

Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission

May 5, 2023, 1300 CDT

Meeting Minutes

Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

245 Fallbrook Blvd.

Lincoln, NE 68521

1. **Call to Order, Introduction of Members and Guests**
2. John Grimes called the Meeting to order at 1300 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.
3. Member Roll Call —
4. Introduction of Guests —

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | **Affiliation** | **Present** |
| Director: | Jim Macy | Department of Environment & Energy |  |
| Designee: | Jeff Edwards | X |
| Director: | Vicki Kramer | Department of Transportation |  |
| Designee: | Jessica Sherwood |  |
| Director: | John Bolduc | Nebraska State Patrol |  |
| Designee: | Jason Prante | X |
| Director: | Scott Cordes | State Fire Marshal |   |
| Designee: | Bill Pfeifer | X |
| Director: | Daryl Bohac | Nebraska Emergency Management Agency |  |
| Designee: | Erv Portis | X |
| Director: | Dannette Smith | Department of Health and Human Services |  |
| Designee: | Brenda Soto | X |
|  | Rayce Hoole | NEMA - SERC Coordinator | X |
|  | Mark Lohnes | NDEE - SERC Coordinator for Information |  |
|  | VACANT | Municipal Government |  |
|  | VACANT | Local Elected Official |  |
|  | Rod Buethe | Firefighters | X |
|  | Tim Hofbauer | Local Emergency Management |  |
|  | VACANT | Public Health |  |
|  | Kim Plouzek, Vice Chair | Environmental Protection |  |
|  | Polly Jordening | Labor |  |
|  | VACANT | School District |  |
|  |  VACANT | Small Business |  |
|  | VACANT | Agricultural Business |  |
|  | John Grimes, Chair | Chemical Industry | X |
|  | VACANT | Highway Transportation |  |
|  | VACANT | Rail Transportation |  |
| *Others in attendance:* |  |  |  |
|  |  |
|  | Gregg Goebel – County EMJean Engle – Filmore County EMAMarisa Alvares - NEMAAllen WishusenJessica Coyle - Cherry County EMAGary Peterson – Seward/York County EMBrent Curtis - NEMAMatt May – Winnebago Tribe EMAMichael Gibson – Department of AgricultureAmanda Burki – Lincoln/Lancaster County EMADahlia Lewis – CSIARon Pughes – Adams County EMSteve Cody – Otto County EMTom Smith – Dodge County EMStena – Region 26 Jesse Eret – Sarpy County EMBrenda Soto - DHHSDiana Chaney - EPAJim Davidsaver – Lincoln/LancasterBrenda Brooks  |

# Approval of Agenda for May 5, 2023, Meeting.

# Rod Buthe motioned to approve the agenda; Bill Pfeifer seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclimation with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

# Approval of the minutes from the January 12, 2023, Meeting. a. Erv Protis motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Jason Prante seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclimation with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

# New Business

* 1. By-Laws Review & Approval
		1. There are concerns about how the by-laws are inconsistent with the statutory references. John Grime suggested to postpone action on this in order to provide an opportunity for the by-laws to be redrafted. Discussion was held to create a small subcommittee to rewrite and review the by-laws so that they are ready for consideration at the next SERC meeting. John Grimes, Jason Prante, Erv Portis, Keith Kollasch, and Rayce Hoole are potential members of the subcommittee.
		2. Erv Portis moves to postpone by-law review until the next meeting when the rewritten ones can be reviewed. Bill Pfeifer seconds the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclimation with no abstention or dissenting votes.
	2. LEPC Memberships
		1. Rayce is still transitioning LEPCs to use the sharefile he created. New LEPC members are as follows:
			1. **Clay County:** Brad Brennfoerder (firefighter/EMS), Jim Fitzgerald (fire chief), Daniel Hansen (Fairfield Fire/Deweese EM), Janis Johnson (public health), Haley Malone (EMS), Erik Meyer (public health), Thomas Roemmich II (local government/firefighter)
			2. **Douglas County:** Wade Greening (law enforcement), Monica Quattrocchi (agriculture), Nick Thoreen (firefighter/EMS)
			3. Morrill County: Syliva Lichius (Morrill County Community Hospital), Susan Batterman (county commissioner/board member)
			4. **Sewer/York County:** Hanna Miller (public health)
			5. **Sarpy County:** Brian Stolley (law enforcement), Brittney Kirilova (public health), Jesse Eret (emergency management), Kurt Strachota (fire and rescue), Denney Pamela (community organizations), Steve Smith (facilities/industry)
			6. **Southeast PET:** Belinda Hagen (industrial sector), Gregory Lant (Cargill), Jake Babb (energy industry), Tanya Ngotel (energy industry), Melissa Roybal (public health), Steven Vodicka (fire and rescue)
		2. Erv Portis moves to approve the new members as recommended. Rod Buthe Seconds the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclimation with no abstention or dissenting votes.
	3. Open Seats of SERC Commission- Kim Plouzek
		1. Kim Plouzek is not in attendance. If anyone has any questions about the open seat appointees, please reach out to Rayce or Kim.
	4. Sub-Committees
		1. LEPC Hazmat Plans Review- Revision to review process
			1. In the past LEPC Hazmat Plan review was handled by a subcommittee interpreting the statute and was a NEMA function.
			2. Rayce Hoole is looking to pass this task off to the NEMA’s Training and Exercise Program who will review Annex F in the LEOP. Recommended changes will then be passed on for the locals to correct. There is discussion for the SERC to do annual reviews of a few plans a year to look for areas of improvement.
			3. Plan approval process remains the same for the locals? (Rayce what is the plan approval process?) Hazmat plans are then adopted by local county commissioners. The SERCs role is to support plan development, ensure that LEPC have plans, and to review existing plans.

# Member and Stakeholder Reports

* 1. NEMA
		1. The EPA conducted a survey on State Emergency Response Commissions. Surveys were conducted on the LEPCs in the past but not SERCs. Simple analysis is that Nebraska is similar to most states. The most common problems among the states are insufficient funding to have a SERC.
		2. Rayce Hoole is working on an LEPC meeting calendar for the state. No timeline, but calendar will have all LEPC meetings for the entire year.
		3. 2020 ERGs – Rayce Hoole has a few left over is anyone needs ones. 2024 are in developments.
		4. Nebraska LEPC conference is still in the works. Funding is an issue. Goal is to get two people from every LEPC in attendance. The conference will possibly have classes about LEPCs ( Intro to LEPCs, Legality, and Environmental Justice. Tentative conference date is September 12 – 15th in Kearney.
		5. Rayce Hoole is updating contacts in the Blue Book (hazmat book).
	2. NDEE
		1. Jeff Edwards stated that NDEE assisted NEMA with wildfires in April and worked on the I-80 hazmat accident. NDEE is working on training aspects for train derailments. This will be an internal training between NEMA and fire departments.
	3. Other
		1. State Patrol – Erv notes that the last few years State Patrol has been a significant game changer when it comes to drone use during wildfire suppression. State Patrol’s drone assets can be very valuable for hazmat incidents. Jason Prante stated that they are working to improve thermal capability in drones.
			1. Rayce asked about creating a protocol for the Blue Book to get drones dispatched to hazmat incidents.
		2. Matt May with the Winnebago Tribe – EPA Siouxland Subarea met two weeks ago and did a seminar/workshop in South Dakota. Lots of representatives from NDEE attended. The training scenario was a pipeline hazmat event. Two EPA subregions in Nebraska – SERC is encouraged to participate in those.
		3. Southcentral PET is looking to do a hazmat spill exercise. EPA has software and forms they can use to conduct damage assessments. Dates to come.
		4. Nothing from State Fire Marshal. Bill Pfeifer states that the Fire Marshal training division is doing hazmat/ops in the training in the Northeast region. More training will be conducted in the fall because it ties in with firefighter certification. Scheduling for number two training for the NHIT training in June.
		5. Dahlia Lewis – Overlap in her program and tier two reporting. Dahlia is a partner that can connect with locals.

# Open Discussion – None

# Public Comments - None

# Adjournment

* 1. Next Meeting July 13, 2023 (245 Fallbrook Blvd. Lower Meeting Room 031 @ 1300 (CT))

Erv Portis motions to adjourn. Bill Pfeifer seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimous acclimation with no abstention or dissenting votes.