

## **BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM**

Thursday, May 5, 2022

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Call to Order:**

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 9:28 a.m. at Middletown Township, on May 5, 2022, and called to order by Consortium President Kyle Seckinger.

#### **Roll Call, Introductions and Community Updates:**

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Kevin Dippolto, Bristol Township  
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township  
Kurt Furguson, Lower Makefield Township  
Devan Ambron, Milford Township  
Matt West, New Britain Township  
Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Middletown Township  
Ashley Casey, Middletown Township  
Christina Bernhardt, Middletown Township  
Mega Bhandary, Middletown Township  
Nick Valla, Middletown Township  
Katherine McGovern, Warminster Township  
Bill Wert, Northampton Township  
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township  
Mark Fournier, Telford Borough  
John Ramey, Warminster Township  
Barry Lubber, Warrington Township  
Becki Wilhelm, Warwick Township  
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township  
Skye Sorresso, Warwick Township

#### **Montgomery County Guests:**

John Ernst, Lansdale Borough  
Sean Halbom, Whitemarsh Township  
Alan Guzzardo, North Wales Borough

#### **Sponsors:**

Aaron Nelson, Hough Associates  
Beth Kaufman, Equitable

**Sponsors Spotlight:** None

## **Presentation Panel: Preparing for the Unpreparable: Tornadoes**

### **Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township**

- A Tale of Two Tornadoes – All During a Pandemic
- August 2020 – EF2 Tornado
- September 2021 – EF1 Tornado
- Discussed what Doylestown Township did during the emergency: set up EOC, officials in the room, communication with the Public Works Department, kept the Board of Supervisors and Public informed.
- Reviewed the timeline of the tornadoes in detail and damage that resulted in the tornadoes.
- Noted that communication was key during the tornadoes.
- What was learned from the tornadoes – who to call to help with the cleanup:
  - New Hanover United Methodist Church Response Crew, Mennonite Disaster Services, United Way of Bucks County and Samaritan's Purse.
  - Activate your EOC early, nighttime events are worse than daytime, if you have flooding be ready for water rescues, be ready to shelter people, cell phones don't always work, if a property doesn't have building damage insurance won't pay for tree clean up, update your EMS Plan and Communicate!!

### **Bill Walker, Horsham Township**

Discussed what happened and how Horsham Township dealt with the tornadoes

Provided tips and recommendations of what to do and what worked to help the community of Horsham Township

- Setup full time Emergency Management Committee (EMC), Emergency Management Plan and command center
- After the storm clean up – worked with companies that were familiar with FEMA paperwork & reimbursement process
- Township “on the ground experience” walk every neighborhood that was damaged and comfort the residents (donations of food, clothing, group/church connections)
- Waived building permit fees
- Networking with other Township managers for various resources
- Neighborhood meetings helping each other out, coming together made the community stronger
- Reviewed various damage throughout Horsham Township
- What was learned from the tornado – communication, leadership, networking, will building stronger relationship, prepare with an Emergency Management Committee (EMC), Emergency Management Plan, & an act quickly!!

### **Paul Leonard, Former Township Manager of Upper Dublin Township**

- Started presentation on what he felt was his failures and what he learned from them
- Personal background of Emergency Services
- Photos of the damage done by the tornado in Upper Dublin Township
- Documentation of mistakes and how to improve in the future – Conditions Actions Needs (CAN)
- Reviewed proposed Emergency Management Service trainings
- Constantly update check list and be prepared for the unthinkable
- Feedback, comments on experience and what could be done differently in the future will help Prepare everyone.

**Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:**

Upon motion by Stephanie Mason, seconded by Bob Pellegrino, the Treasurer's Report for April 2022, was unanimously approved.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Upon motion by Bob Pellegrino, seconded by Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, the April 7, 2022, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**New Business:**

Upcoming events

Annual Consortium Picnic – Friday, June 3rd starting at 1:00 p.m. Warwick Farm Brewing (800 Almshouse Road, Jamison, PA 18929)

Right-to-Know Training – Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 8:00 a.m. Warrington Township (Hosted by Bucks & Montgomery Counties)

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 AM by Kyle Seckinger.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Ashley Casey*

Ashley Casey  
Consortium Coordinator