

**Adams and Jefferson County Hazardous Response Authority
Record of Proceedings
June 6, 2023**

Location:

The Board of Directors of the Adams and Jefferson County Hazardous Response Authority held a special meeting on June 6, 2023 at the North Metro Fire District Headquarters, 101 Spader Way, Broomfield, CO 80020

Start Time

The meeting was called to order by Ben Barefoot at 1:10 P.M. (1310)

Attendance:

Board Members present were: Ben Barefoot, Karl Smalley, Bob Hose, Clint Fey, Jamie Denison, Dave Ramos, Dwayne Baker with proxy of John Simpson and Lisa Oliveto with proxy of Brian Hlavacek

Board Members attending virtually were: Jesse Miller, Steve Kelley and Jess Daniel

Excused from the meeting was: John Simpson

Also attending were: Glenn Grove, Karie Slade, Ernie Anderson-Thornton Fire, Mike Trvalez-Adams County Fire, Mike Rubenstein-JCSO, Del Kleinschmidt-JCSO, Gerald Lutz-Brighton Fire, Jeff Bybee-North Metro Fire and Derik Minard-Westminster Fire

Also attending virtually were: Andrew Higgins-Arvada Fire, Rusty Richardson-Thornton Fire

Changes to the Agenda:

Ben Barefoot called for any changes to the agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.

Financial Report:

Financial reports for April and May, 2023 were distributed to board members and also available on the website.

After discussion, a motion to approve the financials was made by Lisa Oliveto. There was a second to the motion made by Clint Fey. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

This special meeting of the Board of Directors was planned specifically to hold a discussion on the future of the Adams and Jefferson County Hazardous Response Authority as requested by several board members at the April meeting.

Clint Fey opened the discussion by providing a brief overview of the objectives of the meeting and explained to the group that in order to comply with the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Jefferson County Hazardous Substance response Authority and the Adams County Mutual Aid Chiefs, should either entity desire to separate and dissolve the Adams and Jefferson County Hazardous Response Authority (AJCHRA) or (Authority), notice would have to be provided prior to June 30, 2023 to meet the requirements outlined within the IGA.

Clint continued by reporting that the five members of the Jefferson County Hazardous Substance Response Authority Board of Directors had met in a meeting that took place just prior to this special meeting of the entire AJCHRA board.

Clint reported that the board members has identified several areas of concern with the current makeup and operations of the Authority. These included:

Two-thirds or more of the budget goes to paying for salaries and administrative overhead costs rather than operational equipment and training.

There are too many member agencies that have little or no participation in the Authority or the team.

Placement or location of critical resources is not correct.

Lacking team dynamic; team members do not know one another.

Funding on the Jeffco side is complex, confusing, disproportionate, and inadequate. Funding on the Adams County seems to be more streamlined.

(Lisa Oliveto asked Clint about the funding of the Jeffco Authority by the municipalities. Clint explained that the funding is based on a mathematical formula structured around percentages of total assessed property values of the county and located within each city)

The IGA needs to be revisited.

Participation from Adams County agencies is lacking also.

Clint reported that as a result of this discussion, there was a motion made during the Jeffco board meeting made to dissolve the Authority and separate into Adams and Jeffco as separate teams. After discussion and a second to the motion was made, a vote was taken and the motion failed unanimously. Another motion was made to reallocate funding within the Jeffco budget, committing more money to equipment and less to administrative costs. A vote was taken and this motion passed. A third motion was made to establish a working group within the board to study the benefits and limitations on dissolving or restructuring the Authority in the near future. Clint reported that this motion also passed so a working group was established.

After hearing about the meeting and actions taken by the Jeffco board, Dave Ramos mentioned that the Adams County Mutual Aid Chiefs had made similar observations about the Authority. These included:

The Adams County Mutual Aid Chiefs Trust is comprised exclusively of fire chief and the Adams County IGA requires that there be a representative from The Adams County Sheriffs Office and the county Health Department who sit on the board of directors.

Funding for the Authority or hazmat response in general, is critical and needs to be increased in order to ensure that there is a response capability to the remote areas of the county.

Highly technical and very expensive equipment is disproportionately located in the southern portion of the Authority's response area.

Jess Daniel added as a reminder that the current make-up of the board of directors is intended to represent all of the county(s) and all of the jurisdictions therein and that the Authority must be able to provide services to the entire county including those agencies that cannot support HazMat response on their own due to funding, personnel, training or combinations thereof.

Dave Ramos stated that to ensure equity on both sides of the conversation, that in addition to the Jeffco working group proposed in the previous Jeffco meeting, that a working group also be established on the Adams County side and that both groups should reach out to stakeholders within the Authority's response area to be sure that everyone's concerns are heard and addressed.

Clint Fey made a motion that the Authority Board of Directors establish a working group made up of board members and other interested parties, to study the benefits and limitations associated with the termination or the modification of the Adams and Jefferson County Hazardous Response Authority. There was a second to the motion from Dwayne Baker (with voting Proxy for John Simpson). A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Asking for volunteers to work as a workgroup to report on issues, concerns and considerations the following was established:

From the Jefferson County Hazardous Substance Response Authority

Jesse Miller

Jess Daniel

Clint Fey

Jamie Denison

From the Adams County HazMat Mutual Aid Chiefs

Steve Kelley

Dave Ramos

Bob Hose

Lisa Oliveto suggested that a working group be established to work with elected officials such as the county commissioners for the purposes of identification of high hazard, high threat areas in order to further education and review mitigation and response planning as well as deployment of team assets. This suggestion was tabled to be revisited at a later meeting.

Executive Session – Not required

Adjourned:

There being no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made by Lisa Oliveto. There was a second from Bob Hose. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date:

Scheduled for Tuesday July 25, 2023 from 1300 to 1500. Westminster Fire Department

Secretary/Treasurer