



## Washington State Emergency Response Commission Meeting

Meeting Minutes  
November 1st, 2023  
10:00AM – 12:00PM  
MS Teams

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Patrick Reid, SERC Chair  
Laura Hayes, Department of Ecology, Primary  
Eli Levitt, Department of Ecology, Secondary  
Brad Burnham, Department of Health, Secondary  
John Geppert, Department of Labor and Industries, Primary  
Darren James, Department of Labor and Industries, Secondary  
Cindy Dickinson, Local Emergency Manager, Primary  
Joann Boggs, Local Emergency Manager, Secondary  
Sean Davis, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Eastside Primary Representative  
Casey Broom, Washington Military Department, Primary  
Kevin Wickersham, Washington Military Department, Secondary  
Gary White, Private Industry, Primary  
Melissa Gannie, Washington State Patrol, Primary

### GUESTS PRESENT

Adenea Sellars, Stevens County	Kelly Guy, Squaxin Island Tribe
Alex Straub, AGO	Kimberly Moore, DOH
Angel Cortez, Tulalip Tribes	Larry Hembree, Cowlitz County
Anne Chastain, Clallam County	Liz Jessee, Walla Walla County
Bethany Drahota, DOC	Michaela Morris, ECY
Bradley Martin, EPA	Nick Falley, Grays Harbor County
Brooks Stanfield, EPA	Nickolas Miller, DOC
Clinton Davis, Chehalis Tribe	Nii Sampah, PHMSA
Corey Burkholder, PHMSA	Rob Falconio, PHMSA
Daniel Ravenel, Quinault Indian Nation	Steve Fraidenburg, Cowlitz Tribe
Eddie Murphy, PHMSA	Steve Roberts, Paradigm
Eric Quitslund, Suquamish Tribe	Tammi Wright, Mason County
Holly Woll-Salkeld, Whatcom County	Tina Bobbitt, Columbia County
James Bergstrom, Shoalwater Bay Tribe	Tinker Lucas, Makah Tribe
Jeff Choke, Nisqually Indian Tribe	Tom Sharp, King County

### SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT

Danielle Plenge, EMD	Sierra Wardell, EMD
Diane Fowler, ECY	Stephanie Hakala, EMD
Patrick Niles, EMD	Susan Forsythe, EMD
Scott Lancaster, WSP	

## CALL TO ORDER

Chief Patrick Reid opened the meeting with welcoming members and guests at 10:02 AM

## REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING DATE MEETING MINUTES

Cindy Dickinson motioned to approve the September 18th meeting minutes as presented; Casey Broom seconded the motion. All attending members approved of the minutes as written.

## WORKGROUPS AND STANDING REPORTS

### **Training Coordination**

*HazMat Training* - Scott Lancaster, WSP

From September to October, about 75 responders were trained in areas of awareness in various locations such as Marysville. Several DOT rail classes will be offered in Tacoma, Grays Harbor, Vancouver, and Thurston. This course is offered through a grant created following the East Palestine incident in early 2023. University of Washington held a TTX in Huskies stadium with a goal of understanding they are compartmentalized and storage facilities, chemical security, process by where they are now and what are the gaps and how to fix them.

Northwest Area Committee (NWAC) held their most recent meeting in Portland, OR. Scott Lancaster and Susan Forsythe attended. Discussions on oil spills, marine incidents, and recovering vessels was the focus. There was a NFPA 470 meeting that had the first draft of the response standards for responders.

Energy and Lithium-Ion Battery Symposium will be held February 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> at South Puget Sound Community College in Lacey. We're currently in the registration cycle, expecting about 200 attendees, and are looking forward to the Symposium. We are looking at additional funding sources for lodging for the Symposium. The Eastside HazMat Workshop will be the first weekend in May 2024 in Wenatchee. *FEMA and National Domestic Preparedness Consortium Training* – Susan Forsythe, EMD

Reminder to all our LEPCs and first responders that are always classes available on the EMD State training calendar, WSP website, and other consortium classes. The training team is also seeking a more effective communication method with the local fire departments, which is a gap currently in most distro lists. More information on this will be made available through published weekly training opportunity emails and through EMD monthly training coordination calls. If you would like to receive either the emails or be on the coordination calls, please reach out to [emd.training@mil.wa.gov](mailto:emd.training@mil.wa.gov).

### **EPCRA Compliance** – Diane Fowler, ECY

The SEOC was given a presentation on EPCRA and Tier Two, mainly on how that information can help the SEOC better support local jurisdictions during emergencies. Discussions are being had on the levels of protection that data will require. Ecology did receive a request from a statewide vendor that works with first responders but is not located within Washington state. Ecology is required to comply with this request even if they suspect this information will be used for business purposes. This vendor did also request the password for the mobile app but was denied as they are a business and not located within Washington state. Tier Two data can be requested and/or access to the mobile app can be granted by contacting Diane Fowler at [dfow461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:dfow461@ECY.WA.GOV).

### **HMEP** – Sierra Wardell, EMD

The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP) is based off a three-year period of performance. Since the last meeting in September, Year 1 has ended. Current amendments being discussed with Washington State Patrol, San Juan County, and Cowlitz County. Expending has increased, but nothing significant. Currently having monitoring through PHMSA, routine backup documentation and expenditures and details for the change request mentioned previously. Next report

is due in December 2023. Any questions or concerns should be made to Chris Burd, the HMEP grant manager.

#### **Budget Report** – Susan Forsythe, EMD

The SERC Budget is \$5,000 to spend as discussed in previous meetings. Reminder that these funds need to be spent before the fiscal year ends. Options for use of funds: SERC member travel, add funds to current HMEP funding for LEPC trainings, purchase on online training for a 4-hour Lithium-Ion Operations course from the HazMat Guys (note: this would be an online course and no limit to attendees), or use funds to add additional rooms for the Energy and Lithium-Ion Battery Symposium. Motion by Cindy Dickinson to use funds to purchase the 4-hour Lithium-Ion Operations course from the HazMat Guys, with any leftover funds being used for the Energy and Lithium-Ion Battery Symposium. Motion seconded by Patrick Reid. Approved by voting SERC members.

#### **LEPC Planning Status** – Susan Forsythe, EMD

Whatcom County just submitted their five-year update of their LEPC plan, and our state agencies have begun reviewing the update. EMD reviews each plan based off nine federal requirements which comes out to about 77 items. Franklin County completed their annual plan review. LEPC 101 and 102 presentations are coming soon. These online classes are available for anyone to attend and are not required. If you would like to attend and have not received a MS Teams meeting invitation, please reach out to Danielle Plenge at [danielle.plenge@mil.wa.gov](mailto:danielle.plenge@mil.wa.gov)

#### **Strategic Plan Review** – Susan Forsythe, EMD

- 5 initiatives for strategic plan
  - o 1a SERC membership – working towards filling positions with some private industry contacts wanting to join
  - o 1b SERC membership handbook – draft done before 2024, requests for review by SERC members via email
  - o 1c. Improving Education for SERC, providing quarterly trainings to SERC and LEPCs starting with LEPC 101 and 102
  - o 2 Community Capabilities – looking into materials provided for HazMat response
  - o 5 Tribal Engagement will be addressed during the Tribal Outreach portion of the meeting

#### **Tribal Outreach** – Susan Forsythe, EMD

The Colville Tribe is having a TTX in the Spokane area on November 8<sup>th</sup> regarding an oil spill response. The Tribal Emergency Management Forum will take place at Camp Murray on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 8AM to 4PM. We will be giving time during the forum to brief on the SERC, EPCRA, and what assistance can be offered to Tribes and Nations. Discussions will also be had on HazMat and Oil Spill response and how it relates to Tribes.

Discussion was had regarding what components are required to become a SERC member. Further discussion during future meetings can explore the possibility of a Tribal position with the SERC.

#### **HazMat Capabilities** – Patrick Reid, Chair

Currently putting a group together that consists of LEPCs, Washington State Fire Chiefs Association, EMD, and WSP. This group will be looking at HazMat Capabilities throughout the state. Looking to redo the CBRN assessment that was done previously. The goal of the group is to create and bring forward legislation to state legislators to look at regional teams and funding sources. Current local HazMat

response teams are not sustainable because they are low frequency, but the risk is very high. The exact capabilities of each team are what needs to be assessed to find improvements and gaps.

#### PRESENTATION

**Pipeline Training Opportunities from Paradigm** – Steve Robers, Rob Falconio, and Corey Burkholder  
Paradigm

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### **Election of SERC Chair**

All present voting members of the SERC voted yes to approve the election of Chief Patrick Reid as SERC Chair for another term.

##### **Local Emergency Planning Districts** – Patrick Reid, Chair

Some LEPCs are currently looking to consolidate their LEPCs. The SERC will approve combination of LEPCs once all issues on the local level have been resolved. The request to combine LEPCs must be submitted to the SERC in writing. The SERC is allowed to approve consolidation of LEPCs by state legislation. Direct any questions to Chief Patrick Reid or Susan Forsythe.

##### **LEPC Records Retention Workgroup** – Danielle Plenge, EMD

The workgroup is currently almost done with a draft retention schedule for LEPCs on maintaining Tier Two reports. The workgroup is also talking about adjusting and adding some retention schedules around Chemical Release and Spill Reports. We hope to have a completed draft to present before the SERC at the April 2024 meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Open Public Meeting Agenda (OPMA) Training** – instructional video

#### FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Diane Fowler introduced Michael Morris as a new addition to the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program with the Department of Ecology. Morris will be supporting EPCRA reporting.

Brad Burnham introduced Kim Moore with the Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water. Moore will be attending future SERC meetings on behalf of DOH.

Susan Forsythe noted that during the February meeting in 2024, the SERC members will need to vote on whether to reinstate Vice Chair, Chief Mike Harris, to another term.

#### ADJOURN

Chief Patrick Reid adjourned the meeting at 11:59 AM.

#### SCHEDULE MEETINGS

The next scheduled meeting will be February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, on [MS Teams](#)