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**MINUTES OF THE TREASURE COAST LOCAL EMERGENCY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)  
November 3, 2016**

Chair Joseph Nelson welcomed all in attendance, led the pledge of allegiance and asked for roll call.

**Committee Members**

Nelson, Joseph, Chair  
Brown, Kenton

Bucell, Bridjette, Alternate

Dixel, Louis  
Duncombe, Wendy  
Geier, Mike  
Jones, Derrell

Lasaga, Frank, Vice Chair  
McKinlay, Melissa, Commissioner  
Norris, Peter, Alternate Vice Chair  
Phillips, Tom  
Seldes, Paul  
Stewart, Barry  
Thompson, Greg  
Valle, Carlos  
Voght, Charles  
Zabel, Dennis

**Absent**

Laryea, Nicholas  
Lux, Harry  
McCartt, Jack

Meding, Paul  
Ortado, Derek  
Pecci, Bill  
Peterson, Vince  
Sanders, Nick  
Wouters, Dan

**Occupational Category**

Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)  
Local Environmental (Florida Department  
of Environmental Protection)  
Local Environmental (Florida Department  
of Environmental Protection)  
Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)  
Health (Palm Beach County Health Department)  
Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)  
Law Enforcement (Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission)  
Emergency Management (City of Stuart Fire Rescue)  
Elected Official (Palm Beach County)  
Facility Owner and Operator (Scripps Research Institute)  
Local Option – Safety  
Local Option - Education (ntb Group, LLC)  
Local Environmental (Zenith Environmental)  
Local Option - Safety (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)  
Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney)  
Health (Indian River County Health Department)  
Local Environmental (Florida Atlantic University)

**Occupational Category**

Facility Operator (Indiantown Cogeneration L.P.)  
Local Option - Safety (Hazmat & Safety Solutions, Inc.)  
Local Option - Education (Advanced Technical and  
Educational Consultants, Inc.)  
Facility Operator (Cliff Berry, Inc.)  
Law Enforcement (City of Stuart Police Department)  
Emergency Management Agency (Martin County)  
Emergency Management (Tropicana Products, Inc.)  
Hospital (Select Specialty Hospital Palm Beach)  
Emergency Management (Martin County Fire Rescue)

**Excused**

Gojkovich, John  
Holman, John  
LoPresti, Etta  
Oatley, Aaron  
Perkins, Richard  
Rawicz, Dave  
Weaver Sr., Steven M.  
  
Wolfberg, Steve

**Occupational Category**

Local Option/Education (Indian River State College)  
Law Enforcement (City of Port St. Lucie PD)  
Emergency Management (Indian River County)  
Firefighting (Boca Raton Fire Rescue)  
Facility Operator (City of Port St. Lucie Utility Systems)  
Facility Operator (Cheney Brothers, Inc.)  
Non-Elected Local Official (Realtime Property  
Development Services)  
Hospital (Martin Memorial Health Systems)

**Visitors**

Sean Harrison  
Daryl Sibble  
Robert Crosby

Emergency Response Dive International  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Department of Homeland Security, Chemical Security  
Inspector

**Staff**

Kathryn Boer  
Kim Koho

Coordinator, TC LEPC, TCRPC  
Staff, TC LEPC, TCRPC

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 3, 2016 MEETING***

A quorum was not available and therefore, the agenda was not voted on. However, it was the consensus of the members they were in agreement with the current agenda.

***APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 4, 2016***

A quorum was not available and therefore, the minutes were not voted on. However, the minutes were reviewed and no changes were made. This will be voted on at the February 2017 TC LEPC meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Boer thanked Peter Norris, Alternate TC LEPC Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Melissa McKinlay for jointly hosting the meeting at The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI), West Palm Beach, - Florida. Mr. Norris is the Environmental Health & Safety Director for TSRI. He began his career with the U.S. Navy as a commissioned Industrial Hygiene Officer and later moved into the pharmaceutical industry holding manager and director positions. He provided an overview of Florida TSRI. He said that as one of the world’s largest, private, non-profit research organizations, TSRI’s mission is to remain a leader in the discovery and application of biomedical breakthroughs that improve human health and expand the frontiers of science that create hope for millions. He explained that it takes between ten to twelve years to bring a drug to market. TSRI is mostly funded by the National Institutes of Health. They do receive some private donations and some funding from charities such as the Michael J. Fox Foundation. TSRI is involved in research in the fields of cancer biology, infectious diseases, molecular therapeutics, neuroscience, metabolism and aging, and chemistry. He has reviewed several cutting edge research biomedical products that TSRI is currently testing.

Mr. Norris stated that the facility was established on February 26, 2009, and is 350,000 square feet and housed on the Jupiter campus of Florida Atlantic University, along with Max Plank. The facility is built to withstand a level four hurricane and has two generators on site to handle the critical areas. TSRI is an academic institution that has one of the top ten graduate programs in biology and chemistry and biology with more than 200 undergraduates completing research internships at Scripps Florida. TSRI employees a total of over six hundred faculty, scientists, graduate students, interns, trainees, researchers, administrative support, EH&S and support staff. TSRI is also regulated by many agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute of Health, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Homeland Security, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Florida Department of Health, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, U.S. Department of Transpiration, Florida Department of Transportation, and Palm Beach County.

The question was asked what the security level of TSRI was and Mr. Norris said that most of the buildings have level one lowest level and two security clearances; however they do have a small level three lab that handles HIV and the dengue virus.

Chairman Joseph Nelson thanked Mr. Norris for the overview and for hosting the meeting at TSRI.

Commissioner Melissa McKinley stated TSRI has been a tremendous partner with Palm Beach County. The developments of new drugs is a lengthy process and for example, and are on the cutting edge of the Zika virus. TSRI has been a great investment.

### **State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Meeting**

Chairman Nelson said that the meeting was attended by Ms. Carol Swete, Alternate to Vice Chair Alternate, Mr. Norris. Ms. Swete was not in attendance but Mr. Boer reviewed Ms. Swete's notes. Ms. Boer thanked Ms. Swete and stated that she took excellent notes. The highlights of the meeting were the annual Thomas Yatabe – SERC Award Program. This award is presented to one LEPC member who has made outstanding contributions in the implementation and support of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) through achievements, accomplishments, or superior participation in hazardous materials planning, training, and exercises. Chairman Captain Joseph Nelson, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue – Special Operations was awarded the 2016 Thomas Yatabe Award for the TC LEPC. The following members were awarded Certificates of Appreciation for their assistance and participation in the TC LEPC: Chief Carlos Valle, Fire Rescue and Security, Rocketdyne; John Gojkovich, Instructor, Indian River State College, Public Safety; Captain Derrell Jones, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Ms. Boer stated that the SERC also approved the LEPC Emergency Response Plans. Ms. Boer asked that if any member has updates to the plan, they be sent to her. The plan is updated annually.

Ms. Boer announced that the TC LEPC will participate with hazardous materials transportation related objective in the multi-jurisdictional Region 5 Regional Domestic Task Force (RDSTF) full-scale exercise February 22, 2017. Ms. Boer referred to the 2013 exercise based on a wide variety of public transportation venues hosted by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue. There was a tremendous response by participants that helped make the exercise a success. The 2017 exercise will be based on terrorism with mass casualties, with St. Lucie Lawnwood Regional Medical has offered to be the lead agency. Ms.

Boer has planning meetings with each of the counties the week of November 9, 2017 and December 5–10, 2016.

Commissioner McKinlay asked if crop dusting scenario should be considered. She cited Western Glades area as an example. Ms. Boer said that the planning committee is currently working on using a crop duster in the scenario. Commissioner McKinlay referred to the challenges at the Belle Glade Airport, which has very little security with regards to high-risk chemicals. Bing Crosby, Department of Homeland Security, stated he was with the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program. The program identifies and regulates high-risk chemical facilities and it is currently looking at the buying and selling of these chemicals. Chairman Nelson said that many exercise scenarios are done in more densely populated or coastal areas, only because it is difficult to provide resources to isolated areas. Ms. Boer said that the rural areas are used many times as “sleeper cells” planning areas. Mr. Mike Geier, Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management asked if the western Palm Beach County areas are used that a more plausible scenario be used – crop dusting is not a common endeavor. Ms. Boer agreed that is not as common as it used to be. Chairman Nelson stated that it can be difficult to get resources out to the rural areas – all the more reason to practice. Ms. Boer said that Palm Beach is Region 7 RDSTF and this is a Region 5 exercise, however, suggested a planning meeting to talk about perhaps putting on a tabletop exercise to engage responders on discussions of threats, capabilities and other concerns with response to hazmat releases.

### **Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports**

Ms. Boer said detailed information is available upon request from the State Watch Office and the entire report for all ten regions is in the SERC agenda package, which is located on the FDEM website. If any member is interested in having a separate agenda item for reporting spills that in the Treasure Coast region, please advise her. Chairman Nelson said that the larger issue is that the State is reporting spills in the wrong counties and have the wrong dates for the spills. Mr. Kenton Brown and Mr. Louis Dixel commented on the reporting issues with regards to the State Watch Office. They both agreed that the spills are better facilitated on a local level. Mr. Dixel, FDOT calls Mr. Brown at DEP directly to find out the correct information regarding a spill. The responsible party for the spill should call in the spill and provide a phone number to the correct contact person that will be on the site of the incident. Chairman Nelson said that he would make sure that the issue was brought up at the SERC.

Chairman Nelson said that the State is trying to address the spill notification issue through the Notice of Proposed Rule. The DEP has published a Notice of Proposed Rule, 62-4.161 Notice of Pollution. Chairman Nelson said that the way the law is written it does not specify the quantity or type of spill that needs to be reported, therefore, all spills are reported. Mr. Frank Lasaga, City of Stuart Fire Rescue, said that the State was trying to address a gap in the spill notification process. He stated some spills create pollution by contaminating ground water. The Proposed Rule is not practical and there should be a discussion with the Florida Fire Chiefs Association (FFCA). The FFCA should be included in the final discussion of the Proposed Rule. The Committee discussed that the Notice of Proposed Rule should be amended. Chief Valle said the Proposed Rule is under the 90 day comment period. Ms. Boer said that she would be happy to forward the Committee’s comments in a formal letter to Florida Division of Emergency Management and the SERC for discussion and encouraged other entities to do the same. Mr. Lasaga said that a comment received from the City of Stuart is that the Proposed Rule should specifically state that it does not supersede any other reporting requirements, and then it should

list those requirements. Ms. Boer asked Mr. Lasaga when the comments were due, and Mr. Lasaga replied that it was a 90-day window from September 2016, but he would confirm the deadline.

### **Local Emergency Planning Committee Chairs and Coordinators Meeting Update**

Ms. Boer was not able to attend; however, Ms. Carol Swete attended and provided her notes to Ms. Boer.

Ms. Boer stated that there was a Hazards Analyses Working Group Update. They are currently working on getting the Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) database onto Geospatial Assessment Tool for Operations and Response (GATOR) sites through CD uploads. There is a 100 megabyte limit per upload and the information must be broken down in order to submit it, which is challenging. There are no other changes being made to E-Plan or CAMEO. Ms. Bridjette Bucell stated that in her experience she found the local data to have more current and correct information than the State's data sites. Chairman Nelson stated the purpose of GATOR is to provide access to the local data but to access it; the user will also need to access E-Plan. Ms. Boer said that GATOR separates out the extremely hazardous substances. Ms. Bucell and Mr. Kenton Brown discussed the challenges of the different data sites and duplication of information. Chairman Nelson suggested maybe having an additional layer of data for the FDEP to use.

Ms. Boer said she would send Ms. Bucell the contact information for Mr. Richard Bugtereit, Chief Information Officer at FDEM for access to GATOR and discuss a layer that might be usable by DEP.

### ***TRAINING TASK FORCE UPDATE – CHAIRMAN NELSON***

Chairman Nelson said that he was not able to attend the Training Task Force (TTF) meeting, which met on October 13, 2016, in Destin, Florida. Chairman Nelson stated that the Task Force reviewed the Annual Hazmat Symposium, which will be held the week of January 18-23, 2017, in Daytona Beach. The symposium is continuing to grow and there will be hands-on and classroom training. The TC LEPC will sponsor attendance, including registration and hotel costs. Ms. Boer said that the TC LEPC will pay for attendee's registrations and hotel rooms upfront. However, it costs the TC LEPC money for no shows. She asked that members only encourage registration for those who are seriously attending. There are more national level speakers than last years. This symposium is the biggest draw with the largest amount of attendees at Fire Rescue East. Ms. Boer noted that the instructors and classes are outstanding and the Hazmat Competition is also growing. West Palm Beach Fire Rescue is the 2016 defending champions for the 2017.

Chairman Nelson stated he attended the Clean Gulf Conference in Tampa on November 1 through 3, 2016 and there was a discussion with the American Salvage Association (ASA) regarding the Offshore Hazmat Initiative through the U.S. Coast Guard. The State of Florida (with the exception of the Pan Handle) has an agreement with the Port Captains in Florida stating that if there is an offshore Hazardous Materials emergency the U.S. Coast Guard can access local Hazardous Material responders to respond out to do things such as reconnaissance and immediate interventions that are needed. The local responders are not to do clean up or provided mitigation. The purpose of this initiative is to improve the information stream up to the next level of responders. The ASA presented to the TTF and it showed that the capabilities of private salvagers are considerable. The initiative

was well received by the ASA and they have mentioned trying to pay the State's first responders up front while then getting reimbursed on the back end. The TTF will continue to work on developing the initiative. Miami-Dade has a large interest in seeing this initiative through and is working on researching the process, which will include demonstrations.

Mr. Geier asked if there were many offshore incidents and Chairman Nelson said that there are only a few. Chairman Nelson said that when there is an incident, however, it is important to have the ability to respond to it quickly. He stated how useful the conference was and appreciated the sponsorship by the LEPC.

## **REPORTS/UPDATES**

### **Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan**

Ms. Boer said the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan is updated on an annual basis. The updates apply to rules and safety information from the U.S. DOT for the SERC. She explained the plan contains data from each region concerning operational guidelines, resources, and tools that each county uses in their response to or planned response to hazardous materials incidents and releases.

Ms. Boer said she will send the plan to the TC LEPC members for review of their agency's section. The review meets with the soft match requirements of the LEPC membership. Please note the hours spent reviewing and sending staff comments and corrections.

Ms. Boer stated the planning subcommittee will be working with the TC LEPC and the hazmat team captains on the exercise objectives they wish to include in the RDSTF exercise.

### **Public Information Exchange**

Ms. Boer asked if any member has information regarding upcoming training classes, an event, or an exercise to please email her and she will disseminate the membership.

Ms. Boer asked if the members would consider moving the next TC LEPC meeting to February 9, 2017, because of the end of the month symposium.

No additional public information was exchanged.

### **Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities**

Ms. Boer said the agenda provides a list of the LEPC activities completed since the previous meeting of August 4, 2016, along with a list of emergency management and preparedness activities, and non-LEPC activities. She asked that Committee members contact her if they have any information to include or have any emergency planning information to share.

### ***Local Emergency Planning Contract Activities Update***

Ms. Boer stated that the TC LEPC has received its new 15-month contract for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) contract from U.S. Department of Transportation. This funding is

used for annual Hazardous Materials training. The LEPCs sponsor the symposium through the HMEP funding. The TC LEPC will be sponsoring two 8-hour Hazardous Waste Operations training courses, but twenty people are needed to register for each class. Currently, TC LEPC is offering a 24-hour CAMEO, Aloha, and Marplot training class December 13-15, 2016. Twenty people are needed to register to be able to hold the class – 22 have registered. The methamphetamine classes and chemical suicide classes are no longer being funded under the HMEP contract and will be provided by another entity at no charge.

Ms. Boer is currently working on the 2016/2017 Hazards Analysis contract for St. Lucie County and will be making site visits to the chemical facilities along with updating CAMEO. She is conducting the Hazards Analysis for Hernando County. These classes are transportation related as methamphetamine is made in moving vehicles and chemical suicides occur almost exclusively in private vehicles.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Chairman Nelson welcomed the following primary members who were appointed to the TC LEPC at the October 14, 2016, by the SERC meeting: Mr. Steven Weaver, Sr., RealTime Property Development Services; Mr. Louis Dixel, Florida Department of Transportation; and Mr. Steven Wolfberg, Martin Health System.

He then welcomed the following alternate members who were appointed to the Committee on October 14, 2016: Mr. Levy “Harrell” Gantt, Florida Department of Transportation; and Mr. Tony Echazabal, Martin Health System.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND STAFF**

Chairman Nelson announced his last meeting as Chairman of the TC LEPC will be February 9, 2017. He will also be resigning as Chairman of the SERC Training Task Force.

Ms. Boer said that she will send the Committee emails and solicit nominations for Chairman until mid-January, 2017. The vote can be done anonymously or verbally at the meeting using the yeay or nay process. She will email the Committee for their preference.

## **COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mr. Brown, FDEP announced guest and new employee Daryl Sibble, FDEP.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Sean Harrison, Emergency Response Dive International, introduced himself and staff. His company is located in Stuart, Florida. This is an international company that provides public safety awareness, operation, and technician level training for surface and subsurface response divers. Ms. Boer said that she might seek his assistance with the marine interdiction element for the Region 5 full-scale exercise.

Ms. Boer formally introduced Bing Crosby, CFATS program, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and invited him to make a presentation at any future TC LEPC meeting.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Ms. Boer announced the next TC LEPC meeting dates for 2017 are February 9, May 4, August 3, and November 2, 2017. Ms. Boer said that Chief Carlos Valle, Rocketdyne, has offered to host the next meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.