

Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission

February 16, 2024, 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 1310 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 —

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Member** | | | | **Affiliation** | | **Present** | |
| Director: | | Thad Fineran (Interim) | | Department of Environment & Energy | |  | |
| Designee: | | Jeff Edwards | | X | |
| Director: | | Vicki Kramer | | Department of Transportation | |  | |
| Designee: | | Jessica Sherwood | | X | |
| Director: | | John Bolduc | | Nebraska State Patrol | |  | |
| Designee: | | Jason Prante | | X | |
| Director: | | Scott Cordes | | State Fire Marshal | |  | |
| Designee: | | Bill Pfeifer | | X | |
| Director: | | Craig Strong | | Nebraska Emergency Management Agency | |  | |
| Designee: | | Erv Portis | | X | |
| Director: | | Steve Corsi | | Department of Health and Human Services | |  | |
| Designee: | | Unknown | |  | |
|  | | Larry Fichtner | | NEMA - SERC Coordinator | | X | |
|  | | Mark Lohnes | | NDEE - SERC Coordinator for Information | |  | |
|  | | VACANT | | Municipal Government | |  | |
|  | | VACANT | | Local Elected Official | |  | |
|  | | Rod Buethe | | Firefighters | | X | |
|  | | VACANT | | 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:* | |  | |  | |  | |
|  | | | | | | | |  |
|  | | Greg Goodwater – CISA Region 7  Brent Curtis – NEMA  Sean Runge – NEMA  Dahlia Lewis – CISA Region 7  Diana Chaney – EPA  John Packett – Douglas County LEPC | | | | | |

# Approval of Agenda for February 16, 2024, Meeting.

# Erv Portis 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 July 2023, Meeting. a. Bill Pfeifer motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Erv Portis seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclimation with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

# New Business

* 1. Officer Elections
     1. John Grimes remains as Chair and Kim Plouzek as Vice Chair. Erv Portis motioned to retain the same officers; Bill Pfeifer seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclimation with no abstentions or dissenting votes.
  2. Review of By-Laws and proposed Rules of Order
     1. Erv Portis motions to adopt the revised By-Laws as presented. Jason Prante seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclimation with no abstentions or dissenting votes.
  3. Open Seats of SERC Commission Cont. – Kim Plouzek
     1. Previous interviews conducted with recommendation for overview.
     2. Kim Plouzek worked with Alyssa Sanders to identify new members. The work they did occurred over a year ago and the list of recommended members is outdated.
     3. Erv Portis recommends that he will meet with John Grimes and Dave Lopez to discuss filling SERC seats at a later date. As a group, they will coordinate with the Governor’s Chief of Staff to identify new members.
  4. LEPC Memberships - New Members and Membership Renewals
     1. The decision was made by John Grimes to hold off on discussing new members and membership renewals until the next meeting.

# Member and Stakeholder Reports

* 1. NEMA
     1. Erv Porits discussed the Nox-Crete chemical fire that occurred outside of downtown Omaha. EPA and NDEE conducted their investigation within the last 6 weeks and fined the Nox-Crete, Inc.. NDEE and EPA fulfilled their statutory responsibilities and held the offending agency accountable.
  2. NDEE
     1. The Nox-Crete facility has been inspected recently and safety upgrades have been made. A news story has been published online that contains more information.
     2. <https://www.ketv.com/article/omaha-nox-crete-fined-chemical-fire-2022/46526714>
     3. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-fines-omaha-chemical-manufacturing-facility-alleged-violations-multiple#:~:text=24%2C%202024)%20%E2%80%93%20Chemical%20manufacturer,and%20Liability%20Act%20at%20its>
  3. Other
     1. No other reports.
     2. CISA Region 7 – Still undergoing the lapse is reauthorization funding for their terrorism program. Region 7 is focusing on cyber hygiene for wastewater treatment facilities by working to help facilities mitigate vulnerabilities and phishing attacks that can be leveraged against them. Working to promote this across the region.
     3. CISA Region 7 is hosting a water and wastewater sector threat briefing on February 27, 2024. This is an unclassified briefing with no clearance required. Email and links to follow this meeting.
     4. LEPC Annual Reports due in April. Updated Hazmat Plans due by the April SERC meeting.

# Open Discussion

* 1. Confirm 2024 Meeting Dates. April 11th, July 11th, October 10th.
     1. NSP and NDOT have offered to host the SERC meetings for the rest of the year at their respective facilities. WebEx and conference rooms are available at both locations. NDOT also offered their State Operation Center to host the meetings.
     2. Nebraska State Patrol will host the April 11th meeting and the next meeting location will be determined at a later date.

# Public Comments - None

# Adjournment

* 1. Next Meeting April 11, 2024 (4600 Innovation Drive, Lincoln, NE @ 1300 (CT))
  2. Bill Pfeifer motions to adjourn. Jeff Edwards seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimous acclimation with no abstention or dissenting votes.