

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 20, 2010
La Crosse County Administrative Center
400 4th Street North Room 3220
La Crosse, WI 54601
9:00 am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Smith, Jay Loeffler, Keith Butler, Lois Losby, Bob Mulliner, Phil Niemer, Gregg Cleveland, Ron Berg, Tom Wright, Keith Carlson, Bob Ritger, alternate for Jennifer Shilling, Maureen Freedland, alternate for Vicki Burke,
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mike Horstman, Vicki Burke, Sue Kunz, Franz Fredricks, Marc Schultz and Jennifer Shilling
MEMBERS ABSENT: Shari Vanderbush
OTHERS PRESENT: Margaret Kogler, Student in Health Education Program, guest of Ron Berg

CALL TO ORDER

Pat Smith, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bob Ritger/Lois Losby to approve the meeting minutes of November 18, 2009. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

ELECTIONS

Health law hospital facilities by EPCRA

Motion made by Lois Losby/Keith Carlson to reelect this group Mike Horstman, Ron Berg, Phil Niemer, Pat Smith, Sue Kunz, and Bob Mulliner. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Gregg Cleveland/Bob Ritger for current Chair and Vice-Chair to continue in their respective positions. Motion Carried.

REPORT ON "OPEN FOR BUSINESS" PROGRAM – BRENDA HANSON

The purpose of this grant was to strengthen public-private partnerships in La Crosse County to improve disaster response, mitigate disaster impact, and maximize business continuity. In La Crosse the Health Department was asked to manage this grant for Emergency Management. Open for Business for the private sector to develop emergency plans. Brenda has been meeting with businesses. She explained how she came to this process from attending a Conference in Madison. The businesses she worked with thought the Open for Business Toolkit was very useful. She has been working with La Crosse Humane Society developing evacuation plans, if people have to surrender their pets during an emergency. There was a lot of publicity, and some interest. The LEPC may follow up and continue with what Brenda started. There has been no follow up on the businesses that started plans. Could we do a survey and send to the businesses that we worked with. This would be a good way to follow up.

Brenda does have a report that is available to the members if requested.

Expanding the scope of LEPC, has a resolution been done? We met with Vicki to see what it would take to have LEPC be more an oversight committee over Emergency Management. but they were more comfortable to leave it to the Judiciary & Law Committee.

Do we still want to drive it forward or leave it the way it is? The decision is to wait to talk to Vicki and see what she has to say. Prepare a presentation to the Judiciary and Law Committee on what we do and possibly increase the scope of our Committee. It may then be taken to the Executive Committee for final decisions.

BYLAW REVIEW

Motion made by Keith/Phil that there are no official changes to the bylaws at January 2010, however, discussions and proposals are being developed for possibly expanding the roles of the LEPC to include other community preparedness activities. Motion Carried.

How far does the committee want to go with the scope? Not just chemicals but disaster planning. Where do we go? Go to other communities that have expanded and see what they do. We can do a poll of the other LEPCs to find out what they do. Who oversees the after-action-report? The LEPC does not do the after-action-report unless incident is chemical related but generally it is the community the incident took place in. A Coordinating agency would be very beneficial in assisting Keith. Where do we draw the line, it impacts work load on the Emergency Management Director. Emergency Management has more of a coordination role and not planning role. Keith does look at plans submitted and makes suggestions if the company requests it. Set very clear limits on what we'll do. Reinitiate contacts with other LEPCs and see what their roles are and what they do. Keith is to report back.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gregg reported that next month's agenda, we can talk about the Phase I study on hazardous materials. The program is being changed completely. There are seven recommendations that Gregg will share at the next meeting. All the team members will be meeting soon to review this huge plan. Also he will review the Hazmat Team's last quarter report.

Hospital program will be reviewing their programs. State wide all seven regions are turning in their reports by the end of the month. Another program of expanding role all first responders and EMS are now eligible to receive PPE equipment free. This is for agencies who have not yet received any.

We are working a lot on Radio interoperability. We have been working with Rochester to see if we can get this in. Is there any place for an EOC. Remodeling or building not for equipment in an EOC. There is discussion on the 800 trunking systems, can we communicate with them? These are issues that are being discussed. The La Crosse system does not currently work with Minnesota systems.

Tom reported that Gundersen is doing their vulnerability plans next week. If Keith can come that would be great. Tom will make a report at the next meeting. Do we have any exercises with the City for this year? We have none planned. Onalaska is looking at doing a Functional/Tabletop exercise this year. Town of Holland will do a Tabletop exercise in March. There is no large, full-scale exercise planned for this year.

Fort Mc Coy wants to enter into mutual aid agreements with the local hospitals.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Hazmat Team Quarterly Report
Keith's report on LEPC
Parking permits
Tom's report on their vulnerability plans

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:51 am.

The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next Committee meeting.

Kim Olson, Recorder