



MINUTES OF LEPC MEETING – August 8th, 2017

LOCATION:

Montgomery County Public Safety Training Center
1175 Conshohocken Road
Conshohocken, PA 19428

ATTENDANCE:

LEPC Members:

Steve Wittmer, Dave Brown, Megan Young, John Corcoran, Kathleen McVeigh, Mike Jones, Tom Garrity, Jim Leary, Scott Lynch, Greg Jeniec, Mike Italia, Armand Alessi

OEP Staff:

Bev Stemple, Jason Wilson, Brandon Pursell, John Waters, II

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wittmer called the meeting to order at 1258 hrs. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

A motion was made by Mike Italia and seconded by Scott Lynch to accept the meeting minutes for May 9th, 2017 meeting as submitted/amended. The question was called for, asked, and approved.

GUESTS:

Jules DiRocco, James Weller, Bonny Williams, Matt Barnes, Don Sirriani

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no Unfinished Business

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The following committees have nothing to report:

Transportation, Public Works, Law Enforcement, Media, Local Government, Administration and Finance

Hazardous Materials

Mr. Waters reported that the Hazardous Materials Response Team had completed the State Recertification process with the successful completion of the Evaluated Exercise back in early June. Mr. Waters noted that prior to the evaluated exercise, there was an On -Site Assessment that was successfully completed as well. Mr. Waters reported that the Hazardous Materials Response Team had responded to a white powder call at a mailroom in Horsham where it was determined to be a food dye. Mr. Waters noted that other HMRT calls since the last LEPC meeting were for an unknown substance in a creek and abandoned barrels. Mr. Waters explained to Chairman Wittmer that he would like to report on the Haz Mat study during his report instead of during New Business. Mr. Waters reported that the Study was being completed by Emergency Services Consulting and that they have already completed a site assessment including interviews with DPS staff. Mr. Waters noted that members of the LEPC should have received an electronic survey for Emergency Services Consulting and if they would have any questions please contact him. Mr. Waters added that by the end of August, the consulting firm will present there preliminary findings. Chairman Wittmer added to Mr. Waters report by noting that the Hazardous Materials Response Team was recognized by the Montgomery County Commissioners on July 25th for their successful recertification. Chairman Wittmer commended Mr. Waters for his efforts to make the recertification process a success.

Mrs. Stemple Reported that 60% of plans have been reviewed for Reporting Year 2016 and EHS chemicals are still on the rise. Mr. Stemple added that there are new facilities that are completing plans as well.

Mr. Pursell Reported that as of August 7th there was a total revenue of \$127,335. Mr. Pursell noted that of that total revenue, \$126,800 of it came from invoiced SARA Reporting and Planning facilities. Mr. Pursell added that the other \$535.00 has come from billing for HMRT responses. Mr. Pursell reported that there are currently 503 Reporting facilities overall, 259 of which are Planning facilities. It was noted by Mr. Pursell that 10 facilities are currently past due on their payment and have been notified and invoiced again. In addition, Mr. Pursell gave a brief report on the status of the new PEAC updates. Mr. Pursell reported that a PO has been cut and they are hoping to have completion by the end of the year and at that time a demo will be presented to the committee. Chairman Wittmer asked Mr. Pursell how the municipalities will be

trained. Mr. Pursell explained that a representative from each municipality will have to come sign a confidentiality agreement and at that time will receive a log in for PEAC.

Emergency Management

Mr. Wilson reported that the Division of Emergency Management is currently underway with revamping the current Debris Management Plans and Mass Care Plans. Mr. Wilson added that they are hoping to have their Fuel Assessment completed in 2018. Mr. Wilson noted that Montgomery County's Grant funding from HMRF was cut from \$133,000 to \$85,000. Mr. Wilson added that a protest letter was sent to PEMA for reconsideration. Mr. Wilson explained that PEMA is implementing a new algorithm to determine grant allotment. Mr. Wilson went on to report that the Division of emergency Management have taken delivery of their two new UAVs or "Drones" that they had purchased. Mr. Wilson explained that EM staff had taken a two day course to be trained on how to properly fly the UAVs and further explained the process Montgomery County is going through to become authorized. Chairman Wittmer asked Mr. Wilson how the drones were funded and Mr. Wilson informed Chairman Witter it was with UASI funding. Mr. Jones asked if the drones were intended for Police, Fire, and EMS and Mr. Wilson said yes. Mr. Jones also asked Mr. Wilson what would be cut due to the cut in HMRF funding and Mr. Wilson explained equipment purchases.

Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Garrity reported that several improvements have been made to facilities around the academy including new doors on the drill tower, new chairs in the cafeteria, and renovations to the men's room on the first floor and basement. Mr. Garrity acknowledged that the LEPC played a key role in supporting the Fire Academy complete the installation of the propane props. Mr. Garrity noted that Class 1702 graduated July 19th and that all 15 students passed the certification skills test on the first attempt. Mr. Garrity added that the summer day-time technical rescue class ended August 1st with all 14 students passing. Mr. Garrity informed the committee that the Fall Training Schedule is now available online as well as in hard copies. Mr. Garrity added that the PSTC will be hosting ICS 300 and 400 courses in September and October. Mr. Garrity reported that from January 1st to August 3rd there have been 1,296 students that have taken offered Haz Mat Courses resulting in 54 students certified in awareness and 19 certified in Operations. Lastly, Mr. Garrity and Mr. Wilson addressed the fact that the SCBA used by Fire Academy is going to need to be replaced in the near future. Mr. Wilson said that there was a quote of \$85,000 to replace 30 air packs. Chairman Wittmer asked that this subject be addressed as new business for the November meeting and that the LEPC create an action plan for 2018 so that the committee can be sustainable independent from Task Force funding.

New Business: Fire Academy SCBA replacement

Mr. Jones reported that Montgomery County is doing a fire service needs study that was sent out to municipalities and fire companies. Mr. Jones reported that he had attended the International Association of Fire Chief's HazMat Team Conference as a member of the HMRT

and sat through numerous breakout sessions including topics such as foam tactics, carfentanil response, and the risk of cancer for first responders exposed to hazardous chemicals. Mr. Italia noted that instructors are now expressing a greater importance of proper protection and the cleaning of PPE. Mr. Jones mentioned the possibility of a presentation at this year's chief seminar.

First Aid and Public Health

Mr. Brown started off his report by adding on to Mr. Wilson's report noting that the first UAV flights are about three months out still. Mr. Brown reported that there are three events in the month of August. The three events are a bike race in Ambler, a bike race in Narberth, and the Philadelphia Folk Fest in Upper Salford. Mr. Brown added that he is currently working on compiling an updated contact list to distribute to hospitals. Additionally, Mr. Brown added that one hospital in the county has reported that their Ebola PPE is expiring soon and Mr. Brown is looking in to having it donated back to the county. Lastly, Mr. Brown noted Mr. Waters assistance in creating policies and procedures for carfentanil exposure.

Ms. Young reported that the Health Department has received their Health certification and will be certified for the next 5 years. Ms. Young also reported that she is currently working on finishing up the POD project and the contact is ending in October. Additionally, Ms. Young reported that 12 of the 16 sited have been surveyed and have expanded closed POD sites from 2 to 11 sites. Lastly, Ms. Young reported that the functional exercise for the PODs will take place August 22nd and 23rd.

Additional Reports

Mr. Sirianni took a moment to introduce himself to the committee and explained that he represent the Public Works Association. Mr. Sirriani added that Public Works stands as a support role and will provided assistance where needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Wittmer Introduced Mr. Armand Alessi and explained that Mr. Alessi will serve on the committee as the Hospital Representative. Chairman Wittmer explained that Mr. Alessi has received his appointment from the Commissioner's Office and is now waiting to be appointed to the LEPC by the Lieutenant Governor. Chairman Wittmer welcomed Mr. Alessi and asked that Mr. Alessi take a moment to introduce himself and give his background.

Next on the agenda Mr. Wittmer explained that new LEPC by-laws have been drafted with the assistance of Mr. Wilson, Mr. Waters, and Mr. Pursell. Chairman Wittmer asked Mr. Pursell to explain any new additions to the by-laws since the last meeting. Mr. Pursell added that Mr. Sirianni had suggested adding Public Works to the list of representatives. Mr. Pursell noted that this oversight was corrected and he thanked Mr. Sirriani for his input. Chairman Wittmer had asked Mr. Pursell to give a quick explanation of

the workgroups added to the new by-laws. Mr. Pursell gave a quick dissertation of the workgroups and added that he will be sending an email out to the committee asking for people to choose a workgroup they would be interested in supporting. Mr. Janiec asked if a scope for each work group could be added to the email. A motion was made by Mr. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Janiec to adopt the newly revised Montgomery County LEPC By-Laws. The question was called for, asked, and approved.

Actionable Item: LEPC By-Laws Adopted

The third item presented in New Business was the recertification process on all LEPC members. Mr. Pursell explained that the State of Pennsylvania keeps record of all certified members however the system has become outdated and does not accurately reflect the current membership. Mr. Pursell proposed that at the beginning of 2018 the Montgomery County LEPC will recertify all of its members on a yearly basis to make sure all members are certified.

Last item on the agenda for New Business was the need for Facility Release Guidelines. Mr. Waters explained that currently there is no standardized way for facilities to report a chemical release to the authorities. Mr. Waters explained that due to the fact there is no standard procedure, there is often a break in communication between agencies. Mr. Waters proposed that when the Outreach Workgroup is established their first order of business is to create some type of flow chart to guide facilities in reporting their releases.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Mr. DiRocco reported that Delaware County is putting together a first responder at the Delaware Community College and he will share more information and they get further along. Secondly, Mr. DiRocco added that this fall Delaware County will be conducting a pipeline exercise. Lastly, Mr. DiRocco noted that the PATTS reporting format is changing on November 1st, 2017. Mr. DiRocco added that Carol Freeman from PennSafe will be presenting at Delaware County's next LEPC meeting and that Montgomery County is welcome to attend this event. Chairman Wittmer added to Mr. DiRocco's report and explained that with the new GHS guidance, reports may become more complicated but this will standardize the way chemicals are identified and reported.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Tuesday November 14th, 2017 at 1300hr

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by John Corcoran and Seconded by Mike Italia to adjourn the Montgomery County LEPC meeting for August 8th, 2017. The meeting was adjourned at 1358hrs.