



LEPC MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, December 21, 2021

Location: 2149 East Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, MI

Call to Order:

- Meeting opened at 9:00am by Chair Dave Vollrath.

Roll Call of Members:

- Chair Dave Vollrath announced a quorum to conduct business.
- Rockey Adams, Ron Bush, Frank DeLaTorre, Al DiBrito, Jack Fisher, Julius Grau, Ashley Geuther, Michael Hansen, Ed Kretchman, William Martindale, Sara Orpurt, Dave Vollrath, Robert Wilson.

Introductions:

- Introductions were made around the room.

Public Comment:

- None

Presentations:

- Nick Bonstell, Steven McCarthy, and John O'Bryant from SEMCO Energy Gas Company presented on SEMCO Energy Gas Company Emergency Management. The department also provides natural gas response training to emergency responders and provides investigation on incidents that occur.

Approve Previous Meetings Minutes:

- A motion to approve the minutes of September 14, 2021 was made by Michael Hansen and approved unanimously.

Approve Consent Calendar:

- A motion to approve the Consent Calendar was made by Sara Orpurt and approved unanimously.

Motions Removed from Consent Calendar:

- None.



Executive Subcommittee Reports:

- Chairperson Report: The LEPC filled two spots but the committee still has many vacant spots that we are actively seeking new members to fill. The membership committee has reached out to people to fill these spots. Currently there is a quorum present which is good thing. I think we are moving in the right direction.
- Secretary Report: Updated The Berrien County LEPC website so that interested community members can easily locate and fill out an application. Also drafted The 2022 LEPC meeting calendar.
- Information Coordinators Report: Rockey Adams stated that Dave Albers is currently on extended leave and provided a few notes to pass forward. This quarter the Hazardous Material Response Team responded to a propane truck that was over turned. For training their two new team members attend a two week Hazardous Materials Technician Course. Also two additional members attended the Tank Car Specialist Course in Colorado. The courses are all fully funded by FEMA. A good reminder for the public service agencies that through The Center for Domestic Preparedness there is a lot of free training opportunities. In November they assisted the St. Joseph Department of Public Safety, St. Joseph Township Fire Department, and Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety in hazmat operations training. They are always looking for opportunities to share training. The Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Program has resources out there to support LEPC exercises for the physical year 2022. There is funding to develop 3-4 LEPC exercises next year. If anybody has any ideas for exercises and meet the qualifications please reach out and we can submit an application.
- Emergency Management Coordinator: Submitted written monthly report. [See Attached.](#)

Membership Subcommittee Report:

- The Membership Subcommittee met virtually on Tuesday, October 19 2021. The committee received two applications for membership. The subcommittee reached out to individuals to fill the vacancies in fire, local environmental, transportation, first aid, tribal, and education. If you have anyone to recommend please have them go to the LEPC website and fill out an application.

Old Business:

- Virtual Meeting Policy: The digital and virtual meeting policy is drafted and will be posted on the webpage for public comment before it is finalized. Return comments to tier2@berriencounty.org no later than January 31, 2021. Each submission must be typed and include the page and line number in which the comment is related to.

New Business:

- 2022 LEPC calendar: The LEPC will be meeting quarterly in 2022. February 15, 2022 at 9:00am is our first meeting. Please see attached [2022 LEPC Calendar.](#)

Announcements/Reminders:

- LEPC Survey: A survey went out to LEPC's across the state that inventoried which LEPC's are still active, have a Tribal Emergency Response Committee, 302 site plans, and/or conducted exercises.

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Public Comment:

- Ronald Bush stated that MPSCS is a public safety system and in order for a private entity to access it there are multiple steps. The last agency granted access to it was another utility agency. They are not using the same public safety frequencies that we use so they will not cause the system to busy out and affect the public safety side of it.
- Julius Grau spoke on a wide range of topics that effect local municipalities and how they need to have access to all resources to better address the issues within their municipalities.
- Stephanie Clarke stated that we need to look into determining the storage and retention of recorded meetings and add that to our Virtual Meeting Policy.
- Christopher Quattrin stated recently there was 7 ½ inches of rainfall within two hours in Bridgman. There were a lot of lessons learned with a 500 year flood. A plan was executed to mitigate the water and within 24 hours it was gone. If it was not in place it probably would of flooded Bridgman. There were a lot of lessons learned and there needs to be something in place to warn the municipalities.
- Michael Lewis stated he is with the National Weather Service and extreme changes in weather over the last 20 years is not going away. The change is going to affect us. We need to work with people in the industrial and corporate level to hire people to watch the weather. It's the little things like getting people trained and getting spotters.

Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 10:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Geuther
Secretary

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