

Pima County
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2009
Pima County Emergency Operations Center

The meeting of the Pima County LEPC was called to order at 0831 hours by Co-Chairman Dan Johnston.

Roll call was taken and the following members were in attendance:

Harlan Agnew	Pima County Attorney's Office
Lt. Wes Dison	Tucson Police Department
Bill Glasner	Pima County OEM & HS
Sgt. Steve Johnson	Town of Marana
Dan Johnston	Veteran's Affairs Hospital
Reland Kane	Tucson Power Company
Chief Randy Karrer	Drexel Heights Fire District
Chief Ray Klein	Tucson Fire Dept/EMA
David Lenox	Pima County OEM & HS
Randy Ortlinghaus	Southwest Gas Company
Todd Perry	Arizona Dept. of Enviromental Quality
Brian Seastone	Proxy for Steve Holland U. of A.

The following guests were also present:

Ron Coles	University Physician's Hospital
Ken Drozd	National Weather Service
Renee Peyton	Pima County Health Dept. – Bioterrorism
Don Poage	Pima County Hazardous Materials Team
Chief Lane Spalla	Northwest Fire District
John Walka	Rural Metro Fire Dept
John Wisner	Pima County OEM & HS

The minutes from the October 8, 2008 Regular meeting were approved by a motion from Steve Johnson and seconded by Randy Ortlinghaus.

A report was given by Dan Johnston that Chairman Ramón Valadez had resigned as the chairman and from the committee. A new LEPC Chairman needs to be elected.

Co-Chair Johnston asked for nominations from the floor for the position of LEPC Chairman for one (1) year. Dan Johnston was nominated by Ray Ortlinghaus and

seconded by Randy Karrer. A vote was taken and Dan Johnston was elected as the Chairman of the LEPC.

The new Chairman asked for nominations from the floor for the now open position of Co-Chairman. After no nominations, the Chairman indicated that filling this position will take place at the next regular scheduled meeting. This will give people time to decide who would be a good candidate for the position.

2008 Items:

By-laws: John Wisner brought to the attention of the LEPC that the By-laws revised in January 2008 had returned from the state after their review. The By-laws had previously been approved by the LEPC before going to the state. The state made comments and suggested changes to the By-laws. (Copies were available to the members before the start of this meeting, showing the changes from the state)

A motion by Chief Karrer and seconded by Chief Klein to accept the changes was approved by the committee. A question was asked of Harlan Agnew as to whether this action was following the By-laws. Harlan indicated that the By-laws should be sent to the members before voting on them. The motion and the vote were rescinded.

John Wisner will meet with Harlan to discuss the state changes, get clarification of the changes from the state, and correct the By-laws accordingly. Once the information has been clarified, John will send the By-laws to each member for review. A vote on the By-laws will take place at the next meeting.

Union Pacific Hub: John reported that in the July Minutes that there was a report that Union Pacific is building a Rail HUB in Pinal County, just over the Pinal/Pima County Line. This HUB is planned to be the second largest RR HUB in the southwest.

Since this will have a significant impact on Pima County resources, John asked if anyone knew anything further on this topic. Wes Dison indicated that the residents in Red Rock were trying to block the construction of this facility. The RR has not yet started work on that project. No work has started nor additional information to report. Wes also reported that Pima UASI is working with Pinal County on this very issue.

John inquired about of the LEPC Plan that Benny Gomez was working on. He is trying to locate information previously submitted for the Plan in preparation to work with the state on the common template for LEPC plans. Randy Ortlinghaus reported he and Benny had discussed some information or thoughts for the Plan. Chief Klein indicated that information was submitted to Benny for incorporation into the document. John asked the members to submit information to him and that he will meet with Randy.

Funding Subcommittee Report: No Report. The chairman of this committee has left Pima County. A chairman needs to be appointed for this subcommittee. Chairman

Johnson asked the membership if anyone would like to serve as the subcommittee chairman. The appointment will be an agenda item for the next Regular Meeting.

Membership Subcommittee Report: Randy Ortlinghaus reported that he has been up-dating the membership roster. He hopes to meet with Bill Glasner and John Wisner regarding the roster in the near future. He reported that he has not received any requests to join the LEPC.

Harlan suggested this would be a good time to review the roster to assure that the LEPC has representation from the required disciplines. This too will be item for discussion at the next meeting.

A question was raised about Union Pacific having a representative on the LEPC. Randy indicated that the UP rep retired last year and the person that would be the LEPC representative is in El Paso, and travels constantly. Randy indicated he would reach out to them through his contact to see if they can get someone to serve.

Readiness and Response Subcommittee: No Report. This committee currently has no chairman. A chairman needs to be appointed for this subcommittee. Chairman Johnson asked the membership if anyone would like to serve as the subcommittee chairman. The appointment will be an agenda item for the next Regular Meeting.

Report on Grants: John Wisner gave a report on multiple topics including the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant from the U.S. DOT and the Emergency Response Fund (ERF). This information was arranged in a hand-out for each member, guest and is included in these minutes.

John's report covered:

The Arizona SERC Final Rules as adopted by State Legislature and became effective on August 30, 2008. John handed out copies of the Final Rule for each member and guest.

John spoke about the 2009 HMEP Grant, and gave some history regarding the Grant including, but not limited to, amount, deadlines, and funding criteria.

John also reported on the state project to develop a template that all 15 counties can use for their LEPC Plan. John reported that several contractors have submitted proposals to meet the scope of work. The awarding contractor will develop a template for the plans, meeting both the EPA and Arizona requirements.

When the template is completed, all of the counties will meet with the contractor to understand what information will be needed to be incorporated into the template. Each LEPC will be submitting their information to be included into the plan and the contractor will basically create the plan. Thus the reason for the inquiry earlier in the meeting for the plan information

John reviewed the LEPC Responsibilities from his hand-out. He mentioned the 2008 Survey of LEPCs and the 4 elements identified from the survey.

John then reported on the State Commodity Study taking place. The study is beginning on the I-19 Corridor. The last study was conducted 5 years ago. The cost of the Commodity Study exceeded the dollars allocated, including the non-committed monies from the HMEP Grant. The state is asking each county to commit a portion of their 2009 HMEP Grant to fund this project. Discussion ensued by the membership. There was a decision made to table the action of determining how much money to be committed to this project, until someone from the state could attend a meeting to explain and answer questions on this commitment. John will contact ADEM to see if someone can attend the next meeting.

Dave Lenox gave a report on the ERF Grant. The grant is for hazardous materials equipment for the hazmat teams. The amount of the grant is \$2,600.00 or \$866.60 per team. He then requested the LEPC approve dividing the ERF money into three (3) separate amounts (\$866.60) and give those three (3) amounts to each of the hazmat teams. On a motion by Bill Glasner and seconded by Brian Seastone (Steve Holland Proxy), the motion carried.

HazMat Team Reports:

Tucson Fire had no report.

Don Poage advised the Pima County Regional Team was conducting a Hazmat Technician Course with 14 people in attendance. They are made up of members of the county Regional Team, Rural Metro Team and Tucson Team. He indicated this will bring the team numbers up to 75 members trained to the Technician Level. The team is also conducting monthly drills to maintain the level of response to the county.

John Walka reported the Rural Metro Team is also conducting monthly drills they are focusing on multi-agency type drills to be able to work with other agencies. He reported they have responded to 152 HazMat calls and have 25 Technicians.

Chairman Johnson asked if the reports from the HazMat Teams should be a reoccurring agenda item. There was some discussion. Before a decision was made, John Wisner reminded the Committee they were responsible for ensuring capabilities are in place to respond to a hazardous materials release within our community. The HazMat Teams are the first line of defense that each community has. The decision was made to leave this item on the LEPC Agenda.

Future Agenda Items:

Chairman Johnson asked for Future Agenda Items, other than those indicated during this meeting. Harlan asked if a budget had been prepared for 2009. John indicated not as of yet. He indicated he was in process of meeting with each of the HazMat Teams to

get their list of equipment, exercises and training for next year. A draft budget will be sent out to the members before the next meeting for discussion.

John also reported he met with several of the tenured members of the LEPC. One common denominator being heard centered on the roles and responsibilities of the LEPC. John indicated the state (ADEM) has a 2 hour program they will conduct after any LEPC Meeting. The course explains the roles and responsibilities of the LEPC according to federal and state doctrine. If the course is conducted after an LEPC Meeting, the state will also fund a "working lunch" so less time is consumed for both the meeting and the training.

There was an agreement to hold this training after the next meeting. John will make the necessary arrangements with ADEM.

Public Comment:

Chairman Johnson asked for any Public Comment...none was communicated.

Reland Kane reported that Tucson Power was in the process of conducting a HazMat commodity survey" around their properties. He indicated that Tucson Power will make that report available to the LEPC upon completion.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 8, 2009 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

*Meeting, lunch and training.

On a motion by Harlan Agnew and seconded by Randy Ortlinghaus to adjourn the meeting, the motion passed.

To our guests: If you want to become a member of the LEPC, you will need to submit a letter requesting to join the LEPC and a brief resume. Both the letter and resume goes to Randy Ortlinghaus at Southwest Gas (P.O. Box 26500, Tucson, Arizona 85726 or randy.ortlinghaus@swgas.com).