



## Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

July 28, 2020  
Meeting Minutes  
Nebraska Emergency Management Agency  
2433 NW 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 68524  
1:00 PM CDT

### I. Call to Order, Introduction of Members and Guests

- a. John Grimes called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM CDT and verified public notice and availability of copy of law in the meeting location – NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 84-1407 THROUGH 84-1414 (1999, Cum. Supp. 2006, Supp. 2007).

Member		Affiliation	Present
Director: Jim	Macy	Department of Environment & Energy	x
Designee: Jeff	Edwards		x
Director: Kyle	Schneweis	Department of Transportation	
Designee: Jessica	Sherwood		
Superintendent: John	Bolduc	Nebraska State Patrol	
Designee: Frank	Peck		
Director: Christopher	Cantrell	State Fire Marshal	x
Designee: Adam	Matzner		
Director: Daryl	Bohac	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	
Designee: Bryan	Tuma		x
CEO: Dannette	Smith	Department of Health and Human Services	
Designee: Sue	Dempsey		x
Alyssa	Sanders	NEMA - SERC Coordinator	x
Sam	Bedford	NDEE - SERC Information Officer Coordinator	x
Rick	Grauerholz	Municipal Government	x
	VACANT	Local Elected Official	
Rod	Buethe	Firefighters	x
Tim	Hofbauer	Vice Chair – Local Emergency Management	
Tonya	Ngotel	Public Health	
Kim	Plouzek	Environmental Protection	x
Polly	Jordening	Labor	x
	VACANT	School District	

Steven	Danon	Small Business	x
Joe	Oswalt	Agricultural Business	x
John	Grimes	Chair – Chemical Industry	x
Matthew	DiVito	Highway Transportation	
Kyle	Keeling	Rail Transportation	
<i>Others in attendance: Terri Blunk (Region VII), Tia Loftin (NEMA), Amber Schoen (NEMA), Larry Fitchner (NEMA), Jim Dunker (Filmore County), Jim Davidsaver (Lancaster County), Ron Tubbs (Howard County), Earl Imler (NEMA), Jodie Fawl (NEMA)</i>			

**II. Approval of the agenda for July 28, 2020 meeting**

Chris Cantrell motion to approve, Sue Dempsey second, motion approved.

**III. Approval of the minutes from the January 14, 2020 meeting**

Motion made to table the approval of the January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes by Bryan Tuma. Motion seconded by Kim Plouzek.

**IV. Unfinished Business- None**

**V. SERC Coordinator Update- Alyssa Sanders**

**a. LEPC Annual Reports**

- 5 annual reports of the 35 have been received. We need to have a discussion on the possibility of sending a letter to the LEPC'S's that have not yet sent in the annual report on behalf of the SERC. The letter will remind the LEPC'S that this is a requirement.
  - Discussion- Kim Plouzek asked about a template for the form and can that be referenced in the letter
  - John Grimes requested a second due date.
- LEPC'S Annual Report Template is available on the Website. It is approximately a two page document that requests the needed information.

**b. Commodity Flow Study**

- A request was made for a State-wide commodity flow study. Request for feedback.
- Steve in Omaha- do we know who we have been distributing this document to?
- Request for input on a new commodity flow study, Kim Plouzek requested a summary of the last study conducted in partnership with UNL, before we proceed with a new study.
- Commodity flow studies provide evidence and statistics on the shipment and flow of the products throughout the state.
- Commodity flow study with UNL conducted in approximately 2012. The study would need to be contracted out.
- Bryan Tuma- Commodity flow studies provide very pertinent information about what products are being transported in the community. This information can be used by the state/local/tribal jurisdictions emergency services to response to incidents, plan for possible risks and provides situational

awareness.

- Motion on the floor for commodity flow study. Rick Grauerholz seconded the motion.
- Rick Grauerholz- used parts of the Commodity study to provide text to teach first responder courses.
- **Commodity study motion passed.**

c. **LEPC's**

- LEPC'S are struggling. Most committees don't understand what they do or what they should be doing. Agendas have nothing to discuss and many don't know what Tier II facilities they have. Many are not aware of the hazards located in their community. Possibly provide them with documentation of what hazards their community could face and provide guidance on some exercise opportunities.
- LEPC's are moving toward an all-hazards focus.
- We should concentrate on the training of Emergency Manager's and LEPC Chairpersons on what Hazmat situations are possible in the community and how to respond. Working with PET Regions (planning, exercise and training) to provide training on Hazmat to help identify stakeholders that may not realize they are stakeholders.
- Form a subcommittee that could provide substance to create educational materials that would explain the expectations of the LEPC'S and what SERC represents. A steering committee can help provide a sounding board to facilitate discussion.
- LEPC chairpersons need a way to communicate with each other. LEPC'S can be difficult because it is the same group of people talking all the time. Can we provide a tool that would help keep the LEPC'S on a timeline?
- Region VII EPA is working on a web portal for the states and the LEPC'S could be included, demo is hoped for this fall, with an opening stage for LEPC'S in spring.
- Maybe we need to revise and refresh the LEPC'S at the ground level.
- Steve- Omaha- PowerPoint slide presentation, was created and it provided insight on what the SERC and LEPC was and how it worked. Is that information still available?
  - Alyssa Sanders- the information provided in that presentation was outdated, therefore removed. It is a useful information that needs updated.
- Motion made by Kim Plouzek to create a steering committee to identify what the problems are and provide steps to improve the performance of the LEPC'S.
  - SERC identifies volunteers to create a steering committee for the revitalization of the LEPC'S.
  - Kim Plouzek volunteered to be a part of the steering committee.
  - Motion seconded.
  - Amendment to steering committee motion to include active LEPC stakeholders.
  - Jim Davidsaver - in order to eliminate overlap we created a hybrid meetings with LEPC focus.

- The SERC has taken 5 or 6 surveys of the LEPC'S, questions about how to engage them. Maybe get some of the local EM's and LEPC'S chairpersons to participate on the subcommittee.
- We have an outreach committee maybe we need to reengage.
- **Steering Committee vote- motion passed.**

**d. Statutes Surrounding the SERC**

- LEPC'S are supposed to submit their Emergency Operations Plan to the governing bodies having jurisdiction in the emergency planning district for review and then to the SERC for review. Does this happen?
  - John Grimes- some LEPC'S receive them, the assumption was made that they also filed directly with SERC.
  - Statute 81-15,220 is very clear about the contents of the Hazmat portion of the LEOP.

**e. Other**

- Classes from the International Hazmat Conference will be available for the remainder of the year.
- Update bylaws - NDEE is still referred to as DEQ in the document and needs to be updated to NDEE. Please review for other changes.
- Chapter 8 of the Nebraska Emergency Manager's Handbook, please take a look at that chapter and provide feedback on any corrections that need to be made. We will put that on the agenda for the next meeting.
- HMEP grant - the North Platte Airport Authority has received \$25,000 for a fire simulator. Hands on practical learning on how to respond to an aircraft fire. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> fire exercise conducted by the Airport Authority. It is a great learning opportunity for them and they have people coming from multiple departments in the area.
- Grand Island Airport Authority has also requested a similar prop for training exercise.

**VI. New Business**

**a. LEPC'S Membership Applications Approval**

- Kim Plouzek motioned to approve both April and July applications.
- Rick Grauerholz seconded the motion
- **Motion passed**

**VII. SERC Member Reports – As applicable**

- a. Bryan Tuma-** Covid response raises issues that affect our community. National level, concerns around the ICS structure, either the absence of or hybrid model in response to the Pandemic. What was the status of ICS not just at the Federal level of response but response at the local level? Communications seem to be the biggest opportunity. CISA-guidelines on essential functions. Tasked CISA with an explanation, Covid was a test of the COOP at both the private and public sector. Orphan container issue - this might be something to empower the LEPC'S at the local level to think about. Work on the projects still continue. FEMA plans on being here until the end of the year. IMAT Type III - Chris Cantrell, John Erickson and Bryan Tuma, this is a tool that will be available through the Emergency Management Act.

**VIII. Stakeholder Reports (EPA, FBI, etc)**

- a. **Jim Macy-** Same Covid issues just like every other agency experienced. Our COOP Plan was successful, even with inspections. We adapted and overcame many of the issues. Working with EPA to test compliance assistance, in a 21<sup>st</sup> century way. We need to start treating the LEPC'S as partners. Maybe we can be part of a webinar for the LEPC'S.
- b. **Chris Cantrell-** challenges from Covid- focusing on the TYPE III team, and Hazmat response across the state.
- c. **Sue Dempsey-** very busy, making sure to provide accurate statistics on the pandemic, everyone is approaching inspections in a different way, more focus on teleworking and outreach to schools regarding health concerns.
- d. **Terri Blunk-** see attachment- updated contacts. Webinar for facilities, talk on the new rules coming this fall. Update training modules. What is risk management, how does it affect the community. HDQ SERC/TERC update, please update email information to continue to receive this monthly update.

**IX. Guest Presentation: Bryan Tuma- Tour of JFHQ**

- a. In the interest of time, this portion of the meeting was skipped

**X. Public Comments-** no public comments

**XI. Adjournment**

- a. Kim Plouzek motioned to adjourn, Rod Buethe seconded at 2:15 p.m.
- b. Next Meeting October 14th, 2020