

STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

1300 Hours, April 7, 2009
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Room 2018
Omaha, Nebraska 68501

Chairman Dick Christensen called the meeting of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) to order at 1320 hours, this date.

I. APPOINTEES IN ATTENDANCE:

Steve Danon, Small Business
John Falgione, State Fire Marshal
Keith Hansen, Community Health
Tim Hofbauer, Emergency Management
Jim Schmailzl, Department of Roads
Richard Christensen, SERC Chair, Chemical Industry
Mark Lohnes for Joe Francis, Department of Environmental Quality
Bret Friezz for Thomas Schwarten, Nebraska State Patrol
Gary Gandara, Labor
Larry Johnson, Trucking

APPOINTEES ABSENT:

Dana Miller, SERC Vice Chair Fire Fighters
Don Eisenhauer, Agribusiness
Al Berndt, for MG Kadavy, US Military - NEMA
Keith Deiml, Education
Sue Semerena, Department of Health & Human Services, R&L

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Tonya Ngotel, NEMA
Terri Blunk, USEPA Region 7
Ted Argintean, Douglas County LEPC
Lynn Marshall, Sarpy County EMA
Dale Tedder, Sarpy County LEPC
Bill Mulherin, National Safety Council
Tony Sambol, UNMC
Paul Johnson, Douglas County EMA
Beth Beam, UNMC
Kate Boulter, UNMC
John Peters, Offutt Air Force

Due to several SERC Members traveling to a distant location the public forum section of the agenda was moved to the beginning of the meeting to ensure a quorum was met. In order to maintain consistency in meeting minutes the public forum section will remain towards the end of the minutes. Questions regarding this change or the meeting minutes should be directed to the SERC Coordinator at (402) 471-7421.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

After the welcome and introductions, Chairman Christensen brought the SERC's attention to the agenda for the April 7th meeting. Changes or additions to the agenda were sought. No changes were noted. Agenda was approved through general consensus.

III. APPROVAL OF THE 6 JANUARY 09 MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Christensen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the 06 January 09 meeting minutes. With no changes noted, Chairman Christensen asked for a motion to accept the minutes. A motion was made by Keith Hansen and seconded by Tim Hofbauer. A voice vote was taken and the results were unanimous. Discussion was held about sending the meeting minutes, notices etc in an electronic manner as opposed to hard copy. It was determined that the SERC information would be sent electronically to the members and posted on the NEMA web site for review.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Vote on Amended by-laws

Dick Christensen summarized the changes. The last two paragraphs under Article II are to be removed, Article IV, section 6 has been clarified, a statement was added stating that the vice-chair will be a citizen member. With no comments noted, Chairman Christensen asked for a motion to adopt the by-laws. A motion was made by Steve Danon and seconded by Larry Johnson. A voice vote was taken and the results were unanimous.

B. SERC Retreat

Tonya Ngotel gave an update on the planning for the SERC retreat. The proposed date is October 13-14, 2009 and Save the Date cards were distributed. Tonya also asked the members for ideas for activities and topics for discussion at the retreat.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. LEPC Membership Application Approvals (Vote):

The next order of business was to approve the membership applications presented before the SERC.

The following individuals were approved as members of their respective LEPC:

Dave Spiegel	Boone County
Mike Morgan	Boone County
Nicole DeShane	Boone County
Bruce Benne	Boone County
Brent Lipker	Boone County
Jenice Stevenson	Boone County
Bob Carey	Boone County
James Dickerson	Boone County
James Dresch	Boone County
Irene Dresch	Boone County
Carolyn Beckman	Boone County
Darrell Barnes	Boone County
Amy Zaruba	Boone County
Lisa Calihua	Region 22
Bruce Stange	Elkhorn Valley
Lisa Scallon	Sarpy County

Alan Monte de Ramos	Sarpy County
Lynn Marshall	Sarpy County
Melanie Smith	Sarpy County
Michael Wheeler	Sarpy County
Chad Harrington	Sarpy County
Larry Simon	Sarpy County
Rozeann Dobesh-DeGraff	Sarpy County

New members were appointed through a voice vote after a nomination by Larry Johnson and a second by Steve Danon.

B. SERC Membership Committee:

i. Status report: Tonya reported that there are currently four positions open on the SERC; a transportation opening, an environmental position, and city & county elected official position(s). The Governor's office is currently reviewing applications for three of the four positions.

C. Public Outreach Committee

i. LEPC Conference:

- Regional - Save the Date Cards have been sent out for the Regional LEPC conference to be held in Kansas City, August 6-9, 2009 at the Sheraton Sports Complex. Flyers were provided to the SERC members and they were asked to plan on attending the conference. Using HMEP funds the SERC will provide funding for two members to attend per LEPC. Active LEPCs will be given priority over inactive LEPCs. States will be provided an opportunity to get together at a State breakout, there will be an awards luncheon and a BBQ supported by the Mid America LEPC.

ii. Public Outreach Committee

- Keith Hanson chairs the public outreach committee and spoke of the activities they are currently working on. The committee has met and discussed possible projects. One such project will be a needs assessment to see what the LEPCs are needing from the SERC. The information will be gathered and given at the SERC retreat in October. The committee is also looking at developing some public service announcements.

iii. LEPC Support Committee

- Keith Deiml chairs the LEPC support committee but was unable to attend the meeting. A committee report will be given at the next meetings.

D. Other

- Tonya informed the SERC that the Douglas and Sarpy County LEPCs are interested in conducting commodity flow studies of what goods are brought into Nebraska from Iowa and how LEPCs can prepare and use this information. The University of Nebraska's trucking program, Mid-America Transportation Research Safety Center, is looking in to conducting commodity flow studies that will potentially touch all borders of the state.

- The School Chemical Cleanout Campaign is moving forward. Keep Nebraska Beautiful is in the process of creating PSAs. Some schools in the Northeast and Omaha regions have undergone assessments already.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tonya Ngotel reported that four SERC members had re-confirmation hearings this morning at the Capitol. The following members were reappointed; Dick Christensen, Steven Danon, Don Eisenhower and Larry Johnson.

VII. REPORT FROM NEMA/FEMA:

Tonya Ngotel made the report for NEMA on behalf of Al Berndt. Tonya reported that the 2009 Homeland Security Grants have been submitted in March. There were nine investment justifications. There is a 90 day review process going on. The ten MOU/SERT cities are currently being examined for standards, credentialing and exploring possibility for reward funding for compliance.

There was no report from FEMA.

VIII. REPORT FROM NDEQ:

Mark Lohnes made the report for NDEQ on behalf of Joe Francis. NDEQ has been in contact with the State Patrol's Fusion Center in an attempt to give them more information regarding the Tier II reports. The regional response team will meet May 4 in Wichita, Kansas. On May 15, NDEQ will be demonstrating equipment at the annual Fire School in Grand Island. Mark also attended several LEPC meetings across the state. April 15 is the Nebraska Safety Council expo at the Cornhusker Marriot which will include a presentation on the use of the Tier II report information. Mark also told the committee about the National Toxic Release Inventory meeting he attended in Washington, DC.

IX. REPORT FROM EPA:

Terry Blunk noted that over half of Nebraska's Risk Management Program facilities are due for re-submittal of their plans. Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention grants are available for Risk Management activities. The Meth Lab training has been postponed until July. Toxic Release Inventory workshops are coming up. The Omaha workshop is on May 7.

XII. PUBLIC FORUM / PRESENTATIONS –

- A. Sarpy County LEPC – Dale Tedder, LEPC Chairperson.

Dale Tedder was recently elected chairperson of the Sarpy County LEPC, Dale has served as the Fire Chief for Bellevue fire and the point of contact for the hazmat team. Dale was recently elected chair and has goals to establish better working committees within the LEPC and recruit more members. The Sarpy County LEPC is working with their Industries to maintain the TIER II reports and ensure that the fire departments know how to use them. Sarpy County is unique in the sense that they have a part-time assistant, Maria Reiter who assists with the meeting minutes, web site development and TIER II information sharing. Sarpy County's next LEPC meeting will be May 13th at 6:00 at the LaVista Fire Department. Dale also pointed out the importance of SERC support to the function of the Sarpy County LEPC and invited the SERC to have representation at the May 13th meeting.

B. Nebraska's Bio Containment Unit –Tony Sambol, Beth Beam and Kate Boulter, UNMC

Tony Sambol is the assistant director of the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory. The Public Health Lab is located at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. In addition to regular public health testing for HIV, STDs and hepatitis, the lab also does testing and response for an emergency situation from anthrax or other hazardous substances. The lab can test patients as well as foreign substances such as powder. Another aspect of the lab's role is radiological response. Tony stressed the importance for LEPCs to get to know and work with the public health district in the area. The lab has purchased equipment to analyze substances and this equipment is also available at many of the public health districts across the state. A video was shown to demonstrate the use of the isolation pod and the Bio Containment Unit.

C. Nebraska Hazardous Materials Symposium – Tonya Ngotel & Attending Members

The Hazmat Symposium was held in Hastings again this year, they had record attendance. One of the highlights was the Hazmat IQ course, this has become a nationally recognized course. The US Chemical Safety Board presented on a propane incident that occurred in West Virginia, Dick Christensen pointed out that the US Chemical Safety Board is available for presentations. The Hazmat Association is seeking members. The 2010 Symposium will take place in Hastings in March.

XIII. NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Christensen asked if there were any comments for the good of the cause; hearing none he called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Keith Hanson and seconded by Steve Danon. The next meeting will be July 7, 2009 at 1300 hours at NET 1800 N. 33rd, Board Rm Lincoln, NE 68501