



## Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

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October 3, 2017

Southeast Community College – Jack J. Huck Continuing Ed Center  
301 South 68<sup>th</sup> Street Place, Lincoln, Nebraska

1:00 PM CDT

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

A copy of Nebraska Open Meetings Statute was available for review on the registration table.

John Grimes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM CDT.

Member		Affiliation	Present
Sheri	Blaha	County Elected Official	X
MG Daryl	Bohac	Nebraska Military	
Steven	Danon	Small Business	X
Keith	Deiml	Education	X
Sue	Dempsey	Health and Human Services	X
VACANT		Agribusiness	
Joe	Francis	Department of Environmental Quality	
Rick	Grauerholz	City Government	X
John	Grimes	Chair, Industry	X
Jim	Heine	State Fire Marshal	
Tim	Hofbauer	Vice Chair, Local Emergency Management	X
Larry	Johnson	Trucking Association	
Polly	Jordening	Labor	
Sharon	Medcalf	Community Health	X
Dana	Miller	Fire	
James	Rashilla	SERC Coordinator	X
Kimberly	Plouzek	Environmental Protection	X
Ben	Salo	Union Pacific Railroad	
Tom	Sands	Department of Roads	
Kyle	Otte	State Patrol	
James	Stefinski	FBI – Omaha	
Bryan	Tuma	NE Emergency Management	X

*Others in attendance:; Quinn Lewandowski, Vanessa Zobeck, Terri Blunk, Brad Wagner, Jodie Fawl, Nikki Weber, Bruce Okamoto, Nate Jones, Michael Schmitt*

**II. Approval of the agenda for October 3, 2017**

Sue Dempsey made a motion to approve the October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 agenda; Bryan Tuma seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

**III. Approval of the minutes** from the July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting  
Bryan Tuma made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017; Tim Hofbauer seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

**IV. New Business**

**a. Nebraska Pipeline Association Training (NPA)**

The NPA is conducting 20 annual county trainings; the majority of the trainings will be held in Western Nebraska. Training in Holdrege is scheduled for Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. The remaining trainings are in Scottsbluff and Sidney. The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant will match funds and can use soft match (volunteer) hours, which provides money at no cost to local entities. The trainings provide 100% of soft match hours.

**b. Nebraska Safety Council Trade Show – October 11, 2017**

The Nebraska Safety Council Trade show is held at the Cornhusker hotel annually. The SERC booth will be attended by John Grimes. Emergency Response guides will be available for distribution at the booth. James Rashilla will be attending the show, will email a registration link to the SERC members, and has funding for two SERC members to attend.

**c. Review of bylaws (previously 2009)**

The last revision of the bylaws was in 2009; the following items need to be updated.

- The mailing address for Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) was outdated
- Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NEDQ) will no longer be filling a SARA Title III Coordinator as a specific, full-time position. SARA Title III Coordinator is the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) position
- The URL to Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS)
- NEMA currently mails advance LEPC notices to SERC via mail. Going forward these will be sent via email or placed on the NEMA website for download
- Typos and grammatical errors:
  - SEC SERC
  - Section V on the second page there is a grammatical error “the SERC may would recommend”
  - Section II “the members present...” lacks definition of the quorum and is currently listed as a simple majority of the SERC Board members. Article IX is an amendment to the bylaws and addresses the definition of the quorum in more detail.
  - DEQ/NEMA/DOR acronyms need to be defined
  - The Bylaws state that, “documents are available for public review at the (NEMA) location.” However, NEMA is not available for public access. The bylaws should be placed on the NEMA website going

forward and reference the URL. There also needs to be a paper version for the public who does not have online access.

- Section IX says reasonability twice

The Members agreed to add an agenda item once a year to review bylaws. James Rashilla will process the revisions and the Members will review the updated Bylaws at the January meeting, and vote on the revisions in the April meeting.

**d. Other**

James Rashilla:

- i. The LEPC application has been revised to include the State's new branding campaign. NEMA's address has been updated. The new form has combined and clarified the facilities and non-facilities forms.
- ii. The SERC website was updated for clarification purposes. Board members are requested to review the changes and send suggestions or updates to James.

**V. Old Business**

**a. LEPC Membership Approval (Vote)**

There were 56 applications summarized onto one chart for SERC review. Kim Plouzek made a motion to approve the LEPC applications; Sue Dempsey seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

**b. SERC Membership**

**i. Agricultural Business: vacancy remains**

Don Eisenhower retired so this position is now vacant.

**ii. Highway Transportation: new vacancy**

Larry Johnson is no longer with Nebraska Trucking and has allowed his SERC membership to expire. Larry did not suggest his replacement. James will reach out to the Trucking Association for a recommendation.

**c. SERC Strategic Plan Review and Update**

There is a Strategic Planning Retreat this afternoon. Quinn Lewandowski and Mark DeKraai from the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center will facilitate the review of the SERC strategic plan. The retreat will last about two hours and will be directly after the SERC meeting today.

**d. Other**

**VI. Report from NEMA**

**Bryan Tuma:** NEMA has Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REPP) exercises scheduled on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>; Cooper and Fort Calhoun will be evaluated. The Magellan Pipeline has been recharged and repaired as of September after the recent incident.

The US Department of Energy has a grant provided to a third party vendor for developing a grid for use in an energy exercise. NEMA presented this exercise on July 26<sup>th</sup> with participation by several public utilities. There was a table-top exercise to test the electrical grid in Nebraska.

NEMA structured an agreement with Task Force One which will now be a Type III resource. This agreement will allow deployment, assets, and resources from the team to help with State disasters. The agreement allows the Task Force member to become a state employee.

The Transportation Working Group conference will be held in Omaha in May of 2018; US Department of Energy and Transportation groups (radioactive materials transportation) will coordinate the event. The conference will provide more perspective on issues around nuclear power facilities, capabilities, and policies that impact these groups. The State Transportation Working Group has implemented the transportation plan for nuclear fuel transportation. Emergency Support Function #8 (ESF8), the Public Health and Medical Services provided mechanism for coordinating Federal assistance to supplement state rescoures, requires the group to meet annually. The technical hazards unit has been restructured to accommodate the loss of Fort Calhoun. The budget was reconciled recently to address the income loss from Fort Calhoun.

Dan Hiller, the Planning Unit supervisor, is retiring on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mike Loftis, the Calibration Lab Manager, retired September 14<sup>th</sup>. The lab facility was moved to NEMA.

The Texas and Florida Hurricanes after-action reporting will likely shift how emergency management is being addressed in the US. Nebraska sent many National Guard resources to both states primarily for ideation purposes. Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a nationally adopted mutual aid agreement, continues to be monitored. The last three hurricanes have been a historic event for the US and has taxed the federal government significantly.

**Nikki Weber:** The federal government was late in getting out awards for all federal grants. The government passed the budget for the grants; the local Emergency Managers (EMs) salary and operating expenses are being distributed today. The Homeland Security Grant awards are being distributed. The Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning grant, which includes a soft match, was also received and is used to support LEPC's, conference attendance, and printing of local emergency operations plan.

The Department of Transportation is getting a lot of pushback from shippers regarding the fees they pay to transport the materials. These fees fund the Hazardous Materials grant, which funds training and planning for response. The Department of Transportation has requested to be more involved in the distribution of the grant. On a federal level there is a directive to address preparedness. The grant applicants have to demonstrate that the state is using the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in order to receive funding.

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

*NDEQ – Joe Francis*: Not present at this meeting.

### *EPA – Terri Blunk*:

Previously, there was an exemption for releases of animal wastes and farms did not have to report this information. This was vacated last spring. Starting in November, farms will have to report releases from animal waste to NDEQ. Next week, there will be guidance to farms on how to estimate release amounts. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website has information on this change. Headquarters are meeting with various farming agencies in each county.

The toxic release inventory was due from facilities on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Region 7 LEPC conference had over 200 attendees. The planning committee is being formed for the next conference which will be held the summer of 2019 in Omaha.

There are public listening sessions scheduled for the definition of the waters of US. Comments are due by November.

Risk Management program training is online and the slides are available for download. The program is geared for facilities, but there are modules for emergency planners.

Removal actions are happening in York and Ogallala. Homes are being sampled and mitigation systems are being installed.

Region 7 sent many people for hurricane relief which resulted in their September meeting being rescheduled. Approximately 40 people have recently retired from EPA Region 7.

## **VIII. Public Forum / Presentation**

### **a. Hazmat Challenge Brief – Brad Wagner/Bruce Okamoto**

The Hazmat challenge in New Mexico includes real life scenarios. The challenge was setup as a state team transitioning to a federal team. There were three teams representing Nebraska and a total of eight nationwide teams. The challenge presents multiple scenarios to the teams and the team responds, then is scored for accuracy. This challenge happens every year for teams all around the US and helps to keep teams up to date with current trends in scenarios.

## **IX. Adjournment**

### **a. Next Meeting January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Bryan Tuma made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:59 PM CDT. Sharon Medcalf seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote.