

MARION COUNTY 911/ESDA COMMITTEE

MEEING

APRIL 18, 2023

6:00 P.M.

Basement of Sheriff's Office

Meeting convened at 6:00 P.M. with Steve Whritenour, Marion County and Community Committee Chairman, leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll call taken by Lori Linder, County Board Secretary. Present were Brock Waggoner, Deborah Reed, Bill Henson, Steve Whritenour, Christopher Krupp, and Debbie Smith. Absent was Creighton Engel.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST: Jim Smith, Odin Mayor, Rex Barbee, Salem City Manager, Terry Mulvany, Salem EMA, Jim Cerny, Salem Fire Protection District chief, Bill Smith, Lonnie McDanel, ETSB (911), Andrew Strong, Salem EMA – Assistant Director, Zachery Weemes, Centralia ESDA, Robert Moulder, Centralia ESDA, Joe Nix, Odin Chief of Police, and Bruce Kropp.

911/ESDA COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN BILL HENSON

Chairman Steve Whritenour began with the discussion of the Nixel Telecommunications Alert System. He reiterated that as of 4:30 P.M. on this day everyone in Marion County, Illinois is able to text their zip code to 888777 and they will receive weather alerts. Those people will be able to receive weather alerts from the National Weather Service via text message. Advisories, watches, and warnings are included. During the enrolling process an e-mail option is also available. In addition, multiple zip codes can be entered to receive their alerts also. Mr. Whritenour stated that Phase I of the Nixel/Everbridge is now complete. There are approximately 3,900 existing customers enrolled in the Marion County program at this time.

Committee member Bill Henson had questions in regards to being out of Marion county and receiving notifications. Mr. Whritenour and Andrew Strong, Salem EMA, responded. A person would need to enroll in each individual county's program if available. Only a warning will be received according to GPS.

Mr. Whritenour discussed the issues that caused delay with completing the program. Nixel/Everbridge had challenges with the communities inside our county that have other counties inside of them. Delay was also contributed to issues with the Program Coordinator. He stated that as of this day, things are progressing.

The main goal of the Marion County Board and the 911/ESDA Committee with this process was setting up weather alerts. He stated that it will be the responsibility of each individual community to establish a point of contact, then they have the ability to create entities with their department heads. Mr. Whritenour will have Nixel/Everbridge be in contact with the community's contact person for further instructions of how this can be done.

911/ESDA Committee – Continued

In regards to the future phases, a person will be able to customize their individual profile. It is called a Member Portal. Up to five addresses can be entered for their alerts, CPR certification information, and energy dependent locations can be entered. Additionally, each individual city's appointed Nixel/Everbridge person will be able to assist their department heads with establishing of their own account.

Brock Waggoner questioned on how this information is going out to the communities. Mr. Whritenour stated that he will be forwarding a letter to each of them stating that they have the capability to enroll in the Nixel/Everbridge program. Each community will have a contact person who will then need to arrange and conduct individual training sessions. In addition, notification that the program is available will be through posting of the letter in pharmacies, City Halls, the Aging Center, Facebook, libraries, Web sites, and at any community events.

In conclusion, the Nixel/Everbridge program will be an asset for Marion County by being another way of communicating any emergency weather alerts to the public. The future phases will offer more detailed information. Program information will be located on the Marion County website in the near future.

Nothing further to come before the Committee, Bill Henson made a motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem and second by Christopher Krupp. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Time: 6:42 pm

Approved: [Signature]

Date: 5/9/23

[Signature]

Debbie Smith, Marion County Board Chairwoman

