

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

May 16, 2012

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

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Pat Smith, Jennifer Shilling, Jay Loeffler, Brenda Hanson and Steve Thinnes

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Bonifas, Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission and Tony Palese, Rep. Shilling Legislative Aide

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Burke/Vanderbush to approve the meeting minutes of March 21, 2012. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

VOTE ON MEMBERSHIP FOR BRENDA HANSON AND STEVE THINNES

Motion by Losby/Kunz to vote to approve membership in LEPC Committee for Brenda Hanson and Steve Thinnes. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

This is an ongoing project. Risk assessment surveys were sent to municipalities and we have received 12 back so far. This just asks the Municipalities to rank the hazard that occurs on a low, medium or high scale. This will be different for each municipality across the county. Mississippi River Planners are verifying approximately 1570 flood plain structures located in the flood plain in the County. They are also updating the history of hazards since 2008. After this they will send out a survey to each Municipality asking for mitigation projects completed and new ones added. FEMA requires you to have a mitigation "wish list" for additional projects, if the mitigation projects are not asked for they will not be included. Anyone can put a request in the plan.

Franz does not feel that the hazard mitigation and pandemic flu is a work of the LEPC. Franz feels there should be a subcommittee to review and investigate what is part of the LEPC's mission. There was much discussion on this topic.

We need to establish a protocol that is appropriate for the LEPC. We want a clarification of what our advisory role is.

Mississippi River Regional Planning Committee are anticipating that this project will be completed by the end of the year.

FUNCTIONS OF THE LEPC

We have already spoken on this topic. Keith and Vicki will meet with the County Administrator and Corporation Counsel. Judiciary & Law Committee is our overseeing committee for the LEPC.

DISCUSS NOTIFICATION DURING EMERGENCIES PER FRANZ

Franz explained what an extremely hazardous material is. There are approx 45 facilities with extremely hazardous materials in the County. We do not have any early warning system to notify the public of a hazardous condition. So the individuals cannot seek safety as necessary. Emergency Alert System is the only way at this time we have available. The County does not currently have a way to notify the county of what's happening. There are several systems available like the Code Red used currently in Onalaska. The outdoor sirens are used only for Weather events. Keith said we had gotten bids in the \$15,000 to \$50,000 range. Perhaps have a subcommittee complete a study Butler, Ritger, and Fredricks will form this subcommittee to discuss this issue and try to find a solution.

PREPARATION OF VOTING OF BYLAWS

This is an announcement for this Committee that in July we will be reviewing the Bylaws and vote on them in September.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tony Palese from Rep. Jennifer Shilling's office indicated that the Legislature will be creating a study committee to look into various 911 communication issues in our state. He will send more information to this committee.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Is there some way we can expedite requests when tax dollars are out there. There is a way to do this per Burke. This should not have to take several weeks for grant paperwork to go through the process. It can be done quickly.

The State has approved the budget this year, so the Hazmat Team is good until June 2013. Gregg commented that All the representatives were very active in this process and he's very grateful for their support. No money is available in these grants for equipment replacement. They have been putting money aside to purchase new equipment when they've "saved" enough money to make a needed equipment purchase.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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)

Bylaws Review

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 am.

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

Kim Olson, Recorder