

Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission Meeting

Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Board Room

1800 N 33rd, Board Rm., 1st Floor

Lincoln, Nebraska

January 5, 2010

1:00 P.M. CST

I. Call to Order

Chair, Dick Christensen mentioned the availability of a copy of Open Meetings Act – verification of public notice NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 84-1407 through 84-1414 (1999, Cum. Supp. 2006, Supp. 2007) - for review if anyone is interested.

Meeting called to order by Richard Christensen, Chair.

Members Present:

Member	Affiliation	Present
Richard Christensen	Chairman, Chemical Industry	X
Tim Hofbauer	Local Emergency Management	X
Keith Hansen	Community Health	X
Joe Francis	Department of Environmental Quality	X
Thomas Schwarten	State Patrol	X
Gary Gandara	Labor	X
Mac McMeen	City Government	X
Kimberly Plouzek	Environmental Protection	X
Jim Schmailzl	Department of Roads	X
Al Berndt	NE Emergency Management	X
John Baroni	County Elected Official	[]
Steven Danon	Small Business	[]
Keith Deiml	Education	[]
Don Eisenhauer	Agribusiness	[]
John Falgione	State Fire Marshal	[]
Larry Johnson	Trucking Association	[]
Sue Semerena	Health and Human Services	[]
Dana Miller	Vice Chair, Firefighters	Via Video Conference

Other Attendees:

Tonya Ngotel, NEMA
Mark Lohnes, NDEQ
Henry Tamasi, NEMA
Faythe Peterson, Region 24 EMA
Jim Dully, Norfolk Fire
Greg Hollingsead, DHS
Denise Bulling, Public Policy Center
Jessie Cleveland, Public Policy Center
John Redding, Norfolk Fire

Alternate Locations via video conference; EPA Region 7

Terri Blunk
Ken Buchholz
Steven Wurtz
Pat Reitz
Jodi Harper
George Hess
Doug Ferguson
George Moody
Bob Munson

- II. Agenda for the January 2010 meeting approved by voice vote. Motion made by Joe Francis and seconded by Keith Hansen.
- III. Approval of minutes from October meeting was postponed to next meeting.
- IV. New Business - Election of Officers
Tim Hofbauer motioned to re-nominate Richard Christensen for Chair. Joe Francis seconded the motion; the motion passed by voice vote.

Richard Christensen, Chair, invited Dana Miller to serve another term as Vice Chair. Dana Miller accepted the invitation. Keith Hansen moved to elect Dana Miller as Vice Chair. Mac McMeen seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

V. Old Business

a. LEPC Membership Approval

The following LEPC members were approved by the SERC

Don Eisenhauer, Tri-county LEPC
Brain Daake, Tri-county LEPC
Rosemary Niemeier, Tri-county LEPC
John McKee, Tri-county LEPC
Sharon Vandegrift, Tri-county LEPC
Cindy Havlat, Tri-county LEPC
Anthony Troxel, Tri-county LEPC
David Neimeier, Tri-county LEPC
Mark Jobman, Tri-county LEPC
Patricia Hurd, Tri-county LEPC
Jane Witthoff, Tri-county LEPC
Janet Henning, Tri-county LEPC
Connie Elliott, Tri-county LEPC
B.J. Fictum, Tri-county LEPC
Jeffrey Waszgis, Tri-county LEPC

Deanna Beckman, South Sioux Tri-county LEPC
Bruce Blatchford, South Sioux Tri-county LEPC
Chris Kleinberg, South Sioux Tri-county LEPC
Scot Ford, South Sioux Tri-county LEPC
Pam DeVries, South Sioux Tri-county LEPC
Tom Perez, South Sioux Tri-county LEPC
Chuck Chinn, South Sioux Tri-county LEPC
David Mahler, South Sioux Tri-county LEPC
Jerry Yacevich, South Sioux Tri-county LEPC
Patrick Foust, South Sioux Tri-county LEPC
Shea Scollard, South Sioux Tri-county LEPC

Keith Hansen motioned to approve pending membership applications. Tim Hofbauer seconded the motion; the motion was passed by voice vote.

b. SERC Membership

Tonya Ngotel welcomed Mac McMeen as a new member and noted that a position is currently available for someone from the Trucking Industry and also from the Transportation Industry.

c. LEPC Survey Results

Keith Hansen, Community Health representative, addressed the results of the LEPC survey. He noted that the survey sought qualitative answers and discussed that the response rate included 118 fully completed surveys, 46 partially completed surveys, and 276 “visits” to the survey site. One of the survey’s downfalls was its inability to track individual responders, noting that duplication of submissions could have been possible. Future recommendations may include a more robust survey capable of better compiling answers. Survey results will be discussed further at the next meeting. In the meantime, the survey subgroup will consider suggestions for action based upon the survey results.

d. Regional LEPC Conference

Mark Lohnes, NDEQ and Tonya Ngotel continue to be on the planning committee for the 2011 regional LEPC conference. With the assistance of the SERC, Tonya proposed to bring the regional conference back to the Omaha area. It was held in Omaha in 2003 and has been held in Kansas City since. EPA and FEMA agreed to move the conference to Omaha. The Douglas and Sarpy County LEPCs have joined the planning committee but SERC volunteers were sought to also be part of the planning.

e. State LEPC Conference

Tonya Ngotel proposed that the SERC move the October meeting from Oct. 7 to Oct. 22 to combine the meeting with the Conference. The intent is to have the SERC Retreat in conjunction with the Conference also. SERC members will use the LEPC survey to garner ideas for the state and regional conferences and to

prioritize in order to achieve the ultimate list of contents for the conferences. A list of priorities will be discussed via email. The timeframe (Friday-Sunday, October 22nd-24th, 2010) needs to be finalized by Mid-February and Tonya will make e-mail contact with SERC members to set the schedule for the Conference/Retreat. The content is more flexible and can be determined at a later date.

VI. Legislative Update

Nothing noted under legislative update.

VII. Report from NEMA

a. Al Berndt, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

NEMA received notification that Nebraska would get the minimum DHS money for the 2010 year, \$3.3 million. The planning team is currently working on setting up dates and times for investment justification meetings to determine current needs. Nebraska has recently been hit by cold winter temperatures, a record number of snow and ice damage reports. A disaster declaration was filed and approved by FEMA/DHS. A field office will be opening this week to evaluate after effects of the Christmas snowstorm. NEMA continues to work with the Office of the CIO on the local communications and the State communication project continues to move forward. The process for creating the new MOU HazMat agreement is now complete.

VIII. Report from NDEQ/EPA:

a. Joe Francis and Mark Lohnes

Joe Francis, Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), discussed the recent ethanol spill and a successful recent meeting in which the NDEQ met with EPA and Agriculture. There is growing involvement of NDEQ for air/radiation monitoring with City of Omaha and College World Series that has bred further partnerships with other upcoming athletic events. Mark Lohnes reported that the Tier II letters have reached their final destinations and the biggest respondent so far has been the Department of Roads. Richard Christensen (based upon the suggestion of Mr. Tim Gablehouse) encouraged the voluntary submission of Tier II forms from facilities currently exempt from such reporting.

b. Terri Blunk

Regarding the Region VII EPA report, the Annual National Analysis of TRI data has been released. For Risk Management Plans, the new online submissions system needs to be utilized because the other forms will no longer be accepted. The EPA had selected five mega-disaster scenarios to focus upon (i.e. anthrax, radiological, earthquake, hurricane, biological), and Region VII EPA has been focusing upon the anthrax scenario. A stakeholder meeting is planned for spring. As usual, the Terri Blunk provided an EPA Report-Out sheet, summarizing areas of interest.

IX. Public Presentations

Norfolk Fire: Jim Dully, Faythe Peterson & John Redding

Representatives from the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Department spoke regarding the potentially explosive situation surrounding the propane fire involving of a 30,000 tank of propane at a closed dairy products plant in Norfolk on Thursday, December 10, 2009. Team members agreed that a practice disaster drill four months earlier had significantly helped the day run smoothly. The unified command, which included both members of the Fire Department and plant operators, had been critical.

Greg Hollingsead, DHS Vulnerability Assessment

Hollingsead discussed the Department of Homeland Security's Vulnerability Assessment as a means of looking at facilities not just in terms of a terrorism threat but looking at it with a comprehensive all-hazards lens bringing in a variety of experts (bomb specialists, engineers). There has also been considerable interest in seeing technologies for IED being used in Iraq and Afghanistan being made more readily available to first responders through a three-day course. If there are high risk facilities that are in a community, communities should work with Hollingsead or the state patrol. The Vulnerability Assessment is free to critical infrastructure facilities.

X. The next meeting of the SERC will be April 6, 2010 at NETV, Lincoln, Nebraska.

XI. The SERC meeting adjourned by general consent at 3:31pm.