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**MINUTES OF THE TREASURE COAST LOCAL EMERGENCY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)  
February 18, 2016**

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

**Committee Members**

Nelson, Joseph, Chair  
Daly, Tom  
Dixel, Louis, Alternate  
Geier, Mike  
Gojkovich, John  
Harshburger, Daniel, Alternate  
Holman, John  
Lasaga, Frank, Vice Chair  
Mayer, Timothy  
Peterson, Vince  
Rivera, Joan  
Rothe, Heather, Alternate  
Thompson, Greg  
Vogt, Charles, Alternate  
Zabel, Dennis

**Absent**

Brown, Kenton  
Guertin, Stephanie  
Iversen, Kent  
Jones, Derrell  
  
Koener, David  
Laryea, Nicholas  
McCartt, Jack  
  
McCaughey, Debra  
Norris, Peter, Alternate Vice Chair  
Phillips, Tom  
Sanders, Nick  
Seldes, Paul  
Stewart, Barry  
Valle, Carlos

**Occupational Category**

Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)  
Emergency Management (St. Lucie County)  
Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)  
Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)  
Local Option – Education (Indian River State College)  
Fire Rescue (Martin County)  
Law Enforcement (City of Port St. Lucie PD)  
Emergency Management (City of Stuart Fire Rescue)  
Health (Palm Beach County Health Department)  
Emergency Management (Tropicana Products, Inc.)  
Health (St. Lucie County Health Department)  
Law Enforcement (City of Stuart Police Department)  
Local Option - Safety (Sun Sentinel)  
Health (Indian River County Health Department)  
Local Environmental (Florida Atlantic University)

**Occupational Category**

Local Environmental (Florida Department  
Health (Martin Memorial Health Systems)  
Facility Owners and Operators (Allied Universal)  
Law Enforcement (Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission)  
Health (St. Lucie County Health Department)  
Facility Operator (Indiantown Cogeneration L.P.)  
Interested Citizen (Advanced Technical and  
Educational Consultants, Inc.)  
Emergency Management Agency (Martin County)  
Facility Owner and Operator (Scripps Research Institute)  
Interested Citizen  
Hospital (Select Specialty Hospital Palm Beach)  
Interested Citizen (ntb Group, LLC)  
Local Environmental (Zenith Environmental)  
Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney)

**Excused**

LoPresti, Etta  
Lux, Harry  
  
Joseph, Glenn  
Meding, Paul  
Perkins, Richard  
Rawicz, Dave

**Occupational Category**

Emergency Management (Indian River County)  
Interested Citizen (Hazardous Materials & Safety Solutions, Inc.)  
Non-Elected Official (City of Boca Raton)  
Facility Operator (Cliff Berry, Inc.)  
Facility Operator (City of Port St. Lucie Utility Systems)  
Facility Operator (Cheney Brothers, Inc.)

**Staff**

Kathryn Boer  
Liz Gulick

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

**Visitors**

Gansert, Randy  
Pecci, Bill  
Poziomek, Lisa  
Bucell, Bridjette  
Luher, Laurie  
  
Diana Matty, Chief  
Murphy, Michelle

Diamond R. Fertilizer Company  
Martin County Emergency Management  
Health Department, Martin County  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Law Enforcement (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)  
West Palm Beach Fire Rescue  
Boca Raton Fire Rescue

***APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 18, 2016 MEETING***

Mr. Greg Thompson moved approval of the February 18, 2016 agenda. Mr. Tim Mayer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

***APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 5, 2015***

Mr. Greg Thompson moved approval of the November 5, 2015 minutes. Mr. Peter Norris seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2015 Thomas Yatabe Award/ Certificates of Appreciation**

Treasure Coast LEPC (TC LEPC) Chairman Joseph Nelson announced the State Emergency Response Commission’s (SERC) Membership committee recommended Treasure Coast LEPC Coordinator, Kathryn E. Boer, be awarded the Thomas Yatabe Award. The following TC LEPC members received the Annual Thomas Yatabe Certificates of Appreciation: Mr. Tom Daly, St. Lucie County Emergency Management Coordinator; Ms. Etta LoPresti, Indian River County Emergency Management Coordinator; Division Chief Michelle Murphy, Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services; Deputy Chief Glenn Joseph, Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services; Mr. Mike Geier, Palm Beach County Emergency Management; Mr. Timothy Mayer, Palm Beach County Health Department; Ms. Joan Rivera, St. Lucie County Health Department; Mr. Frank Lasaga, City of Stuart Emergency

Management; Mr. Peter Norris, Scripps Research Institute; and Mr. Gregory Thompson, Sun Sentinel. The Certificates of Appreciation were awarded for member's active participation in the 2015 LEPC biennial exercise.

### **Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports**

Ms. Boer reviewed the Hazardous Materials Incident Reports graphs and charts received by the State Watch Office (SWO) for the period of January 1, 2002 through November 30, 2015. She asked that she be notified of any changes in policies, response, operations or planning. The detailed information is available upon request from the SWO and the entire report for all ten regions is in the SERC agenda package located on the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) website.

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

#### *Hazards Analyses Working Group Update*

Chair Nelson noted updates to E-Plan. Ms. Boer discussed the new fields added to E-Plan for shipping frequency and reiterated the emergency contact information required for each facility.

#### *LEPC Logo/Name Discussion*

The logo and new name, Treasure Coast LEPC versus District 10, was voted on at the last meeting. Ms. Boer noted that there will be a few more edits to the logo. Shirts with the new logo can be ordered through Ms. Boer, payment will be required upon receipt of order.

#### *PHMSA Pipeline Discussion*

A presentation was given on the pipeline and hazardous materials. Ms. Boer noted the PHMSA committee provides the guidelines for all our hazardous material training, and we have to follow those guidelines when spending HMEP dollars. There are a few instructors in law enforcement who train for Chemical Suicide Awareness level. We can offer four hours of awareness and education and then offer two hours of hands-on training in which we would actually get a vehicle to do a mock response in our area.

Under discussion, the committee talked about ways to dispose of a vehicle. We have both local agencies and State agencies involved. Ms. Bucell noted that some law enforcement agencies have accredited facilities for drop off. Whether a vehicle stays in local or county municipalities varies. Ms. Boer asked Ms. Bucell to address the committee on an event that took place in West Palm Beach. Mr. Norris asked Ms. Bucell what type of chemical was in the vehicle. She replied acid. Tom Daly pointed out this particular situation would be turned over to law enforcement first since it is a crime scene. Ms. Boer noted that all situations are decided on a case by case basis depending on the agency involved.

Chair Nelson noted that during the presentation, they were shown a gas pipeline on the ocean floor of the Gulf that runs from Louisiana into Tampa, and there is anticipation of the growth of more and more pipelines since the price of natural gas keeps getting lower.

### *NASTTPO Annual Meeting*

They (Who is they?) discussed the National Association of Sara Title III Superfunds. Anyone that has interface with Sara Title III is part of an organization that has a meeting which provides discussion on how to comply. Ms. Boer noted the annual meeting is being held in Omaha, Nebraska, and the State is encouraging the LEPC coordinators to attend. This is a place to train all of those who deal with Superfund amendments and Sara Title III; hazardous material planning; and CAMEO software. Chair Nelson pointed out there is a lot of federal EPA interface.

### *SERC Policies for LEPCs*

Chair Nelson noted some of the changes to the LEPC policies. He mentioned one change is that we are no longer restricted to the number of people that can make up the LEPC. Some of the categories have changed, but the caps have been removed and any designation of how many may be in any one category, so if we have more people who would like to participate in the LEPC, then we are able to do that. Another change is that even though elected officials want to be involved, they cannot attend the meetings most of the time, so now they can designate one of their staffers as an alternate. The SERC realized that there are different sized LEPCs. Some areas are more populous than others and there are different levels of participation. This change gives LEPC memberships more flexibility.

### *How-To-Comply E-Plan Online Tier II Submissions Workshops*

On February 11, 2016, two How-To-Comply E-Plan Online Tier II Submission workshops were conducted; one in Palm Beach; and one in St. Lucie. The turnout was good for each workshop. The training helps facilities learn how to use E-Plan properly to file their Tier IIs. The biggest road block is having the facility owner/operator record chemical weights in pounds instead of gallons. This is part of our job to look at these facilities and make sure the chemicals are reported correctly, and all the chemicals on site are being reported properly. One of the changes they are making is that a person will not be required to file Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) because E-Plan has a huge collection of SDS's on file.

Filers will eventually be required to start uploading site plan. The workshops do to educate them-- how important it is that law enforcement, fire recuse, hazard materials have the correct amount in pounds reported properly in E-Plan and that they are not just reporting to the state, they are providing this information to first responders.

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

The Training Task Force met on January 19, 2016 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Mr. Alex Vohn met with all the hazardous materials teams to let them know that Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway will start using the Hybrid system on their locomotives, which will use liquefied natural gas, in addition to the diesel. Basically, what they are going to do is place an intermodal container holding 10,000 gallons of liquefied natural gas in between the two locomotives, which will feed both locomotives. The way the technology works is that they actually feed it into the air intakes of the engine. They still burn some diesel, but it drastically reduces up to 90 percent of the amount of diesel fuel they are using. Their estimate is that they will be able to make three trips between Jacksonville and Miami

before they have to refill the containers. Daniel Harshburger noted that is part of it, but it is not just for the locomotive. Ms. Boer noted the LEPC has invited FEC and CSX to the next meeting.

Chair Nelson noted that, presently, it only works on a short line railway, such as CSX. They could end up driving a train all the way up to Washington State, and they would need refueling centers all the way up. In Florida, they have an existing center in Jacksonville and are building one in Hialeah. They will be able to refuel, and their train stays local. This will be the first fully functioning system.

Chief David Harshburger mentioned that we will not only be the first ones that actually initiate fueling of the locomotives, but we will be the first line that will be transporting to L&G.

Chair Nelson said that the DOT made them jump through a lot of hoops to certify the actual cars that are going to carry these things. When they started moving bulk in crude, in general service cars, they had a lot of accidents and fires, and they had to go back and redesign specific cars to carry the crude oil. They were required to do a lot of engineering and testing to make it safe. Mr. Daly asked when they planned to start transporting. Chair Nelson replied April.

Chair Nelson stated that they will probably start running the locomotives within a year. Mike Geier inquired about training materials provided. Chair Nelson said a PowerPoint was presented, but the FEC is not willing to share, and no written materials were available.

Ms. Boer noted that the FEC was active in our last exercise and that John Young, Chief of Operations, from Jacksonville, is very committed to providing what we need.

Chief Harshburger informed that Chief Wouters put together a presentation for the Martin County Commission focusing on implications and impacts. He has an extensive collection of mapping. Ms. Boer said she would contact Chief Wouters to see if he would be interested in presenting at the next meeting.

Chair Nelson said that there is a venture capitalist group that owns FEC. They also own the AAF initiative and the liquid and natural gas liquefaction facilities. There are road containers of 10,000 gallons running down I-95, which is not something new.

During discussion, Chief Harshburger asked about access to FEC systems. Ms. Boer replied that she uses FEC Connect and can get real time information on railcar contents and consists. Chief Harshburger noted that you have to change your password every month, or you will have to re-apply. CSX is very comprehensive, but FEC needs more work to be more operational for first responders.

### *2016 Hazmat Training Symposium/Competition Champs*

The 2016 Annual Hazardous Materials Symposium included the 3rd Annual Florida Hazardous Materials Team Competition held on January 20, 2016. Four teams competed for awards. There were 100 more participants this year than last year--a significant increase. The Hazardous Training Symposium is the number one revenue generator at Fire Rescue East. West Palm Beach Fire Department won three team awards (Best Leak Control, Best Risk Assessment, and Best Overall) as well as one of the individual awards. There will be a brief presentation near the end of this meeting.

### *Offshore Hazardous Materials Response Plan*

Chair Nelson said that he had a conference call on February 17th with the Training Task Force and had a discussion on the Offshore Hazardous Materials Response Plan. He noted there is a meeting scheduled on March 9th and 10th. We are in discussions with the Coast Guard utilizing the local Hazardous Materials teams responding to ships out to sea to do recon assist and maybe some sort of limited amount of mitigation as a stop gap measure because their team from Mobile, Alabama takes up to 4 hours to get on site.

The thought was, there are firefighters who respond out and do shipboard firefighting for the Coast Guard since they are not in that business anymore. This will give them some eyes ahead of time, and if it is something simple, turn off a valve and solve the problem. Otherwise, it is to get the ball rolling in the right direction, so if they show up they can integrate into a response. The 2-day meeting is for working out the nut and bolt details of how that would actually work. How do we actually get people onto the ship? How do we get the equipment onto the ship? How we communicate between the folks of Mobile and the folks on the scene.

We are not discussing yet, which teams would be involved, but likely, it will be teams near points of transportation, so if someone is going to get air inserted they would have to be a team near one of the air facilities. Obviously, they have to be somewhere near the coast. That discussion will take place in Clearwater/St. Petersburg. An agenda is not available at this time.

### *HazMat Technician IFSTA On-Line Course Pilot Program*

Chairman Nelson noted that Clay County recently completed an on-line course pilot program with the Florida State Fire College, where they delivered a Hazardous Materials technician course--a blended format--in which a student does most of the classroom work online. Later, there is a hands-on portion which takes place in a classroom. It is considerably cheaper to deliver the classroom material in an online format. The Florida State Fire College assured that the program is open to all those who would like to deliver such a program, and Clay County or the fire college will help. This 160-hour course will be standardized through the SERC. Forty hours are in the classroom, and the rest is online. Chair Nelson noted that his department is going to participate in this program as soon as they get approval from the state.

Chair Nelson noted if someone wants to use a vendor or in-house people as instructors, the requirements and qualifications for the instructors will be the same. If our region has 5 or 6 stragglers in each county that need 160 hours, we can hold a regional class in one central location and have everybody come with laptops for the hands-on part of the program.

The State would like every LEPC to develop a trailer with hazardous material training props included; such as those for the AB&C chlorine kits, a dome rollover simulator, and Hazardous Materials suits, which can be funded with HMEP money. We are trying to develop a standard list of equipment. The trailer will have to be stored at some facility. We need a department willing to host the trailer and also willing to provide routine maintenance. The equipment would be available to the

region as a training asset. Indian River County does not have a lot of equipment to train their Hazardous Materials team. They need props to do it.

Chair Nelson said the prop/trailer will remain available to anyone in the region who is interested in hosting it. Ms. Boer volunteered to manage the maintenance schedule and training schedule.

Tom Daly noted that the FDEM in Orlando has Property Plant and Equipment (PPE) they are offering to agencies as training props. Have your local emergency manager from each county contact the logistic section at FDEM.

### *Field Operations Guide Update*

Chair Nelson noted the update to the State of Florida Field Operations guide is finalized which is a handbook for Hazardous Materials responders on how to respond to different kinds of emergencies. At the next meeting, the guidelines will be brought for consideration for approval by the SERC. The guides will be available to print electronically.

The Department of Health is working on what procedures/precautions should be taken when transporting patients to the hospital with contagious infections such as Ebola. They are working on the logistics safely transporting these patients. The Department of Health reached out to the SERC asking them to participate and come up with ideas.

Chair Nelson noted that the PPE we have for EMS responders is expiring, and we need replacement materials. In the past the health department has used State Homeland Security Program grant funding to fund that material, and has provided to all of the advanced life support providers in the State; however, they are no longer able to provide it that way. The State wants everybody to utilize Regional Healthcare Emergency Response Coalitions. Each region has one of those coalitions, and if we need replacement items at that time, we have to work in partnership with them and get access to the grant money for those items.

Chair Nelson noted the Florida Association of Hazardous responders informed that there is a facility in southwest Florida that is going to be doing a lot of sterilization, and they are going to receive kegs of ethylene oxide by Fed Ex ground. They were very certain of the route. So, it is possible through our jurisdiction, a couple of days a week, it will be a 55-gallon drum-sized keg of pressurized ethylene dioxide and a plethora of poisons traveling down the road in the Fed Ex trucks. Mike Geier pointed out that the trucks are not placarded. Ms. Boer said we may not want to placard and advertise on what they are carrying.

John Khonke, with the State of Florida Fire Marshal's office, mentioned that the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSEP) grant funding in the area of hazardous materials is going up next year, but we had an ongoing problem with not spending everything we were getting; however, we have done a much better job in spending every dime during these past couple of years. Things are looking pretty positive.

Additionally, the funding for SHSGP activities each year will focus on re-creatable, beneficial projects.

## **Railroad Response Operations Presentation**

LEPC staff showed a seven-minute video on railroad response operations for hazardous material, the first of 4 videos for rail educational and awareness series.

## **REPORTS**

### **Planning Subcommittee**

Ms. Boer noted the Planning Subcommittee is working on updating the TC LEPC Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan. She will be sending the plan to the committee members for review, and then, will submit to the Florida Division of Emergency Management staff in June for review and approval at the October 2016 SERC meeting.

### **Public Information Exchange**

No public information was exchanged.

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

Ms. Boer reported she attended Biological Threat training conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Martin County Department of Health. The FBI was there to give a presentation. The first half was great. Follow up class yesterday, Chemical Preparedness Training. Ms. Boer will ask for and distribute information to the members when available.

Ms. Boer said the agenda provided a list of the LEPC activities completed since the previous meeting of November 5, 2015, along with a list of emergency management and preparedness activities, and of 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.

### **Contract Activities Update**

The Treasure Coast LEPC sponsored 21 students to the 2016 Annual Hazmat Symposium and one (1) Hazardous Materials team to the 2016 Annual Hazardous Materials Competition. Staff completed and submitted the 2014/2015 Regional Response Plan to the State Division of Emergency Management for review. The St. Lucie County 2015/2016 Hazardous Materials Analysis is ongoing and will be sent to the Florida Division of Emergency Management for review. The Analysis will be reviewed by FDEM and when approved, copies will be sent to the emergency management and St. Lucie County Fire District/Hazmat teams and 302 reporting facilities.

### **Florida Hazardous Materials Team Competition – Daytona Beach**

A short video was shown of the Florida Hazardous Materials Team Competition. Chief Diana Matty, West Palm Beach Fire Rescue, displayed the three trophies that were awarded for “Team Best Risk Assessment,” “Leak Control,” and “Best Overall.” Chief Matty summarized the competition.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

There were no requests for primary or alternate memberships to the Treasure Coast Local Emergency Planning Committee.

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

None.

## **COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Treasure Coast LEPC is scheduled on May 5, 2016. The additional 2016 quarterly meeting dates are August 4, 2016 and November 3, 2016.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

John Holman moved for adjournment of the meeting. The motion was seconded, which carried **Motion** unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.