



Chairperson: Matt Maas, Dodge County
Vice Chairperson: Joe Johnson, Rice County
Recorder: Tammy Stewig, Le Sueur County
Fiscal Agent: Interim Ben Klinger, Winona County

Location: Olmsted County EOC

Date: March 6, 2026

Official meeting called to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Matt Maas at 12:00pm

Roll Call/Introductions:

Sign-In Sheet was available for everyone to sign-in.

Contact Information was updated as needed.

Approve Agenda:

Matt Maas had an addition to the agenda.

Item d under new business, camera trailer schedule.

Matt Maas requested approval of the agenda:

- Motion to approve by Winona County
- Second by Mower County
- Motion passed

Approve prior Meeting Minutes:

Matt Maas requested approval of the minutes of the January 9, 2026, meeting:

- Motion to approve by Olmsted County
- Second by Wabasha County
- Motion passed

Special Guests: None present.

Financials and Grants:

There will be expenses for repairing two camera trailers, this expense was approved at a prior meeting.

Third camera trailer has been ordered and will be paid out of the checking account and later reimbursed by the SHSP grant.

We currently have \$84,110.55 in checking. There is some grant money awarded that will be put into checking.

MCIT insurance money will be coming out of checking.

Progress reports have been approved and are submitted for the SHSP grant. Agreement was signed today by Matt Maas. Ben will submit the agreement today.

Matt Maas and Ben Klinger brought up that the third camera trailer will be stored in the Western portion of the Region (Blue Earth, Nicollet, Faribault, Le Sueur, Rice County). They were leaving it up to these counties to decide where to store the trailer. Blue Earth County said they have space; it was decided the camera trailer will be stored in Blue Earth County.

Old Business:

Reminder that the April meeting has been moved to April 10th.

New Business:

2026 dues will be \$1,000. The dues pay for insurance, website, camera trailers, etc.

- Motion to approve by Winona County
- Second by Mower County
- Motion passed

SE MN Disaster Health Coalition Representations is need of two new people, a primary and alternate. Kim Flanagan and Kristen Sailer are both stepping down after five years. City of Rochester will discuss and get back to the Region. Olmsted County Public Health could possibly be an alternate. SE MN Disaster Health Coalition Representative was tabled until the April meeting.

HERT training in Northfield went well considering we were short on trainers. Region 2 attended the training as observers. They are starting the program in the Region 2 area.

Future vision of HERT:

- Schedule for instructors
- Need more instructors
- SE RACK chair to add to agenda for LE instructors
- Need hosts
- Volunteer pool
- Food and beverage cost for hosts

Earl Merchlewitz will schedule a meeting for the current instructors.

Camera Trailer schedule was emailed out and Matt Maas has added it to WebEOC. Add your events to the schedule and email it back to Matt. As of now we have two trailers, hoping the third trailer is available by summer.

Updates:

SEMNDHC sent out an email on February 2nd giving three options for training. Region 1 EM's requested leadership training.

SC MN Healthcare Coalition will be hosting a Regional High Pathogenic Avian Influenza Workshop and Functional Exercise May 15, 2026.

HSEM Update email sent regarding HSEM grants.

AMEM two positions will be open. Conference committee is working on breakouts and main speakers. Conference dates are September 20-23, 2026. Professional Development Committee had a meeting Thursday.

AMEM Professional Development Committee 2027 AMEM exercise was discussed. UP Railroad was contacted. They are willing to conduct a full-scale exercise, plan and budget for it. Fillmore, Rice and Steele County will decide who is hosting the exercise.

Legislative Committee discussed having Emergency Managers established as essential employees. (see your email from John Stronitharm)

County/City/Tibe Updates

- National Guard:
January 7th had 1000 soldiers in the Metro, down to 500

- Mower County:
Rail Exercise scheduled for April 29, 2026
Cyber Attack has been approved as Cat B

- Faribault County:
Email hack

- Freeborn County:
Working with Spearmint Energy-Midwest Energy BESS, installing windmills

- PIIC:
Exercise planned for April with CPKC Railroad this summer
Working with Red Cross doing smoke detector installs

- Waseca County:
HMP resolution signed
Notification System is now Regroup
Mower County will be coming to present on CyberSecurity Attack

- Blue Earth County:
Has switched to Regroup, signing up for notices has been a disaster
Siren system upgrade is underway
Working on buy-outs with the floods

- Goodhue County:
Drills and Exercises are underway
June 17 and 18, 2026 Rail Exercise with HazMat Spill
Search and Rescue Exercise September 12, 2026
School Mapping Exercise TBD
- Winona County:
Reported on January 22, 2026 cyber attack.
Received a phone call from dispatch and IT found a ransom note
Declared right away, MCIT did not like it, County Attorney was involved
Mower County was helpful
BCA arrived in less than 4 hours of contacting them
National Guard was discussed to activate, but did not need to request
Caught soon enough, just the server was affected (had no shared drives)
Never lost email with Microsoft 365
Phones had issues, until routers were installed
1st Net was contacted to get hotspots
2 weeks to get CAD up and running. Still no RGL.
Still working on getting things working, about 75-80% back up and running
1st day after attack, did not send non-essential home, send them home so
IT can do their work.
IT and EM prioritized importance of what needed to get done.
- City of Rochester:
Code Red back up and running
Full-scale exercise August 3rd and 4th
Bomb Threat at MCHS, lasted approximately 1 hour
New Transit System coming to, will have an exercise next year
- Steele County:
CERT training completed
Cyber Security COOP tabletop exercise
COOP is being updated
- Le Sueur County:
Acquisition for 1 home from the floods, found out there is endangered turtles in
the area
JOYRIDE (safe and sober free ride home) being offered to community
celebrations

Walk-ins: none

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:38pm

- Motion to approve by Waseca County
- Second by PIIC
- Motion passed

Meeting Attendees			
Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Paul Barta	Blue Earth County	Sue Jahnke	Faribault County
Jason Harmening	Fillmore County	Adam Hamberg	Freeborn County
Earl Merchlewitz	Goodhue County	Malloree McCarthy	Goodhue County
Mark Olson	Houston County	Tammy Stewig	Le Sueur County
Amy Bramwell	Mower County	Dave Pike	Mower County
Justin Block	Nicollet County	Jonthan Jacobson	Olmsted County
Nick Jacobson	Olmsted County	Kim Flanagan	Prairie Island Indian Community
Joe Johnson	Rice County	Megan Ringhofer	Steele County
Kristen Sailer	Steele County	Matt Maas	Dodge County
Brenda Tomlinson	Wabasha County	Denise Wright	Waseca County
Ben Klinger	Winona County	Brett Knapp	City of Rochester
Grant Eckhoff	City of Rochester	Mike Peterson	HSEM
Grady Nelson	City of Red Wing		

Next Meeting Date and Location:

Date	Host	Address
April 10, 2026	Steele County	630 Florence Ave, Owatonna, MN

Treats will be provided by Dodge County.