and Fire & Rescue deserve a great thank you and a pat on the back. Casey reiterated how appreciative the County is of all the volunteers and help.

Contact numbers for texts were shared between Emergency Management Team and first responders, fire departments and city personnel.

Discussion of what can be done for the people at the Fire Hall. Other things needed can be requested.

Discussion of available funds to help with shelters, or immediate relief efforts. Motion by Commissioner Bentley, seconded by Commissioner Jacob to allow up to \$10,000.00 for emergency relief. Voting aye: Bentley, Jacob, Henery, Smith and Borer. Nays none. Motion carried. Motion be Commissioner Henery, seconded by Commissioner Smith to take the Emergency money out of the Inheritance Fund, this money will be requested by the Emergency Manager. Voting aye: Henery, Smith, Bentley, Jacob and Borer. Nays none. Motion carried.

Tessa Hain asked if there is something the public could do. At this time everybody agreed to support each other.

Kudos expressed to everybody from dispatchers, road employees, fire and rescue personnel, lunch contributors, etc.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith seconded by Commissioner Bentley to **adjourn**. Voting aye: Smith, Jacob, Bentley and Borer. Henery absent. Nays none. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 PM.

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Chairman of the Board, Thomas Borer

Attest: _____
County Clerk, Lisa Payne