



LEPC MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Location: 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085

Call to Order:

- Meeting opened at 9:00am by Chair Dave Vollrath.

Roll Call of Members:

- Chair Dave Vollrath announced a quorum to conduct business.
- Rockey Adams, Dave Albers, Michael Davidson, Frank DeLaTorre, Al DiBrito, Beth Ferry, Ashley Geuther, Michael Hansen, Robert Harrison, Jim Kalinowski, Ed Kretchman, Carmen Kucinich, William Martindale, Caitlin Sampsell, Todd Taylor, Dave Vollrath.

Public Comment:

- None.

Presentations:

- Captain Rockey Adams from Berrien County Emergency Management Division presented on Threat Assessment Teams and stated he and Deputy Albers formulated a Threat Assessment Team working group to discuss a comprehensive strategy to implement teams in Berrien County schools using a common protocol. After, using that model, a modified guidance for the chemical sector will become available for the industry to use if they choose to.
- Spectrum Lakeland has a program; Al DiBrito offered to share their resources as may be needed. Al.dibrito@spectrumhealth.org
- Carmen Kucinich stated the FBI Victim Services Advocates are looking for ideas to better educate police chiefs across the state about their programs for recovery.

Approve Previous Meetings Minutes:

- A supported motion to approve the minutes of December 21, 2022 was made by Michael Hansen and approved unanimously.

Executive Subcommittee Reports:

- Chairperson Report: Hope everyone arrived safely and if you have any problems with this building please let us know. This conference room is on the docket until the end of the year. The next meeting is Tuesday, June 21, 2022.
- Secretary Report: Continuously updating the Berrien County LEPC website. Please email ageuther@berriencounty.org if you have any ideas for the website. Also if you have any ideas for future presentations let me know and we can put that on the agenda.



- Information Coordinators Report: Tier II reports are steadily coming in. Once all of the chemical facility plans are updated members and emergency responders can download through [Berrien County's Sharefile](#). The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant paperwork is signed, the resolution is on the docket for the commissioners meeting on Thursday and the paperwork will be sent to Michigan State Police Friday. Last quarter, the New Buffalo Water Department was broken into and a variety of tools and a chlorine cylinder emergency kit was stolen. For trainings, Paradigm held a Pipeline Emergency Response Training on February 7th at the Mendel Center. The Michigan Hazardous Materials Responder Conference is April 11th through 13th, and the Midwest Hazardous Materials Response Conference will be held virtual on May 6th through June 6th. We are always looking for Fire Departments and Facilities to have the hazmat team out for training. If you are interested or know anyone interested please call or email.
- Emergency Management Coordinator: The Emergency Management Division will be publishing our drafted Hazard Mitigation Plan for public comment. A resolution will be needed from all the municipalities to adopt the plan. There is a deadline of August, but we want to get it to FEMA before June. This project opens the doors for communities to apply for Building Resilience Infrastructure & Communities Grants. Over the last few months the Palisades Community Advisory Panel started meeting. Their goal is to provide open communication, public involvement, and education on issues related to the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant shutdown and decommissioning, The Emergency Management Division hosted a 4-day 800 MHz Radio Train the Trainer Course. We also participated with Buckeye Oil in Niles on a pipeline exercise to practice coordinating our response together.

Membership Subcommittee Report:

- If you won't be able to attend an LEPC meeting please send an email so you will have an excused absence. Three or more unexcused absences can lead to a review of your participating membership.

Old Business:

- [Virtual Meeting Policy](#): Attached is the updates to the proposed virtual meeting policy. If you would like to comment on it please email tier2@berriencounty.org. We plan to have our corporate counsel review it and bring it back to the group for a vote in the 2Q meeting.

New Business:

- None.



Public Comment:

- Beth Ferry introduced herself to the LEPC. She stated she works for Michigan State University Extension in Berrien County in the agriculture industry specifically with animals for highly contagious disease outbreaks. She also works with The Emergency Response to Accident Involving Livestock (ERAIL) Program that is focused on providing resources and training for first responders that could be involved in responding to an accident where animals are involved.
- Frank DeLaTorre requested information regarding the status of a Rescue Task Force.
 - Rockey Adams stated there are plans to start up the program and we do not have an exact date yet. We recently applied for state grants to get additional training equipment and instructors.
- Caitlin Sampsell stated they received a 5 million dollar state grant for a new radio tower for South County. We are also looking into creating a new dispatch center with the Emergency Operations Center to have a backup center.

Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 09:56 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Geuther
Secretary