



Washington State Emergency Response Commission Meeting (SERC)

Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2021

3:00 pm – 5:00 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

Bill Slosson, Washington State Patrol, Alternate

Laura Hayes, Department of Ecology, Primary

Eli Levitt, Department of Ecology, Alternate

Troy Newman, Military Department, Primary

Kevin Wickersham, Military Department, Alternate

Erin Coyle, Department of Agriculture, Primary

Chandra Fox, Local Emergency Manager, Primary

John Geppert, Department of Labor and Industries, Primary

Darren James, Department of Labor and Industries, Alternate

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, Primary

GUESTS PRESENT

Tom Sharp, King County LEPC

Tina Meier, Garfield County LEPC

Amelia Stanger, Colville Tribes

Reid Wolcott, NWS-Seattle

Andy Collins, Seattle Fire

Robin Cocking, Whitman County LEPC

Jon Deming, Lourdes Health

Mary Ebbers, Lourdes Health

Elizabeth Klute, Kitsap County LEPC

Hillary Gafford, RRT/NWAS

Hans Kahl, Skagit County LEPC

Vickie Fontaine, Skagit County LEPC

Jim Sande, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Jordan Hanes, Franklin County LEPC

Kathleen Shea, Alaska SERC

Scott McDougall, Pacific County LEPC

Julie Winkler, City of Tacoma EM

Shontieka Adeogun, City of Tacoma EM

Jason Feinfeld, Clallam County Sheriff's Office

Hannah Cleverly, Grays Harbor County LEPC

Arick Burnett, Chehalis Tribal EM

Brian Shaeffer, Spokane Fire

Adenea Thompson, Stevens County LEPC

Todd Kilpatrick, Pierce County LEPC

Aaron Markham, City of Yakima LEPC

Ashley Hillis, Department of Ecology

Mike Means, Department of Health

Derek Pell, Department of Health

Robert Ezelle, Military Department (EMD)

Taylor Hennessee, Military Department (EMD)

Sanura Jackson-Diaz, Military Department (EMD)

Sharon Wallace, Military Department (EMD)

Sierra Wardell, Military Department (EMD)

Robert Sabarese, Military Department (EMD)

Michael Roberson, Military Department (EMD)

Patrick Purcell, Walla Walla County LEPC

Ken Ufkin, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe

Gerry Bozarth, Spokane County LEPC

Mireya Garcia, Grant County Sheriff's Office

Matt Klein, Grant County LEPC

Nicklaus Falley, Grays Harbor County LEPC

Ashley Strickland, Columbia County LEPC

Desi Lockard, Columbia County
Misty Yost, Columbia County

Michael Field, Columbia County
Amy Gillespie, Pierce County EM

SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT

Susan Forsythe, Military Department (EMD)
Kim Mask, State EMD
Diane Fowler, Department of Ecology
Pete Hartmann, Military Department (EMD)
Patrick Wicklund, Military Department (EMD)
Tirzah Kincheloe, Military Department (EMD)
Zoie Choate, Military Department (EMD)

CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS

Chief Patrick Reid opened the meeting with welcoming members and guests.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 3, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Sean Davis motioned to approve the April 6, 2021 meeting minutes as presented; Mike Harris seconded the motion. All attending members approved the minutes as written.

LEPC SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT

Westside LEPC Survey Update – J Havner

- Westside LEPC representative to the SERC, J Havner developed a survey for LEPCs on the westside to get an idea of how to engage more with LEPCs and what LEPCs would like from the SERC. This provided an opportunity to start conversations around communication and expectations from the SERC representative.
- [The results of the survey can be viewed here.](#)

Whole Community Engagement Courses – Susan Forsythe

- During the months of July, August, and September, the HMEP grant provided six courses of Whole Community Engagement for LEPCs. The contractor registered 69 participants where they completed a pre-test, post-test, and feedback form.
- The trainings provided a good mix of first responders and local and tribal jurisdictions. Overall feedback was positive for hosting the courses in a virtual platform, even though in person training would have been preferred.
- Susan is looking into providing more training, possibly at next year's LEPC-Tribal Conference if funding is available.

WORKGROUPS AND STANDING REPORTS

Training Coordination (HazMat Training) – Bill Slosson reported for Scott Lancaster

- During this timeframe 165 responders in different levels of Hazardous Materials were trained. Many training classes will be happening this fall, specifically with Hazmat On-Scene Incident Command and Hazmat IQ.
- A Hazmat Committee was formed under the Washington State Fire Chief Association. This is the first time in several years having a complete committee to assist with the Hazmat Annual Workshop and other important Hazardous Materials objectives. There are 16 members on the committee from Fire/EMS/Hazmat, Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, and Department of Ecology.

- Training in the months of August and September were limited due to the Wildland fire season and COVID-19. COVID-19 restrictions have somewhat limited the class sizes but not the interest in Hazmat training.
- During the months of August-September, Scott participated in two (2) virtual discussions; Identifying Action Options to Improve Risk Based Response and Improving Hazmat Prevention and Mitigation, sponsored by the IAFC and Federal Partners (PHMSA, FEMA, Federal Rail Administration, NFPA, National Fire Academy and others). He also attended the South Puget Sound Hazmat Team meeting to add information on trainings.

EPCRA Compliance and Outreach – Diane Fowler

- Now that the reporting season is complete, Ecology has been busy updating the mobile app to accommodate new fields to match internal reports. A small working group of users have been identified to provide feedback. This includes J Havner, Sandi Duffey, Chandra Fox, Cindy Stanley, and Derek Murrell. Based on the feedback, the help menu and outreach materials have been recreated. The mobile app is currently going through internal testing. The next step is to work with Google and Apple to get updated app out to play stores.

EPA Tier Two Enforcement – Erin Williams

- Erin was unable to attend and provide brief. She will be added to the November meeting agenda.

SERC Budget Report – Kim Mask

- The amount approved by the SERC of \$5,000 was sent to WSEMA for supporting the September SERC meeting for those who could attend in person. No other expenses have been made.

HMEP Grant Update – Tirzah Kincheloe

- The Preparedness Grants Section hired a new Program Manager (PM), Zoie Choate. Zoie will be the Program Manager for the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant Program (PHMSA) as well as the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (FEMA) and Operation Stonegarden (FEMA).
- Still waiting on the Year 3 award from PHMSA. Award is expected no later than 10/1/21.
- Preparing for upcoming FY22 grants. **VOTE NEEDED during November SERC meeting:** To agree on funding percentages. Current percentages are as follows:
 - State M&A: 9% (up to an allowable 20%)
 - HazMat Workshop: 6% (travel/per diem for attendees)
 - LEPC/Tribal Conference: 6% (travel/per diem for attendees)
 - WSP-FPB: 70%
 - LEPCs/Tribes: 9% (competitive applications)
- [The slides from the report out can be viewed here.](#)

LEPC Planning Update – Susan Forsythe

There is no update for this meeting.

PRESENTATION

Update on Toxics Release Inventory to Advance Environmental Justice – Patrick Wicklund

Patrick provided information on the Toxics Release Inventory program and data tool. [The presentation can be viewed here.](#)

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning and Charter Update – Chandra Fox

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<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/e9ce1507-790d-4d28-a6fd-9aae24e31dd9>

- The current strategic plan is dated 2015 through 2020 the plan and includes for initiatives that were accomplished during this time frame. Chandra explained how each initiative was met during the time.
- It is requested that the SERC put together a small work group to take the existing to Strategic plan and update it for the next five years which would cover 2021 through 2026.
- Chandra Fox, Patrick Reid, and Scott Lancaster will be members of this work group. Anyone interested in participating can send Kim Mask an email expressing their interest. The chair requested this workgroup be established by the November meeting.

Vote to Approve: Updated Charter/Bylaws

- The updated charter/bylaws was sent out to members on July 28th. The intent of the revision was to align the document with the EMC charter and the wording within WAC 118-40-040.
- **Sean Davis motion to approve the charter as written and Mike Harris seconded the motion. Unanimous approval was received. [The updated, final version of the charter bylaws can be seen here.](#)**

Emergency Response Guides (ERGs) - Patrick Wicklund

- All ERGs have been moved from DES to the storage facility on Camp Murray. The remaining copies should last until 2024 when the new versions are released. Anyone who still needs copies can reach out to Susan Forsythe or Patrick.
- This will be the last update to the ERGs.

Chlorine Shortage Affecting Water Supplies – Derek Pell / Mike Means, DOH

- Update given regarding the chlorine shortage and how it affected public water supplies.
- In February, the Westlake Chemical Plant declared a shortage of chlorine. This shortage was caused due to impacts in shipping, fires, and storms on the east coast and south of the US.
- The biggest impact could have been to drinking water utilities. All facilities maintained at least a 30-day supply during the shortage.
- In Washington, the information was able to be shared very quickly due to the relationship that was built between the Business and Critical Infrastructure Branch and Commerce during the COVID-19 response.

FAST Act and HHFT Information Sharing – Susan Forsythe

- PHMSA recently sent a survey out asking if the state was able to comply with the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act; we were able to answer partially yes.
- Recommending to the SERC to develop a procedure similar to what was written to comply with America’s Water and Infrastructure Act (AWIA). This would make sure that rail companies are sharing information about High Hazard Flammable Trains (HHFT) with LEPCs.
- Susan will work on identifying a group to work on this.

Project with National Weather Service Update – Reid Wolcott for Scott Lancaster

Scott was unavailable to give update, so Reid Wolcott provided an overview of HazMat tools that are available through NOAA and the National Weather Service.

CLOSING REMARKS

Good of the Order – Chief Patrick Reid, Chair

- Recognized passing of Stephanie Allstead from Grays Harbor County. Shared information for anyone interested in attending her memorial.
- John Geppert updated the SERC on CDC recommendation for worker protecting use of PPE to reduce the exposure to pathogenic Avian Flu outbreaks throughout the state. This virus is similar to the Influenza A in humans.

NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2021 at 10:00 am. This meeting will be virtual. A TEAMS calendar invitation and agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting.

ADJOURN

John Geppert made a motion to adjourn. Mike Harris seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.