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MINUTES OF THE TREASURE COAST LOCAL EMERGENCY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE (TCLEPC)  
February 20, 2020

Chair Lasaga called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Staff called the roll and announced a quorum was present. Chair Lasaga led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee Members Present      Occupational Category

Members Present

Michael Altamuro	Firefighting (City of Boca Raton Fire Rescue)
Kenton Brown	Local Environmental (Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection)
Richard Barrett	Facility Owner/Operator (Florida Gas Transmission Co.)
Shon Broedell	Firefighting (City of Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue)
Louis Dixel	Transportation (Florida Department of Transportation)
John Garofalo, Vice Chair	Facility Owner/Operator (Palm Beach State College)
John Gojkovich	Local Option/Education (Indian River State College)
John Holman	Law Enforcement (City of Port St. Lucie Police Department)
Rachel Ivey	Emergency Management (Indian River County)
Matthew King	Facility Owner/Operator (Tropical Shipping)
Frank Lasaga, Chair	Law Enforcement (Jupiter Island Police Department)
Richard Perkins	Facility Owner/Operator - (City of Port St. Lucie Utility Systems)
Vince Peterson	Emergency Management (Tropicana Products, Inc.)
Dave Rawicz	Facility Owner/Operator (Cheney Brothers, Inc.)
Carlos Valle	Firefighting (Pratt & Whitney)
Dennis Zabel	Local Environmental (Florida Atlantic University)

Members Excused

Travis Baines	Local Option Safety (Loxahatchee Env. River Control District)
James Brothers	Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Leanne Cobb	Local Option (Palm Beach County BOCC)
Cheryl Dunn	Health (Florida Department of Health – Indian River County)
Mike Geier	Emergency Management (Palm Beach County)
Melissa McKinlay	Elected Official (Palm Beach County Commissioner)
Daniel Mikels	Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire Rescue)
Joseph Nelson	Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
William Pecci, Jr.	Emergency Management (Martin County)
Heather Rothe	Law Enforcement (City of Stuart Police Department)
Paul Seldes	Local Option – Education (ntb Group, LLC)
Greg Thompson	Local Option – Safety (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)
Gustavo Vilchez	Emergency Management (St. Lucie County)

Members Absent

David Brennan	Owner/Operator (Sysco Southeast Florida, LLC)
Jose Gonzalez	Firefighting (Palm Beach County Fire Rescue)
Paul Meding	Facility Owner/Operator (Cliff Berry, Inc.)
Tom Phillips	Local Option – Safety (Palm Beach County)
Nick Sanders	Hospital (Select Specialty Hospital Palm Beach)
Barry Stewart	Local Environmental (Zenith Environmental)

Alternates Present

Kelley Burke	Elected Official (Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners)
Rodney Dewson	Firefighting (St. Lucie County Fire Rescue)
Lisa Poziomek	Emergency Management (Martin County)
Michael Rice	Law Enforcement (City of Stuart Police Department)
Charles Vogt	Health (Department of Health – Indian River County)

Visitors

Diana De La Rosa	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Norva Blandin	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Alannah Irwin	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Lydia Williams	Florida Department of Health – St. Lucie County
Willie Bouie	Florida Division of Emergency Management

Staff

Kathryn E. Boer	TCLEPC Coordinator, TCRPC
Thomas J. Lanahan	TCRPC, Executive Director
Liz Gulick	TCRPC, Administration

**Meeting Introductions**

Chair Lasaga recognized the following guests at the meeting: Diana De La Rosa, Norva Blandin, and Alannah Irwin, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP); Lydia Williams, Florida Department of Health (FDOH) – St. Lucie County; and Mr. Willie Bouie, Area 5 Coordinator, Florida Division Emergency Management (FDEM).

**Approval of Agenda**

Vice Chair John Garafalo, Palm Beach State College, moved for approval of the February 20, 2020 Agenda. Chief Shon Broedell, City of Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue, seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2019**

Mr. Richard Barrett, Florida Gas Transmission Company, moved for approval of the November 7, 2019 Minutes. Mr. John Holman, City of Port St. Lucie Police Department, seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## **Presentation by Robert J. Ingram – Selective Shielding of Bone Marrow: An Approach to Protecting Humans from External Gamma Radiation**

Mr. Robert Ingram, RJI Consulting, LLC, provided a presentation on first responder protection from Gamma radiation, and StemRad equipment.

Mr. Ingram noted when the body is exposed to high doses of radiation, the most common cause of death is damage to the bone marrow, the body's blood source. The most troubling area of exposure is the pelvic region. This region stores 40% of the body's bone marrow. Significant exposure levels to this area typically result in death within 4-8 weeks. He demonstrated the StemRad 360 Gamma Protection Vest which is worn around the pelvic area that shields the bone marrow and protects the organs in the abdominal and pelvic regions that are most susceptible to radiation-induced cancer. He noted that several radiation exposure protection belts have been designed and are now being manufactured for protection of an individual's pelvic region. The belts come in various sizes, models and price points. One of the described belts sits on the hips, is held up by the shoulders and weighs about 30 pounds. Ms. Boer asked if there was a fitting for responder dogs. Mr. Ingram responded no.

Chair Lasaga asked about funding opportunities. Mr. Ingram noted that grants are not available at this time. He noted that the funds to pay for the vests are coming from the emergency management budget. Staff noted that the Homeland Security Funds might be an opportunity. Ms. Boer noted that she spoke with TCLEPC member, Bill Pecci, Martin County Emergency Management Agency, who noted that Martin County Fire Rescue had purchased several of these belts and is quite pleased with them, recommending the apparatus to all.

### **New Business**

**State Emergency Response Commission Meeting.** The quarterly State Emergency Response Committee (SERC) meeting was held on January 22, 2020 in Daytona Beach, Florida. The next SERC meeting is scheduled on April 17, 2020 in St. Augustine, Florida.

*2019 Thomas Yatabe Award and Certificates of Appreciation.* Ms. Norva Blandin from the FDEP was awarded the 2019 Thomas Yatabe Award. The nominations are in recognition of outstanding contributions made in the implementation and support of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). Ms. Diana De La Rosa and Ms. Alannah Irwin also from FDEP were awarded Yatabe Certificates of Appreciation Awards. The awardees are a team that head and support the Small and Large Quantity Waste Generator program for the Treasure Coast region. They maintain compliance, technical assistance, and educational outreach for the FDEP program and have dedicated significant time to furthering the EPCRA mission of hazardous materials safety and compliance through engaging training opportunities and partnering with the TCLEPC on the Emergency Managers Networking Conference, training and workshops that help to develop partnerships and foster public/private relationships.

*Dwayne L. Mundy Lifetime Achievement Award:* Mr. Dwayne L. Mundy, North Central Florida LEPC Coordinator, passed away in December 2019. In recognition, the LEPCs have designated a lifetime achievement award and Ms. Boer developed the criteria for the award and vetted through the statewide LEPC coordinators and chairpersons. The Dwayne L. Mundy Hazardous Materials

Preparedness & Response Lifetime Achievement Award is intended for individuals with ten (10) years or more of work within the hazardous materials arena that encompasses training, planning, and exercises. Awardees are nominated by their respective LEPC. This award is not an annual mandatory nomination but rather an award given when the respective person has accomplished the criteria, retires, or is awarded posthumously.

*Hazardous Materials Incidents Reports.* Staff noted the transportation incident and injury reports for the last quarter for all Florida regions were included in the package and are represented in Tables 1 and 2 and in Graphs I and II.

**Planning Subcommittee.** The 2019 update for the Treasure Coast Regional Hazardous Materials Response Plan was approved by the SERC at the October quarterly meeting in Destin, Florida. Staff has begun updating the 2020 plan.

**LEPC Chairs and Coordinators Meeting.** The LEPC Chairs and Coordinators meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Hazmat Symposium January 21, 2020 in Daytona Beach, Florida. The next meeting will be held April 16, 2020 in St. Augustine, Florida.

*Florida Division of Emergency Management Staff (FDEM) Update:* Mr. Robert Dietrich announced to the chairs and coordinators that the U.S. Department of Transportation is moving forward with publishing the 2020 Emergency Response Guidebooks (ERGs). Hard copies will be delivered to locations designated by each LEPC then disbursed throughout the region. The ERGs are also available electronically and are printed in English and Spanish languages.

**State Training Task Force (TTF) Meeting Update.** The last TTF meeting was held January 21, 2020 in Daytona Beach, Florida. The next scheduled meeting is April 16, 2020 in St. Augustine, Florida.

*Standard Operating Guidelines:* Chairman Lasaga noted that eighteen (18) SOGs/SOPs guidance documents on various hazardous materials related topics have been finalized and are SERC approved. The SOGs/SOPs are Gas Cylinders & Containers; Radiological; Safety & Health for Hazmat; and Emergencies Involving Corrosives. Due to recent TTF discussions on security, the Radiological SOP is not available for download at this time however it may be requested. The State of Florida is currently developing a portal access for agencies.

*The Hazardous Materials Team Assessments:* Chairman Lasaga noted that assessments are currently going on in the Central Florida region through March. Ms. Boer commented that these assessments will help build understanding of the State's resources capacity, location and mobility for deployment throughout the State when mutual aid or missions are assigned for resources during incidents and/or disasters.

Chief Shon Broedell, City of Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue, noted that these assessments help to develop cohesiveness through similar equipment and training by knowing what agency capabilities are in neighboring jurisdictions.

Ms. Boer noted that assessments provide information on responder training and equipment that are associated with fire rescue, but assessments are not usually conducted in a group environment for facilities that store, manufacture, and/or transport chemicals and resources for response. Part of the TCLEPC's efforts are dedicated to threading that facility owner/operators and first responders together so that both sides can develop understandings of each other's current capabilities when addressing releases. Tier IIs and E-Plan provide knowledge of inventory and location of chemicals, but where else can we make that threading a little bit better tighter for both responder agencies/departments and facility owners/operators is in the planning arena. Introducing the TTF SOPs/SOGs templates can provide guidance by incorporating preparedness and response techniques into facility operations plans for facilities. Similar planning may increase awareness and understanding of prevention and safety, but also response and recovery from chemical releases.

*Conflicts of Interest:* There was discussion on potential conflicts of interest associated with the TTF and LEPCs when conducting training for agencies under paid contract if a member had developed the curriculum, plan, or other training associated products. Legal counsel for FDEM advised that all TTF and LEPC members shall comply with Code of Ethics as well as seek a legal opinion as to whether there is a conflict of interest. At the present time, it does not appear that LEPC members have to file a Financial Disclosure Form.

**Public Information Exchange.** Please notify staff with any training, exercise, or outreach information you wish to distribute to LEPC members or interested parties.

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

*Exercise/Outreach/Education:* Planning is ongoing for the tabletop exercise in partnership with St. Lucie County Fire Rescue and Helena Agri-Solutions, Inc. A second tabletop exercise is being planned and staff is currently working with a few facilities to determine which one will be hosting the exercise.

*Shelter-in-Place/EPCRA/LEPC:* Staff delivered a presentation on EPCRA and hazardous materials release Shelter-In-Place at the Indian River State College to the Law Enforcement Academy in February 2020. Shelter-in-Place and evacuation and coordination were discussed. Ms. Boer noted that the LEPC staff is required to provide 2 outreach educational presentations regarding sheltering-in-place and evacuation in response to chemical releases in the region. If you would like a sheltering-in-place presentation regional evacuation, please contact staff.

### **Contract Activities Update**

*HMEP Training:* The Annual Hazardous Materials Symposium was held January 21-24, 2020 at the Plaza Resort in Daytona Beach. 619 students attended including hazmat team members, instructors, class monitors, and LEPC coordinators. The Treasure Coast LEPC sponsored 42 student registrations and lodging. The TCLEPC sponsored a 24-hour Hazardous Waste Operations for Responders class held in Riviera Beach, November 19-21, 2019 (31 students). In addition, six (6) 4-hr Air Monitoring & Detection Strategies classes were conducted in Martin and St. Lucie counties, November 4-6, 2019. On March 4, 5, and 6, 2020, (3) 8-hr. Toxicology classes for emergency care provider training will be offered at and scheduled for Indian River, Martin, and St. Lucie counties.

*Membership:* There are two new primary members welcomed to the TCLEPC: Mr. Travis Bains, Loxahatchee Environmental River Control District, and Ms. Leanne Cobb, Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), with Mr. Grayson Wood, Palm Beach County BOCC, appointed as Ms. Cobb's alternate.

### **Comments from Committee Members**

TCLEPC members discussed the on-going Clean Sweep program of household waste and chemical drop-off points for disposal. Chair Lasaga and Ms. Boer discussed an idea they named "Clean Swab," a proposal for waste and chemicals that are specific to the marine environment. Staff will research and return information to the next TCLEPC meeting.

Mr. Dixel, FDOT, and Ms. Boer discussed the notification card development as a TCLEPC project. The card would be a handout to facility owner/operators, and responding environmental cleanup companies during roadway accidents to aid in proper notification of the State Watch Office and County Warning Points. Mr. Dixel said the cards are effective. After discussion, Mr. Dixel noted he would share the information with Ms. Boer.

Ms. De La Rosa, FDEP, shared two announcements: The FDEP will host their open house on June 18, 2020; and host an emergency responders networking conference in January 2021. She extended an invitation to the TCLEPC committee. Ms. Boer will forward information to the absent committee members and interested parties.

### **Comments from Chair and Coordinator**

Ms. Boer noted a discussion-based tabletop exercise is scheduled on May 5, 2020 with St. Lucie County Fire Rescue and Helena Agri-Solutions, Inc. in Fort Pierce. The purpose of the exercise is to provide communications training with St. Lucie Fire Rescue Special Operations Teams and safety facility plan updates for Helen Agri-Solutions, Inc. LEPC members are encouraged to volunteer as evaluators and controllers. Also, a tabletop exercise is in the works with GEM Freshco, LLC.

### **Public Comment**

None

**Future LEPC Meeting Dates:** The next meeting of the TCLEPC is scheduled for May 14, 2020 at the City of Stuart Emergency Operations Center, 800 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Stuart, Florida 34994. The remaining meeting dates for 2020 are August 6, 2020 and November 5, 2020.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Lasaga adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.