

WHITE RIVER AREA PREPAREDNESS (WRAP)
MINUTES 7-7-2022

Call to order 7:00pm Invocation Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of new attendees

OLD BUSINESS Don Davidson discussed possible arrangement between the town of Rangely and emergency generator provider, Duromax, which is triple-fuel compatible. Cogency solar array explained and the David Tice movie, "Grid Down Power Up" was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS Heather Fitzpatrick gave a presentation explaining how supply chains work, specifically concerning grocery stores in general and how the White River Market is being affected by disruptions in the system. Some of the factors include the Suez Canal bottleneck, labor shortages, Covid shutdowns and other causes, which are causing incremental failures. Alternatives to help fill in gaps were discussed, including: Advance preparation, working with the local 4-H to provide animals and their care. Local 4-H leader, Bonnie Long (Panther Country 4-H) said that her group would be having a 4-H survival camp on 7/16, 4-7pm at the Rangely Camper Park, where the focus would be on family emergency survival. She indicated that 4-H might be a partner in preparedness initiatives going forward.

Heather shared a detailed supply chain video, which emphasized the massive complexities built in to the current system of providing year-round access to commodities, including the complexities of the distribution system. She emphasized that we have a GLOBAL system that is quite vulnerable to disruptions such as shortages in products, fertilizer, herbicides/pesticides, and fuels vital for transportation of goods. She said that many countries have "export bans," such that minimal products will be coming in to the USA; this will require that production increase in our own country to compensate for that problem.

Other factors are the backlog of shipping containers and parts, Cyber attacks like the Colonial Pipeline, which affected the eastern US, and the many unexplained fires at food distribution centers over the last 2 years. Also of concern is the "Avian Flu" outbreak that has caused massive culling

of chickens, bad policies being implemented, such as the Nevada “free range only” rule, which has created egg shortages. Much of Rangely supplies come through Salt Lake City, UT, where currently there is a shortage of bakery flour, which will cause shortages in related products.

There was a discussion about what we can do to encourage local small business food suppliers so that we can purchase commodities close to home, filling in gaps in the supply chain and also supporting local people. Heather said that White River Market is looking at ways to feature local products. There was a short discussion about butchering and processing and about the need to find local suppliers and processors to participate.

Attendees were encouraged to help find local producers who may be interested in turning their focus to supplying food locally.

Meeting adjourned 8:25pm