

## SERC MEETING

October 7, 2014

Cornhusker Hotel, Garratt Room I & II

333 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street

Lincoln, Nebraska, 68508

1:00 PM CST

### I. Call to Order, Introduction of Members

A copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Statute was available for review on the registration table. Keith Hanson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

Member		Affiliation	Present
(empty)		City Government	
Sheri	Blaha	County Elected Official	
Steven	Danon	Small Business	
Keith	Deiml	Education	
Don	Eisenhauer	Agribusiness	
Joe	Francis	Department of Environmental Quality	X
Gary	Gandara	Labor	
John	Grimes	Industry	X
Keith	Hansen	Chair, Community Health	X
Jim	Heine	State Fire Marshal	X
Tim	Hofbauer	Vice Chair, Local Emergency Management	X
Larry	Johnson	Trucking Association	
Mark	Lohnes	NDEQ SARA Title III	X
Daryl	Bohac	ARNG	
Ben	Salo	Transportation	
Dana	Miller	Fire	X
Tonya	Ngotel	SERC Coordinator	X
Kimberly	Plouzek	Environmental Protection	X
Tom	Sands	Department of Roads	
Thomas	Schwarten	State Patrol	X
Sue	Semerena	Health and Human Services	X
Mark	Meints	NDOR Alt	X
Bryan	Tuma	NE Emergency Management	X
Mark	Lohnes	Department of Environmental Quality	X

*Others in attendance: Terry Blunk EPA Region 7, Mark DeKraai Public Policy Center, Hayley Sutter, Ruth Liedle Nebraska State Patrol, and Bruce Okamoto Nebraska State Patrol.*

### II. Approval of the Agenda for October 7, 2014

Kim Plouzek made a motion to approve the agenda. John Grimes seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

### III. Approval of the Minutes from July 8, 2014 meeting.

Sue Semerena made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 8, 2014. Tim Hofbauer seconded this motion; the motion passed by consensus.

### IV. New Business

#### a. HMEP Grant Update

An overview of the USDOT Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant was given. The previous grant year ended September 30, 2014; the current grant award is roughly \$300,000 for one fiscal year beginning October 1, 2014 and ending September 30, 2015. The grant award is slightly less than awarded last year; this has been a trend for a number of years. An unexpended balance of a few thousand dollars may need to be sent back to PHMSA; this is substantially better than years past with more involvement from LEPCs and more training being offered. The FY14-15 grant, which began Oct 1, 2014, allocated \$144,000 for training and \$134,000 for planning; if it becomes evident that there will be an excess of planning dollars, some funds may be reallocated from planning to training; this was done during the FY13-14 grant. The NHIT budget has been increased in the FY14-15 grant. Several additions and changes have been made to the FY14-15 grant, we have budgeted to send first responders to the Hot Zone Conference in Houston, TX and will combine budget projects for the LEPC mini-grants and regional conference and funding for the New Mexico Hazmat Challenge. At a national level the issue still remains that the grant cannot be used to support fixed facilities; however, the National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) has been working with PHMSA and other associations to address this issue. A budget spreadsheet was provided to the members and is included as an appendix to these minutes.

### V. Old Business

#### a. LEPC Applications

LEPC member applications were discussed and reviewed. Joe Francis made a motion to approve the LEPC applications. Jim Heine seconded this motion; the motion passed by consensus. Member applications are on file at the SERC office and approval letters will be sent to the individual members by Chairman Keith Hansen.

#### b. SERC Membership Committee

##### i. Status Report

The SERC currently has an opening for a city elected official position. Inquiries should be sent to the SERC Coordinator or the Office of the Governor. As a reminder, members, Keith Hansen, Tim Hofbauer, and Dana Miller need to renew their membership this year.

#### c. 2015 Regional LEPC Conference

Save the date cards have been developed and sent out to all the LEPCs. The 2015 Regional LEPC Conference will be held in Nebraska City at the Arbor Day Lied Lodge; registration is capped. LEPC members from Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri are expected to attend. The conference begins the morning of Friday, August 7 and concludes on Saturday, August 8; training will also be offered on Thursday, August 6 for an additional registration fee. As in years past the SERC will nominate outstanding LEPCs, please send nominations to Tonya. A call for presentations is currently out and more information can be found on the website.

#### **d. Strategic Plan**

An LEPC Guide was presented during the July meeting; since then, the subcommittee met to discuss upgrades and a survey was sent out to gather further opinions and suggestions for improvement; survey results were overwhelmingly positive and provided some additional resources and web links. Changes to the LEPC guide include creating an introduction with a checklist included, moving the definition of SERC toward the front, and adding additional resources and web links. Keith Hansen commented the links in the LEPC guide are outstanding and very useful; the Public Policy Center intends to update the LEPC Guide quarterly to ensure all web links are updated and accurate. The printed version of the LEPC guide will include a hard copy of all resources and the URL for the web links. The Public Policy Center also intends to produce a one-page summary document; a draft of this will be available by the next meeting. The LEPC Guide will be housed on NEMA's website and will be free to distribute. John Grimes and Tonya Ngotel commented on the effectiveness and professionalism of the LEPC Guide. Once completed the guide will be sent to all LEPC members and placed on the NEMA web site.

#### **e. Bakkan Crude Oil Update**

The Emergency Order on Bakkan crude came out by the Department of Transportation on May 7, 2014; by this Order, the railways had 30 days to report to the SERCs if they were transporting more than 1,000,000 gallons of Bakkan crude oil on the rails within each state they travel. The order was created after a number of accidents, including an accident that caused an explosion and fire in Quebec, Canada that killed 47 people. The Quebec incident garnered a substantial amount of media attention; in accordance, Nebraska has received a number of FOIA requests to get shipping and routing information. Nebraska has two major railroads that traverse the state and a number of short lines. Only one train with more than 1,000,000 gallons of Bakkan crude oil came through Nebraska so far in 2014. The SERC has been in contact with both major railroads and some of the short lines and is currently reviewing the emergency plans. The State of Nebraska has released information to all media outlets that have filed a FOIA. Shipments may increase through Sarpy County to the Iowa boarder. In July, NEMA meet with all the emergencies managers along the route and suggested they look at LEOP manuals, reach out to local railroad partners, develop a gap analysis, and begin training fire fighters to handle a situation if it were to occur. The emergency managers were provided with talking points and the most recent information regarding shipping routes, and other information that was provided by federal rail and FEMA. Bryan Tuma recommended a task force comprised of the Fire Marshall, NEMA, NSP, emergency managers on the route, and subject matter experts produce a planning document specifically addressing Bakkan crude oil. It may be useful to discuss Bakkan crude oil during Fire School. A draft administrative rule suggests that railcars have double walls, pressure relief valves, fail-safe brakes system, material classification prior to shipping, and refinement of the product to be more predictable and stable. This item will remain on the SERC agenda for further conversations in January 2015.

### **VI. Report from NEMA**

A discussion concerning the agreements with the Hazmat Teams needs to be renewed; agreements were last done in 2010. NEMA has developed a resource typing program that will be based on each team's capabilities and current resources available. The goal of this program is to assist in team development and appropriate response to any potential hazmat situation. This typing system will be done through a Hazardous Materials Technical Advisory Committee (HM-TAC) consisting of representatives from

NEMA, the Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team (NHIT) comprised of members of the State Fire Marshal, State Patrol and Environmental Quality, the HazMat cities, and the Public Health Lab. The first year of the program will include monitoring visits, self-assessments, and a resource checklist. A kickoff meeting is scheduled for October 23 in Lincoln; a draft of the program has been developed but will be improved upon during the meeting.

A climate study produced by UNL provided recommendations for the trends of weather; the potential exists for increased flooding, prolonged periods of drought, and more fires. Agencies in the affected flood plane may need to reevaluate strategic plan for critical facilities and the processes that go into deciding what infrastructure is relocated.

All the grants ending on September 30, 2014 have been closed out; very little funds were turned back to the Federal government.

John Nelson has been selected as the new Lt. Governor; he was briefed by NEMA on September 30 and he is fully prepared to respond to issues, if needed.

## **VII. Report from NDEQ/EPA**

The Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department is still dealing with the mercury spill at Union College and has discovered there may have been some historic contamination as well. Joe will create or find an informational document that can be sent to schools, businesses, and public health agencies to inform on the costs and dangers related to mercury spills.

The NDEQ IT department is currently updating the Tier II website; it should be up and running by the first of the year with all federally required changes.

EPA reports that as of October 1, no risk management program (RMP) facilities in the State of Nebraska were overdue for their resubmission; over 200 facilities were due for resubmission. Margaret Stockdale is the new EPA Region VII branch chief; she is also the branch chief for underground storage leak tanks. A request for information regarding risk management Executive Order is out; the EPA is seeking opinions on whether regulated substances should be added to the list, if thresholds should be changed, and how to increase the regulations for emergency planning and emergency coordination. The Executive Order dictated the EPA sends a monthly update email; the first email was distributed in October 2014. Additional information and training can be found on the EPA Region VII website.

## **VIII. Public Forum/Presentation – National Hazmat Challenge**

In 2013, NEMA coordinated a first ever state Hazmat Challenge at the Omaha Public Safety Training Center, attendees were comprised of members from the 10 Hazmat Cities and the NHIT team. The top individuals who competed in the Nebraska Hazmat Challenge were selected to go to the 18<sup>th</sup> National Hazmat Challenge in New Mexico. The Nebraska Team was comprised of Ben Schropfer and Bruce Okamoto with the Nebraska State Patrol, Shawn Witham from the Omaha Fire Department, John Clark from the Red Willow hazmat team, and Ryan Cyborg from the Hasting hazmat team. The Nebraska team was the only team comprised of individuals from multiple agencies across the state; every other team was a city-based team. The National Hazmat Challenge is scenario based training with 9 45-minute events. The overall scenario was a large earthquake hit New Mexico and a team of four had to go handle each scenario. The scenarios included being assigned to incident command, mediating a tank leak,

confined space rescue, locating and mediating chemical spills, and an obstacle course. The Nebraska team recently received their scoring information and will be reviewing it shortly. The teams were all separated by about 8 points up until the obstacle course. Nebraska intends to hold a Nebraska Hazmat Challenge in 2015 and again select outstanding individuals from the Nebraska Hazmat Challenge to participate in the National Hazmat Challenge.

**IX. Other**

The Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team (NHIT) Team continues to train three times a year; the September training was held in Kearney and included propane flare facilitation by Hazmat Response.

The Department of Roads has updated their 511 website (511.nebraska.gov) and has created an accompanying mobile app.

**X. Adjournment**

Kim Plouzek made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Swarten seconded this motion; the motion passed by consensus. The Meeting adjourned at 2:56 PM.

**XI. Next Meeting**

The next SERC meeting will be January 6, 2015 at 1:00 PM at NET in Lincoln.

**Appendix I:  
LEPC Membership Applications**

Name	Email	Representing	Occupation	County
Jackie Larrington	<a href="mailto:Jackie.larrington@nebraska.gov">Jackie.larrington@nebraska.gov</a>	EMS	EMS	Scottsbluff
William Boyer	<a href="mailto:bboyer@kneb.com">bboyer@kneb.com</a>	EMS	EMS	Scottsbluff
Tim Stuteman	<a href="mailto:gagecoema@diodecom.net">gagecoema@diodecom.net</a>	EM	EMA	Homestead
Larry Mattson	<a href="mailto:rudyliz@gtmc.net">rudyliz@gtmc.net</a>	EM	EMA	South Central
Dale Herrington	<a href="mailto:Burwell1970@gmail.com">Burwell1970@gmail.com</a>	EM	EMA	South Central