

Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

Meeting Notes

October 13, 2009 1:00 PM

Huckleberry's Hideout, Broken Bow, NE

I. Call to Order

Chair, Dick Christensen reviewed the Open Meetings Law information – Verification of public notice, availability of copy of law in the meeting location - NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 84-1407 through 84-1414 (1999, Cum. Supp. 2006, Supp. 2007)

SERC Members in Attendance:

Richard Christensen – Industry *Chair*
Dana Miller – Fire *Vice Chair*
Larry Johnson – Trucking
Keith Deiml – Education
Joe Francis – NDEQ
John Falgione – NSF
Ken Dalhke – NSP
Jim Schmailzl – NDOR
Sue Semerena – NDHHS
Kim Plouzek – Environmental
John Baroni – County Government

SERC Members Absent:

Steve Danon – Small Business
Tim Hofbauer – Local Emergency Manager
Keith Hansen – Community Health
Gary Gandara – Labor
Don Eisenhower – Agri Business

Others Present:

Tonya Ngotel - Coordinator, SERC
Mark Lohnes – NDEQ
Jessica Sherwood – NDOR
Mac McMeen – Mayor, Broken Bow
Terri Blunk – EPA Region 7
Ken Buchholz – EPA Region 7
Janell Walther – UNL Policy Center
Stacey Hoffman – UNL Policy Center

II. Approval of Agenda for Oct. 13, 2009

Motion to Approve 10/13/09 Agenda: Joe Francis; Second: Jim Schmailzl; the agenda was approved by consensus.

III. Approval of minutes from July 7, 2009 Meeting

Motion to approve in draft format with minor typo changes: Sue Semerena; Second: Joe Francis; the motion was approved by consensus.

IV. New Business – No New Business

V. Old Business – Chair, Dick Christensen

a. LEPC Membership Approval

- i. Applications are available and have been sent out. The Omaha application is not signed on the shared copy, but the original copies are signed by the Omaha representative.

LEPC Members Approved by SERC:

Adene Maronde – York/Seward County
Tom Hiser - York/Seward County
Mark Christiansen - York/Seward County
David McWilliams - York/Seward County
Wayne Stohlmann - York/Seward County
Kevin Stuhr - York/Seward County

Deb Robotham - York/Seward County
Barb Liska - York/Seward County
Gary Petersen - York/Seward County
Laura McDougall - York/Seward County
Cathy Miller - York/Seward County
Lt. Bill McClintick – Sarpy County
Rich Uhl – Sarpy County
Brad Hildebrandt – Douglas & Sarpy Counties
Terry Haese – Douglas County
Paul Johnson – Douglas County
Kyle Otte – Region 22

- ii. Motion to Approve the Omaha Application: Dana Miller; Second: Joe Francis; Consensus approval.

b. SERC Membership Committee

Welcome to John Baroni, who was recommended by the Cass County LEPC. There are currently two openings on the SERC representing transportation and a city elected official. The SERC has extended an invitation to Mayor Mack McMeen to join the SERC as a city representative.

c. SERC Subcommittees

i. LEPC Conferences

Regional Conference: Twenty-six representatives from Nebraska went to the conference in Kansas City in August. Most were local LEPC members, with three state representatives. The Broken Bow area received two awards at the conference, one for outstanding LEPC contributions and one to Becton Dickenson for industry support. Tonya extended a thank you to the local LEPC team in Custer County for demonstrating how to put together a shelter in place kit (SIP). Custer County uses this SIP kit as an educational tool with schools, at fairs and other events. The regional conference has been held in Kansas City as a central location, but Nebraska SERC would like to submit a proposal for hosting it in the Omaha area. Steve Wurtz is forming a group to explore this further which will include Mark Lohnes and Tonya Ngotel. Other SERC members are also invited to participate.

State Conference: SERC has three bids for the Nebraska State LEPC 2010 Conference (Grand Island, Southwestern (North Platte), and Lincoln). Bids will be reviewed by a subcommittee (Tonya Ngotel, Keith Deiml, Mark Lohnes, Dick Christensen & Keith Hansen).

ii. Public Outreach / LEPC Support

This subcommittee developed a Nebraska specific survey based on the national survey that went out earlier in the year. The results are in and are ready for dissemination. The data was taken directly from the results and should be considered in it's in raw form. Keith Hanson was unable to attend the meeting but will share the findings at the January 2010 meeting.

LEPC Function

This subcommittee has been working on updating the LEPC data base housed at NEMA and will be working on an annual report for the SERC. If you would like to assist with this committee please contact Keith Deiml.

iii. Subcommittees

Members were reminded that subcommittees offer members of the SERC a chance to become more involved. The subcommittees are always looking for more ideas that people can bring to the table.

d. Commodity Flow Survey

Tonya Ngotel, John Falgione, Keith Deiml and Mark Lohnes were part of the needs assessment that was conducted on Sept. 15. The subcommittee met at the University and discussed what the survey should entail. The needs assessment is complete. The next step for the commodity flow is to construct the plan. The SERC originally planned a four-year project looking at all of the borders. Now the subcommittee is planning to start with the rural areas and end with the Douglas / Sarpy County area. Tonya Ngotel will share this report with SERC membership in the next couple of weeks.

e. Other – None.

VI. Legislative Update: None

VII. Report from Nebraska Emergency Management (NEMA) – Tonya Ngotel

- NEMA spoke of a new internet-based tool, NET Planner, which will help emergency management professionals with community response plans. The system is networked so NEMA can see plans from across the state in real time. Work is continuing on the statewide wireless network.
- A statewide exercise will take place November 18th. This year's exercise will focus more on the response to a hazardous material event and will test the call down procedures of the MOU Hazmat cities and the Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team (NHIT).
- NEMA is revising the hazmat agreement with the MOU cities. The cities have suggested some changes, so it is currently under review with the state attorney general to hopefully make some final changes before the roll out on Dec. 1, 2009.
- The overall HMEP Grant 2010 grant is roughly \$310,000, split between Training and the Planning. Training is divided between Nebraska State Fire Marshal, Nebraska State Patrol, Nebraska Hazardous Incident Team (NHIT), and NEMA. More information can be found in the grant guide from the USDOT. A more detailed breakdown of the funds can also be obtained from NEMA.
- SERC Members may be reimbursed for mileage and meals, which includes travel to LEPC meetings. Let Tonya Ngotel know if a member needs reimbursement. LEPC Grant money can be used for local educational tools, meetings, etc. LEPCs should meet with Tonya Ngotel or Al Berndt prior to spending LEPC Grant money.

VIII. Reports from Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ)/EPA

a. NDEQ: Joe Francis, NDEQ

- Tonya sent out a press release associated with EPA's increased interest in chemicals and the environment in general. Lisa Jackson has made this one of her priorities. There will be increased emphasis and enforcement issues at the federal level.

- Last week, the Saunders county LEPC was held. At the next meeting, the new members will be nominated.
 - The NDEQ is trying to get ready for Tier II season, and putting together the contacts for Tier II. By January, reminder letters will be mailed.
 - NDEQ has been working with EPA on the subareas. There is an Omaha/Council Bluffs subarea in which there is a concern on communication across the border. The Sioux Area and the Central Platte Area concern are getting communication across counties, states, and other areas. NDEQ Omaha and Council Bluffs Subarea Employees were able to travel the area on the river in this subarea with Fish & Wildlife, Game & Parks, and other areas. The group worked to identify sewer dumping into the river, facilities dumping into the river, and potential future hazards.
- b. Region 7 EPA – Terri Blunk, Region 7 EPA
- Debbie Dietrich sent a letter to the SERCs with the latest report and discussed instituting measurement programs. Region 7 EPA is seeking SERCs and LEPCs to volunteer for the measurement programs.
 - The EPA’s LEPC survey results were released and are provided at http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/docs/chem/2008_lepcsurv.pdf. The EPA is looking for feedback from SERCs and LEPCs on how to improve the EPA fact sheet websites and the contact information.
 - Region 7 encourages groups to look at Community Action Environment (CARE) grants available at www.epa.gov/CARE. The CARE Grants focus on community membership and implementation phases with community involvement. In Phase One of the CARE Grant, the data and facilitation are provided for CARE Grantees, but community groups provide guidance for CARE Grantees. Phase Two of the CARE Grant is for strategy and implementation for toxin reduction, such as moving an ammonia tank from the middle of town to a safer location.
 - The toxic release inventory was updated by Region 7 to the EPA Database. The latest database information on toxic release can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/tri/>.
 - The RRT (Region Response Team) meetings are open and are usually held in Kansas City in the Spring and Fall. RRT is looking for people to host those meetings. If Nebraska members want to attend, speak to Tonya Ngotel.
 - NDEQ has money that cleans up midnight dumps, hazmat wastes, etc. Interested persons can visit www.epaos.org and sort by state to list the state clean ups that the NDEQ/EPA has done this year. The EPA has also discussed the cleanup of brown fields and is doing an inventory of five counties in order to identify potential brown fields.
 - At an LEPC meeting, there was a question about where EPA / LEPC fine money was going. The LEPC group will share information about the environmental project program that allows LEPCs access to fine money.
- IX. **Public Forum** - Please send suggestions for presentations for January meeting to Tonya Ngotel.
- X. **Next Meeting:** January 5, 2010, 1 PM at NET in Lincoln, NE
- XI. **Adjourn:** 2:00 PM
Motion to Adjourn: Sue Semerena; Second: Joe Francis