



## Nebraska State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

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April 9, 2019  
Draft Meeting Minutes (Pending Approval)  
SCC – Continuing Education Center Room 302  
301 S 68<sup>th</sup> St Place  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
1:00 PM CDT

- I. Call to Order, Introduction of Members and Guests  
a. An open meeting Statute, available for review, is on the registration table.

Member		Affiliation	Present
Director: Jim	Macy	Department of Environmental Quality	X
Designee: Jeff	Edwards		
Director: Kyle	Schneweis	Department of Transportation	
Designee: Tom	Sands		
Superintendent: John	Bolduc	Nebraska State Patrol	
Designee: Frank	Peck		
Director: Christopher	Cantrell	State Fire Marshal	
Designee:			
Director: Daryl	Bohac	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	X
Designee: Bryan	Tuma		
CEO: Dannette	Smith	Department of Health and Human Services	X
Designee: Sue	Dempsey		
Rick	Grauerholz	Municipal Government	X
	VACANT	Local Elected Official	
	VACANT	Firefighters	
Tim	Hofbauer	Vice Chair – Local Emergency Management	
	VACANT	Public Health	
Kim	Plouzek	Environmental Protection	
Polly	Jordening	Labor	X
	VACANT	School District	
Steven	Danon	Small Business	X
Joe	Oswalt	Agricultural Business	
John	Grimes	Chair – Chemical Industry	X
Matthew	DiVito	Highway Transportation	
	VACANT	Rail Transportation	

*Others in attendance: James Rashilla (SERC Coordinator), Lindsey Button (PPC), James Ferguson (NEMA), Rodney Lockett (DHS – CFATS Program), Ryan Lowry (PPC), Mike Schmidt (FBI), Brian Staskiewicz (Bellevue Fire Dept.), Tonya Ngotel (UNMC), Coby Werner (Omaha Fire Department/Douglas County LEPC), Brad Witte (OFD), Jason Neutzling (Flint Hills Resources), Jon Holmgren (FHR), Megan Williams (FHR), Terri Blunk (EPA Region 7), Jim Dunker (Fillmore County EMA)*

**II. Approval of the agenda for April 9, 2018**

Some minor modifications were made to the agenda including in section IV. a. to note that Trent Kleinow's approval as Fire Representative is currently pending Congressional approval, and an addition to briefly discuss the SERC bylaws. There was a motion made by Rick Grauerholz to approve the April 9, 2019 agenda with the above modifications; Sue Dempsey seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

**III. Approval of the minutes from the January 10, 2019 meeting**

There was a motion by Sue Dempsey to approve the January 10, 2019 meeting minutes as presented with no modifications; Polly Jordening seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

**IV. New Business**

**a. Fire Representative – Trent Kleinow**

This appointment is currently pending Congressional approval.

**b. Dodge County LEPC Meeting April 29 at 8pm in Fremont**

Dodge County will be forming an LEPC, separate from an former LEPC that consisted of Dodge, Washington and Burt counties. The first meeting of the new Dodge County LEPC will take place on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in Fremont.

**c. America's Water Infrastructure Act – Terri Blunk EPA R7**

**i. Drinking water primary agencies must be informed of releases**

America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) was signed, amending EPCRA, on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. State and Tribal emergency response commissions are now required to notify the State agency of any reportable releases, as well as, provide community water systems with hazardous chemical inventory data. More information can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/>

**ii. LEPCs/SERC must provide Tier II info to community water systems**

No new comments.

**d. Statewide Flood Response – Bryan Tuma NEMA**

This past month the State was significantly impacted by severe flooding event. The disaster period began March 9<sup>th</sup> when extreme amounts of ice were being monitored on most of the State's rivers. The flood was triggered by a significant precipitation event (blizzard) leading to rainfall in the east and 18-24 inches of snowfall in the west, followed significant warming event. A long severe winter had resulted in ice covered rivers and tributaries, and frozen ground unable to absorb this precipitation.

Statistics from the Core of Engineers state that in a normal year, runoff from snow melt is 2.9 million cubic feet per second, and this event was up at 11 million; three – four times the normal amount of runoff. Flooding impacted Niobrara, Elkhorn, Platt, Loup, and the Missouri Rivers and lead to widespread flood damage across the state to both public infrastructure (est. \$400 million in damages) and agriculture (est. \$1 billion in both livestock and crop loss).

NEMA has an agreement with the USDA to perform aerial surveillance within the state to identify livestock mortality (completed) and identification of areas impacted by crop loss. NEMA is now retrieving animal carcasses and making arrangements for disposal.

There have been a number of water and sewage treatment facilities impacted, including Omaha, Bellevue, Plattsmouth, Peru, and Boyd County. Particularly in Boyd County where the rural water system pipeline, which feeds four rural communities, was destroyed by flood waters from a rupture in the Spencer Dam. The cost to replace this infrastructure will be economically devastating for that area, so NEMA has marked it as high priority for federal assistance funding. These communities are currently operating off two private wells and ample water donations.

County Roads and Bridges are the economic lifeline of our State, and from the aerial assessments, thousands of these are gone. The effort to rebuild this infrastructure will be costly, challenging, and time consuming and is therefore another priority for the Governor.

Regarding housing, Bellevue and the City of Fremont were the most heavily impacted cities with upwards of 300 homes impacted in those areas. Statewide there are over 3,000 homes that sustained major or significant impact. A handout summarizing these impacts was made available at the meeting. Upwards of 28 counties will likely qualify for individual assistance through the FEMA recovery program. A team from Washington State, requested through the EM Assistance Compact, will be in Nebraska to assist with this effort until the 24<sup>th</sup> of April.

Small Business Administration (SBA) has about 50 employees across the state qualifying people for loans. Disaster recovery centers have been set up across the state on rotation. The Red Cross has set up multi agency resource centers which bring together VOAD groups and other stakeholders to identify needs that can be met by volunteer and private sector individuals. There are around 500 FEMA employees currently stationed in the old Verizon call center facility as joint field office. Assessments for public infrastructure damage is ongoing, and a number of counties still need to be added to the disaster declaration for public assistance. Hopefully by tomorrow we will know if we have all 28 counties will be represented in that declaration.

Recovery activities from this event will likely take 6-8 years.

SERC would like to extend its thanks to all parties involved in this recovery effort.

e. Other

Bylaws review – Bylaws were updated last year, and part of this update was to perform an annual review. No comments or updates were requested.

V. Old Business

a. LEPC Membership Applications Approval (Vote)

A handout of the spreadsheet containing the contact and county for 57 new applicants. More applications (notably one from Freemont) are expected to be presented in the July meeting. Steven Danon made a motion to approve all 57 applications as presented. The motion was seconded by Polly Jordening. The motion passed by unanimous acclamation vote with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

b. Other

No other old business was requested.

VI. Subcommittee Reports

a. Training Subcommittee (Bryan, Sue, Joe O.)

The Training Subcommittee met at Adams Energy on DATE. The subcommittee is working to get back to individuals that have completed surveys and respond to them about the findings. The subcommittee also discussed locations for future trainings.

b. Outreach Subcommittee (John, Tim, Bryan, Steve)

Dakota county LAPC met back in January and have not yet had a second meeting due to flooding. Dodge County will be having their first meeting in April (as noted above).

VII. SERC Member Reports (35:40)

**Jeff Edwards (NDEQ)**– Jeff Edwards has taken over Emergency Support Function (ESF) coordinator duties from Joe Francis. There have not been any specific emergency responses requested of NDEQ over the last few months. Most work over the last month has been flood related. Swine flu response package has been completed and is now with the Dept. of Agriculture for review. NDEQ has issued flood response documents for individuals, companies, and others to use in flood response.

**Bryan Tuma (NEMA)** – The Homeland Security Grant funding is scheduled for final review on Monday April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Senior Advisory Council meeting was yesterday to provide their recommendations.

**Sue Dempsey (HHS)** – HHS has also been working on flood response. Working with EPA Region 7, they deployed a mobile lab to perform free water sampling, with funding for additional funding provided by DEQ. So far, 30% of water samples are positive for bacteria. HHS is providing recommendations for how to shock chlorinate well water, as well as boil water notices for some areas. HHS is coordinating GIS mapping of vulnerable areas of the state with overlays of where private wells are located in order to provide information and recommendations. Boyd county is currently the largest concern, though HHS just lifted the do not consume order on their water as testing has come back negative for bacteria and nitrates, however the boil water notice remains in effect. Flood waters also contain debris, including hazardous materials that have worked their way

down through the rivers and streams; propane tanks and chemical containers etc. EPA is active in this effort or retrieval and disposal of these orphaned containers. HHS has also been working with Camp Ashland, schools and fields that will have people out in the immediate future on soil treatment recommendations.

It's the season for prescribed burns, and HHS is issuing relevant State advisories.

#### **VIII. Stakeholder Reports (EPA, FBI, etc.)**

Terri (EPA) – The EPA Region 7 Report was made available in the meeting. Electronic copies are available for those who would like a copy. EPA is hosting e\*Submit webinars April 30<sup>th</sup> for Risk Management training for the SERTs will be scheduled.

Tier II season was busy with public calls and clarification questions. Adding an FAQ to your website to answer questions such as “What if I no longer need to report” would be helpful to field some of these questions.

EPA is in the process of calling all Risk management agencies that were potentially impacted by the floods. Many of the 500 facilities were able to mitigate and experienced limited impact. The main issue has been that the rail system is down, preventing transfer of chemicals into or out of these facilities. This is of particular concern for Ethanol.

The latest EM preparedness newsletter was distributed. May 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for any items that attendees would like to add to the next newsletter.

The Region 7 LEPC Emergency Planning and Response Conference is scheduled for August 8-10 in Omaha, NE. Details of this conference were discussed. For more information about the conference, visit: [www.regonline.com/2019LEPC](http://www.regonline.com/2019LEPC)

Mike Schmidt (FBI) – FBI will be offering a free, all day, first responder Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training in Norfolk, NE Aug 8<sup>th</sup> that will cover topics ranging from toxic industrial chemicals, to chemical weapons and agro terrorism. This training will be geared towards emergency management first responders, but coordinators are also welcome. They hope to have the agenda finalized by the next SERC meeting.

Rodney Lockett (DHS - Chemical Facility Anti-terrorism Standards Program) – A brief overview of this program was presented: This program works with FBI, EPA, OSHA, and ATF to regulate chemical precursors including toxic flammable and explosive chemicals, and sabotage chemicals. They regulate facilities within the State that possess chemicals of interest, requiring them to have and use a site security plan.

#### **IX. Presentation – Flint Hills Resources**

a. “Ethanol Plant Concrete Silo Event” - The goal of this presentation was to share learnings from concrete silo events, identify hazards and risks associated with this type of event and consider pre-planning actions to take in the event of a similar event at other sites, based on characteristics of the site/evet.

#### **X. Public Comments**

No public comments

#### **XI. Adjournment**

a. Next Meeting July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 at 1:00 PM, same location.

Motion to adjourn by Rick Grauerholz, seconded by Polly Jordening. Meeting adjourned at 2:38 PM

Meeting Minutes April 9, 2019