



**MINUTES OF THE TREASURE COAST LOCAL EMERGENCY
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
February 16, 2017**

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

Committee Members

Nelson, Joseph, Chairman
Brown, Kenton

*Burke, Kelley A.

Dixel, Louis

*Gant, Levy "Harrell"

Holman, John

Jones, Derrell

Lasaga, Frank, Vice Chairman

Mayer, Timothy

Perkins, Richard

Systems)

Phillips, Tom

Rawicz, Dave

Seldes, Paul

Swete, Carol

Thompson, Greg

Valle, Carlos

Voght, Charles

Wolfberg, Steve

Zabel, Dennis

* *Denotes Alternate*

Occupational Category

Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)

Local Environmental (Florida Department
of Environmental Protection)

Elected Official (Palm Beach County)

Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)

Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)

Law Enforcement (City of Port St. Lucie PD)

Law Enforcement (Florida Fish and Wildlife

Conservation Commission)

Emergency Management (City of Stuart Fire Rescue)

Health (Palm Beach County Health Department)

Facility Owner/Operator (City of Port St. Lucie Utility

Local Option – Safety

Facility Owner/Operator (Cheney Brothers, Inc.)

Local Option - Education (ntb Group, LLC)

Facility Owner/Operator (Scripps Research Institute)

Local Option - Safety (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)

Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney)

Health (Indian River County Health Department)

Hospital (Martin Memorial Health Systems)

Local Environmental (Florida Atlantic University)

Absent

Laryea, Nicholas

McCartt, Jack

Meding, Paul

Oatley, Aaron

Sanders, Nick

Stewart, Barry

Occupational Category

Facility Owner/Operator (Indiantown Cogeneration
L.P.)

Local Option - Education (Advanced Technical and
Educational Consultants, Inc.)

Facility Owner/Operator (Cliff Berry, Inc.)

Firefighting (Boca Raton Fire Rescue)

Hospital (Select Specialty Hospital Palm Beach)

Local Environmental (Zenith Environmental)

Weaver Sr., Steven M.

Non-Elected Local Official (Realtime Property Development Services)

Wouters, Dan

Emergency Management (Martin County Fire Rescue)

Excused

Dunn, Cheryl
Geier, Mike
Gojkovich, John
Ivey, Rachel
Koener, David
Lux, Harry
McKinlay, Melissa, Commissioner
Norris, Peter, Alternate Vice Chairman
Ortado, Derek
Pecci, Bill
Peterson, Vince

Occupational Category

Health (Indian River County Health Department)
Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)
Local Option/Education (Indian River State College)
Emergency Management (Indian River County)
Health (St. Lucie County Health Department)
Local Option - Safety (Hazmat & Safety Solutions, Inc.)
Elected Official (Palm Beach County)
Facility Owner and Operator (Scripps Research Institute)
Law Enforcement (City of Stuart Police Department)
Emergency Management Agency (Martin County)
Emergency Management (Tropicana Products, Inc.)

Visitors

Sean Harrison
Greg Tabeek
Eddie Rivera
Carly Swartz

Gustavo Vilchez

Thomas Lanahan

Emergency Response Dive International
Palm Beach County, Fire Rescue
Palm Beach County, Fire Rescue
Region IV Coordinator, Florida Division of Emergency Management
Emergency Operations Manager, St. Lucie County Division of Emergency Management
Economic Development Coordinator, TCRPC

Staff

Kathryn Boer
Kim Koho

Emergency Programs Director, TCLEPC, TCRPC
Administrative Assistant, TCLEPC, TCRPC

A quorum was present. Chairman Nelson asked visitors to introduce themselves to the Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 16, 2017 MEETING

Mr. Greg Thompson moved approval of the February 16, 2017, agenda. Mr. Charles Vogt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 4, 2016 AND NOVEMBER 3, 2016

At the November 3, 2016 meeting, a quorum was not present; therefore, the August 4, 2016 minutes were not approved. Mr. Thompson moved approval of the August 4, 2016, minutes. Sergeant John Holman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Motion

Ms. Carly Swartz, Area Coordinator, Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), asked for a clarification from the November 3, 2016 meeting minutes, page 4 of 8, Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports. It said, “Mr. Kenton Brown and Mr. Louis Dixel commented on reporting issues with the State Watch Office (SWO). They both agreed that the spills are better facilitated on a local level.” She asked if it meant that the spills are not being reported to the SWO. Chairman Joseph

Nelson responded that the spills are being reported to the SWO, however, Mr. Brown's concern was that once it goes through the protocols, by the time Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is notified, a lot of time has passed. He said in addition to notifying SWO, it would be beneficial for the spiller to immediately notify local Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency (DEP) so there is a minimum gap in response time. Mr. Brown said that in his prior experience in North Florida, the facility would call in a spill directly to the SWO. Currently, in this region, the facility calls the spill into the local County or City Fire Departments who then call the spill into the SWO. There can be up to an hour delay in reporting time. Mr. Brown said he has given the local Fire Departments his cell phone and office numbers so that along with reporting the spill to the SWO, it can be reported to him, this saves response time.

Mr. Thompson moved approval of the November 3, 2016, minutes. Captain Derrell Jones seconded **Motion** the motion, which carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Ms. Boer explained that Captain Nelson was stepping down as Chairman and that a new Chairman and Vice Chairman were to be elected. She received nine nominations for Frank Lasaga as Chairman. Mr. Thompson also nominated Frank Lasaga. Chairman Nelson asked for additional nominations for Chairman from the floor. Having none, the nominations were closed. Chairman Nelson announced by unanimous consensus that Frank Lasaga was elected as Chairman of the TCLEPC.

Ms. Boer said that no nominations were received for Vice-Chairman and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Chairman Nelson asked if the alternate Vice-Chairman, Peter Norris, would consider being Vice-Chairman. Mr. Norris was not in attendance and the Chairman tabled the nomination for Vice-Chairman until Mr. Norris could be reached to either accept or decline.

Chairman Nelson asked if there were any nominations or volunteers for Alternate Vice-Chairman. There were none.

Point of order was called by Chairman Nelson who asked permission of the newly elected Chairman, Mr. Lasaga, to chair the remainder of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Meeting

The SERC met on January 8, 2017 in Daytona Beach, Florida. The next SERC meeting will be held in Cocoa Beach, Florida, on May 9, 2017.

Thomas Yatabe Award and Certificates of Appreciation

Ms. Boer said this year the SERC received several nominations for the annual Thomas Yatabe SERC Awards Program. The nominations are in recognition for outstanding contributions made in the implementation and support of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA). The 2017 Thomas Yatabe SERC Award was given to Captain Joseph Nelson, Special Operations, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue.

Ms. Boer announced the Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Captain Derrell Jones, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Chief Carlos Valle, Fire Rescue and Security, Rockedyne, and John Gojkovich, Instructor, Public Safety, Indian River State, College.

Ms. Boer made a special presentation to honor Chairman Nelson for his service since 2009 on the TCLEPC. He was elected as Vice-Chairman in 2012, and elected as Chairman in 2014. He also served as the Chairman for the SERC Training Task Force. Chief Valle commended Chairman Nelson's dedication, service, and willingness to help. He is always just a phone call away, ready to assist in whatever way he can. Chairman Nelson thanked the Committee adding that it had been an honor to serve the TCLEPC.

Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports

Chairman Nelson said that the State has posted the correct information in the report. It now includes the correct counties listed in the jurisdiction. Ms. Boer said the agenda provides the report for the Treasure Coast region but detailed information is available upon request from the SWO and the entire report for all ten regions is in the SERC agenda package, which is located on the FDEM website.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Chairman and Coordinators Meeting Update

The ten Florida LEPC Chairs and Coordinators met on January 17, 2017 in Daytona Beach, Florida, one day prior to the SERC. The next meeting will be held May 8, 2017 in Cocoa Beach and will be held in conjunction with the National Association of SARA Title III Program Officials (NASTTPO) Mid-Year/EPA Tri Conference & Annual Meeting. The meeting is to discuss Tier II and reporting best practices. It also provides good training for facility owners and operators.

Chairman Nelson said it was the first time in its four years that the Symposium was separate from the Florida Fire Chiefs Fire Rescue East Conference. Moving forward, the Symposium elected a board that will oversee and manage the symposium as a separate entity. The Symposium has become the largest draw at the Fire Rescue East Conference and is starting to get national level speakers and more hands on training.

Chairman Nelson introduced firefighters Eddie Rivera and Greg Tabeek Hazardous Materials team members from Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, who spoke about the excellent features and opportunities offered at the Symposium. They will continue to attend and support the symposium.

Ms. Boer commented on the excellent leak and spill training that was provided using a dedicated spur and railcar. The Symposium was attended by personnel from Fire Rescue, Florida Department of Health, FDOT and Law Enforcement.

Ms. Boer said she received notification from the State that the Hazards Materials Team Assessments will be going forward. She explained that it is a self-assessment of capabilities, which is done by each team. Meetings will be set up between TCLEPC staff and the teams or team captains to discuss future needs. Chairman Nelson stated the lists will be coordinated through the State Fire Marshall's office and will be incorporated into the State Emergency Response Plan (SERP). He explained that it is a way to validate the capabilities of Hazardous Material Teams that are part of the SERP. All funded and non-funded teams can request assessments. Ms. Boer said she will forward the paperwork to the teams.

Ms. Boer said that the change to the Risk Management Plan (RMP) Rule effects the involvement of the LEPC's with private facility's exercises and drills. The LEPCs will start to assume more of a review process as well as assisting facilities in the designing and setting up of exercises. Ms. Boer stated that she would send the members the section of the new RMP Rule that involves the LEPC, since she may need to call on the members for assistance as evaluators or reviewers with regards to products resulting from the facility's RMPs.

Chairman Nelson said that this will create a dialog and participation between RMP facilities and local responders. Every year the State creates a list of which RMP facilities will be visited in the region and will be sending that list to the TCLEPC members. Most facilities will receive a letter notifying them of the date they will be visited. Ms. Boer stated that she is invited to those visits and if any member would like to be included, to please contact her.

Chairman Nelson stated that the DEP Notification Rule had changed. The Rule provides DEP with authority to enforce the facility requirement to notify the SWO of spills. Mr. Brown says that the facilities call the spills into the fire departments or DOT offices, who then call the spill into the SWO. The Rule says that the facility must notify the SWO of the spill. When Mr. Brown receives notification from the SWO, the number associated with the reported spill is not from the facility, but from the local fire departments or DOT offices. Mr. Thompson stated that facilities call the EPA 800 number for spill notification and Mr. Brown said that the EPA 800 number is not the SWO. The SWO is the DEP 800 number.

Mr. Brown said that last week his department received an email explaining the new rule and that he would forward it to Ms. Boer.

Ms. Boer stated that there was a discussion regarding the facilities who are and who are not filing Tier II reports with the State. The TCLEPC is the regional repository for the Treasure Coast Region's Tier II reports. One of the problems with facility filing is the facility might not know that they should be filing a Tier II report. She cited, for example, 55 and over private communities who have water treatment facilities on site. They should be reporting a Tier II. Many of these private facilities also do not have the resources for training. It is an opportunity for the LEPC to provide outreach and some training, but these facilities will still need more extensive internal training.

TRAINING TASK FORCE UPDATE – CHAIRMAN NELSON

Chairman Nelson said that the Training Task Force (TTF) discussed the Annual Hazmat Symposium and the Hazards Analysis Team Assessments, which have been discussed in the LEPC Chair and Coordinator's meeting update section of the agenda.

Chairman Nelson stated that the Hazards Analysis Working Group was originally established as a short-term project to improve the way the Hazards Analysis was being done, but has turned into a semi-permanent organization, which has implemented improvements to E-Plan.

Ms. Boer stated that Etta LoPresti, Indian River County Emergency Management, was invited to join the Hazards Analysis Working Group. Ms. Boer has asked that Ms. LoPresti provide her with updates that she can forward to the members.

Chairman Nelson stated that the DEP provided the TTF with background information in tracking 302 facilities. Hazards Materials Identification System (HMIS) database had been previously used. Ms. Boer explained that HMIS is data from facilities which are reporting annually. Chairman Nelson stated that the system was migrated to E-Plan. E-Plan is being updated continually so that the information is more reliable and the software has been updated to make it user friendly. For example, if a facility enters in the type of chemical it has onsite; the software will automatically populate what type of facility they are and their reporting requirements. The State is working toward automating the migration of Computer – Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) data into E-Plan. Ms. Boer stated that E-Plan training and outreach is done every year by the LEPC. The migration of information from CAMEO into E-Plan would be extremely beneficial since it is the most accurate information available. CAMEO software is available to first responders, which can be more useful than E-Plan in certain situations. She explained that SharePoint data site is a tool that can be used to download CAMEO data. That data is then migrated into Geospatial Assessment Tool for Operations and Response (GATOR). Chairman Nelson said GATOR provides useful local information to first responders who have been sent to support an outside region. Ms. Boer said it also is useful when responding to issues that are along the county border.

Chairman Nelson reported that the State of Florida has 500 Large Quantity Generators (LQG) and 3600 Small Quantity Generators (SQG). Ms. Boer said that the SQGs have a wide category of waste. Chairman Nelson said that all of the LQGs and SQGs must coordinate with the local LEPCs to do an annual exercise. Ms. Boer suggested looking at the annual exercise requirement on a regional basis by coordinating the local LQGs and SQGs into a regional conference.

Chairman Nelson reported that Congress reached out to all of the States requesting a list of unfunded mandates. The State of Florida identified EPCRA as their largest unfunded mandate. This inquiry could either provide an opportunity for funding or the elimination of regulations. First responders should be aware of these possibilities.

Chairman Nelson reported that the western states come together for a best practices conference, which might be developed for the eastern coast states coordinated through the EPA.

Chairman Nelson said that there is a time limit as to how long a class certificate will stay in the Florida State Emergency Response Team Training Resource and Activity Center. They are encouraging class participants to keep backup copies of their own certificates. Ms. Boer said that the TCLEPC maintains copies of certificates for classes they offer.

Chairman Nelson announced that Mr. Matt Marshall, Clay County, is the newly elected Chair for the TTF. He also asked for a volunteer to serve as a representative for the TTF. Since there were none, Ms. Boer said she would email the Committee members asking for a volunteer.

Chairman Nelson said the TTF discussed the Hybrid Technician training class benefits. He stated that Palm Beach County Fire Rescue provided their first hybrid training class and it was very cost effective and successful. The classroom materials are provided online and the hands-on portion of the class was completed in 40 hours. Chairman Nelson felt that hands-on portion of the class needed 80 hours. There were software glitches when staff tried to receive State approval and took diligence to complete the process. Those glitches will be resolved once the State migrates to a new computer system.

Chairman Nelson stated that the U.S. Coast Guard was seeking an agreement with the State of Florida for local responders to provide assistance with off shore oil spills by April, 2017. The SERC did not take action with the proposed agreement and are still working on it. They are determining if the agreement should be between the U.S. Coast Guard and the State of Florida or the Florida Fire Chief.

Chairman Nelson reported that the embargo with Cuba has been lifted and discussions can occur between the two countries regarding response to such issues as an oil spill happening in Cuban waters which would affect the State of Florida. However, the two countries may still not train together.

Chairman Nelson stated that Palm Beach County has offered to host and register the Regional Hazardous Materials Training Props Trailer. Ms. Boer said that the trailer will be regional and stocked with props that can be used for Hazardous Materials training. She will actively try to get Palm Beach County reimbursed for the trailer registration. She will send a list of props to the TCLEPC membership and ask they return any comments they might have to her. The TCLEPC will not be developing a mechanism to own the trailer and the ownership of the trailer can be rotated. Chairman Nelson stated that the trailer will be a great resource.

REPORTS/UPDATES

Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan

Ms. Boer said the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan is updated annually. She explained the plan contains data from each region concerning operational guidelines, resources, and tools that each county uses in their actual or planned response to hazardous materials incidents and releases. She will send the plan to the TCLEPC membership. She asked that they review their agency's section and forward her any comments or updates they might have.

Ms. Boer said that the TCLEPC planning project for this year will be a response plan development for rail response. She will be working with the Hazardous Materials Response Teams to discuss plan updates or develop plans for railway incidents.

Public Information Exchange

Ms. Boer said that the date of the full scale exercise has been changed from February to April 12, 2017. She will be asking the TCLEPC membership to volunteer as evaluators and controllers. There are three sites and six hospital locations and will be sending the Committee the scenarios for each site. She asked that the scenarios not be shared so that operators do not see it, which could scue their behavior.

Mr. Steve Wolfberg asked if the property in Tradition, Port St. Lucie, was secured for one of the sites. Ms. Boer said that the TCLEPC had originally worked with the County prior to it being sold to Christ Fellowship Church. The church has offered a room for lunch and the hot wash, and an area for parking. Ms. Boer said that behind the church is a facility she was not familiar with and Seargent Holman said that it is strictly an irrigation facility with no chlorine. She said that she is hoping that Tradition will allow them to use the facility area for parking.

Ms. Boer mentioned that Seargent Holman has secured a canine demonstration for children at the site. There will be an explosion contaminating the officers, canines, and children along with a decon unit on site. So that people do not have to be moved, the same amount of people who are staged at the site will also be staged at the hospital. Ms. Boer said they are looking for special needs people to participate in the exercise.

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 November 3, 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 TCLEPC has recently conducted a 24 hour CAMEO software class and an 8 hour Refresher Hazardous Waste Operations for Responders training. FDEM staff is offering Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) 8-hour Awareness and 16-hour Operations level at Martin County Fire Rescue. This training is in response to anticipated increase on rail and pipeline transport of LNG product throughout the region.

Ms. Boer said that the 2016 Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan was updated and is to be approved at the October 2017 SERC meeting. The 2017 planning project will be a Develop District Response Procedures (SOPS) For Incidents Involving the Transportation of Flammable Liquids, Chlorine and Anhydrous Ammonia for inclusion in County CEMP's and Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan.

MEMBERSHIP

Chairman Nelson welcomed the following new primary member appointed at the January 18, 2017 SERC meeting: Ms. Rachel Ivey, Indian River County Emergency Management. Ms. Etta LoPresti was approved as her alternate.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND STAFF

Chairman Nelson is very proud of the TCLEPC and thanked all of the members for their participation. He is confident that the TCLEPC will continue to do great work. The State of Florida with regards to its Emergency Preparedness practices is looked at nationally as a leader.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carol Sweete, Scripps Research Institute, spoke to Mr. Norris, Scripps Research Institute who stated that he did not object to his nomination as Vice-Chairman. Chairman Nelson offered his nomination as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion

Mr. Dixel stated that I-95 is no longer maintained by FDOT and has been taken over by private companies. The private companies are not experienced in spill cleanup. He plans to hold a class in May, with Mr. Brown, to teach companies how to respond to spills. FDOT is called to clean up roads that the private companies cannot handle, however, since the funding for the cleanup has been reduced, it creates a budget deficit. Mr. Brown said that truck drivers are not being held responsible when there is a roadway spill. Ms. Boer asked to be notified of the training so that she can forward the information to the LEPC and other agencies.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Boer announced the next TCLEPC meeting was originally scheduled for May 4, 2017, and will need to be rescheduled for June. It was the consensus of the Committee that the meeting be held Thursday, June 1, 2017. Captain Derrell Jones offered to host the next meeting at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FFWCC) Regional Office, 8535 Northlake Boulevard, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33412.

Captain Jones moved approval that the next meeting of the TCLEPC be held at the FFWCC's Regional Office, 8534 Northlake Boulevard, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33412. Mr. Dixel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Sweete moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kelley Burke seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.