



Washington State Emergency Response Commission Meeting (SERC)

Meeting Minutes

February 1st, 2023

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

Laura Hayes, Department of Ecology, Primary

Troy Newman, Military Department, Primary

Cindy Dickinson, Local Emergency Manager, Primary

Gary White, Private Industry Representative, Primary

Sean Davis, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Eastside Primary

Bill Slosson, Washington State Patrol, Alternate

Eli Levitt, Department of Ecology, Alternate

Guests present:

Adenea Sellars, Stevens County LEPC

Andrea Merritt, EMD

Andrew Rose, Department of Health

Anne Chastain, Clallam County LEPC

Ashley Hillis, Department of Ecology

Beau Renfro, Wahkiakum County LEPC

Brandon Cheney, Thurston County LEPC

Bobby Kelly, WA NG

Chris Pfaff, Pierce County LEPC

Ernie Schnabler, Cowlitz County LEPC

Glennis Stott, Pend Oreille LEPC

Hans Kahl, Skagit County LEPC

Jarrold Dibble, Snohomish County LEPC

Jason Reinfield, Chelan County LEPC

Joe Ortiz, Snohomish County LEPC

Kim Mask, EMD

Larry Hembree, Cowlitz County LEPC

Matt Klein, Grant County LEPC

Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County LEPC

Robert Law, Pierce County LEPC

Ross McDowell, Lewis County LEPC

Tammi Wright, Mason County LEPC

Tina Bobbit, Columbia County LEPC

Todd Kilpatrick, Pierce County LEPC

Victoria Fontana, EMD

Support staff present:

Susan Forsythe, Military Department (EMD)

Danielle Plenge, Military Department (EMD)

Pete Hartmann, Military Department (EMD)

Chris Caprio, Military Department (EMD)

Brad Burnham, Department of Health

Reagan Bush, Military Department (EMD)

Scott Lancaster, WSP

Diane Fowler, Department of Ecology



Call to Order

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

Review and Approval of November 2022 Meeting Minutes

Troy Newman motioned to approve the November meeting minutes via email; Ross McDowell seconded the motion. All attending members approved motion in the meeting chat.

Workgroups and Standing Reports

Consortium and EMI Updates – Susan Forsythe

A SERC specific training calendar has been added to the Military Department's Emergency Management website and can be found [here](#).

Training – Scott Lancaster

ICS classes are being offered in Skagit. There will be an NFPA meeting in May and a pre-draft meeting in February.

Westside HazMat Workshop 2023

The workshop will take place on February 24-26 in Camp Murray. This workshop will feature 10th CST, The HazMat Guys, Glen Rudner, Bill Miller, Chris Pfaff, Caption Green, and Sean Thompson. The current agenda has two tracks geared towards different portions of the hazmat and the idea being a focus on leadership and increasing skill levels.

LEPC/Tribal Conference 2023

Currently working on filling out the conference agenda for April. Lancaster was appointed to the board for NASTTPO to represent Washington LEPCs and the SERC and plans on using the opportunity to take ideas for LEPC/Tribal Conference agenda. There was a board meeting for conference in Salt Lake City, UT with an emphasis on education and relevant issues. The workgroup for the conference also looking to include more topics and presenters geared towards the Tribal partners. Registration for the event will be released soon and the conference will be in person in Kennewick.

For the Good of the Order

EPCRA Compliance and Outreach – Diane Fowler

Currently Tier Two season with everything due March 1st for 2022. Any copies should go to the LEPC and Fire Departments. Ecology has all the LEPCs listed on their website and the data will be compiled after March 1, 2023 and provided to LEPCs for uniformity. Notification will be sent to sites that are deemed active but did not provide Tier Twos at this time. For the EPCRA mobile app, the passcode changed October and if a new passcode is needed, please reach out to Diane or LEPC Chair. The mobile app is currently showing 2021 data and 2022 data will be added following Tier Two due date passing.

SERC Budget Update – Susan Forsythe

There is no spending using SERC budget to report. Any additional funds in the HazMat program budget can be used for various trainings and work projects.

HMEP Grant Update – Reagan Bush, EMD



Reagan Bush is the interim program manager for HMEP grant. The slides will be available at the bottom of these notes. They are currently working proactively with organizations to avoid underspending. Year 1 is in progress right now. Her team is working with Columbia County to ensure the project is still viable. Year 2 allocation has been received and matches projection. The Year 2 timeline application will be sent February 3rd and are due March 5th. Request for volunteers needed for workgroups to review and recommend applications. Questions were raised on the remaining balance reflected for the grant and Reagan and team will report back with an update on where the unspent balance was either used or returned.

Strategic Plan Update – Susan Forsythe

Introduction of Danielle Plenge as HazMat Program Planning Assistant. The LEPC handbook is 90% complete with more to follow soon. An education opportunity will feature a presentation on March 3rd. EPA has released a LEPC/TEPC handbook that is mostly completed with editing towards Washington SERC specific topics. A SERC event specific calendar is available on the external SERC website. The training calendar on EMD's website mentioned previously is available to the public. A more comprehensive and organized distribution list and software is in the works with EMD. A new Tribal Liaison was hired and there has been a meeting to open conversations around ideas for more tribal engagement. Welcome any comments or suggestions on this topic from any members of the SERC.

LEPC Planning Status – Susan Forsythe

The EMD plan checklist is currently being updated based off all 9 items of an emergency plan due to the updated checklist EPA gave with definitions which forced the EMD's LEPC plan checklist to be updated in accordance. The updated checklist will be provided to LEPCs and at the LEPC/Tribal conference. Clarification will be provided, that plans that have been approved previously will not be directly affected and this is a forward-facing update. Skagit update was provided as well as Mason, Walla Walla, Douglas and Chelan. A discussion was brought up regarding forming or merging LEPCs by region, which has not been a method of the SERC but is common in other states and regions.

Old Business

Safety Risk to Alternative Energy – Scott Lancaster

Alternative energy is not an issue that will go away. Important components to the issue include dealing risk effectively, fielding requests for standard operating procedures or guides for responding to an energy fire, quantify how many incidents we see, what do we need to talk to first responders about (not just fire or police, waste management, car removal, recycling). A workgroup with ecology and fire responder side of it would be beneficial. The mitigation process and responder safety are paramount as well as incident analysis. Residential energy storage systems present a hazard with thermal runaway, code enforcement, fire investigations, building inspections, and more as they become more prevalent. Captain Green from Seattle FD is the lead for state and nation on this topic, with FDNY Lieutenant John Cassidy. The fire service and response concerns are community risk and reduction, to how and where to charge and prevention in nation's energy code. Some updates are expected in July 2023 regarding the national code. The current goal is to provide basic training. Fire Science Research Institute (FSRI) came up



with a training that will be available on this topic. Alternative energy can affect updating LEPC plans, but advise not adjusting regulations in WAC and RCW, instead move towards adjusting solutions. The focus shouldn't necessarily be on just batteries but all alternative energy sources. Training should be moved from just first responders to include community, LEPC, and industry workers. Contact Chris Pfaff to see a draft of a policy designed by West Pierce fire department geared towards alternative energy hazards. Proper resources and training are necessary, and goals should be good solid education for responders to avoid misinformation. Improvement in instructor cadre should be developed to teach on this subject matter to ensure proper education and knowledge. SERC support staff should try and distribute information regarding training to the public and community at large.

New business

A strategic plan capability assessment through hazmat was conducted involving a two-page survey using google forms. The survey was sent to fire defense regions based on hazmat response and mutual aid to determine which areas are uncovered and are defaulting back to Washington state patrol. The survey was provided to Scott Lancaster and Chief Reid for approval, and there are goals to send out survey in the month of February to capture data for this first quarter and will provide data to SERC for strategic plan.

Western Regions SERC/TERC Meeting – Susan Forsythe/Scott Lancaster

Thank you to Erin Williams for a well done two-day virtual meeting. There were various presentations with slides available via email upon request. A SERC update given to conference about strategic plan and other relevant updates. The main topic was lithium-ion batteries and the steps behind thermal runaway and issues with the energy storage symptoms.

NASTTPO

NASTTPO's next meeting is in Salt Lake City, Utah on April 17-20th. The goal of this conference is geared towards communication among different groups. Any member of the SERC is more than welcome to attend and if funding is needed, contact Susan Forsythe.

Wiser Presentation – Chris Pfaff, West Pierce Fire Department

Fire and Emergency Response identified that a new issue is that the app WISER will be discontinued according to their website. The theory as to the discontinuation is that funding is currently an issue and no response from multiple organizations on the confirmed why of discontinuation. It was a free app used across all platforms that aggregates data from multiple resources for use, physical and chemical properties of 535 chemicals. It was valuable to search based off various topics to determine chemical on site. Alternatives could become something more engaging or useful, on WISER's site there are links to the databases that WISER uses and therefore can still be useful. NIOSH guide to chemicals can be a more robust database as they have information on 677 chemicals and is available as an app. The 2022 ERG is still available and can be used to determine a containment area. SDS can still be used as an effective tool, there is also a free app for SDS. Creating a similar tool using HMEP or other grant money would not be feasible as the projected cost for maintenance for an app could be around a million dollars yearly.



Closing Remarks

- Susan Forsythe announced that there will be a Lunch & Learn on March 3rd featuring a presentation on CBRN technologies by Chainbridge Technologies, invite to follow.
- Chief Reid offered a formal welcome to JoAnn Boggs.
- Susan Forsythe put out a request for any volunteers for a records retention workgroup.
- Chris Pfaff offered that CBRN Responder will be having a national drill as well that will be starting March 13-24, with a meeting on how it works and the results at the end.
- Ernie Schnabler announced this would be his last SERC meeting.
- Cindy Dickinson will be the new Local Emergency Manager for Chandra Fox.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 25th, 2023 at 10:00 am. This meeting will be IN PERSON at Three Rivers Convention Center. A calendar invitation and agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting. This meeting will kick off the 2023 LEPC-Tribal Conference.

Adjourn

Cindy Dickinson made a motion to adjourn. Sean Davis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.