



Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission

July 13, 2021
 Meeting Minutes
 Southeast Community College
 301 South 68th Street Place
 Lincoln, NE
 Room 302
 1:00 PM CDT

I. Call to Order, Introduction of Members and Guests

a. Joe Oswalt called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM CDT and verified public notice and availability of a copy of– NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 84-1407 THROUGH 84-1414 (1999, Cum. Supp. 2006, Supp. 2007) is available upon request.

Member		Affiliation	Present
Director:	Jim Macy	Department of Environment & Energy	X Virtual
Designee:	Jeff Edwards		X
Director:	John Selmer	Department of Transportation	
Designee:	Tom Sands		X
Director:	John Bolduc	Nebraska State Patrol	
Designee:	Jason Scott		
Director:	Christopher Cantrell	State Fire Marshal	
Designee:	Bill Pfeifer		X
Director:	Daryl Bohac	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	
Designee:	Bryan Tuma		X
Director:	Dannette Smith	Department of Health and Human Services	
Designee:			
	Alyssa Sanders	NEMA - SERC Coordinator	X
	VACANT	NDEE - SERC Coordinator for Information	
	Rick Grauerholz	Municipal Government	X
	VACANT	Local Elected Official	
	Rod Buethe	Firefighters	X Virtual
	Tim Hofbauer	Local Emergency Management	X Virtual
	VACANT	Public Health	
	Kim Plouzek	Environmental Protection	
	Polly Jordening	Labor	
	VACANT	School District	

	VACANT	Small Business	
	Joe Oswalt	Chair - Agricultural Business	X
	John Grimes	Chemical Industry	X Virtual
	Matthew DiVito	Highway Transportation	
	Kyle Keeling	Rail Transportation	
<i>Others in attendance:</i> Tia Loftin – NEMA, Terri Blunk, Diana Chaney, Dwayne Kerr			

II. Approval of the agenda for July 13, 2021 meeting

Rick Grauerholz motioned to approve the April 12, 2021 meeting agenda; Tom Sands seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclimation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

III. Approval of the minutes from the April 12, 2021 meeting

Bryan Tuma motioned to approve the January 19, 2021 meeting minutes; Tom Sands, seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclimation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

IV. New Business

1) LEPC Membership Applications Approval

A. John Grimes motioned to approve April applications; Rod Buethe seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous acclimation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

2) Election of Vice Chairperson- Jon Grimes was nominated and motioned by Joe Oswalt, seconded by Tom Sands. Nomination approved.

3)SERC 101- Will provide an overview EPCRA and the SERC. This will be presented in January. The SERC compliance sub-committee is working on filling open positions before this time.

V. SERC Subcommittee Reports

A. SERC Membership/Compliance – Joe Oswalt

Compliance is dependent on getting individuals to put their names in the hat. Tier II reporting is being discussed for streamlining. The Cash Fund identified in statute is not existent currently. The Statute refers to a Cash Fund; however, the budget office doesn't have it on the books. This was discontinued due to lack of funds and use. Conversations with NDEE on reengaging in the SERC. The Committee is proposing changes to the SERC By-laws as a way to address SERC member engagement. Engagement will improve the problem-solving aspect and improve public outreach relationships. Changes made added language to encompass subcommittees, not just the four quarterly meetings. Language proposing SERC members shall serve on no less than one subcommittee has also been added. Feedback is requested on proposed changes. Discussions regarding the changes included questions about the "Open Meetings Act": Will the subcommittee meeting fall under the same provisions? Changes to bylaws have been shared with the group in the meeting invite for this meeting. Voting on the changes will occur in October.

B. LEPC Formation/Compliance – Joe Oswalt

Committee is working on developing guidance for newer LEPCs, to include SERC 101. **Jim Macy** spoke briefly about facility compliance, specifically seed companies. The SERC needs to increase oversight of the LEPCs. The SERC discussed relationship building with industry. **Dwayne Kerr** from FEMA Region VII, sees the same problems in all his states, including lack of participation, Tier II reporting and smaller chemical facilities. **Alyssa Sanders** spoke about LEPCs in Nebraska has taken on a more all-hazards approach. **Bill Pfeifer** discussed the need for the communities increase pre-planning and evaluating hazard response. **Tim Hofbauer recommended** engaging the VFDs to find facilities.

C. SERC Website/ Public Outreach – **Bryan Tuma** within NEMA we are standing up a Community Outreach Unit to include the PIO, Citizen Corp, SERC and LTR. The intent is to focus more energy on marketing and social media. IBM and Nebraska Interactive provided a proposal, Priority 5 has provided a proposal as well. Covid-19 funds have been set aside for website improvement.

VI. SERC Member Reports – Bryan Tuma Cash Fund, may have been an accommodation, State Budget Office dropped the cash fund. It provides a pathway for funds including donations, grant funding, or general funds. Discussion about proposing legislation to funding. Bryan announced his retirement, effective September 30.

Jeff Edwards- Resilient water facilities in partnership with EPA is moving forward, hazardous waste improvement rule is in the planning process any small facilities will have more reporting requirements.

VII. Stakeholder Reports – FEMA Region VII – provided information about the chemical inspection program.

VIII. Public Comments – NONE

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Pfeifer, Rick Grauerholz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM. Next Meeting is TBD.