

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

March 21, 2012

La Crosse County Law Enforcement Center
333 Vine Street, Room 1615
La Crosse, WI 54601
9:00 am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jay Loeffler, Keith Butler, Marc Schultz, Lois Losby, Gregg Cleveland, Sue Kunz, Bob Ritger, representing Jennifer Shilling, Tom Wright, Vicki Burke, Franz Fredricks, and Shari Vanderbush

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Pat Smith, Jennifer Shilling, Mike Horstman, and Keith Carlson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Phil Niemer

OTHERS PRESENT: Brenda Hanson, La Crosse County Health Education; Dave Bonifas, Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission and Cheryl Louck, US Dept. of Homeland Security

CALL TO ORDER

Keith Butler, Emergency Management Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Burke/Losby to approve the meeting minutes of January 18, 2012. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Introductions were made by each member.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Currently there are five chapters in the plan and 19 manmade hazards listed. Non manmade hazards may also be listed if so desired. If certain things are not in the plan they are not eligible for grant funding, but can be added to the plan later and still be eligible for grant funding. Once we have a draft we can send it to WEM for preapproval and checking to be sure it's all in there. Fredricks asked why the LEPC which has been dealing with Hazardous Materials why is this being included in this committee, because natural disasters can affect hazmat facilities. Once this Committee approves this plan it will still need to go to Judiciary & Law Committee.

We need to determine specifically what our role is as a LEPC in La Crosse County.

Franz is not sure how we proceed. How long does it take for a grant once we apply for a grant for approval? Sometimes it can take up to 3 months, depending on how it must be approved and signatures required.

Ritger handed out copies of the recent Hazard Vulnerability Assessment that includes La Crosse County along with the surrounding Counties. This HVA was conducted with input from Emergency Management, Public Health, Hospitals, FBI and others and covers both man-made and natural disasters. This report is for the Region not just La Crosse County but was presented to show where the man-made disasters fit into the assessments which were the top several hazards.

LESSONS LEARNED VIDEO FOR LEPC'S

Keith played the video.

HAZMAT TEAM UPDATE

Concerns raised by Kwik Trip and City Brewery that are problematic: Stability of program, funding was iffy, year to year contracts, etc. The individual companies do not want to spend all the money for Hazmat Training. They feel that the Fire Department/Hazmat Team should do this. They have the training. They need to have a dependable Hazmat Program. The timeframe was incredibly fast, a lot of information was not explained fully, and grants not handed out equally or fairly. The program is not stable to operate on as change can occur overnight. There needs to be metrics and scientific bases for the allocation of the hazmat funds. Are other states having the same problem or is there a state with the program working, can we use this to go by. Can private funding work? The Fire Department is reducing the local Hazmat Team by 3 team members to save money, and may be more cuts to come.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Franz sat in with the Kwik Trip exercise. His main concern is that within 7/10 of a mile people can be affected by accident. How can we notify these some 3000 people? The sirens are for weather warnings only at this point. So this would put it on the heads of the dispatchers to attempt to notify these people, this would take way too long. Communication systems are getting out of date also. Onalaska has Code Red program. City Watch program is through the City but not available to cell phones.

Cheryl Louck from the US Department of Homeland Security, Office of Infrastructure Protection from Region 5 – Chicago. Their job is to lead national implementation of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS). The CFATS program assesses high-risk chemical facilities, promotes collaborative security planning, and ensures that covered facilities meet risk-based performance standards. You must take CBI Training to find out what companies have filed reports of the chemicals. Go to website CSB.gov. You can contact Cheryl to report any discrepancies or errors within facilities who handle chemicals.

The PSA Protective Security Advisor, volunteer side is Tim Weller. He can be contacted for assisting in exercises and training, etc. Cheryl will get his e-mail information to Keith.

Gregg said there is too much fragmentation and you have to talk to too many people, bureaus, feds, state, etc. There is not one person or agency to contact directly. Need a better way to coordinate everything. There is a Fusion Center in Madison and Milwaukee. Cheryl will be willing to come to the next meeting and give a full presentation, she will also contact Tim Weller regarding his availability also.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ritger suggests that we discuss the County grant procedure to see if there would be a way we can speed it up so it's done more quickly.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Vote on Membership for Brenda Hanson and Steve Thinnes

Hazmat Team Update

The Functions of the LEPC

Discuss Notification during Emergencies per Franz

Presentation by US Dept. of Homeland Security, Office of Infrastructure Protection (Cheryl Louck and Tim Weller)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:37 am.

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

Kim Olson, Recorder