



LEPC MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, November 15, 2022

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

Call to Order:

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

Roll Call of Members:

- Chair Dave Vollrath announced a quorum (≥ 11) to conduct business.
- Rockey Adams assigned to act as secretary for meeting.
- Rockey Adams, Paul Bailey, Mark Bilka, Kilby Brandt, Harvey Burnett, Jim Curran, Frank DeLaTorre, Al DiBrito, Beth Ferry, Julius Grau, Michael Hansen, Robert Harrison, Ed Kretchman, Carmen Kucinich, William Martindale, Stacy Raychowdhury, Caitlin Sampsell, Jeff Thornton, Dave Vollrath, Ralph Williams, Robert Wilson. (19 voting members, 2 supporting).

Presentations:

- Mr. Donovan Thomas of the State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) spoke about the Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS) Hotline.
 - The Dept of Agriculture does have a spill number called RAP (Report all Pesticides) and PEAS coordinates with Dept of Ag and vice versa if a caller used the “wrong” entry number.
 - PEAS is designed to collect reports of chemical spills to the environment where the EGLE regulates the chemicals or environment.
 - PEAS = 800-292-4706 (info at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/doing-business/providers/quicklinks/pollution-emergency-alert-system>).
 - Upon calling, the PEAS operator will collect data such as location, chemical, amount spilled, and caller contact information.
 - PEAS then will send the case to a Regional EGLE staff responder like Donovan to respond or make contact with the caller to gather more information.
 - Geographically, the PEAS line have seen trends on the types of calls. Detroit, for example, gets a lot of old left-behind remnants of industry, Grand Rapids area, more on new facilities that have accidents, and our area tends to have a lot of transportation related spills, such as diesel tanks that rupture during a crash. Also, a lot of submerged vessels get reported through the summer in our area.
 - FAQ – when do I call PEAS. Generally, over reporting- is encouraged. If it hits a waterway, definitely make a call.
 - Mr. Thomas answered questions related to the program for attendees. Those unanswered questions may be directed to him at: ThomasD38@michigan.gov



Approve Previous Meetings Minutes:

- A motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2022 meeting was made by Julius Grau, supported by Paul Bailey, and approved unanimously.

Executive Subcommittee Reports:

- Chairperson Report: We will work on booking the Health Department for meetings. Meeting ideas. Hope everyone arrived safely and if you have any problems with this building please let us know. Stay safe in winter weather. This conference room is on the docket until the end of the year. The next meeting is discussed in New Business.
- Secretary Report: None, excused absence.
- Information Coordinators Report: (Written – Excused Absence) All of the chemical facility plans are updated members and emergency responders can now download through [Berrien County's Sharefile](#). Contact tier2@berriencounty.org if access is needed. 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: spoke about:
 - 5D Counter-Terror Exercises – Successful exercise held in Battle Creek in OCT.
 - Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Timeline moved up to expect adoption in Jan 23', with FEMA approval expected by March 23'.
 - Learning Management System – will roll out for REP 101, has to be managed due to 250 per month active user cap.
 - Repair HF Antenna – Being delayed now that snow has hit. Getting quotes has been challenging.
 - External Affairs Campaigns – Now on Social Media: Facebook and Twitter primarily. Find us at @BCEMHSD on both channels.
 - MEVO 911 Backup system
- The Sheriff spoke about:
 - Staff – We will interview replacement for DEP Albers (now SGT Albers) former position.
 - Hazmat – LT Corey Burks will retire DEC 14, 2022 and SGT Albers will be the Team Leader for the Hazmat Team as LT Burks' replacement.
 - Expressed great appreciation of the County Administration and Board members' support; especially as it relates to investing in emergency management and the technology our responders need.

Membership Subcommittee Report:

- No updates for this meeting.

Old Business:

- None



New Business:

- 2023 Meeting Dates – Proposed Calender was:
 - February 14, 2023
 - June 13, 2023
 - September 19, 2023
 - November 07, 2023
- Venues will be established and posted on the [LEPC webpage](#) before JAN 01, 2023. We will need to confirm booking of rooms – most likely will be back to the Heath Dept Conference Room.

Announcements:

- Check webpage for venue information and to download agendas and minutes.

Public and Member Comment:

- Julius Grau spoke about electric battery fires.
 - We need more data to be gathered so we can make better evacuation or safety decisions. What Federal agency is looking at this and passing guidance down to local units of government? William Martindale spoke, as an example, that the BH Fire Academy brought in a practical battery firefighting class to the area and encouraged commitment to continue these types of seminars.
- Al Dibrito was asked about reopening the front entry for the hospital.
 - The hospital construction project is completed, the front entry should have an announcement publically to announce the front entry is “back to normal.”
 - Further, with the new name change to Corewell, it is not anticipated to affect contact information such as email for quite a while.

Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 09:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rockey Adams
Acting Secretary