

Minutes
Nevada State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

Quarterly Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 9:00am

1. CALL TO ORDER

Richard Brenner called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

2. ROLL CALL, CONFIRM QUORUM, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Role was taken and a quorum was present.

Members Present:

Allison Genco
Amanda Windes
Billy Samuels
Carolyn Levering
David Sellen
Debra Dailey
Denis Nolan, Co-Chair
Eric Santos
Jack Snyder
Jason Nicholl
Jon Bakkedahl
Karen Luna
Kelly Thomas
Kimberly Ferguson
Lance Chantler
Michael Morton
Nicole Hoekstra
Richard Brenner, Co-Chair
Susan Crowley
William Gardner

Guests:

Local LEPC Members Present:

Patrick Lazenby – Nye County
Pamela Hatty – Clark County
Angeliek Ard – Eureka County
Francisco Ceballos – Washoe County

Federal / State Agencies:

Mike Rodrigues – Nevada OSHA
Jimmy Andrews – Nevada OSHA

Nathan Hastings, DAG
Tami Beauregard, SERC Administrator

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brenner called for public comment. There was none.

4. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 10, 2022 WORKSHOP MINUTES

Carolyn Levering made a motion to approve the August 10, 2022 Workshop minutes. Dennis Nolan seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 13, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Michael Morton made a motion to approve the October 13, 2022 meeting minutes. Debra Dailey seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 13, 2022 HEARING MINUTES

Mr. Nolan made a motion to approve the December 13, 2022 Hearing minutes. Eric Santos seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

7. NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. SERC Commissioners

Tami Beauregard advised there are four new Commissioners; Billy Samuels, William Gardner, Allison Genco and Nicole Hoekstra. Ms. Beauregard added there are twenty-four Commission members now with the open position being in the private sector section.

Mr. Samuels advised he is with Clark County Fire and has been there for twenty-two years, going up through the ranks from firefighter to medic engineer, then to Captain Battalion Chief. Mr. Samuels noted in addition to his current duties he is involved in the SERC, the LEPC, the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), Nevada Resilience Advisory Committee, the Interstate Mutual Aid Committee (IMAC), the Nevada Task Force and is the Emergency Manager for Clark County; overseeing thirty-eight departments.

Mr. Gardner advised his background is in Process Safety Management and Risk Management Programs within the Hazmat industry. Mr. Gardner added he has been with OSHA for about five years, has worked as a Department of Defense subcontractor, in the private sector as a Hazmat tech for quite some time and has a degree in Emergency Management.

Ms. Genco advised she is the State's Public Health Resource Officer which is a new position created during the 2021 Legislative session. Ms. Genco added one of her roles is to examine the State's public health infrastructure, coordinate efforts between public health entities and non-traditional partners. Ms. Genco noted she comes from a clinical background with government affairs experience and is looking forward to working with the Commission.

Ms. Hoekstra advised her background is in web design and IT experience. Ms. Hoekstra noted she is the new Business Process Analyst. Mr. Brenner asked if she could assist with the Hazmat database and Ms. Hoekstra stated she has a Hazmat background, as well.

b. Committee Membership

Mr. Brenner provided a synopsis of the different Committees and advised any interested Commissioner to let Ms. Beauregard know.

8. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) UPDATES

Clark County LEPC – Mr. Samuels noted the LEPC is in compliance with all four quarters last year and the LEPC ratified and approved the Hazmat Plan.

Lander County LEPC – MeShell Young noted the LEPC did not meet in December and have yet to meet in January. Ms. Young added the LEPC is moving along with the SERC grant, and it is going fairly well. Ms. Young also advised the LEPC is moving along with the packet that is due to the SERC by the end of January and the LEPC is looking forward to doing some type of tabletop drill this year, but does not know what it is going to be on.

Humboldt County LEPC – Carol Lynn advised the LEPC is in the process of rewriting the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) with the LEPC being divided into different subcommittees with everybody reviewing a section of the EOP. Ms. Lynn noted there is a quarterly meeting next week and they are planning the exercise for this coming year which will be a tabletop and will probably focus on an earthquake.

Nye County LEPC – Scott Lewis advised the LEPC meeting is on February 2nd, the LEPC will be hosting a low-level waste stakeholder meeting on February 8th and is currently working on and finalizing the SERC compliance items. Mr. Lewis also noted the LEPC is working with Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) and the Sherriff's Office for training.

Elko County LEPC – Jack Snyder advised the LEPC met in December to finalize the items due to the SERC. Mr. Snyder noted the LEPC is in the planning stages for a multitude of exercises coming up in the spring, one being at the Great Basin Community College as a mass disaster, as well as a likely full-scale airport drill at the Elko Regional Airport.

Eureka County LEPC – Angeliek Ard advised the LEPC had a meeting on January 10th to finalize the items due to the SERC and approved the Hazmat plan which makes them compliant this year.

Washoe County LEPC – Francisco Ceballos advised the LEPC is on track with the OPTE and UWS grants and submitted an HMEP mid-cycle grant application for a full-sized exercise with the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. Mr. Ceballos also noted the LEPC held a meeting in December and is on track to submit the required items to the SERC by the end of the month.

Tribal – Lance Chantler advised he spoke with Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council (NTECC) about a hot wash today and will hopefully have further information.

White Pine County LEPC - Ms. Beauregard stated she received an email from White Pine County LEPC to read. Ms. Beauregard advised Brett North has resigned as the Emergency Manager and LEPC chair and during the last LEPC meeting Pat Stork agreed to be the interim chairman. Ms. Beauregard added the LEPC is working on all compliance items to be turned into the SERC and are waiting to receive the last few items for both the OPTE and UWS grants. Ms. Beauregard also noted the LEPC is coordinating with Eureka County, Ely Shoshone Tribe and the state to update the multiple jurisdictional hazard response plan with Eureka County taking the lead on the project this year.

9. FEDERAL AGENCY UPDATES

Mr. Brenner asked Ms. Beauregard if she received a report from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security – (DHS). Ms. Beauregard advised she did not receive any reports from the federal agencies.

10. STATE AGENCY UPDATES

- a. Nevada State Police Highway Patrol Division (NHP) – Sgt. Clay Madsen

Ms. Beauregard advised Sgt. Madsen was not able to attend today's meeting.

- b. Nevada State Police Fire Marshal Division (SFM) – Nicole Hoekstra

Ms. Hoekstra advised the State Fire Marshal does not have anything he would like to share today and gave a synopsis of all the events happening in the Training Division.

- c. Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) – Kelly Thomas

Kelly Thomas advised the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's Chemical Accident Prevention Program performed thirteen site inspections in the second quarter of the 2023 and has twenty-nine inspections remaining. Mr. Thomas noted one of the inspections was a joint inspection with EPA Region 9 at the Henderson Ice Cream Plant in Clark County. Mr. Thomas stated the program is in progress of permitting a Geothermal process in Washoe County near Gerlach, a Butane Blending process in Clark County near Nellis AFB, and an Explosive Manufacturing Plant in Elko County near Carlin. Mr. Thomas also noted Program staff met with representatives of Kroeger to discuss a new ammonia

refrigeration facility in North Las Vegas and representatives of Reddy Ice for an expansion of their existing facility in Las Vegas. Mr. Thomas added Program staff have scheduled meetings in January to kickoff new projects that will be subject to Chemical Accident Prevent Program (CAPP) in three locations in Clack County and attended a HAZMAT response exercise at the Borman Facility on November 10, 2022.

- d. Nevada Division of Industrial Relations, OSHA Unit – William Gardner

Mr. Gardner advised the OSHA Unit is also evaluating a permit for the explosive manufacturer in Northern Nevada, Elko County mentioned by Mr. Thomas. Mr. Gardner added a small update on Process Safety Management (PSM) training as Nevada is partnering with California OSHA to get more inspectors qualified as there is a federal and state shortage for the specific inspectors.

- e. Nevada Division of Emergency Management & Nevada Radiation Control Program – Jon Bakkedahl

Jon Bakkedahl advised there will be a Radiological Committee meeting after SERC staff received the Hazmat Plans. Mr. Bakkedahl noted the Canberra's for Henderson Fire are being changed out with new ones which can be used as a decimeter and a tool to detect radiation. Mr. Bakkedahl also added all the routes have been planned to calibrate everybody's radiation detection equipment in April and May. Mr. Bakkedahl stated DEM held two Modular Emergency Radiological Response Transportation classes, which was a two-day course with Nevada State Police and local law enforcement. Mr. Bakkedahl then added DEM held three one-day technician courses with Las Vegas Fire Rescue, Nevada National Security Site Fire and Las Vegas Metro Armor; in addition to this class being scheduled in Northern Nevada. Mr. Bakkedahl advised there are various Medical Emergency Response Training (MERT) classes scheduled.

Mr. Brenner questioned if, with regards to the Canberra's, is the DEM working with other agencies. Mr. Bakkedahl advised they are doing an assessment of everybody statewide radiation equipment.

11. REVIEW CURRENT PRACTICE OF LEPCS PROVIDING UPDATES DURING THE SERC QUARTERLY MEETING

Item number 11 was taken out of order and discussed with item number 8.

Mr. Brenner advised he received a request from a Commissioner to remove LEPC Updates item from the agenda and would like to get feedback from the Commission.

Mr. Brenner stated he feels this agenda item is something that is very, very important so the Commission can hear from the LEPCs to find out if there are any problems or where they are at and where the Commission can help them. Mr. Brenner noted an option would be to get a standing report from the LEPCs and forward the report to the Commissioners to review, but he is not interested in doing this. Mr. Brenner added he believes talking and discussing items is much more important than reading a report or minutes.

Kimberley Ferguson stated as a new member she appreciates the brief-outs from the various LEPCs and today went very well given the reports were succinct and valuable. Ms. Ferguson added the Commission can ask the LEPCs to give the highs and lows as a brief report. Ms. Ferguson also noted it is great to hear from the LEPCs, especially for someone from the private sector who is not that active in the community.

Carol Lynn, Humboldt County LEPC noted she believes it is important to keep the updates from the LEPCs on the agenda.

Mr. Samuels noted he liked the way the report went today because sometimes the meetings can go three or four hours long. Mr. Samuels added the succinct reports with the conditions, actions and needs are good. Mr. Samuels also noted if SERC staff attended the LEPC meetings any issues can be discussed and maybe resolved at the local level and briefly reported to the SERC.

Ms. Dailey stated she believes the interaction with the LEPCs is very, very important and does not want to get rid of the agenda item. Ms. Dailey also noted keeping the reports brief is a great idea and if there is an issue that will be drawn out to have that issue be addressed at the local level with SERC oversight.

Mr. Bakkedahl advised he is the Commissioner who brought up this issue to find a way to reduce the meeting schedule with the LEPCs only reporting substantial information. Mr. Bakkedahl noted he is in favor of keeping the agenda item as long as it can be completed in fashion like the reports given today.

Mr. Thomas advised he really appreciates the LEPCs getting online, introducing who they are because he can then put a voice and/or face with the email address. Mr. Thomas added he would like to keep the agenda item and incorporate the other suggestions.

Scott Lewis, Nye County LEPC advised the suggested approaches are spot on keeping the reports nice and easy.

Mr. Brenner thanked everyone for their feedback and noted the agenda item will stay with changing the wording to be more brief, concise and to the point.

Susan Crowley noted she liked the brevity which allows everyone to go on doing other things in their own work. Ms. Crowley added she wants to make sure the LEPCs have the opportunity to express themselves, especially if they have any concerns. Ms. Crowley also noted one of the Commission's main charges is to make sure there are healthy LEPC organizations throughout the state and they have to have a voice and that they are heard every time the Commission meets.

Mr. Bakkedahl encouraged the SERC members to attend the LEPC meetings; especially if you have an interest in truly wanting to delve into the LEPCs and getting to know the people; the meetings are where you'll get the most out of it. Mr. Bakkedahl also noted it would be a benefit for the SERC to show up at the meetings; it would show the power of the organization to be able to participate in the meetings to hear right from the LEPCs.

12. 2022 FIRE SHOWS WEST CONFERENCE REIMBURSEMENT FROM OPERATIONS, PLANNING, TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT (OPTE) FUNDS

Mr. Brenner gave history with regards to Fire Shows West and the SERC then Ms. Beauregard gave a synopsis of the events that led to this request.

A discussion ensued with regards to changing the reimbursement requirements with the OPTE funds now being used, which LEPCs have not submitted all the needed documentation, the dollar amount not to be exceeded with this request and if approved how does this effect the OPTE balance going forward.

Jason Nicholl made a motion to authorize the use of OPTE funds to reimburse grant approvals for the 2022 FSW Conference, not to exceed \$50,000. Mr. Snyder seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

13. REVIEW HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (HMEP) MID-CYCLE GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Brenner gave a synopsis of the Pershing County LEPC Mid-Cycle grant application. Mr. Morton made a motion to approve the submitted grant application. Mr. Chantler seconded the motion. A discussion ensued with regards to when Pershing County LEPC can provide the training, as currently there are propane issues. Mr. Morton amended his motion to approve the request contingent on being conducted in the second quarter of calendar year 2023. Mr. Chantler seconded the amended motion. A discussion ensued with regards to hamstringing the LEPCs or telling them when to do certain things. A discussion ensued with where the motion stands. Mr. Morton withdrew his amended motion. Mr. Chantler seconded withdrawing the amended motion. Mr. Morton made a motion to approve the Pershing County LEPC submitted grant application. Mr. Chantler seconded the motion, which was approved, with Mr. Samuels abstaining.

14. REVIEW THE SERC MAINTAINING TWO SEPARATE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (HMEP) GRANTS

Ms. Beauregard advised due to additional HMEP mid-cycle grant applications being submitted since the posting of the agenda, it is not necessary to discuss this agenda item. Mr. Brenner agreed.

15. REVIEW DOLLAR AMOUNTS FOR THE 2024 OPERATIONS, PLANNING, TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT (OPTE) AND UNITED WE STAND (UWS) GRANT APPLICATIONS

Ms. Beauregard provided a synopsis of what the current application caps are for the OPTE grant applications, how many applications were approved last year, for how much, projections based on different cap amounts and how that would effect next year's balance.

Ms. Crowley made a motion to increase the OPTE grant application cap to \$30,000 including the \$4,000 Operation funds. Ms. Dailey seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Ms. Beauregard provided the same synopsis for the UWS grant applications.

Ms. Crowley made a motion to increase the UWS grant application cap to \$38,000. David Sellen seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

16. REVIEW FACE TO FACE MEETINGS

Ms. Beauregard gave a synopsis with regards to a face to face meeting being suggested at the previous SERC Quarterly meeting, how much travel funds the SERC is budgeted for and who those funds can cover, ending with a suggestion that the OPTE funds cover staff, Commissioners, Federal partners and the LEPCs submit an additional separate OPTE grant application for the flights and per diem only. A discussion ensued with regards to whether or not the SERC has the authority to approve the suggestion, Ms. Beauregard read the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) and Nathan Hastings stated the Commission does.

Ms. Crowley made a motion to allow the SERC to use the application process to fund travel for an in-person SERC meeting this year. Mr. Santos seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

17. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

a. SERC Assistant position

Ms. Beauregard advised Deseray's last day was December 23rd and interviews are scheduled for next week.

b. NRS and NAC status updates

Ms. Beauregard advised the NRS amendments were not approved to move forward by the Governor's Finance Office and the NAC Legislation Commission meeting was held on December 28th and the SERC NAC amendments were approved.

c. State Budget activities

Ms. Beauregard advised the State of the State address will be on January 23rd and that is when the SERC will learn what the budget is. Ms. Beauregard advised she will provide a synopsis to the full SERC after staff and co-chairs have time to review the budget.

d. LEPCs out of compliance

Ms. Beauregard advised the LEPCs out of compliance are Esmeralda County LEPC for missing minutes and Elko County LEPC for missing agendas.

Mr. Brenner questioned if Churchill County LEPC had come into compliance and Ms. Beauregard advised they had.

18. SERC HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Ms. Beauregard gave a brief synopsis of the history and background document and why it was provided. Mr. Brenner asked if there were any question on the handout. There were none.

19. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brenner called for public comment. Mr. Nolan thanked the new and all Commissioners for their active participation, lively discussions and look forward to working with them all.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Dailey seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.