

SERC Business Meeting

January 3, 2012, 1:00 PM

- I. Call to Order – 1:00 pm, Tim Hofbauer, Chairing
Introduction of Members

The open meeting Statute is available for review.

Member	Affiliation	Present	
John	Baroni	County Elected Official	X
Al	Berndt	NE Emergency Management	
(empty)		Chemistry	
Steven	Danon	Small Business	
Keith	Deiml	Education	X
Don	Eisenhauer	Agribusiness	X
John	Falgione	State Fire Marshal	X
Joe	Francis	Department of Environmental Quality	X
Gary	Gandara	Labor	
Keith	Hansen	Community Health	X
Tim	Hofbauer	Local Emergency Management	X
Larry	Johnson	Trucking Association	
Judd	Lyons	ARNG	
Mark	Lohnes	NDEQ SARA Title III	
(empty)		City Government	
Mark	Maday	Transportation	X
Dana	Miller	Vice Chair, Fire	X video conference
Tonya	Ngotel	SERC Coordinator	X
Kimberly	Plouzek	Environmental Protection	X
Tom	Sands	Department of Roads	X
Thomas	Schwarten	State Patrol	X
Sue	Semerena	Health and Human Services	X
Jessica	Sherwood	NDOR Alt	

Other Attendees: Janell Walther, Public Policy Center; Andra Backer, Public Policy Center; Mark DeKraai, Public Policy Center; Aemel Khattack, UNL Transportation Center.

Attendees Via Video Conference: Terri Blunk, Region 7 EPA; Jodi Harper, Region 7 EPA; Doug Ferguson, Region 7 EPA; Don Linegar, Region 7 EPA; Kevin Larson, Region 7 EPA.

- II. Approval of Agenda
Joe Francis made a motion to approve the agenda for January 3, 2012. Keith Hansen seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.
- III. Approval of Minutes
Keith Hansen made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2011 SERC Business Meeting. Don Eisenhauer seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

IV. New Business

a. Election of officers – Tonya Ngotel, NEMA

NEMA and the SERC received notice that Dick Christensen retired as the SERC chair, thus leaving this position and the position of chemical industry open. Annually in January, a Chair and Vice Chair must be elected. Only citizen members of the Commission are allowed to hold these positions, per NEPCRA.

Joe Francis nominated Keith Hansen for Chair. Tim Hofbauer seconded the nomination. Keith Hansen accepted the nomination. Kim Plouzek motioned to cease nominations and approve Keith Hansen for SERC Chair. Mark Maday seconded the motion; the motion for Keith Hansen to chair is approved by consensus. Keith Hansen chairs the remainder of the SERC Meeting.

Sue Semerena nominated Tim Hofbauer to serve as Vice Chair. Dana Miller seconded the nomination. Tim Hofbauer accepted the nomination. Mark Maday made a motion to cease nominations for Vice Chair. Sue Semerena seconded the motion; the motion to cease nominations and approval of Tim Hofbauer to serve as Vice Chair passed by consensus.

V. Old Business

a. LEPC Membership Approval – Tonya Ngotel, NEMA

It is an ongoing issue that several of the applications submitted are illegible. The group was encouraged to emphasize to the LEPCs to write names and addresses legibly and to ensure that they are filling out the proper application (the new form is on the web site). Sue Semerena commented that she was pleased to see an applicant representing people with disabilities from Seward County.

Sue Semerena made a motion to approve the LEPC Applications (see attached for listing). Tom Sands seconded the motion; the motion was approved by consensus.

b. SERC Membership Committee – Tonya Ngotel, NEMA

Dick Christensen retired, there for the chemical representative position is empty. Members are encouraged to seek someone from a Co-op or someone who is hands-on who could bring valuable information to serve as a representative of the chemical industry. Nominations should be submitted to Tonya Ngotel, Keith Hansen, and/or Tim Hofbauer. There is also a position in city government that is vacant.

c. SERC Subcommittee Report

i. Public Outreach/LEPC Support – Mark DeKraai, Public Policy Center

Mark DeKraai from the Public Policy Center discussed the strategic communication plan that emphasized legislative outreach for the current quarter. The goal is to inform Nebraska Legislators of the role and function of LEPCs and SERC. A conference call will be held to discuss logistics and goals further. All agreed that it would serve as good publicity for SERC and LEPC goals and efforts.

d. 2012 LEPC Workshops – Tonya Ngotel, NEMA

Save the Date cards for the 2012 LEPC Workshops have been mailed out. Four LEPC Workshops will be held this year tailored to each region as follows:

- April 3-4, Scottsbluff (with SERC Meeting)
- June 15-16, Ainsworth
- June 28-29, Norfolk
- July 12-13, York (with SERC Meeting)

Members are encouraged to attend all four LEPC Workshops, particularly the ones that include SERC Meetings. If you wish to be included on any of the agendas, please contact Tonya Ngotel.

- e. Hazardous Materials Response, Emergency Management Act Revision
In light of recent responses NEMA has requested a change in the Nebraska Emergency Management Act Section 81-829.52 to include a hazmat response. This change would allow hazardous materials teams to be called out similar to the current wild land fire response. Senator Scott Price introduced LB766. The SERC will follow this as it goes into session.
- f. UNL Commodity Flow Study Report – Dr. Aemal Khattak
Dr. Khattak presented a slide show on the Commodity Flow Study. The study focused on truck shipment data both into, out of, through, and within Nebraska. The survey consisted of 27 questions with skip logic and was administered over the phone. The response rate for the survey overall was 48.5%, for a total of 555 surveys. The survey was weighted. 29% of survey responders reported that shipments involve hazardous materials, and only 1% of outbound shipments are hazardous materials. A more detailed analysis of the survey data is planned to look for patterns and more specific information. An additional survey is planned for truck drivers. This data will be used for predicting freight models, transportation planning, and consulting. UNL will be the primary user, but the data is public information. The SERC will share the information with local fire and LEPCs for planning purposes. See attached slideshow presentation handout.

VI. Report From NEMA – Tonya Ngotel, NEMA
The current date set for NEMA to move into the new building is summer 2012. While most of the staff will be moving, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will remain in the bunker for at least one more year. The Nebraska State Patrol reports that this is the same date they are using for their dispatch to move as well. Tonya reported that the 2012 Emergency Response Guidebooks will be coming out in March. Orders for 2012 ERGs should be submitted to Tonya. There was discussion to schedule a HazMat class. Currently, the HMEP grant covers technician level courses. NEMA will continue to solicit other agencies to see who is available to conduct this training. No Hazmat training is scheduled as of yet.

VII. Report from NDEQ/EPA
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) – Joe Francis
NDEQ and EPA are responding to mercury incidents. DHHS had been the primary response agency. NDEQ has ability to respond within 24 hours with the proper protective equipment. They have responded to four or five incidents in the past two months. Current practice outlines that HHS will respond to small scale incidents, and DEQ will respond to significant incidents. Each incident response will be determined on a case by case basis. The Health Department is currently involved in outreach. Mark Lohnes from DEQ recently attended the York, Seward, and Adams county LEPC meetings, and would encourage others to attend. The Committee discussed potential usage of credentialing machines. There is a push among DHS for specific credentials to enter into ICPs and EOCs. A meeting will take place this Friday to discuss a statewide credentialing database similar to what is being used in Kansas. Software already exists in Nebraska and may be used for a statewide registry and credential management system.

Region 7 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Terri Blunk
October 2011 was the 25th Anniversary of EPCRA; see the website for more information and videos (<http://www.epa.gov/oem/content/epcra/epcra25.htm>). EPA is looking into broadening the scope of TRI. Ideas may be submitted via the website. Additionally, there are plans to have seed grants available. Contact Tina Wilkins for various training opportunities and seed grant information. Fines on industry may be applied to local areas in that the industry can work in partnership with the locals. With these projects, some money can go back to local areas instead of the federal government. These decisions are often made through the case review officer. For the full Region 7 EPA report, see attached handout.

VIII. Public Forum / Presentations

Lisa Reichenbacher, a Grant Specialist from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), a division of the Department of Transportation (USDOT), joined in via conference call. Tonya Ngotel briefly reviewed the slides from a presentation that was done in March (see attached slideshow handout). Changes in the grant are expected with a more web-based system. PHMSA will publish a new list of allowable expenses to the grant on their website.

There will be a 2012 HazMat symposium held in Hastings, NE March 23-24. It will include an eight hour HazMat IQ course and a HazMat Safety Officer class. This will be a good conference to attend to support the symposium.

IX. Next Meeting:

- a. The SERC will meet at Western Nebraska Community College – Harms Advanced Technology Center in Scottsbluff, NE on April 3, 2012 at 1:00 pm.

X. Adjourn

Joe Francis made a motion to adjourn the SERC Business meeting. Keith Hansen seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.