



**Nebraska  
State Emergency Response Commission  
(SERC)**

January 19, 2021  
Meeting Minutes

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency  
2433 NW 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68524  
1:00 PM CDT

**I. Call to Order, Introduction of Members and Guests**

- a) John Grimes called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM CDT and verified public notice and availability of copy of law in the meeting location – NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 84-1407 THROUGH 84-1414 (1999, Cum. Supp. 2006, Supp. 2007).

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

Steven	Danon	Small Business	x
Joe	Oswalt	Agricultural Business	x
John	Grimes	Chair – Chemical Industry	x
Matthew	DiVito	Highway Transportation	
Kyle	Keeling	Rail Transportation	
<i>Others in attendance: Terri Blunk (Region VII), Tom Smith (Dodge), Brandon Myers (Region 51), Lynn Marshall (Sarpy), Jesse Eret (Sarpy), Jim Davidsaver (Lancaster), Gary Peterson (Seward/York), Mark Arps (Colfax), Gregg Goebel (Otoe), Steve Cody (Otoe), Deanna Hagberg (Dakota), Jean Engle (Fillmore), Kevin Garvin (Cedar), Nic Kemnitz (Wayne), Matthew May (Village of Winnebago), Kirk VanPelt (Stanton), James Rashilla (NEMA), Earl Imler (NEMA), Julie Mayers (NEMA), Amber Schoen (NEMA)</i>			

## II. Approval of the agenda for January 19, 2020 meeting

Sue Dempsey motion to approve, Bryan Tuma second, motion approved.

## III. Approval of the minutes from the October 14, 2020 meeting

Motion made to table the approval of the October 14, 2020 meeting minutes by Bryan Tuma. Motion seconded by Tom Sands.

## IV. Unfinished Business

- **Approval of SERC Bylaws Changes**
  - SERC Bylaw changes of acronyms NDEQ to NDEE and MSDS to SDS.
  - Motion made to table the approval of changes to the SERC Bylaws by Rick Grauerholtz. Motion seconded by Sue Dempsey.
  - **SERC Bylaw changes – motion approved.**

## V. New Business

### a) Election of Officers

#### i. Chairperson

- John Grimes opened nominations for Chairpersons. Sue Dempsey, on behalf of Kim Plouzek (absent), nominates Joe Oswalt. No other nominations were submitted. Rick Grauerholz made motion to elect Joe Oswalt as Chairperson. Sue Dempsey seconded the motion. Joe Oswalt accepts his nomination. The motion passed by unanimous acclimation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes. Joe Oswalt is elected as Nebraska SERC Chairperson.
- **Motion for electing Joe Oswalt as Nebraska SERC Chairperson – approved.**

#### ii. Vice -Chairperson

- Jon Grimes opened nominations for Vice-Chairpersons. Bryan Tuma and Sue Dempsey nominate Steve Danon. No other nominations were submitted. Sue Dempsey made a motion to elect Steve Danon as Vice-Chairperson. Tom Sands seconded the motion. Steve Danon accepts his nomination. The motion passed by unanimous acclimation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes. Steve Danon is elected as Nebraska SERC Vice-Chairperson.
- **Motion for electing Steve Danon as Nebraska SERC Vice-Chairperson – approved.**

### b) Review/Approve Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan Template – Alyssa Sanders

- Revisions have been made to the Hazardous Materials section of the LEOP,

Annex F, Appendix I. The revisions include the nine specific components that are required per Nebraska State Statute 81-15-220. Included is a 'Record of Changes' page if future revisions are needed. The revised template was emailed to SERC members the week of January 11, 2021. Prior templates are not valid.

- John Grimes - LEPCs and Emergency Managers need to be informed that their current templates do not meet statute requirements. The template provided by the SERC is not required; however, LEPCs will need to update their templates to reflect the nine requirements.
- James Rashilla – If LEPCs and EMs choose not to use the SERC provided template, their chosen template(s) will need to be submitted for verification to ensure that the nine statute requirements are included.
- Alyssa Sanders – LEPCs will need to have the plan approved by the local authority before submitting to the SERC for recommendations.

#### **Additional Comments for LEOPs**

- Polly Jordening - Existing LEPCs should review their current evacuation plans, routes, and identify any other areas of concern. It is recommended that local fire departments tour all facilities (usually at least one member of a local fire department is associated with the county's LEPC).
- Bryan Tuma – LEPCs would benefit from Tier II Reporting Facility information since they have OSHA required safety plans. LEPCs should also identify secondary routes for traffic. Situations along I-80 are of concern as many roads are not suitable for heavy traffic or significantly heavy loads.
- Sam Capps – Tier II facilities are provided on the NDEE's interactive map.
- Tom Sands – Alternate routes for I-80 are published. Traffic Incident Management Working Groups for incident commands are set up for the entire NE I-80 route. Groups include NSP, DOT, local sheriffs, and fire departments.
- Alyssa Sanders – LEOPs include identifying ways to exercise plans so evacuation plan exercises may happen more frequently. If sections of a LEOP do not apply to a county, that county may adjust their LEOP accordingly.
- Alyssa Sanders & Bill Pfeifer – Every HAZMAT response is required to have a written Incident Action Plan (IAP). Bill is working with departments in his region to complete what is required as some do not know when, what, or how to report. Alyssa has included a reporting tool in the template for LEPCs/County Boards to review.
- Steve Danon, James Rashilla, Sam Capps – Steve recommends sending letters to non-reporting industries with reminders to connect with their LEPCs. Sam will provide a list of Tier II reporting facilities and addresses for James/Alyssa's review and follow-up. If letters are sent, they may be sent to EM's first, then County Boards/Officials if applicable.
- Motion made by Sue Dempsey to approve Hazardous Materials Emergency Plan template. Joe Oswalt seconds this motion. None oppose.

#### **Unreported Release Discussion**

- NOTE: A recent transportation incident resulted in a 'release' and was not reported to the county's LEPC or any state agency. Alyssa is investigating statutes and responsibilities for investigating incidents.
- Jeff Edwards – NDEE covers hazardous/solid waste and fuel spills.

Reportable amounts are to be reported within 24 hours to NDEE and the National Response Center. Failure to report is a Title 126 violation. Jeff, Alyssa, and Terri Blunk will exchange information and follow-up if needed.

## VI. SERC Member Reports

- a) **Bryan Tuma** - To address issues with the website, tools are being added to collect data including the types of information requested and how frequently visitors are visiting the site. The overall goal for the website is to meet requirements for incidents.
- Federal and state data will appear in the Watch Center's "Daily Briefing Documents."
  - BOLD planning software has launched. Current focus is on state emergency plans, LEOPs, and Annexes.
  - The National Association of Counties (NACo) conference is an opportunity for the SERC to engage county officials on meeting requirements.

### Additional Reports – Bryan Tuma

- NEMA's Recovery Section has been tasked with issuing payments:
  - **2019 Flood** - Over \$532 million for public infrastructures (including water systems)
  - **COVID-19** - Over \$300 million identified in state and local plans (costs for law enforcement, fire, EMS, and Emergency Managers).
  - **LB1028** – \$60 million issued by Legislature for 2019 flood with \$2 million designated for public health districts.
  - **LB1198** - \$89.6 million issued by Legislature to address immediate issues of COVID-19. Refunds in process.

## VII. Stakeholder Reports (NEMA, EPA, FBI, etc)

- a) **Terri Blunk** – EPA Report in process. Once all information is received, the report will be sent to Alyssa to forward to the SERC. Nothing new to report from a regulatory standpoint.
- b) **Terri Blunk** – The website's COVID resource page has been updated.
- c) **Terri Blunk** – Web-training updates are in process for Risk Management Programs. Potential release date, Summer 2020. Some updates will be specific to LEPCs.

## VIII. Public Comments - no public comments

### LEPC Membership Applications (not on agenda)

- Sue Dempsey motioned to approve applications. Joe Oswalt seconds motion.

## IX. Adjournment

- a) Joe Oswalt motioned to adjourn, Sue Dempsey seconded.
- b) Next meeting April 12, 2021 1:00 pm.