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**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE TREASURE COAST LOCAL EMERGENCY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)  
February 15, 2018**

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

*\*Denotes Alternate Member*

**Committee Members**

Lasaga, Frank, Chairman

\*Burke, Kelley A.

Chen, Jauming

Dixel, Louis

\*Gantt, Levy "Harrell"

Garfalo, John

\*Garzaniti, Jon

Gojkovich, John

Graff, Steven

Holman, John

\*Miller, John

\*Murphy, Michelle

Oatley, Aaron

Pecci, William

Perkins, Richard

Rothe, Heather

Thompson, Gregory

Vilchez, Gustavo

\*Vogt, Charles "CV"

Zabel, Dennis

**Absent**

Brennan, David

\*Koerner, David

Meding, Paul

**Occupational Category**

Emergency Management (City of Stuart Fire Rescue)

Alternate for Commissioner McKinlay (Palm Beach County)

Facility Owner/Operator (St. Lucie County)

Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)

Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)

Facility Owner/Operator (Palm Beach County)

Law Enforcement (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)

Local Option/Education (Indian River State College)

Law Enforcement (Jupiter Island Department of Public Safety)

Law Enforcement (City of Port St. Lucie Police Department)

Facility Owner/Operator (Palm Beach County)

Firefighting (Boca Raton Fire Rescue)

Firefighting (Boca Raton Fire Rescue)

Emergency Management (Martin County)

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

Law Enforcement (City of Stuart Police Department)

Local Option – Safety (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)

Emergency Management (St. Lucie County Public Safety)

Health (Florida Department of Health – Indian River County)

Local Environmental (Florida Atlantic University)

**Occupational Category**

Owner/Operator (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)

Health (Florida Department of Health - St. Lucie County)

Facility Owner/Operator (Cliff Berry, Inc.)

Nelson, Joseph	Local Option, HazMat Special Ops (Palm Beach Fire Rescue)
Peterson, Vince	Emergency Management (Tropicana Products, Inc.)
Phillips, Tom	Local Option – Safety (Palm Beach County)
Rawicz, Dave	Facility Owner/Operator (Cheney Brothers, Inc.) Utility Systems)
Sanders, Nick	Hospital (Select Specialty Hospital Palm Beach)
Stewart, Barry	Local Environmental (Zenith Environmental)
Weaver Sr., Steven M.	Non-Elected Local Official (Realtime Property Development Services)
Wolfberg, Steve	Hospital (Martin Memorial Health Systems)

**Excused**

Barrett, Richard  
Blizzard, Brian  
Brown, Kenton

Dunn, Cheryl

Geier, Mike  
Ivey, Rachel  
Jones, Derrell

Mayer, Timothy

McKinlay, Melissa, Commissioner  
Rowley, William  
Seldes, Paul  
Valle, Carlos

**Occupational Category**

Facility Owner/Operator (Florida Gas Transmission Co.)  
Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire District)  
Local Environmental (Florida Department of Environmental Protection)  
Health (Florida Department of Health – Indian River County)  
Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)  
Emergency Management (Indian River County)  
Law Enforcement (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)  
Health (Florida Department of Health - Palm Beach County Health)  
Elected Official (Palm Beach County)  
Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)  
Local Option - Education (ntb Group, LLC)  
Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney)

**Visitors**

David Crowe, Regional Emergency Response Advisor	Florida Department of Health – Region 5
Lisa Poziomek, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	Florida Department of Health – Martin County
Daryl Sibble, Ph.D., Environmental Specialist II	Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**Staff**

Kathryn E. Boer	TCLEPC Coordinator, TCRPC
Kim Koho	Administrative Assistant, TCRPC

Ms. Boer stated that Mr. Geier, Palm Beach County Emergency Management, had participated in a four County FEMA evaluated nuclear exercise February 14, 2018, and invited the FEMA personnel to the TCLEPC meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Boer asked the Committee for comments regarding the new agenda format and by consensus the Committee agreed that the streamlined agenda was better. Mr. Pecci moved approval of the February 15, 2018, agenda. Sergeant Steven Graff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 16, 2017**

Mr. John Garofalo moved approval of the November 16, 2017, meeting minutes. Mr. Richard Perkins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. **Motion**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **State Emergency Response Commission Meeting**

Chairman Lasaga stated the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) met on January 17, 2018 in Daytona Beach, Florida, during the Hazmat Symposium. The Florida Division of Emergency Management and the SERC approved the 2017 TCLEPC's 2017 Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan update by staff.

Chairman Lasaga reported that Mr. James Kelly, U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), provided a presentation regarding the Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (PERI) program. The intent of the program is to create an advisory group that would help to provide training, planning and outreach/education regarding pipeline safety. Determinations are being made as to who would oversee the program at the State level and implement it at the local level. Ms. Boer said that the initiative could dovetail nicely with the LEPC and HazMat outreach and education expanded scope of work.

Ms. Boer stated that the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council received a grant from the U.S. DOT to fund an initial planning statewide/regional meeting for the PERI advisory group statewide. She asked Committee members to notify her if they wished to be involved.

Ms. Boer suggested the TCLEPC organize a PERI subcommittee to discuss and organize the needs of the initiative after the initial planning meeting is held. Chairman Lasaga concurred.

### **2017 Thomas Yatabe Award**

Chairman Lasaga announced the SERC awarded the 2017 Thomas Yatabe Award to Chief David Dyal, Fire Chief, City of Stuart Fire Rescue at the SERC meeting in Daytona Beach. Ms. Boer said that Chief Dyal has retired, but was consistently a huge supporter of the TCLEPC. In the last ten years, he has provided assistance in planning efforts for many of the exercises. He also provided the City of Stuart's Fire Rescue Emergency Operations Center to hold the TCLEPC meetings whenever it was needed for meetings and training. Pictures of the award will be on the website and will be sent to the local papers.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Mr. Thomas Daly, formerly of the Department of Health St. Lucie County; Mr. Timothy Mayer, Department of Health Palm Beach County; Ms. Lisa Poziomek, Department of Health Martin County; and Ms. Joan Rivera, Indian River State College.

## **Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports**

Ms. Boer noted that the Florida Division of Emergency Management, State Watch Office (SWO) provides a quarterly set of tables and graphs to brief regions on Potential Section 304 Investigations; Hazardous Materials & Traffic Incidents with Evacuations, Injuries, and Deaths; Hazardous Materials Incident Reports; and Florida Hazardous Materials Report by Region. Staff includes these tables and graphs in the agenda for membership review of hazardous materials incidents and spills in efforts to enhance notification and awareness of ongoing conditions within the region. The information included is for the Treasure Coast Region with the exception of also including some of Broward County's information, which she will request to be removed for the next report. She noted that the TCLEPC uses several reports to further outreach and education mission aspects of EPCRA. Ms. Boer asked if Committee members had questions regarding the tables and graphs and there were none.

Ms. Boer said that by contacting the SWO directly the list can be sent directly to the agency and it would only include information related to that agency. She asked that anyone interested in receiving that list to contact her for the information. The entire report can be viewed on the Florida Division of Emergency Management website.

## **Local Emergency Planning Committee Chair's and Coordinator's Meeting Update**

Ms. Boer stated that the quarterly Statewide LEPC chairs and coordinators met January 16, 2018, in Daytona Beach during the 2018 Annual Hazmat Symposium. There were no issues that were going before the SERC; however, there were some support items that were initiatives from the State Training Task Force (TTF). Those initiatives opened up new projects for the development of Response and Operations white papers. Chairman Lasaga stated that a white paper has been completed on the drug Fentanyl for first responder safety and personal protective equipment and that the Committee can request to have it sent to them.

Ms. Boer said the TTF discussed updates to awareness and operations training guides. They also discussed the advantages of offering the hybrid Hazardous Materials Technician level class, which offers the classroom portion of the class online. Chief Aaron Oatley commented that the class is convenient, but stated the classroom portion can be challenging without someone appointed to provide feedback on questions during the online portion of the class.

Ms. Boer said she worked with the chosen instructor, Delray Beach, Boca Raton, and Indian River County Fire Rescue Departments, and St. Lucie County Fire District training officers and fire chiefs to determine the curriculum that would best serve the online and hands on sections of the training.

Ms. Boer added that when choosing an instructor(s) the agency should request the instructor(s) attend planning sessions in the development of the curriculum. If possible, the instructor should be requested to monitor the online portion of the training and be available to answer questions from students as they progress. This will be valuable during the hands-on portion of the training that follows the online in that the instructor can focus on areas of concern and/or link questions and answers to actual experience.

Ms. Boer said that the LEPC scope of work as well as funding has both been increased to include more outreach and exercise activities. Ms. Boer stated that she currently gives presentations to Mr. John

Gojkovich's law enforcement classes at the Indian River State College Public Safety Academy quarterly.

### **TRAINING TASK FORCE UPDATE – Chair Frank Lasaga**

The TTF met during the Hazmat Symposium, which has expanded significantly. There were 525 registrations that included one out of state registration from North Carolina and one as far away as Germany. Ms. Boer stated that there were 14 teams registered for the competition. The TCLEPC sponsored four teams from the region to compete: Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Palm Beach, and West Palm Beach.

Chairman Lasaga said that the competitions are an excellent opportunity to practice execution strategies and tactics. It also provides feedback in the way of evaluations once competition is completed. The competition might look to expand participation for support agencies that work together in response and operations.

Mr. David Crowe, Department of Health, Regional Coordinator, asked if all the registrations that were funded by the TCLEPC attended the symposium; Ms. Boer acknowledged that all 51 attended. Next year, the membership will decide on a cap for attendee sponsorship due to the expense of lodging. Chairman Lasaga asked that Ms. Boer email the membership a survey.

Ms. Boer stated that the variety and quality of training offered at the Symposium by expert instructors is very beneficial. It's difficult to provide within the region annually the unique classes and the hands-on logistical support equipment such as rail and tank cars and realistic simulations on varied spill and leak situations.

Chairman Lasaga stated that Scott Chappell discussed Urban Search and Rescue and Florida's response to Hurricane Irma. The response to Hurricane Irma was unprecedented as the coordination of resources was comprehensive and was coordinated extremely well.

Chairman Lasaga stated that the TTF will be looking into completing Hazardous Materials Team Self-Assessment surveys with Type I and Type II funded teams on an annual basis. The unfunded teams are encouraged to use the assessment as a tool for team improvement. The Symposium committee will be developing a Hazmat Team Assessment class at the 2019 Hazmat Symposium.

Chairman Lasaga reported on the discussion on the Florida Fire Fighters Cancer Initiative. Firefighters have an eight percent higher incident of cancer than the general public along with a fourteen percent higher mortality rate. They are exposed to carcinogens caused by the release of toxins from fires burning synthetic products, plastics, and chemicals. Chairman Lasaga said that the Florida Fire Fighters Cancer Initiative has requested letters of support from organizations involved in the process and the TTF is currently completing a letter of support.

The State of Florida has a grant program administered through the State Fire Marshall's Office which provides funding to purchase field decon systems. The systems provide a rinse down of the firefighter to remove the toxins as soon as possible and prior to returning to their station. Mr. Chappell reported that there was a one (1) million dollar grant available to purchase personal decontamination systems.

The deadline for application is April 1, 2018. Chairman Lasaga said he would forward the information to Ms. Boer so that it could be shared among the membership.

Chairman Lasaga said the TTF is discussing updating the Standards for Competencies for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents since the current Standards for Competencies do not reflect the changes in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 472 and 475. There is State funding available to find a vendor to update those Competencies. He will keep the Committee updated on its progress.

Chief Michelle Murphy stated that she will be attending the NFPA 472/475 meeting in Orlando, Florida on February 20 and 21, 2018 to address the vision process for Standards for Competencies for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents. She offered to brief the Committee at the next meeting.

Chairman Lasaga stated the TTF is preparing a white paper document advocating for the use of Cyanokits for the prophylactic treatment of suspected cyanide poisoning which can be caused by smoke inhalation created by chemical fires. The kits are not being used as often as they should, so there is a push to educate departments by advocating the kits as a standard of care for fire fighters and the public.

Ms. Boer stated that Mr. Burt McKee discussed the need for pesticide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for first responders and a project box was added for household PPE. There is also a need for PPE to be kept in vehicles of any persons working in areas of possible exposures.

Chairman Lasaga said regarding the Offshore Response Update, the TTF is working with the U.S. Coast Guard to develop a curriculum for the use of land based Hazardous Materials Teams on shipboard incidents. An effort will be made to include this course in the 2019 Hazardous Materials Symposium.

Ms. Boer said the next meeting of the TTF will be April 12, and the SERC will be April 13, 2018 in St. Augustine, Florida.

## **PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ms. Boer said the 2017 Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan was approved by Florida Division of Emergency Management which recommended the SERC approve as well. Staff will be adding language on freight and passenger rail regarding derailment safety in the appropriate sections of the Plan for the 2018 update.

Ms. Boer stated planning has begun for a tabletop discussion based exercise in areas near Lake Okeechobee in Palm Beach County, based on Commissioner McKinlay's suggestion to examine and discuss movement of response resources to rural areas in the event of a chemical release. Please notify staff if Committee members would like to participate in the planning for the tabletop exercise.

Chief Murphy asked if Ms. Boer would be talking to jurisdictions about the lessons they might have learned from train derailment incidents in the region. Ms. Boer asked if any agency has had any experience with train derailments to please share them with her. Mr. David Crowe said that Orlando, even though it is outside the region, has had several train derailments. He said he would reach out to his

counterpart in the Panhandle of Florida to obtain an after action report. Chief Murphy suggested reaching out to the State for information. Chairman Lasaga said that the lessons learned would be valuable in developing expected outcomes. Ms. Boer stated that she would contact the State of Georgia to obtain their after action reports. Chief Murphy volunteered to reach out to Broward County Fire Rescue for their after action reports for the derailments in their region.

Mr. Crowe asked if there was a rail yard in the region. Ms. Boer said that there is one in Fort Pierce, and one in Palm Beach County near the Port of Palm Beach.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Chairman Lasaga asked that if anyone had any information that they would like to share with the Committee members to contact Ms. Boer and she will disseminate to the membership.

Ms. Boer said the upcoming Epidemiology Crime Lab Training Class on February 20, 2018, is an excellent opportunity for agency personnel. An email was sent out to the membership with information about the class and she recognized Ms. Lisa Poziomek, Department of Health - Martin County who is in attendance, can register those wishing to attend after today's meeting.

Mr. Gustavo Vilchez, St. Lucie County Emergency Management Coordinator, stated that on April 5, 2018, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., the Department of Health - St. Lucie County will be conducting a Point of Dispensing exercise at the Orange Blossom Business Center in Fort Pierce. Ms. Poziomek stated that Department of Health – Martin County, will be conducting their exercise April 4, 2018. Ms. Boer asked that Mr. Vilchez and Ms. Poziomek send her the exercise information so that she could forward it to the membership with a request for volunteers. She stated that St. Lucie County needs walk-in volunteers and Martin County needs drive through volunteers.

## **LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

Ms. Boer stated that she is currently working on the Small Quantity Waste Generators program, conducting regulatory sites visits for St. Lucie County facilities and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Ms. Boer stated that she will be emailing the Committee the current TCLEPC Brochure, which was developed for outreach purposes, for their review and suggested updates.

## **CONTRACT ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

Ms. Boer stated that the TCLEPC sponsored 51 students to the 2018 Annual Hazardous Materials Symposium held in Daytona Beach. There will be a cap applied on the number of students sponsored for the 2019 Symposium.

Ms. Boer stated that the 2017/2018 St. Lucie County Hazards Analysis for facilities storing, manufacturing, and/or transporting Extremely Hazardous Substances within the County has been completed, submitted, and approved for the first 50 percent of the total facilities. The final 50 percent will be completed by March, 2018. Once approved by the Division of Emergency Management,

facilities will be notified so they can obtain their specific vulnerability analysis. The completed Hazards Analysis will be forwarded to St. Lucie County Emergency Management and the Fire District.

Ms. Boer explained that Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) information is available to first responders what chemicals are on site at a facility for planning and response. CAMEO also provides first responders with other detailed information about the facility's chemicals such as where they are stored, history of previous leaks, how they are transported, safety issues, and other details needed for safer responses. Tier II reports are filed electronically through E-Plan and the LEPC is the regional repository for the region's facility reports.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Chairman Lasaga welcomed the following new primary members appointed at the January 17, 2018, SERC meeting: Sergeant Heather Rothe, Stuart Police Department as Law Enforcement; and Sergeant Michael Gerwan, Stuart Police Department was approved as alternate for Sergeant Heather Rothe.

Mr. Boer announced that Vice Chair Ms. Carol Sweet, Scripps Research Institute, regrets her resignation due to travel restrictions and wished the LEPC success. Chairman Lasaga opened the floor for nominations for the Vice Chair officer position. Mr. John Garofalo, Palm Beach State College, volunteered to serve as the Vice Chair. It was the consensus of the Committee that Mr. Garofalo's nomination be accepted. Mr. Greg Thompson nominated Mr. Garofalo to be the Vice Chair. Mr. Charles Vogt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Motion**

## **COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND STAFF**

None.

## **COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The Committee discussed and agreed to schedule the next meeting of the TCLEPC is on May 24, 2018 due to conferences and meeting conflicts. The location is to be determined.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.