

SEPTEMBER 17, 2019  
LEPC MEETING MINUTES

Meeting opened at 9:02 a.m. by Acting Chair, David Vollrath.

Motion by Jerry Sirk; second by John Yetzke to approve *June 18, 2019* minutes as presented. Passed by unanimous vote.

Public Comment: None

Introductions

**Information Coordinator Report:**

Deputy Albers received one new site plan from AT&T on Three Oaks Road. They have sulfuric acid on site, but not enough to be a 302. They sent us the plan so we are aware it is there. Arcadis sent notice of an updated Pollution Incident Plan (PIP) for the Comcast facility on Niles Rd., SJ. Lastly, there was a reported transformer leak behind the old Target building in Benton Township. Transformer holds approximately 200 gallons. The leak did go into a private drain, but it had a catch. No impact from this incident.

**Membership Report:**

Deadline is quickly approaching for accepting applications. Deadline is Nov. 1, 2019. The membership nomination subcommittee that volunteered in February will remain, with the addition of Commissioner Bob Harrison who will replace Steve Torres. (He left the BCHD and accepted a teaching position @ LMC).

As of today's meeting, Gayle has received 24 applications, 11 of which are from current members. An email was sent out Monday to the remaining members with an application asking to be completed. A subcommittee meeting has been scheduled for **Monday, November 4 @ 10:00 a.m.** to review all applications.

Once the subcommittee has completed review, applications will be presented to the LEPC membership as a whole on Nov. 12 for approval. All approved applications will then be given to Acting Chair Vollrath who will schedule a meeting with the Executive Committee for final review and preparation to submit to the MCCERCC.

Membership will be effective January 1, 2020. Membership runs per calendar year and is in effect for three years.

**Capt. Adams:**

Continue investigating software to integrate our GIS mapping with other county departments such as Roads, Drains, 911, Health, etc.

Our local HazMat team extended an invite to the EPA, EGLE, and USCG to meet and share our capabilities and resources in a 6-hour seminar at the Empire facility. It turned out to be a very informative and productive workgroup, learning more about each other's capabilities, strengths, and limitations.

Berrien County maintains the responsibility to have a HazMat team, which membership is open to other agencies within Berrien. We do have one team member from Pokagon Tribal PD. Our team is there to assist the agency having jurisdiction, not take over a scene.

We have a pipeline exercise coming up this week. A press release will be going out this afternoon to alert the public that LE boats, and much activity, will be on the SJ River between 12-3 p.m. on Thursday near where I-94 crosses in SJ/Sodus/Royalton Townships.

This is being done with Marathon Pipeline. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. with an informational training session/tabletop beginning at 8:00 a.m. Scenario will be what happens if there is a leak into the water. An RSVP was required by today.

**Commissioner Vollrath:**

He shared on the Gov't to Gov't meeting hosted by the NRC last month in Van Buren County. They were there to discuss the decommissioning of Palisades, which is still on schedule for 2022. There have been 12 NPP's decommissioned already and the properties they sat on were sold immediately. Palisades sits on 380 acres. All but 10 acres will be useable immediately. Those 10 acres will continued to be guarded and unusable for a number of years.

**Sheriff Bailey:**

Sheriff started by thanking his EM office staff, along with Lt. Ken High, for all the work put into making sure information is getting out to the public, working so closely with all our schools, helping keep our kids safe, and the continuous training for first responders.

Secondly he reminded us on the numerous car b&e's that continue to take place throughout Berrien County. This is largely due to the drug problem and users looking for quick money. Thieves come out at 2:00 in the morning and go from house to house looking for unlocked vehicles with valuables sitting inside. Unlocked vehicles are an easy target. LOCK YOUR CAR, and don't leave purses, wallets, computers, money, etc. sitting inside. They just investigated about 10 in Hagar Township last week. Remind your family and friends to keep their cars locked and valuables out.

**Closing Comments:**

Julius reported that he took the opportunity at his last township board meeting to present on preparedness and what has been learned from the recent hurricanes. He stated the exchange went very well.

Capt. Adams added that this month is a good time to focus on emergency preparedness. Communication is always a big concern. What if the internet and cell towers go down? How can I communicate with my family? Family preparedness plans that have a meeting place outside is a start. The Red Cross app is extremely helpful and organized. BWarn! and NOAA weather radios for emergency alerts. [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) is another option for planning assistance.

Ralph shared that Jeanette called and asked him to share her hello and that she wishes she could have been here today.

Gayle asked that we keep Chief Durham and his dad in our prayers as his dad is suffering from cancer in his kidney. Surgery was scheduled last Friday, however, the doctor got behind and was not able to do it. They are meeting with his doctor today in hopes of getting surgery rescheduled.

Motion to adjourn at 9:46 a.m. by Capt. Adams; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry Sirk. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Bassett  
Secretary

David Vollrath  
Acting Chair

**Member Attendance:**

*Rockey Adams, Dave Albers, Gayle Bassett, Michael Davidson, Paul Bailey, Vince DesJardins, Jerry Sirk, Sara Orpurt, Todd Taylor, John Yetzke, Julius Grau, Denny Sexton, and Ralph Williams.*

**Guest Attendance:**

*Bob Wilson, Mike Phelps, Mike Mattix, Pete Murphy, Tom Mefferd, Ken Priest, Ken High, Donovan Thomas, Kilby Brandt, Rick Winters, Frank DeLaTorre, Marc Bilka, Tony Martin, Bob Harrison, Stephen Eccles, Jason Latham, Jessica Clark, Aundrey Mason, and Fabio Cesar.*