



## Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

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April 14, 2016  
 Holiday Inn Kearney- Conference Center Room F  
 110 South 2nd Ave.  
 Kearney, Nebraska  
 1:00 PM CST

**I. Call to Order**, Introduction of Members

A copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Statute was available for review on the registration table. John Grimes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

Member		Affiliation	Present
Sheri	Blaha	County Elected Official	
Steven	Danon	Small Business	X
Keith	Deiml	Education	
Don	Eisenhauer	Agribusiness	X
Joe	Francis	Department of Environmental Quality	X
Polly	Jordening	Labor	X
Rick	Grauerholz	City Government	X
John	Grimes	Chair, Industry	X
Jim	Heine	State Fire Marshal	
Tim	Hofbauer	Vice Chair, Local Emergency Management	X
Larry	Johnson	Trucking Association	
Mark	Lohnes	NDEQ SARA Title III	X
Judd	Lyons	ARNG	
Mark	Maday	Transportation	
Sharon	Medcalf	Community Health	X
Dana	Miller	Fire	X
Tonya	Ngotel	SERC Coordinator	X
Kimberly	Plouzek	Environmental Protection	
Tom	Sands	Department of Roads	
Thomas	Schwarten	State Patrol	X
Sue	Dempsey	Health and Human Services	X
Jessica	Sherwood	NDOR Alt	
Bryan	Tuma	NE Emergency Management	X

*Others in attendance: Mark DeKraai, Nikki Weber, Tim Newman, Brian Daake, Jeremy Seggerman, Bruce Okamoto, Brad Wagner, Logan Lueking, Merci Suarez, Dean Heffi, Bill Pfieler, Tom Smith, Jon Rosenlund, Matthew May, Ray Richards, Coby Werner, John Olson, Jim DeFreece, Dan Hiller and Quinn Lewandowski*

**II. Approval of the agenda** for April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Tonya Ngotel made a motion to approve the agenda. Sue Dempsey seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote

**III. Approval of the minutes** from the January 5, 2016 meeting.

Dana Miller made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 5, 2016. Tim Hofbauer seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote.

**IV. New Business**

**a. Grant Review and Approval**

**i. Homeland Security money**

1. No review of Hazmat projects – summary of fact sheet, going back to 2004 when HSPG money was available
  - a. In 2004, the Department of Homeland Security was created, but prior to 2004, it was the Department of Justice
  - b. NHIT started receiving funding in 2013
  - c. Chart in the handout shows amount over the years
  - d. Had over 250 hazmat calls (does not include fire calls, etc.)
2. Tonya did not detail all equipment and PET requests – about 50% in each category
3. In the future, will type the teams so everyone knows what resources are available throughout the state
  - a. During 2016, there will be implementation of this – will be typing each of the hazmat teams and how will consider for future funding – funding will not be competitive but will be based on the type of team
  - b. Question about whether lower capability teams will be allocated funding to grow their teams – this will need to be discussed during the process

- ii. Department of Transportation grant – funds all LEPCs and funding for training, conferences, and SERC retreat. \$380,000 was awarded in 2008, but it was cut in 2012-13 based on formula. The amount will stay the same in 2016 and 2017, but will go down in 2018, so will need to scrutinize expenses in the future**
1. This is a sustainable program and likely won't change over the years. It mirrors the HSPG funds. Now we can change priorities, but in the past, we had to get approval from DOT to change funding. We don't have to get approval any more, which will give us a little more wiggle room. We need to push out this funding to support the Hazmat teams – it's not always easy to do that, but know that this grant is for you – training money, planning money, etc.

**iii. NASTTPO Annual Meeting Omaha May 24-26**

1. Every state has a SERC – The National Association of SERC meets twice a year – This meeting will be in May at the Magnolia Hotel downtown.
  - a. Bringing in national level speakers this conference
  - b. Union pacific will bring a rail car
  - c. Frank Patterson will be part of conference on Wednesday morning –sponsored by OPPD – Texas disaster. Very moving story.

**iv. EPA Stakeholders Meeting Review March 9**

1. Mark Lohnes – in KC – meeting of Emergency Planning Community Right to Known (EPCRA) folks – opportunity to compare notes from four states – each state had 20 minute presentations – executive order after West TX incident. Better job of communicating across federal agencies. Different agencies have different

stand points and perspectives. Homeland security – protecting facility, OSHA – employee protection, EPA – what coming out of the facility.

## **V. Old Business**

### **a. LEPC Membership Approval (Vote)**

- i. Forty applications for membership were received. Tom Schwarten made a motion to approve all applications for membership. Rick Grauerholz seconded this motion; motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote.
- ii. How better communicate LEPC meetings. Calendar would help with this. Other option is to get on their list for meetings. Need to meet at least yearly. Will try to send out applications in drop box in the future

### **b. SERC Membership**

#### **i. Status Report**

1. All seats upon the SERC board are filled. The SERC will host its annual retreat on July 12<sup>th</sup> in Kearney.

### **c. 2016 Nebraska SERC Retreat/LEPC Conference/Hazmat Symposium/Challenge**

- i. The SERC Retreat will be held on July 12th in Kearney.
- ii. The LEPC Conference/HazMat Symposium/Challenge has been postponed and moved to October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The event moved away from being held the same weekend of the Nebraska spring football game

### **d. SERC Strategic Plan Review and Update**

#### **i. Four Strategies**

1. Survey – no further updates
  - a. Effort being made to hit the counties that hadn't responded so that each one is represented.
  - b. Status Report
    - i. SERC Strategic Plan Review and Update
      1. Rick has done some presentations – Dana has presented at some meetings – Keith Hanson has done some presentations
      2. Presentation materials will be provided for those who are presenting.
    - ii. Winnebago Tribe Commodity Flow Study
      1. 15% cut and received it – will do RFP for 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor. DOT met with them in March. Two flow studies in the same state – will be good information
        - a. Should end October 1, will have more information at the October meeting
    - iii. Other

### **e. Emergency Order – Bakken Crude Oil Transport**

- i. Currently about one to four trains transporting crude oil through Nebraska at any time. Transport has been minimal to what it was last year when seven to fourteen trains were transporting crude oil through Nebraska at any time.

## **VI. Report from NEMA**

- a. Bryan – 1) grants – working to finalize HSGP – EMPG has been submitted – NEMA staff can answer any questions.
- b. LR455 was passed – formed an assessment group to look at climate change and response and mitigation strategies – next year will form review and assessment group to look at response and recover more severe weather events and impact on critical infrastructure – what resources required in the future. Meeting with fire chiefs and Hazmat response across state of Nebraska. Winnebago – tribe and village – EM101 – community outreach program – work with elected officials and try to provide information on special concerns in their area. Effort to follow up on commodity flow study and other issues with emergency management. Hosted a communications leader course as well as an ICS 300 and 400 classes held. Wild fire advisory group and deployment of state assets. Terrex 2016 area – Chadron and Crawford area – test capability of SRS – identify shortfalls and what needed to fix it. Return on investment. Test response to wildfire assets. Discussion of Type 2 - April 26th.

## **VII. Report from DNEQ**

- a. NDEQ – went to Kansas City and attended regional response team – report out on Missouri floods of last year – one of the things they talked about was use of iPads and documenting incident – they found them especially useful in the identification of debris – they developed a strategy for getting rid of debris in an effective manner – using EPA contractors
- b. Participating – keeping animal mortality at the top of list. NEMA and Department of Agriculture did good job last year with avian flu.
- c. Tier II information – reconciling data so communities have same information that DEQ has. Tier II into better electronic form so can dump into CAMEO.
- d. Dorchester Co Op release – pictures sent around. Good relationship with Co Op – 165,000 gallons of 1032O fertilizer had cracks – storage tank had crack that blew out liquid. Five tanks in area, secondary containment not good with tsunami of fertilizer spill. Just south of tank – Very large release – COOP had act together and they were containing and ground water folks took over
- e. Midnight dumper – Saunders County sheriff – brown sticky substance dumped on a county road – blocked off road for the night – wasn't a main county road but was a minimal maintenance road. Molasses from facility in Fremont. Purina hired Waste Connections to clean up and had a bit of a spill so decided to take back roads. Got Waste Connections guys back out there to help clean it up. Huge puddle of Molasses – had two molasses releases.
- f. The SERC has held discussions about Type III HazMat Team capabilities – statewide responses to events. The state of Nebraska is trying stand up the watch center – working towards standing up an entity in NEMA that would monitor situational awareness around the state of Nebraska in conjunction with other partners.
  - i. The Public Policy Center did a survey to determine the level of statewide interest

## **VIII. Report from EPA**

- a. EPA – EPCRA online training – Tonya will send out to LEPC's
- b. **Next Region 7 conference** – July 2017 in the Kansas City area.
- c. **Proposed rule change** – West Texas and Directive – Risk management program – making specific and significant changes – more LEPC outreach, more exercises –

mandated exercises on a yearly basis instead of just suggested. Can comment on proposed rule, comments are due by May 13.

- d. Branch Reorganization** – Reorganization is still ongoing, but Terri Blunk will continue to be the Nebraska State Coordinator for EPCRA and the Risk Management Program.
- e. EPA Website in Transition** – EPA headquarters has initiated website restructuring to help with finding information faster and easier by taking advantage of new technologies and best web practices. The new website will be organized around environmental topics instead of organizational structure.
- f. New OSHA Process Safety Management (PSM) Rule Affects Fertilizer Retailers** – OSHA has recently clarified their retail exemption and as a result many fertilizer retailers may become subject to the PSM program and need to develop a Program 3 Risk Management Program per EPA's regulation.
- g. EPCRA (non313) Online Training Now Available for Tribal, State, and Local Emergency Planners** – An online training course is now available to help state, local, and tribal agencies know the requirements of EPCRA and their role and responsibilities prescribed in the law.
- h. TRI Updates** – The new risk-screening environmental indicator (RSEI) data and the preliminary 2014 TRI dataset are now available.

- IX. Public Forum/ Presentation – Nebraska HazMat Weekend on October 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
The Nebraska HazMat Symposium (Friday Event) was established to provide knowledge, skills, and resources to deal with hazardous materials for all emergency responders, regardless of their level of training.

The Nebraska HazMat Challenge (Saturday Event) provides an opportunity HazMat teams, LEPCs, and others to join together for a chance to network with one another, practice technical skills, and learn new HazMat techniques under realistic conditions in a safe environment. The challenge utilizes props to mimic real- life hazardous material situations. The HazMat Challenge also is an event where individuals of all skill levels can learn, challenge and develop their emergency management skills, and have so much fun that you forget you are learning at the same time.

**X. Adjournment**

- a.** Next Meeting will be the SERC Retreat –July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> – at the Kearney Archway in Kearney, NE.
- b.** Sharon Medcalf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sue Dempsey seconded this motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote.