



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 10 LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
November 14, 2014**

Committee Members

Nelson, Joseph, Vice Chair
Anderson, Mark
Carberry, Edward
DiFruscio, Anthony
Engel, Norm
Jeremy Hausam
Holman, John
Lasaga, Frank
Lux, Harry
Murphy, Michelle (Mary) (Alternate)
Norris, Peter
Ortado, Derek
Perkins, Richard
Rawicz, Dave
Seldes, Paul
Sperber, Clint
Valle, Carlos
Vogt, Charles (Alternate)
Waite, Sally
Zabel, Dennis

Occupational Category

Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Firefighting (City of Delray Beach)
Transportation (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)
Health (Martin Memorial Health Systems)
Firefighting (City of Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
Health (Syngenta Crop Protection)
Law Enforcement (City of Port St. Lucie Police Department)
Emergency Management (City of Stuart)
Interested Citizen (Hazardous Materials & Safety Solutions, Inc.)
Firefighting (Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
Facility Owner and Operator (Scripps Research Institute)
Law Enforcement (City of Stuart Police Department)
Facility Operator (City of Port St. Lucie Utility Systems)
Facility Operator (Cheney Brothers, Inc.)
Interested Citizen (NTB Group, LLC)
Health (St. Lucie County Health Department)
Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney – Rocketdyne)
Health (Indian River County Health Department)
Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)
Local Environmental (Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute)

Excused

Daly, Tom
Jones, Derrell
LoPresti, Etta
McCartt, Jack
McCaughey, Debra
Meding, Paul
Thompson, Greg
Wouters, Dan

Occupational

Emergency Management (St. Lucie County)
Law Enforcement (Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission)
Emergency Management (Indian River County)
Interested Citizen (ATEC, Inc.)
Emergency Management (Martin County)
Facility Operator (Cliff Berry, Inc.)
Interested Citizen (Sun Sentinel)
Firefighting (Martin County Fire Rescue)

Absent

Brown, Kenton
Carberry, Edward
Dunn, Cheryl
Engel, Norm
Herndon, Kevin
Laryea, Nicholas
Mayer, Timothy
Passanesi, Joseph
Peterson, Vince
Phillips, Tom
Sanders, Nick
Stewart, Barry
Wilson-Davis, Lisa

Occupational Category

Local Environmental (FL Dept. of Environmental Protection)
Transportation (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)
Health (Indian River County Health Department)
Firefighting (Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire District)
Facility Operator (Indiantown Cogeneration L.P.)
Health (Palm Beach County Health Department)
Law Enforcement (Martin County Sheriff's Office)
Emergency Management (Tropicana Products, Inc.)
Interested Citizen
Hospital (Select Specialty Hospital Palm Beach)
Local Environmental (Zenith Environmental)
Non-Elected Local Official (City of Boca Raton)

Staff

Kathryn Boer
Liz Gulick
Kim Koho

TCRPC/LEPC District 10, Coordinator
TCRPC, Staff
TCRPC/LEPC District 10, Staff

Visitors

Crowe, David
Region 5, Regional Domestic Security Task Force Health Co-Chair,
Department of Health
Guertin, Stephanie (Alternate)
Health (Martin Health Systems)
Echazabal, Tony
Health (Martin Health Systems)
Luher, Laurie
Enforcement (Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation
Commission)
Wiernicki, Kelsea
Enforcement (Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation
Commission)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 14, 2013 MEETING

Mr. Peter Norris moved approval of the agenda Mr. Harry Lux seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 1, 2013

Mr. Frank Lasaga moved approval of the minutes. Ms. Sally Waite seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

NEW BUSINESS

State Emergency Response Commission Meeting -Hazardous Materials Incident Reports

Ms. Boer stated that Table I, II, and III reflect the District 10 LEPC and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council district incidents and investigations only. Table I shows potential 304 investigations, Table II and III indicate hazardous material incidents where evacuations, injuries and deaths might have taken place. Table III details transportation related incidents verses fixed facilities in our region.

Graph I reflects regionally the total hazardous material incidents per year as reported to the State Watch Office. Graph II compares fixed facility verses transportation related incidents. If you need more detailed information it can be obtained from the State Watch Office, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and State Emergency Response Commission.

2013 Thomas Yatabe Award and Certificates of Appreciation

Ms. Boer stated that the 2013 Thomas Yatabe Award was awarded to the District 10 LEPC's former Chairman, Christopher Bushman. Mr. Bushman has had to step down and was not in attendance at the meeting. He has enjoyed working with the LEPC. Ms. Boer stated that he has been an asset not only to her as a planner, but to the District 10 LEPC. He was always there to provide information and participate in projects and training. Ms. Boer stated that the LEPC was very sorry to see him step down and she was not sure if he would be in attendance to accept the award in January 2014 at Daytona Beach.

Later in the agenda, Ms. Boer said that the LEPC would be entertaining nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair in addition to the ones she received per her email request. Ms. Boer asked Mr. Norris if he would still consider serving as the alternate to the Vice-Chair. He accepted.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Captain Nelson because of his outstanding service to the LEPC. He has always made himself available to the LEPC. The other Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to the Evaluators of the June 28th, Biennial Regional Exercise in Palm Beach County. These evaluators provided excellent notes and these notes are invaluable in exposing gaps and weaknesses in exercise design and helping agencies to improve response. The evaluators who received certificates were Captain Nelson, Mr. Steven Graff, Mr. Mike Geier, Mr. Michael Graves, Ms. Sonji Hawkins, and Mr. Frank Lasaga.

The certificates will be presented at the February LEPC meeting.

The SERC meeting was fairly short but there was discussion regarding the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) dollars. It was not made a District 10 LEPC agenda item as there were still ongoing issues with the funding of hazmat and WMD teams through the SHSGP. The Training Task Force, State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and several other entities feel the decision was made without adequate discussion with the State Emergency Response Commission. The SERC is the expert committee with regards to hazmat and WMDT teams. There was a general consensus among the SERC and the State Training Task Force that there should have been an analysis done regarding vulnerabilities and threat assessments. The issue regarding the funding of hazmat and WMD teams was to be addressed at the October 15, 2013 meeting with the Statewide Working Group and the outcomes are still pending.

Ms. Boer said that if there were any questions now would be a good time to ask the Statewide Working Group. Ms. Boer explained there was only so much money that made available through the SHSGP dollars and within that grant are different co-chairs of different functional groups that need funding. Once the actual dollars amount is obtained then the funding must be re-prioritized. The elimination of hazmat teams was made without proper analysis. There is a lot of work being done to try to obtain an assessment regarding the analysis request or at least its vulnerabilities.

Ms. Boer stated this is a very important issue with SERC, who is the guiding body of the LEPC, and that they requested that FDEM staff write letters in support of an analysis.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Chairs Meeting Update

LEPC Chairs and Staff meeting is held the day before the SERC meeting so that any issues can be brought before the SERC. Ms. Boer stated LEPC Chairs and staff supported the letter, which went to the Governor from the SERC, supporting the funding of the hazmat teams.

The Hazards Analysis Program Workshop tried to streamline the hazards analysis contract. There was a migration of the state data base into E-plan, which is a reporting data base for facilities to report annually their on-site chemicals. Ms. Boer suggested that owner/operator facilities request their CAMEO Hazards Analysis data directly from the County. Ms. Boer said that if there were any problems in obtaining information, she could be contacted since she is the regional repository for the hazards analysis information. The contracts are not retroactive, so work cannot be started until the contract is executed.

The Hazards Analysis Program Preparedness Grant discussion is an internal issue. Ms. Boer explained the overlap of different budget recording years between the State and federal Budget Authorities. Previously the grant required that LEPCs expend a certain amount (\$10,126) of training and (5,000) planning funds in the first quarter and the remaining dollars in the next three grant cycle quarters. The problem being is if LEPCs go over or under by any amount, they do not get reimbursed or they lose that money. LEPC staff requested that they not be restricted by quarterly expenditures and it was decided that the State and federal contracts would be combined no longer restricting spending.

Ms. Boer stated that she now will be free to provide training at any time it is needed. She stated she prefers to offer a lot of training before hurricane season which is usually in the early fall, winter and spring seasons.

The next Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness meeting scheduled for January 22, 2014 in Daytona.

Training Task Force Update – Captain Nelson

Captain Nelson stated that the 2014 Hazardous Materials Training Symposium will be held in conjunction with the Fire Rescue East Conference in Daytona Beach. The Training Task Force are adding outdoor hands on training to the symposium classes. They are including a competition but as of today he has not heard when the competition will be advertised for registration. Captain Nelson said as soon as the competition is advertised he suggested registering teams early, because they may restrict the number of teams to fifteen.

Captain Nelson said the quality of the presentation should be better this year and added that a few of the classes would be eight hour programs. Ms. Boer said last year the programs were two hours and were exploratory awareness level hazmat. This year, due to the feedback received, the Symposium Committee added training that was more operational and more in depth. They were told that the attendees preferred operational level programs over awareness level ones. Ms. Boer added that Captain Jonathan Lamb, Clay County Fire Rescue, and Captain Nelson had been instrumental in updating the types of training that would be offered at the Symposium.

Ms. Boer said she would be sending out the registration information and included that LEPC could reimburse for per diem and hotel costs.

Captain Nelson said that last year there was a larger showing from other regions and that it would be nice to see a stronger turn out from District 10 LEPC.

Captain Nelson said the Hazardous Materials Updates to Field Operations Guide Protocols would be going to the SERC's next meeting in January, 2014 for approval. They added a few new protocols such as foam, oil spill and marine response and they should be available for distribution sometime in February of 2014. Ms. Boer said that there is a SharePoint site that she thought the state would be enacting but she was not clear on the password protection issue. The SharePoint site makes viewing available of all the plans; however they are not for public viewing. If she receives the information, she will forward it to all LEPC members. Captain Nelson summarized by saying that the plans would not be available on a public website.

Captain Nelson stated that the Training Task Force discussed the possibility of additional hazmat training and inner agency training. They also discussed the U.S. Coast Guard oil spill response. He stated that the U.S. Coast Guard has access to professional hazmat teams but because the federal teams are widely distributed the response times could be lengthy. Chief Murphy has been working to make local hazmat teams available to the U.S. Coast Guard as local experts. He said that the assistance would be less of a response capacity and more of an advisory one. Captain Nelson also added that this assistance would only be for a portion of the State and would not include the panhandle since it was in a different district.

Ms. Boer said that there was a past agreement with regards to local hazmat teams responding to oil spills however, out of that response, many issues surfaced. There were OSHA certification issues and issues with wasting technician's time and money with regards to picking up tar balls on the beach. There was discussion about training SERC community members being situated to pick up tar balls. Captain Nelson said OSHA is response specific and are not recognizing the local hazmat technicians as being trained to respond to this type of disaster. The hazmat teams would have to sit thru the same 30 to 40 hours of training as the day laborers. The SERC wrote a letter stating 160 hours of hazmat training would be sufficient with regards to OSHA requirements. Ms. Boer said no final determination had been made as of yet. Captain Nelson said that at some point additional training would be required to orient responders to the marine environment which could be accomplished with a four or eight hour on line course.

Ms. Boer asked Ms. Luher from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FFWC) if she could shed some light on hazardous materials from a marine perspective. Ms. Luher said that the hazardous materials issue the Florida Fish and Wildlife, Customs and Border Patrol, and the U.S. Coast Guard were experiencing were vessels from Columbia and Venezuela with large amounts of fuel on board. She cited an example of an outbound vessel used to smuggle migrants that was recently found which had 750 gallons of fuel on board. It had to turn around due to inclement weather and was forced on shore at Hallandale Beach. They are seeing the likely hood of this type of incident happening more so than tar balls. In the last 6 months in an area that covers Key West, the Dry Tortugas, Martin, and Indian River Counties there have been 5 or 6 outbound vessels with large amounts of fuel on board and every week more migrants are coming in. This is a coastal problem as they tend to head for the state parks because of the lack of lighting. The smugglers leave these large vessels on shore with large amounts of fuel, oil, and human waste onboard creating environmental impacts.

Ms. Boer asked what type of training the FFWC had to deal with the removal of an oil and petroleum situation from the vessels. Ms. Luher stated the FFWC had teamed up with the Lake Worth Coast Guard Station who has a weekend attachment team which provides limited training. The training is either going to be HAZWOPPER, or OSHA. The FFWC does have specific standards they have to follow regarding whom to call for removal such as the Office of Emergency Response, but the FFWC has to secure the

site to make sure it is safe. Ms. Luher suggested a beneficial partnership between the FFWC and the U.S. Coast Guard in removal of these environmental impacts. Ms. Boer suggested including DEP, EPA, U.S. Coast Guard, and FWC. Ms. Luher also suggested including the county and municipal marine, wildlife and environmental units and stated that the South District, in which she works, includes ten counties from Key West to Lake Okeechobee. Ms. Boer suggested organizing a regional meeting or workshop to discuss response plans of the different organizations just mentioned. Ms. Boer thanked Ms. Luher for her valuable input. There was further discussion regarding the jurisdiction of cleanups of navigatable waterways. Ms. Boer said that she would follow up with Mr. Derrell Jones of the FFWC.

Captain Nelson asked that the floor be opened up for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. There was a concurrency among the members that everyone received Ms. Boer's email request for nominations.

Ms. Boer said that Captain Nelson had been nominated for Chair, and Mr. Lasaga had been nominated for Vice Chair. In accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, Ms. Boer asked if there were any other nominations, hearing none, the nominations were closed. Ms. Boer stated that Captain Nelson and Mr. Lasaga were prepared to serve in the position

Ms. Boer, LEPC staff, entertained a motion to nominate Captain Joseph Nelson as Chair of the District 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee. Hearing no objections, the voted was called and passed **Motion** unanimously.

Ms. Boer, LEPC staff, entertained a motion to nominate Mr. Frank Lasaga as Vice Chair of the District 10 Local Emergency Planning Committee. Hearing no objections, the voted was called and passed **Motion** unanimously.

Ms. Boer added that Mr. Norris has agreed to continue to serve as alternate Vice Chair.

REPORTS

Planning Subcommittee

The planning subcommittee updates the District 10 Hazardous Material Regional Response Plan annually and the updates are usually minor. It is one coagulated plan reflecting the individual county responses that are independent of each other. Ms. Boer said that update would be sent out via email and asked that she be notified if changes needed to be made to the plan sections.

The District 10 LEPC conducted the 2012/2013 Biennial Exercise on June 28, 2013 at Palm Beach County Fire Rescue offices in West Palm Beach. The exercise was a tabletop discussion-based, module-oriented exercise that tested communications between agencies; coordination of personnel and resources; and notification response protocols between hazardous materials response team personnel, emergency operation centers, sheriff's offices, departments of health, and major public transportation venues within the region. The exercise scenario also tested procedures of alert between the public response sectors. The After-Action Report was written in accordance with the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guidelines and was submitted to FDEM per contract requirements.

Ms. Boer said they had a very good turnout for the exercise and thanked the District 10 Chair and Vice Chair as well as several members of the LEPC who participated as Evaluators. Ms. Boer said that Mr. Engel requested the After Action Report. Ms. Boer stated any additional notes or comments would help provide additional insight and be greatly appreciated. Ms. Boer said many comments were received stating that it was

a very good exercise because they used many different agencies that usually are not invited, including all of the major transportation hubs. Captain Nelson added that there was a large public health and epidemiology element. Ms. Boer said it was very interesting to see how the different entities dealt with each of the situations that the exercise created. She said staff would like to try to expand the exercise in two years going to a functional type exercise using a tweaked version of the same scenario. Her ultimate goal would be to do a full scale exercise in three years providing funding was available. The primary funding source for hazmat training is FDOT/HMEP.

Public Information Exchange

Ms. Boer asked if there was any information that needed to be shared. Mr. Daly could not be present today but is asking for evaluators for St. Lucie County's full scale exercise at the stadium in Port St. Lucie. Evaluators do not need to be experts. Non experts tend to write down what they actually see as opposed to knowing what they are supposed to be seeing. Ms. Boer said she would resend the invitation upon request. Mr. John Holman said the evaluator briefing would be December 3rd and the exercise would be on December 4th. Mr. Clint Sperber said that the exercise was going to be a very large event and Ms. Boer agreed stating that attendees would be coming from around the state. Mr. Sperber said that it is one of the few events that was being done in a baseball stadium and that a few federal agencies would also be attending.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

Staff attended the following:

October 4, 2013; District 10 LEPC Training Task Force representative attended the LEPC Chairs and Staff meeting and the State Training Task Force in St. Petersburg.

October 5, 2013; District 10 LEPC Training Task Force representative attended State Emergency Response Commission meeting in St. Petersburg.

Ms. Boer stated that she updated the LEPC plan, was working on upcoming training events. Non-LEPC activities included working with Martin County to update the CEMP, Appendices, and Emergency Support Functions. Staff also attended the Pipeline Safety Gas Transmission Company safety training in Palm Beach County.

Contract Activities Update

Training

In the last quarter, the LEPC sponsored through Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness funding, three 8-hour Field Chemical Analysis for Hazmat Technicians classes held in St. Lucie County on August 19, 20 and 21, 2013; four Clandestine Methlab Awareness level classes in St. Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach Counties August 5-6 and 15-16, 2013; two Incident Commander for Hazardous Materials Incidents at the City of Stuart Fire Rescue on October 3-4, 2013; and one Hazwoper Refresher class in Palm Beach County on November 8, 2013

Captain Nelson said that Delray Beach had requested a tox-medic class.

Planning

The planning project for the 2013/2014 grant cycle is Option 5 - Facility Outreach. This project entails a series of workshops to determine the number and types of hazardous material movements by roadway to and from the local facilities. In addition, the workshops will provide the attending facility representatives with increased awareness and understanding of the hazards analysis processes and the LEPC regional hazardous materials response planning efforts. Ms. Boer said the LEPC has done every project on the state list. Last year the Commodity Flow Study was done and the year before was a combination of a HMEP exercise with the LEPC exercise. This year staff chose to do facility outreach because of the discussion of E-plan and annual reporting. Ms. Boer explained that it would be a good opportunity to reach out to private facility owner/operators with regards to how E-plan works and why. Ms. Boer welcomed any LEPC members volunteers who wanted to assist with the outreach project.

The St. Lucie County 2012/2013 Hazardous Materials Analysis was completed and approved by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) in June 2013. Section 302 Facility chemical and hazards information stored in the CAMEOfm software was forwarded to the FDEM. Facilities were notified of the availability of the data for their facility and the St. Lucie County Emergency Management and Fire District also received the data via electronic format.

Membership

On October 3, 2013, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) met to consider the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) nominations for membership. The District 10 LEPC submitted for appointment two new nominations for primary members, and one nomination for alternate member. The SERC approved and appointed the following new primary and alternate members; member, Mr. Thomas Daly, St. Lucie County Emergency Management, member, Mr. Jeremy Hausam, Syngenta Crop Protection, and alternate, Mr. Jeff Long, Syngenta Crop Protection.

Ms. Boer welcomed aboard primary member Mr. Jeremy Hausam, Syngenta Crop Protection, and his alternate (who was not in attendance) Mr. Jeff Long, Syngenta Crop Protection.

Ms. Boer recognized Mr. Valle's recommendation for an alternate and would submit his nomination form at the January meeting of the SERC. Mr. Anthony DiFruscio submitted his resignation due to a new job position. He introduced Mr. Tony Echazabal, Martin Health Systems, who he would be nominating to take his place. Ms. Stephanie Guertin, Martin Health Systems, would continue as the alternate. Ms. Boer explained that when the primary member resigns both the new primary and the alternate would need to be nominated. She said she would email them the nomination forms, and they would be approved at the next SERC meeting on January 22, 2014.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND STAFF

Captain Nelson wanted to take a few minutes to thank Mr. Bushman for his service as Chair. He was an excellent chair and was very well respected at the State and local levels. He served the LEPC well. Ms. Boer agreed and said that Mr. Bushman would be missed.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Captain Nelson asked for committee comments and Ms. Boer asked if there were any announcements that needed posting. Mr. Paul Seldes said that he had a few announcements from Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA); the annual FEPA conference is February 3rd through the 7th in Daytona Beach and said he would send Ms. Boer the official announcement. He invited those not familiar with FEPA to visit their website, FEPA.org. The FEPA Intermediate Emergency Management Academy is the week of February 23rd in Manatee County. The State is currently doing the basic academy which is called the Florida Essential Academy and FEPA is doing the Intermediate and Advance Emergency Management Academies.

Mr. Norris, Scripps, asked if job positions could be posted and Ms. Boer said that they could. Mr. Norris said that Scripps had an EHS Tech Position open. The position is located in Palm Beach County and supports the Radiation Safety Officer. Ms. Boer asked that Mr. Norris send her an email with the information so that she in turn could send it to the primary and alternate members.

Mr. Sperber referred back to the discussion regarding the funding of the Hazmat teams. He inquired as to whether Martin County teams would be funded. Captain Nelson said that currently the SHSGP funding would not be continued. The State decided to pare down from the recognized 28 teams to a maximum of three per region. If a region did not have three units they would not be allowed to increase by another team now or at any time in the future. The new team total for the State of Florida would be eighteen. Discussion ensued among Chief Harshberger, Captain Nelson, Mr. Sperber, and Ms. Boer regarding the sensibility of the decision. Chief Harshberger said that one of the largest problems regarding the decision about the hazmat teams is the maintenance of the very expensive equipment. Captain Nelson said that if a county does pay for maintenance of the equipment, they can never go back to State funding, forcing them from future funding. Mr. Harry Lux asked if the LEPC could raise their voices by sending letters. Ms. Boer said that many letters had been sent by the SERC, State Training Task Force, and, many fire rescue departments. Chief Harshberger said that the State CFO took the SERC's recommendation before the Governor to no benefit. Mr. Lux suggested public pressure and sited the current local river issue as an example.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next LEPC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2014. The meeting dates for 2014 are noted below. Ms. Boer invited LEPC members to volunteer to host the next LEPC meeting.

February 6, 2014
May 1, 2014
August 7, 2014
November 6, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Norris moved for adjournment of the meeting. Mr. Holland seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.