

Nevada State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

Second Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 9, 2019
1:00-4:00PM

The Row
345 North Virginia Street
Reno NV 89501

1. CALL TO ORDER (Non-Action Item)

Note: The audio recording began after the meeting had ben called to order.

2. ROLL CALL, CONFIRM QUORUM, AND INTRODUCTIONS (Non-ActionItem)

Chair Dennis Nolan asked everyone to introduce themselves all around.

Commission Members Present

Dennis Nolan, Co-Chair
Lance Chantler
Susan Crowley
Gus Farias
Caleb Cage
Eric Santos
Jess Lankford

Others Present

Christina Wilson, SERC Coordinator
Wendi Wyatt, SERC Administrator
Nathan Hastings, Attorney General's Office
Elise Wyman, EPA Program Coordinator
David Willauer, Cambridge Systematics
Bill Jones, USEPA
Tom Bergman, Oklahoma SERC
Bill Conway, SERC/HAZMAT
Aaron Kinneston, Washoe County LEPC
Kelly Echeverria, Washoe County LEPC
Mr. Velasquez, Association inaudible
Scott Lewis, Nye County LEPC.
Elaine Calderwood, White Pine County Finance
Renee Tyler, SERC Member, private sector

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Action Item)

Ms. Wilson welcomed their out of state guests who were attending in conjunction with the NASTIPO Federal Conference. SERC hosted NASTIPO this year along with some of their Federal cooperators like Bill Jones and Tom Bergman.

4. APPROVAL OF APRIL 4, 2019 MEETING MINUTES (Discussion/For Possible Action)

Ms. Crowley stated that the minutes were very good but should state “Minutes” at the top of the page.

Motion: Approve April 4 2019 Meeting Minutes with provision noted
By: Susan Crowley
Second: Caleb Cage
Vote: Motion approved

5. COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES UPDATES (Discussion/For Possible Action)

Susan Crowley reported on the Funding Committee. She said they haven’t met since the last SERC meeting so she has nothing new to report. She did say they were glad they generated the increase for LEPC funding through the United We Stand Grants.

Chair Nolan asked for clarification on that increase on LEPC funding. Ms. Wilson said the motion was to increase it to \$30,000 and then on the first quarterly basis to re-review that funding based on the sales from the previous year.

Aaron Kinneston reported on the Planning and Training Committee. They had a productive meeting last week. They identified some challenges with review of plans from some of the rural counties, and it has to do with the counties updating certain sections of their plans, not the plans in their entirety. The committee had some difficulties coming to conclusion on some of the rural county plans because they felt like they didn’t have the whole piece together. They discussed maybe doing some training outreach and things of that nature. They went through county by county, looked at the items that they had sent in, and generally looked good with the exception of a few administrative matters. The rural counties don’t have a full-time administrator so getting all the required yearly documents in is problematic.

Chair Nolan asked about the planning meeting on the Silver Crucible training exercise. Mr. Kinneston explained to guests that this three-day complex coordinated terrorism attack exercise will be November 12, 13, and 14. The 12th will be an intel day where all of the intelligence centers around the state pass information that lead them to believe that Nevada could be targeted by a terrorism activity. The second day the activities will occur throughout the state, Clark County, Washoe County, Carson City. Some of the activities will have hazardous materials nexus and they’ll work through some response activities and coordination on that second day, November 13th. Then November 14th will be recovery, family assistance, things of that nature. This state-wide exercise presents a lot of challenges especially in the area of resources, but everybody is super positive about it and they expect some good lessons learned, some identification and some capability gaps and corrective action plans that they can implement in the year 2020.

Caleb Cage reported on the Legislative and Policy Committee. The Division has eight bills that they requested through the Executive process that are currently alive and well and one bill that they requested to be carried by Assemblyman McCurdy. Most do a lot to reform and transform the way they operate from a state level as far as DEM is concerned. One establishes the Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council. One establishes a Resilience Committee that will replace the current Resilience Commission to serve as an overall coordinating body. Others increase their ability to use the emergency and disaster accounts for upstate and establish their ability to create and send management assistance teams and so on. All of those bills currently are in various phases of progress

throughout the legislative process.

David Willauer asked for some additional information on the Resilience Committee. Mr. Cage explained that Senate Bill 35 establishes the Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee. The Division of Emergency Management wants to combine a number of boards and commissions that they oversee -- they ended up with between two and three dozen boards and committees that they had some piece of as a division, usually in an administrative role. The Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee will be one body that absorbs all those bodies and creates a single resilience goal and objectives for that year. It will coordinate all of the grant resources for those four or five different grant sources through that body.

Chair Nolan reported that the By-Laws Committee has not been able to have a meeting yet, They've picked up two members.

Christina Wilson reported the Radiation Committee is chaired by Jon Bakkedahl from the Department of Emergency Management. He was trying to join via phone because he was on the road, but he was unsuccessful. They have not had a meeting since the last SERC meeting, but they are planning one in the coming month.

6. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) UPDATES (Non- Action Item)

Chair Nolan asked for LEPC updates and they were as follows:

- **Carson City:** gave notice they were unable to join meeting.
- **Churchill County:** no speakers either in person or on the phone.
- **Clark County:** no speakers either in person or on the phone.
- **Douglas County:** no speakers either in person or on the phone.
- **Elko County:** gave notice they were unable to join meeting.
- **Esmerelda County:** no speakers either in person or on the phone.
- **Eureka County:** no speakers either in person or on the phone.
- **Humboldt County:** no speakers either in person or on the phone.
- **Lander County:** no speakers either in person or on the phone.
- **Lincoln County:** no speakers either in person or on the phone.
- **Lyon County:** no speakers either in person or on the phone.
- **Mineral County:** no speakers either in person or on the phone.
- **Nye County:** Scott Lewis reported they had a meeting yesterday with a presentation by the Red Cross. They discussed current and also pending grant requests, several of which were approved by the LEPC and will be forthcoming including the SERC. And finally, they had a detailed weather update from the U.S. Weather Service regarding pending southern Nevada weather.
- **Pershing County:** no speakers either in person or on the phone.
- **Storey County:** no speakers either in person or on the phone.
- **Washoe County:** Ms. Kelly Echeverria reported had a great presentation from the SERC RAT team, the Rail Auxiliary Team at our last LEPC meeting. They are working with Jon Bakkedahl on putting together a radiological exercise. They are re-reviewing the application for United We Stand because of the increased amount. They are focused on how they can make their LEPC a little bit more robust and get engagement really going back and forth between the body and the leadership. Chair Nolan added they have been very busy with hands-on exercises including a month-long exercise over at the helicopter National Guard Airbase, where they trained on an active assailant using simulation rounds. First time that the police department had fully engaged with their entire police force and put all 220 of our firefighters through active assailant training. They had about anywhere from 20 to 30 casualties a day over a period of 19 different days of training, morning and afternoon. They also did an Alpha Charlie Sierra Plan which is an alternative care site plan for the hospitals that if in the event they either need to be evacuated because maybe a structural damage from an earthquake or if they became overwhelmed from a mass casualty event they can stand up the temporary, inflatable hospital wings outside that we deployed for probably the first time in five years.

- **White Pine County:** Elaine Calderwood reported they will be submitting their United We Stand grant application in the next week. Their Emergency Manager resigned last week. They're looking to increase membership.
- **Inter-Tribal:** Lance Chantler reported that Intertribal needs to be updated to impact now that the status of the committee has changed to a state-run organization. He and Ms. Wilson have been working to make necessary corrections to industry pamphlets and once they conquer some technical issues, he will get them distributed. Some of the tribes will be submitting applications to SERC to become eligible grantees for certain grants. Mr. Chantler volunteered to become a member of the By-Laws Committee.

7. NON-STATE AGENCY UPDATES (Non-Action Item)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Bill Jones reported that they have been extremely busy with the big fires in northern California, southern California mudslides, volcano in Hawaii, and a super typhoon in Saipan. Lance Richman [phonetic] who is the Mainland Regional Response Team Coordinator will also be the Coordinator for the Nevada SERC and EPA. Tom Dunkelman will be the Mainland Coordinator. The next western states SERC and LEPC collaborative and get-together will be in January in Denver. It's 14 states, so it's a great opportunity to talk about common issues. Details to follow.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): Mr. Woytak did not call in.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS): Marcie Stone was still out on maternity leave.

8. STATE AGENCY UPDATES (Non-Action Item)

Nevada Department of Transportation (DOT): No report.

Nevada Division of Emergency Management (DEM): Caleb Cage said legislative efforts have consumed much time and effort in their department. They've been working on the Silver Crucible exercise. They've got a mid-process review coming up next week. They've lost some pretty key players to their overall training exercise program - Jim Walker, Bud Marshall and Tim Carrey. So, they're working on filling all of those positions. They are in the process of submitting their Emergency Management Program Performance Grant, the EMPG, for the state. Next week they will move towards the final phase of administering the Homeland Security dollars through the Resilience Commission that will go to the Finance Committee on the 23rd and the full Homeland Security Commission on the 28th.

Nevada State Fire Marshal Division (SFM): Ms. Christina Wilson gave a brief report in Chief Chambers' absence. Currently he is working on getting Senate Bill 338 through the legislative process. Senate Bill 338 is going to be making changes relating to the regulation of fireworks. In addition to that there is an EPA memorandum that went out July 2017 that provides information regarding the safe and legal handling and storage and treatment of fireworks waste. It basically gives an overview saying that fireworks should be considered hazardous material. When this goes through, the State Fire Marshal's Office will get two additional officers to help the local entities with education and enforcement.

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (DEP): No report.

Nevada Division of Industrial Relations, OSHA Unit: Jess Lankford reported that there was nothing new or surprising to report. They were all working hard to get the legislative work done in a timely manner.

Nevada Radiation Control Program: No report.

9. SERC COMMITTEES REPORT (Discussion Only)

- a. **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**
- b. **POLICY COMMITTEE**
- c. **BYLAWS COMMITTEE**
- d. **PLANNING AND TRAINING COMMITTEE**
- e. **RADIATION COMMITTEE**
- f. **FUNDING COMMITTEE**

Chair Nolan said SERC Committee Reports were completed during Agenda Item 5, so the meeting moved on to Agenda Item Number 10.

10. REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE AND APPLICATION BY SERC STAFF (Discussion Only)

Ms. Wyatt reported that for Fiscal '19 all of the counties are in compliance to the SERC office and also all 17 counties have submitted for Fiscal '20 their plans and exercises. Those are still being reviewed. They're waiting to make sure that they have the funding from the state and that's collected, the SERC OPTE, from the fees that they charge, so they have to make sure we're going to receive funding for that also. And once they do, then they'll be able to get out the grants on the SERC OPTE the first part of July.

11. HAZARDOUS COMMODITY FLOW STUDY STATEWIDE (Discussion/For Possible Action)

Mr. Willauer gave the update on the findings from the draft report of the Statewide Hazardous Commodity Flow Study. There was a three-part methodology to do the study that included a priority process for priority chemicals, a petroleum supply chain analysis and some roadside surveys.

As Mr. Willauer explained the slides he was presenting, he pointed out the following: Their team mapped out where the HAZMAT storage facilities are located using EPA and other data from the State Fire Marshal's Office. It's different data from different data sets. The team looked at all the chemicals and fuels that are stored at facilities and developed a master list. In order to really focus on those that provide the biggest risk to health and safety, they used four criteria to narrow the list down. The criteria were isolation distance, threshold planning quantity for the toxic chemicals, and then for the fuels they looked at lower flammability limits and flash point to help understand which of the fuels might likely be more of a hazard than others, and also they used volume as a factor. If something wasn't shipped in a large volume and it was only present at one or two facilities that reduced the hazard.

Some of the same chemicals showed up in the same top ten in other states. Ammonia and chlorine always end up in the top ten. Titanium tetrachloride is a common whitening agent. Because of extensive mining operations in the northern part of the state, Nevada shows potassium and sodium cyanide. Typically, the facilities that require an RNP Plan tend to be EHS chemicals like anhydrous ammonia and chlorine gas.

Ethanol or propane is not considered extremely hazardous, although it's an important fuel to pay attention to, especially since the volumes of ethanol seem to be going up as a required biofuel blender. Ethanol is exported from this country in fairly large volumes out of Los Angeles and Long Beach, so you have a big thru-traffic of ethanol in Nevada. These are high hazard, flammable trains when you bring together those volumes of ethanol rail cars. The railroads do a great job of positioning foam trailers along their network, and there have been a lot of examples of railroads collaborating with First Responders on positioning the foam trailers for ethanol type fires that require the special foam.

Butane flows are on the increase in this country because of all the natural gas production in the U.S. Butane is the natural gas liquid that comes out with the natural gas with propane and ethane and it is used as a fuel blender to raise the octane level with fuels. It's also used to replace supplement gasoline so it's less expensive right now than gasoline, so some refineries and suppliers are actually supplementing their fuel stocks with butane. And finally, it's a very effective refrigerant. So, one of the largest geothermal and solar facilities in Nevada uses butane as a refrigerant in their power generation process. And therefore, because it's a refrigerant it's really not used or shipped in big quantities. So, like anhydrous ammonia and other refrigerants, they're only shipped when you need to supplement the system, but it's a closed system, and therefore you don't see high volumes. Rail movements are mostly through movements of butane to Nevada, and then the truck movements represent butane shipments that are used to either supplement fuel stocks or to provide refrigeration capabilities. And in northern Nevada they don't blend butane in with the fuel, but in southern Nevada they do.

Sodium cyanide is primarily manufactured in northern Nevada and distributed to the mines that need it. They also export this product in a pellet form in rail hopper cars to Canada and Mexico. There are no westbound rail movements of this product through Washoe County; it goes east and then they ship it to the north and south.

There was a fairly long discussion about petroleum – the supply chain, the pipeline, the rail shipments. In a nutshell, petroleum is piped into Nevada from southern California to southern Nevada and from northern California to northern Nevada, so Las Vegas and Reno really serve as the epicenter for distributing petroleum throughout the state.

Chair Nolan asked where was the cyanide sodium located? Mr. Willauer responded it is located in Winnemucca.

Chair Nolan asked didn't Nevada have pipelines from Southern Nevada to the ports of Long Beach? Mr. Willauer responded they have pipes coming from Long Beach to Nevada. Those are underground pipes. They're between eight and ten inches in diameter and they batch the fuel in batches of either gasoline, jet fuel or diesel fuel. They batch it in quantities with a little bit that gets mixed up in-between, so in-between the batches there's what's called trans mix. They pull the trans mix out and re-refine that, and there's a refinery here in Nevada, actually in Washoe County that specializes in refining the trans mix into diesel. It's a recycling facility, basically.

One trend in Nevada that they found is that diesel is distributed quite a bit more than gasoline, and it's probably no surprise because of all the northern Nevada mining operations. In southern Nevada, gasoline is a bigger distribution which makes sense since it's a bigger metropolitan area and there's more transportation.

Mr. Willauer displayed the many maps his office compiled: the survey maps, the composite maps, priority hazard maps, petroleum distribution maps, high volume industrial chemical maps, fuel maps, route maps, and HAZMAT classification maps (broken into divisions). The priority hazards they found are similar to other states, propane, butane, ammonia, chlorine, although the chlorine

shipments are going down, and this is the national trend as more water treatment plants use safer alternatives.

Northern Nevada has more diesel than gasoline and about a third of the HAZMATs are traveling through the state so they didn't capture all those volumes, but it is a through state if you think about how much is needed in California and there's this freight movement that's pretty significant for both rail and truck shipments across the U.S. and Nevada is very much along the way to many places.

What they would recommend going forward is that they have a conference call with the state agencies participating on this committee like the DEM and the DOT and the State Fire Marshal's Office and the DEP, and talk about the best way to store the electronic shape files that go with all the data in a secure portal of some kind so that there's a controlled access to the data and it's not just out there. There needs to be a controlled way to do it at the different state agencies.

The final report is under review and maybe during that time they can have the conference call about next steps in terms of the distribution of the data. And by the end of June they should have that wrapped up.

12. EXECUTIVE REPORT (Discussion Only)

Grant Change Requests

Ms. Wyatt reported there were no grant change requests from our last quarterly meeting which was on April 4th.

LEPC Compliance Report

Ms. Wyatt reported all of the subgrantees are in compliance with Fiscal '19, and they're still going to be reviewing the planning and training exercises and should have a statement on that within about a month.

Budget Update

Ms. Wyatt reported for the SERC grants they obligated out \$352,261.92. So far, they've had reimbursement claims in the amount of \$176,483.25. For HMEP grants, and those are together, they obligated out about \$307,263.23. And so far, they've got reimbursement claims in the amount of \$45,411.01.

And then with United We Stand they started the year with \$1,027,930. As of right now total obligations which are the reimbursements, is \$152,209.73, but both the SERC OPTE and the United We Stand grants have until June 30th to encumber their expenses and then they have to get it as a reimbursement by July 31st.

Commission Chairs

Ms. Wyatt reported that subcommittees are bare bones right now and volunteers are needed for Chair positions. They appreciate those who have stepped up to serve but need more to do so.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Action Item)

Ms. Wyatt said they would be sending out an email tomorrow to all the LEPCs to let them know that the United We Stand has been increased from \$25,000 to \$30,000. And they've also extended the due date to June 10th. So, if anybody wants to either redo their grant request, they can.

14. ADJOURNMENT (Discussion/For Possible Action)

After thanking everyone for their hard work, Chair Nolan adjourned the meeting.

DRAFT