

Minutes of the Brown County LEPC

The Brown County Emergency Planning Committee met on October 22, 2025, at 4:00pm at the Horton High School in Horton, KS.

Emergency Manager Don Pounds presided and called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Those present were: Alex Batstone, Brian Guilliams, Don Pounds, Amy Kahbeah, Melanie Mears, Jeremy Forkenbrock, Greg Bebemeyer, Eric Sheets, Craig Wahwahsuck, and Dr. Rebecca Kramer. Kristina Henry attended virtually.

Introduction of Participants – Introductions were made by everyone in the room.

Review and approval of minutes from October 22, 2024 Meeting- Motion to approve the minutes by Jeremy Forkenbrock. Seconded by Dr. Rebecca Kramer. Motion carried.

LEPC Public comment - No public comment.

Incidents in 2025- No official incidents. However, a snow storm in January held record snowfall, in which the county kept records. The county and state must meet a certain threshold for the storm to count as an incident. While the county went way over that threshold, the state did not.

Old Business -

Don Pounds gave an update on the Local Emergency Operating Plan. The plan will take another year for approval due to changes by the state to go to a new system. The plan has been put on hold due to this, and there is no change.

Members reviewed the LEPC Membership. Rich Lehmkuhl is no longer a county commissioner. It is unknown if the commission would like to replace him. Don Pounds recommended asking the commission who they would like to recommend. Don Pounds recommended that Rich Lehmkuhl be put on the Community Service Civic Group. Jeremy Forkenbrock nominated Rich Lehmkuhl for the Community Service Civic Group. There were no other nominations. Kristina Henry's affiliation changed from the Health Department to Kanza Mental Health. Don Pounds recommended that she stays on as the Public Information Officer. Melanie Mears is leaving and recommended that Abby Boos with NEK Hospice replace her. Alex Batstone made a motion for Abby Boos to replace Melanie Mears. Seconded by Jeremy Forkenbrock. Motion carried. Alex Batstone made a motion to add Craig Wahwahsuck from the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. Seconded by Jeremy Forkenbrock. Motion carried. Members voted to approve these changes. Proposed changes will be submitted to the county commissioners for final approval.

There were no changes to the bylaws.

There were no changes to committee assignments.

No other new business.

Next meeting will be held at 3:30pm on October 28, 2026 at Amberwell Hospital in Hiawatha.

An active shooter video was shown. Don Pounds followed up with important information about what to do in active shooter situations. Discussion occurred after.

Don Pounds adjourned the meeting.

UNAPPROVED