



Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

January 16, 2018

Southeast Community College – Jack J. Huck Continuing Ed Center
301 South 68th Street Place, Lincoln, Nebraska

1:00 PM CST

I. Call to Order, Introduction of Members

A copy of Nebraska Open Meetings Statute was available for review on the registration table.

John Grimes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM CST.

Member		Affiliation	Present
Sheri	Blaha	County Elected Official	X
John	Bolduc	Nebraska State Patrol	
Steven	Danon	Small Business	
Keith	Deiml	Education	
Sue	Dempsey	Department of Health and Human Services	X
Joe	Francis	Department of Environmental Quality	X
Rick	Grauerholz	Elected Official	X
John	Grimes	Chair, Chemical Industry	X
Jim	Heine	State Fire Marshal	X
Tim	Hofbauer	Vice Chair, Local Emergency Management	X
Polly	Jordening	Labor	X
Sharon	Medcalf	Community Health	
Dana	Miller	Fire Fighters	
Joe	Oswalt	Agricultural Business	X
Kimberly	Plouzek	Environmental Protection	
James	Rashilla	SERC Coordinator	X
Tom	Sands	Nebraska Department of Transportation	
Ben	Salo	Union Pacific Railroad	
Bryan	Tuma	NE Emergency Management	X

Others in attendance: Quinn Lewandowski and Vanessa Zobeck (UNL PPC), Terri Blunk (EPA), Nikki Weber (NEMA), Amber Hoban (Fortigen Geneva), Michael Schmitt and Chris Blair (FBI), Jessica Sherwood (NDOT) and Jim DeFreece (NSP)

II. Approval of the agenda for January 16, 2018

Polly Jordening made a motion to approve the January 16, 2018 agenda; Rick Grauerholz seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

III. Approval of the minutes from the October 3, 2017 meeting

Tim Hofbauer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 3, 2017; Sue Dempsey seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

IV. Officer Elections

a. Chairperson

John Grimes has held the Chair position for two terms. Joe Francis nominates John Grimes as Chairperson to continue as Chairperson for another term. Rick Grauerholz has seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

b. Vice Chairperson

Tim Hofbauer has been Vice Chairperson for multiple years. Joe Francis nominates Tim Hofbauer to continue as Vice Chairperson for another term. Rick Grauerholz has seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

V. New Business

a. SERC Strategic Plan Review and Update

Quinn Lewandowski with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (PPC) provided a draft of the 2018-2019 SERC Strategic Plan from the October 2017 planning session. The October planning session produced two main goals: Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) support and expansion, and maximizing the use of Tier II information.

The first goal is regarding Community Outreach from LEPCs. The intent of this goal is to better support Nebraska LEPCs in their functions by creating an LEPC resource toolkit, providing effective training opportunities, improving outreach and communication to and between LEPCs, and expanding LEPC coverage statewide. James Rashilla is responsible for researching resources and materials available in order to develop the LEPC resource toolkit. This involves expanding the current toolkit and using an outreach committee to post and distribute the location and access to the LEPC resource toolkit. The LEPC newly created outreach subcommittee will include John Grimes, Tim Hofbauer, and Bryan Tuma and involves developing media strategies, newsletter distribution, PSAs, etc. This subcommittee will update the SERC Board in July with their progress. The strategy and implementation of the toolkit, media, and training will be handled by a newly created subcommittee and will include the PPC, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Steve Danon, Sue Dempsey, and Joe Oswalt. This subcommittee is to identify available training by July 2018 and implement by October 2018. The culmination of the outreach efforts is to expand LEPC coverage to 99.9% of Nebraska Counties. The current coverage is around 60%-80% with gaps in rural areas around Cherry and Arthur County. James Rashilla will provide a coverage map and LEPC survey results to the April meeting for additional group discussion. Measurement of success is should include both coverage and participation. Sue Dempsey recommended establishing metrics to measure the goal of 99.9% LEPC coverage in order to more effectively quantify success. The second goal is to continue progress towards maximizing the use of Tier II information. The director of NEMA and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will meet to discuss vision, utilization, stakeholder needs, and review how other states are using the data. NEMA and the SERC will then develop or identify a data platform for Tier II data information

sharing and use. NEMA will develop guidelines and education on how to use the platform effectively.

Tier II reporting requires filing with the SERC, DEQ, local fire chief, and LEPCs. Joe Francis suggested including questions on the LEPC survey that asks if there are things that need to be done differently. Sue Dempsey would like to survey SERCs in other states regarding their use of Tier II data and existing toolkits.

b. Tier II Reports and Crude Oil Updates

James Rashilla: Burlington Northern is required to notify NEMA when a train is transporting more than a million gallons or more of crude oil through the State of Nebraska. James Rashilla has the Burlington Northern transportation information available to the SERC members.

Joe Francis: The DEQ outreach coordinator was reassigned to the water quality division, which causes limitations to outreach for the community ‘right to know’ program; DEQ will continue to comply with the program base. Joann Principato with DEQ IT is in charge of providing facilities with IDs. The IDs will allow submission of information for Tier II data; February 28th is the deadline for identifying. Terri Blunk with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at Region VII is answering programmatic questions. You can reach Terri at blunk.terri@epa.gov.

Terri Blunk: Federal regulation changes with Tier II for the reporting year starting on March 1st require facilities to update and report on physical health hazards that OSHA put on the safety data tree due to the Global Harmonization Standard Act. Nebraska has not updated Tier II to reflect these new categories so facilities need to submit this information along with Tier II to DEQ, the LEPCs, and their Fire Department. Instructions on how to submit this information is Item# 1 on the EPA SERC report. Safety Data Sheet (SDS) submission is up to LEPCs and Fire Departments.

c. Other

There was no other new business updates.

VI. Old Business

a. LEPC Membership Approval (Vote)

There were 12 applications summarized onto one chart for SERC review. Bob Rose of Clay County had previously submitted an LEPC application but he passed away a few weeks ago. Polly Jordening made a motion to approve the LEPC applications; Joe Francis seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

b. SERC Membership

Dana Miller retired from Scottsbluff Fire Department but will remain with SERC until his term expires in September. He was the SERC Fire Department representative.

i. Agricultural Business: Joe Oswalt – welcome!

Joe Oswalt is the Environmental Health Safety Manager for E Energy Adams, an ethanol production facility in Adams (Gage County) Nebraska and assists with rail logistics at this facility. Mr. Oswalt teaches railroad safety and OSHA classes for Southeast Community College out of Lincoln and is a current member of the Homestead LEPC.

ii. Highway Transportation: Vacancy remains

An application for the Trucking Industry position was received from Matthew DiVito; the Director of Safety and Compliance at Crete Carrier. Mr. DiVito has military experience and worked in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina as the military assets coordinator. The application is pending approval by the Governor.

c. Approval of bylaws

The bylaws were reviewed at the October 3rd SERC meeting. There were several corrections and updates which were sent to the Board members for review. The position title under Article IV continues to be listed as SARA III Title Coordinator who will serve as the information officer coordinator. Approval is pending review of the changes by the SERC members. James Rashilla will resend to the board for their review. Voting will commence at the April meeting.

d. Other

There was no other old business updates.

VII. Report from NEMA

Bryan Tuma:

On November 13th, NEMA hired Mr. Peter DeAngelis to manage the calibration lab. The Calibration Lab will go through a review process with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and aims to be fully functional by February. NEMA has held Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) trainings throughout Nebraska in anticipation of radioactive material shipments en route to Carlsbad, NM. NEMA held Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) exercises at Cooper and Fort Calhoun on October 17th and 18th. There was a drill in November and a drill scheduled on January 30th. NEMA will continue to participate in drills and exercises. Drills are an option but will give the staff additional exposure and preparedness. The watch officer and watch center concepts are under development; these are duty officers who develop situational awareness and identify response measures. The duty officer program is now modified to the watch officer program. NEMA continues to work with local Planning, Exercise, and Training (PET) regions to develop two annual Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans (TICPs), as well as communications trainings and certifications. Negotiations to upgrade existing incident management software Enterprise Software Solutions (ESS) are ongoing. Proposals for other solutions are being considered. A software program called BOLD Planning is under review; the program will assist with emergency management accreditation planning, continuity of operations, government, and local emergency operations plans, etc.

Internally, NEMA has posted the Planning Unit Supervisory position vacated by Dan Hiller. The Nebraska Energy Office applied for an energy assurance grant to satisfy the

National level energy efficiency reviews. The Council of State Governments is meeting in Omaha in June. This is a good networking event regarding the transportation of radioactive materials. Bryan Tuma recommends this event and James Rashilla will send the event details to the SERC members. The Nebraska Association of Emergency Managers has their conference in Grand Island on March 23rd and will address developing public/private partnerships and how to engage the private sector. The Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS) integrates the state and federal level emergency alert systems of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Wireless Emergency Alert System (WEA), and the Emergency Alert System EAS. IPAWS was at the center of the erroneous alert in Hawaii regarding a ballistic missile interception, and has fueled media and public inquiry. There will be an after action report from Hawaii to address the error. Bryan Tuma with NEMA, who is the coordinating authority for IPAWS in Nebraska, was interviewed by the Omaha World Herald regarding the processes and procedures of Nebraska Emergency Management regarding IPAWS.

The Nebraska Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Conference is in the early planning stages. No date or location has been set at the time of the meeting.

VIII. Report from NDEQ/EPA

NDEQ – Joe Francis:

Joe Francis gave an annual report on NDEQ emergency responses over the last year. The department responds to many reported incidents that are classified as non-emergencies, those non-emergency incidents are not included in this report. There were a total of nine incident responses over the last year, which is historically average for the State of Nebraska. These incidents included a few mercury spills, railroad and other transportation incidents, and industrial releases. The mercury incidents are treated as an emergency, and involve DHHS too due to the hazardous impacts mercury can have on living organisms and the environment.

Regarding Tier II data, NDEQ has a monthly emergency response homeland security meeting that consists of emergency response program involving complaints regarding homeland security activity. NEMA has attended the last few meetings. Tier II information was reviewed at the November meeting and there was some concern about how to review the location of Tier II chemicals. There will be more cross training and the IT person will train the rest of the department this year.

EPA – Terri Blunk:

Region VII has been handling new exemptions regarding animal waste farm emissions. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had previously adjusted to this exemption but beginning January 22nd the Federal Court requires these reports. EPA is expecting about 25,000 reports in the next few weeks. EPA guidance has been provided on the website www.epa.gov/animalwaste

EPA is planning for the next LEPC Conference in summer of 2019 in Omaha, the next planning meeting is on February 14th. Please contact Terri at blunk.terri@epa.gov if you wish to get involved in the planning committee. The next newsletter for emergency preparedness will be sent in a few weeks.

Risk Management Online Training modules are now available; Terri recommends program two for emergency planners.

IX. Public Forum / Presentation

a. Fortigen Geneva Community Outreach – Amber Hoban

Fortigen Geneva, a company with 32 employees located in Geneva, Nebraska presented to the SERC committee. The plant will begin anhydrous ammonia production around January 24, 2018. Upon full completion of the plant in 2020, the plant will produce up to 110 tons of ammonia a day. All future product for the next 15 years has already been sold. Twenty-two Fortigen Geneva employees have already been trained by the following courses/certifications: hazardous waste operators, fire brigade, industrial medic, and incident commander.

Fortigen Geneva takes the safety of the their employees and neighbors very seriously, and have worked extensively with the local emergency manager, Jim Dunker, and other partners to ensure Fortigen Geneva meet and exceed all safety requirements. Three schools, a retirement home, a hospital, and the community of Geneva, with an approximate population of 2200, are located in close proximity to the plant. Fortigen Geneva have generously supported their local community by paying for the Geneva Fire Department to receive their hazardous waste training; involving local partners in planning and monthly drills to improve plant and potential response safety; provided all employees and the Geneva community with shelter-in-place outreach materials and have purchased the county SWAT and Jaws of Life equipment.

Fortigen is owned by the Scott Family, who are best known for their donation of the Omaha Zoo aquarium. Fortigen won an LEPC award at the Kansas City Conference for community outreach and has plans to expand by building a new plant in the Elwood, NE area by 2022.

X. Adjournment

a. Next Meeting April 10, 2018

Joe Francis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:48 PM CST. Polly Jordening seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote.