



Washington State Emergency Response Commission Meeting (SERC)

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2021

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Virtual via Microsoft (MS) Teams due to COVID-19

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chief Patrick Reid, SERC Chair
Chief Mike Harris, SERC Vice-Chair
Melissa Gannie, Washington State Patrol, Primary
Laura Hayes, Department of Ecology, Primary
Eli Levitt, Department of Ecology, Alternate
Kimberly Moore, Department of Health, Primary
Troy Newman, Military Department, Primary
Randy Treadwell, Department of Agriculture, Alternate
John Himmel, State Department of Transportation, Primary
Chandra Fox, Local Emergency Manager, Primary
John Geppert, Department of Labor and Industries, Primary
Sean Davis, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)-Eastside, Primary
Sandi Duffey, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)-Eastside, Alternate
J Havner, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)-Westside, Alternate

GUESTS PRESENT

Joe Root, Puget Sound Fire	Amelia Stanger, Colville Tribes
Cherie Nevin, Thurston County LEPC	Andrew Pittman, Ascensus Specialties
Tom Sharp, King County LEPC	Steve Bonner, Ferry County LEPC
Cindy Stanley, Clark County LEPC	Samuel Fowler, Orcas Island Fire & Rescue
Tammi Wright, Mason County LEPC	Larry Hembree, Cowlitz County LEPC
Tina Meier, Garfield County LEPC	Cherie Nevin, Thurston County LEPC
Cindy Stanley, Clark County LEPC	Marc Austin, NWS Pendleton
Erin Williams, EPA	Lorraine Churchill, ASTI
Ben Bouch, Grays Harbor PUD	TSgt. Jason Harold Clark, USAF
Hannah Eison, Quinault Nation	William "Bill" Whealan, Retired
Amy Johnson, Conestago Wood	Reid Wolcott, NWS-Seattle
Angie Peters, Valley Transit-Walla Walla	Terry Garcia, EPA
Ashley Strickland, Columbia County LEPC	Todd Kilpatrick, Pierce County LEPC
Raeanne Wolfey, Paneltech	Justin Pullin, NWS-Seattle
Wade Gough, HLS-CISA	Mark Arras, Townzen Consulting
Michael Roberson, State EMD	Aaron Markham, City of Yakima LEPC
Will Vance, State EMD	Wil James, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT

Susan Forsythe, State Emergency Management Division (EMD)
Scott Lancaster, State Fire Marshal's Office

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Kim Mask, State EMD
Diane Fowler, Department of Ecology
Pete Hartmann, State EMD
Patrick Wicklund, State EMD
Stephanie Haertling, State EMD
Tirzah Kincheloe, State EMD

CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS

Chief Patrick Reid, Chair of the SERC, called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. This was Chief Reid's first meeting to chair the SERC. Chief Reid took roll call of members and support staff.

RECOGNITION OF CHIEF WILLIAM "BILL" WHEALAN

Chief Harris presented a plaque to Chief Whealan during the meeting. Chief Whealan retired at the end of last year. In doing so, he also stepped down as SERC Chair. He served as chair to the SERC from August 2012 to September 2020. Chief Harris thanked him for his years of service to the SERC and will hand-deliver the plaque to him.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 3, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Sean Davis motioned to approve the February 3, 2021 meeting minutes as presented; Troy Newman seconded the motion. All attending members approved the minutes as written.

WORKGROUPS AND STANDING REPORTS

Training Coordination (HazMat Training) – Scott Lancaster

COVID-19 is still altering our hazmat training process. We are working with agencies to ensure our training program meets agency, local, state and federal health standards to make sure everyone is safe during training.

Since the beginning of the year we have trained over 162 responders in Awareness, Operations HM-On Scene Incident Command and Chemistry (30 responders). We have a HazMat Technician class coming up in Marysville which should have 20-25 responders in it. We have worked with the Emergency Management Division (EMD) regarding amending the Emergency Management Grant Program (EMPG) and Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) contracts to establish unspent funding to be moved to contractor/consultant line item of each grant. This will allow for hazmat training to continue through the end of August when Year 3 funds are expected to kick in.

Combination LEPC/Hazmat Conference Series

We are currently working with our partners within the SERC to provide a combined LEPC/Hazmat virtual conference series throughout April and May. This will provide interesting topics for all audiences, LEPC, Emergency Responders and other public safety personnel. The conference is scheduled to start on April 6 and ends on May 6, offering educational topics on every Tuesday and Thursday through the conference series timeframe. As of this morning we have 145 people signed up for the conference.

EPCRA Compliance and Outreach – Diane Fowler

Tier II reports deadline was March 1, 2021. 4,700 reports had been received for 2020. This is 300 fewer than all last year. This looks to be on target from the previous year. Diane is in the process of emailing facilities who reported in 2019 but have not yet filed for 2020. She will be sending reminder lists and status reports to LEPCs as soon as Department of Ecology staff finishes entering report information manually from those that were not reported electronically. Currently, she is working on updating the data reports with new fields in the EPCRA mobile application and updated passcode. Diane is presenting updates to the Tier II Reports during the LEPC-Tribal Conference and HazMat Workshop for anyone wanting more information.

SERC Budget Report – Kim Mask

There has been no update to the SERC Budget since the last meeting. Due to the lack of travel spending, the SERC still has not been able to spend those funds. These funds will expire June 30, 2021. The funds were going to be used to cover travel costs for SERC Chair(s) to national conferences and cost travel for members to meet to update the strategic plan but due to Covid-19, this did not happen. **Chandra Fox motioned to reallocate unused SERC travel monies to HazMat training to be used as appropriate. John Geppert seconded; motion approved.**

HMEP Grant Update – Tirzah Kincheloe

Tirzah Kincheloe gave HMEP Grant Update ([see slides here](#)) and opened the floor for questions. **Chandra Fox made a motion to move \$15,000 to purchase additional Emergency Response Guides (ERG) to instead support LEPC Whole Community Courses for LEPCs. Mike Harris seconded the motion. The motion was approved.**

LEPC Planning Update – Susan Forsythe

Congratulations to Benton County for passing their review.

No other updates.

PRESENTATION

American Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Update – Kim Moore, Department of Health

Kim Moore gave presentation on the updates to the AWIA. The slide presentation can be viewed [here](#).

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning and Charter Update – Chandra Fox

Chandra Fox gave Strategic Planning & Charter Update. She mentioned that the EMC approved charter revisions which she will send out to SERC members ASAP. She has not started on strategic planning yet. A meeting with Chief Harris and Chief Reid is needed, after which a small work group will be stood up. Opened floor for questions.

Emergency Response Guides (ERGs) - Patrick Wicklund

Patrick Wicklund noted a request has been made by the Department of Corrections to order a large quantity of ERGs, but other than that there have been no additional requests for Emergency Response Guides.

NEW BUSINESS

Project with National Weather Service – Scott Lancaster

Scott Lancaster spoke on Project with National Weather Service (NWS) (Initial Meeting). He will be meeting at the end of the week with the NWS. They have a program they are developing that has a hazmat support team in the case situations that would require real time weather and plume modeling. How is this different from the camo aloha provided by EPA? A little different in that they will have a team that specializes in understanding hazmat events and chemicals. More information at the end of the week.

Melissa shared and update on WSP's COVID-19 response- interagency agreement with Department of Health (DOH) with Fire Service Resources for the following regions:

- South Central
- North Central
- East
- West

Each region must fall under Governor Inslee's Roadmap to Recovery in order to be approved.

CLOSING REMARKS

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LEPC-Tribal Conference and HazMat Workshop

Chief Reid reminded everyone to register and attend the upcoming conference and workshop.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15th. The date may change depending on the status of the WSEMA Conference. A calendar invite and email will be sent when the exact date is determined. The Chair may call to meet prior to the conference to discuss other matters. If this happens, the rules for the OPMA will be followed.

ADJOURN

Mike Harris made a motion to adjourn. Chandra seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:18 AM.