



**Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission
(SERC)**

October 11, 2018
Southeast Community College – Jack J. Huck Continuing Ed Center
301 South 68th 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.

Tim Hofbauer, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM CDT.

Member		Affiliation	Present
Sheri	Blaha	County Elected Official	
Steven	Danon	Small Business	
Jim	DeFreece	State Patrol	
Keith	Deiml	Education	
Sue	Dempsey	Health and Human Services	X
Joe	Francis	Department of Environmental Quality	X
Rick	Grauerholz	City Government	X
John	Grimes	Chair, Industry	X
Tim	Hofbauer	Vice Chair, Local Emergency Management	X
Matthew	DiVito	Crete Carrier Corporation	X
Polly	Jordening	Labor	X
Jim	Macy	Dept of Environmental Quality	X
Sharon	Medcalf	Community Health	X
Dana	Miller	Fire	
Joe	Oswalt	Agribusiness	X
Kimberly	Plouzek	Environmental Protection	
James	Rashilla	SERC Coordinator	X
Ben	Salo	Union Pacific Railroad	
Tom	Sands	Department of Roads	
Bryan	Tuma	NE Emergency Management	X

Others in attendance: Lee Loveland, Terri Blunk (EPA), Mike Schmitt (FBI), Ryan Lowry (PPC), Mark DeKraai (PPC), and Chris Jones (PPC).

II. Approval of the agenda for July 10, 2018.

Jim Macy made a motion to approve the 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 10th, 2018 meeting

Rick Grauerholz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 11th, 2018; Joe Oswalt seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

IV. New Business

A. Nebraska Hazmat Conference

72 attendees were at the conference, EPA updates and trainers from around the state presented. Very successful stakeholder outreach.

B. 2019 EPA Region 7 LEPC & SERC/TERC Conference

The conference will be Aug 8-10, 2019 at the Embassy Suites in Omaha, NE. There will be trainers and speakers for LEPC and first responders.

C. Other

John Grimes update: John was involved in a motorcycle accident and has been recovering. He has been in good spirits, and is projected to make a full recovery. John joined the meeting in person at 1:30 pm.

V. Old Business

A. LEPC Membership Applications Approval (Vote)

Applications were emailed to members for review. All candidates will be reviewed. Motion made Tim, and Sue seconded the applications be approved.

B. LEPC Johnson/Pawnee Counties

Discussion regarding Otoe, Johnson, and Pawnee having members. It is hopeful that having the multiple counties join together will provide a stronger LEPC for the area.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

A. Training Subcommittee (Bryan, Sue, Joe O.)

Bryan Tuma presented a power point titled “Nebraska Multi-year Training and Exercise Plan”. Bryan discussed the results of the survey sent to members. The preference for training is to have the training in the mornings, and the winter quarter is preferred. Distance/travel required to attend meetings, and cost to attend were not determinants. According to the survey, people are willing to travel 50 miles. One of the largest obstacles to attending trainings is the time commitment. Bryan reminded members that the upcoming THIRA training is November 1st and 2nd, 2018. Top responses for training needs include the following: incident command, site security/emergency response plans, active shooter scenarios, and chemical release. MOUs formed for training and compensation in the eight Planning, Execute, Training (PET) regions, sustainability, Bryan stressed that it is free training and all members need to promote. He also stressed that it is important to de-conflict the training schedule in regions so that more diverse training is available, and make sure that LAPC has all Emergency Management (EM) contact information. A power point handout was provided to attendees.

B. Outreach Subcommittee (John, Tim, Bryan, Steve)

No updates presented for Outreach.

VII. SERC Member Reports

- A. *Jim Macy*: Jim discussed the relationship between environmental quality and emergency planning. The Environmental Quality (State of Nebraska) office will be relocating in the future, as their current space no longer meets the needs of the department. He also offered that when new office is in place, the agency would be willing to host the SERC meetings. Environmental Quality has been working with the Department of Agriculture to assess the African swine fever. This is a very contagious, has a long life span, and can live outside of the body for a month or more. If the virus comes to the United States it would be devastating. The Department of Agriculture and Department of Environmental Quality are pro-actively engaging with producers regarding pre-planning to minimize the effects in the event the strain reaches the U.S. Jim discussed HAZMAT training, and the development of the Agricultural defense facility that is being constructed in Manhattan, Kansas.
- B. *Joe Francis*: Joe spoke regarding the state energy plan. The State of Nebraska has a good energy plan, however, the local communities do not have that same plan in place in the event of power failure. The lack of a strong energy plan in the event of an emergency, could create hardships for the local communities.
- C. *Jim Macy*: EPA has been routinely processing samples, EPA has several mobile labs; one in Colorado and one in Chicago, IL. Mobile labs allow for a very quick turn-around versus traditional venues. Jim talked about the work that NASA research has done regarding the Flint Hills burn/smoke effects.
- D. *Sharon Medcalf*: Sharon talked about the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) grant. The ASPR grant took applications from regions on health care surge in disaster response situations. There were 19 applications (applicants can only be hospitals), and NE received two of them. Bryan Tuma and Ryan Lowry will also be involved in the ASPER grant. Bryan spoke about the communication piece of this grant, and the importance of emergency management integrated with health care. Knowledge Center is being looked at as a software for sharing of resources will result in rapid response to crisis. The project is necessary, and will result in very positive outcomes for Nebraska.

VIII. Stakeholder Reports (FBI/EPA)

A. FBI

Mike Schmitt: There will be a presentation in Boone County regarding the pipeline in August 2019. He noted that there has not been much activity regarding the pipeline, and the FBI has not had many incidents to respond to recently.

Jim Macy asked Bryan Tuma about the possibility of forming a pipeline group through the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC), as 2019 will be the construction of pumping stations which may result in situations for communities near the pipeline.

B. EPA

Terri Blunk: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7

The EPA Region 7 newsletter is published in January and July. The EPA is reorganizing nationwide, may make changes regarding who the contact will be. Terri anticipates that she will no longer be the EPA representative that will be attending SERC meetings. SERC and LEPC members may have access to the Risk Management News through the website. To gain access to the website, you must

email harper.jodi@epa.gov and Jodi will set up the access. The EPA will be sponsoring Agricultural workshop/NE agribusiness conference to assist facilities on focusing on industry standards and compliance.

IX. Public Comments

No public comments expressed/presented.

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bryan Tuma, and the motion was seconded by Sue Dempsey. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM CDT.