



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

**Meeting Minutes – May 1, 2026  
 City of Rochester EOC**

**Official meeting called to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Joe Johnson at 10:00am.

**Roll Call/Introductions:**

**Sign-In Sheet** was passed around for everyone to sign-in.

**Introductions** were made for special guests.

**Approved Agenda:**

Joe Johnson requested approval of the agenda:

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

**Approve prior Meeting Minutes:**

Joe Johnson requested approval of the minutes from the April 10, 2026, meeting:

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

**Special Guests:**

MN Task Force 1 (Urban Search and Rescue Teams)

- MOU with State Fire Marshal
- Specialty in Rescue, Search, Medical, Logistics and Planning
- Request the team from the State Duty Officer
- 2 hours to organize a team
- Mission Ready Package can be requested
- **Incident Response Concept of Operations (CONOPS) will be attached to the minutes when emailed out to Region 1 JPB members.**

Contact information:

Ben Kinne  
 Task Force Administrator  
 MN Task Force 1  
[BKinne@EdinaMn.gov](mailto:BKinne@EdinaMn.gov)  
 phone: 952-826-0348

## **Financials and Grants:**

Matt Maas, Dodge County and Ben Klinger, Winona County have met and went over grants for the Region.

## **Old Business:**

**2026 Dues** all have been paid.

**Fiscal Agent Transition** Jonathan Jacobson, Olmsted County and Ben Klinger, Winona County will be meeting with in the next month.

## **Camera Trailers**

See email from Matt Maas, Dodge County on March 10<sup>th</sup> regarding the schedule.

Ben Klinger, Winona County informed the group that the camera trailer housed in Winona County is at a Judges house due to threats.

## **School Safety Summit**

- October 27-28, 2026
- Double Tree in Owatonna (by Cabella's)
  - cost is approximately \$10,000-\$12,000 for the two days (food, rooms, AV equipment)
- Save the Date will be sent out and EM's are asked to share with their schools
- Swag – portfolios for those attending
  - 200 for \$2,600 + \$40 set-up fee
- Sessions
  - general sessions with MN School Safety Center, CISA and Olmsted County
  - breakout sessions with MN School Safety Center, Region 1 EM's and Rochester Schools
- No main speaker
- ASL Interpreters - working on setting up if needed
- Clothing for EM's will depend on budget

Joe Johnson requested approval of the cost for the Double Tree:

- Motion to approve by Steele County
- Second by Faribault County
- Motion passed

Joe Johnson requested approval of the purchase of the portfolios:

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

Ben Klinger, Winona County suggested MNIT come to speak about the Whole-of-State Cybersecurity Plan.

**SHSP Grant** will be completed by Matt Maas, Dodge County which is due in June. Grant will be for training in 2025.

**UP Rail Exercise**

Joe Johnson, Rice County, Adam Hamberg, Freeborn County and Kristen Sailer, Steele County have met with UP Rail. There will be a 1<sup>st</sup> Arriving Officer training in Freeborn County June 23, 2026, and Rice County in October. A full-scale exercise hosted in Albert Lea, 2030.

**New Business:** none

**Updates:****SE MN Disaster Healthcare Coalition – Knapp/Eckhoff**

Tabletop exercise May 13, 2026.

**SC MN Disaster Healthcare Coalition – Weller**

Nothing to report at this time

**HSEM Update - Peterson:**

Anyone tracking the May Day protest? There are some scheduled for the Region. State EOC is tracking.

FEMA immediate needs email does not pertain to anyone in the Region.

Roy Holmes passed away, he was an RPC.

**AMEM – Bramwell/Sailer/Weller:**

Conference registration will be sent out next month.

**AMEM Professional Development Committee - Sailer:**

Planning training on Sunday of conference and Monday tabletop exercise.

**Legislative Committee - Klinger:**

John Strongitham, AMEM sent out an email with updates.

EM being essential personnel should pass.

**HERT Training Klinger/Merchlewitz:**

Earl Merchlewitz, Goodhue County; Ben Klinger, Winona County; Matt Maas, Dodge County will be meeting with SW Region.

City of Wabasha is interested in hosting a HERT training.

**Surveillance Camera Trailer Updates Maas/Klinger:** No update

## County/City/Tibe Updates:

### Goodhue County

- MN Supreme Court in Goodhue County with security requirements
- RR Exercise June
- I LUV U GUYS in September for schools
  - approximate cost for 2 days \$14,500
  - Grant funded

### Le Sueur County

- Cybersecurity team meetings

### Olmsted County

#### Tornados

- 5 tornados touched down on April 17, 2026
  - 100 homes damaged
  - 3 businesses damaged with 1 of them destroyed
- Townships learned what it was like to report damages
- Team Rubicon
  - took a week to arrive
    - per Mike Peterson, RPC they are one of the fasts teams to deploy
  - need a place to stay and food
  - gave a contact for food
    - [Feeding Communities After Disasters - Operation BBQ Relief](#)
- Made a request to open National Guard Armory
  - Team Rubicon stayed
- MNVOAD will be requested next time until Team Rubicon arrives
- Community Meetings
  - informational meeting with media present
  - resident only meeting
- City of Rochester EM/Fire opened a shelter
  - open for 2 nights
  - 2 people 1<sup>st</sup> night, none 2<sup>nd</sup> night
- WebEOC wasn't too bad to use
- Public Works
  - tree removal
  - changed location of where to haul trees

### Rice County

#### Storms

- Hail damage April 13, 2026
  - 3" hail and plowable
  - \$5 million in damages – City of Faribault
  - every squad except 3 with damage
  - personal vehicles damages
  - roof damage

#### Other

- Senior Officials Training in July
- New EM for the City of Northfield

## **Wabasha County**

- 2 tornados on April 13, 2026
  - farms damaged

## **Waseca County**

- CERT training completed
- HMP waiting for approval

## **Winona County**

### **Cyber Attack**

- 2 attacks
  - 1<sup>st</sup> attack in January – unknown group
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> attack in April – Click Share (same one as St. Paul)
    - copy machines had to have hard drives replaced
    - license center had to have camera replaced
- Declaration declared
  - National Guard was requested
- National Guard
  - easy to work with
  - plain clothed, not uniforms
- Other organizations
  - MCIT - not easy to work with
  - BCA
  - FBI
- Employees
  - Non-essential sent home with pay
  - Essential stayed
  - **CAFFINE and SNACK for the Cybersecurity team**
  - **SLEEP for everyone!**
- Grants for Crowd Strike

### **AMEM**

- Have National Guard, BCA, FBI etc. talk about their support during a cyber attack

### **Missing Persons**

- 2 missing persons – during the cyber shut-down

## **City of Rochester**

- I LUV U GUYS workshop on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Invite will be sent to EMs to share with schools
- SRP workshop on June 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Invite will be sent
- Full-scale exercise in August
  - Watch for an email with a survey

## **City of Albert Lea**

- Albert Lea Fire was selected as a Type 1 Strike Team

**National Guard**

- Deployed to Winona County
- Armory in Olmsted County opened
  - Team Rubicon
- Winter Storms
- May Day Protests
  - watching and ready to deploy if needed
- Training for Guard members

**Walk-ins:** None**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:50am.

- Motion to approve by Olmsted County
- Second by Blue Earth County
- Motion passed

**Meeting Attendees**

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Agency</b>       | <b>Name</b>    | <b>Agency</b>        |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Eric Weller       | Blue Earth County   | Sue Jahnke     | Faribault County     |
| Jason Harmening   | Fillmore County     | Adam Hamberg   | Freeborn County      |
| Earl Merchlewitz  | Goodhue County      | Mark Olson     | Houston County       |
| Tammy Stewig      | Le Sueur County     | Justin Block   | Nicollet County      |
| Jonathan Jacobson | Olmsted County      | Nick Jacobson  | Olmsted County       |
| Joe Johnson       | Rice County         | Kristen Sailer | Steele 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  | RPC/State of MN HSEM |
| Jose Palaez       | City of St. Charles | Tim Martin     | MN National Guard    |
| Jeff Laskowske    | City of Albert Lea  |                |                      |

**Next Meeting**

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Location</b> | <b>Address</b>                             |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| June 5, 2026 | Olmsted County  | 1550 50 <sup>th</sup> Street SE, Rochester |

**\*HSEM Quarterly meeting at 9:30am****\*\*Blue Earth County scheduled for treats**