



WORCESTER COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
1 W. MARKET ST., ROOM 1002
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LEPC MINUTES 07/24/08

Attendees:	Fred Webster	Wor. Co. Emergency Services
	Teresa Owens	Wor. Co. Emergency Services
	David Fitzgerald	Wor. Co. Emergency Services
	Jeff McMahon	Wor. Co. Fire Marshal
	Brian Winter	Wor. Co. Fire Marshal
	Bob Mitchell	Wor. Co. Environmental Programs
	John Brenner	Lower Shore Red Cross
	Troy McCabe	Lower Shore Red Cross
	Roger Steger	Governors Emerg. Advisory Council
	Danny Tilghman	City of Pocomoke
	Wayne Chambers	Sharp Energy
	Buzzy Bayles	Ocean City Emergency Management
	Col. Doug Dods	Wor. Co. Sheriff's Office
	Sheriff Chuck Martin	Wor. Co. Sheriff's Office
	Skip Mahan	Md. Emergency Management Agency
	Steve Price	Wor. Co. Board of Education
	Ed Potez	Wor. Co. Health Department
	Del. Jim Mathias	House of Delegates
	John Ross	Wor. Co. Public Works
	Pete Scarborough	Scarborough Oil
	Jim Smith	Delmarva Power
	Virgil Shockley	County Commissioners

The meeting started with introductions from those present.

On a motion by Virgil Shockley and second by Chuck Martin the minutes from the April 28, 2008 meeting were passed as presented.

Old business:

Jeff McMahan had not arrived at this point to review the changes to the Hazmat response plan. Changes had been prepared in written form for review by those present. Fred Webster had reviewed the proposals and stated that most of the proposals were housekeeping issues such as population figure changes. This was postponed pending Jeff's arrival

Discussion began on the FEMA/State of Maryland sponsored hurricane exercise that took place in May. Teresa Owens led the discussion and stated that most of the local Eastern Shore jurisdictions were extremely disappointed in the way the exercise went. At one point early in the exercise a decision was made to issue a Governors order to evacuate the entire Eastern Shore preventing us (Eastern Shore jurisdictions) from doing anything of value. Teresa stated that the State agencies located in the EOC at Reisterstown failed to communicate with each other which caused multiple problems at the local jurisdiction level. Buzzy Bayles commented that the original FEMA designed exercise was poorly done. Emergency Management Directors from the Lower Shore have since met with new MEMA Director Richard Muth and discussed the short comings of the drill.

Fred Webster spoke on the June pandemic flu exercise. The drill was to test how to respond to a pandemic where 50-60% of first responders would be unavailable to respond on calls. The after action report on this drill has not been issued yet.

At this point Jeff McMahan had arrived so the topic of the changes to the Hazmat response plan came back to the floor. While additional copies of the plan were made to accommodate those in attendance, Jeff went on to talk about a later agenda item which was the Special Hazards Team meeting and drill. The exercise involved team members actually setting up the decontamination trailer and associated equipment. Since the equipment doesn't get used on a daily or weekly basis members needed to take on different rolls in order keep fresh on how to set up different portions of the operation. It also gave his office the opportunity to identify items in need of repair or replacement. In addition to the regular team members several fire departments provided cadet members who posed as victims.

Brian Winter and Fred Webster distributed the copies of the plan changes for review. A vote on the changes would come up under New Business

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Commissioner Virgil Shockley –The Executive Committee met on July 3 to discuss several issues including attendance. The Committee agreed to identify 10 businesses that are Tier II reporting facilities and send letters of invitation for them to begin attending the LEPC meetings. Fred Webster stated that he was able to identify 8 local companies and had sent letters. The companies included U.A.P Distribution, Ricca East, Perdue Farms, Crop Protection Services and Interstate Construction. Also identified were Sharp Energy, represented at the meeting by Wayne Chambers, and Scarborough Oil, represented by Pete Scarborough. Fred welcomed them and encouraged their continued participation.

Commissioner Shockley also noted that the Executive Committee is continuing to try to bring relevant speakers to the meetings. Contact has been made with the Delmarva Poultry industry to get a speaker for the January 2009 meeting.

Plan Development: David Fitzgerald – David nothing new.

Hazard Identification: Jeff McMahon-Nothing new to report.

Public Education: Choppy Layton – No report

Medical Coordination: David Collins – No report

Mutual Aid: Ed Carmean – No report

Bylaws: Sheriff Chuck Martin – No changes submitted by the deadline.

Recruitment: Buck Shockley – No report

New Business:

Fred Webster advised that the 2008 MDE Grant had been received this week. Part of the money will go toward a tabletop exercise slated for October 11 and 12 at the Worcester Fire Training Center. A contract has been signed with a company that comes in and sets up a simulated town and provides emergency response scenarios. There will be a review of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) at then two events one of which will be hazmat based. The same material will be presented both days so attendees will only need to attend one day. A light breakfast and lunch will also be provided. The class will be limited to the first 40 people to register. More information will be distributed shortly.

Fred Webster reported that MDE has begun distributing updated information forms to companies filing Tier II reports. Many times contacts change between the reports which are filed on a yearly basis. The forms are designed to keep MDE and local responders updated on contact and chemical information.

At this point the changes to the Hazmat plan were brought back for a vote. With a motion by Sheriff Martin and seconded by Commissioner Shockley the changes passed.

Presentation: Bob Mitchell, Director of the Worcester County Department of Environmental Programs gave an overview of his experiences in belonging to other LEPC's. Bob noted that Worcester is fortunate to not have a large amount of "high risk" hazards that other areas where he's been have. He encouraged the committee to keep in touch with those companies that are reporting facilities. He also advised the group to pay attention to those facilities that fall under the reporting quantity limits. Just because the regulations don't require them to file the yearly reports doesn't mean that some businesses don't have enough of a particular chemical to cause problems.

Good of the Committee:

Fred Webster reminded everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2008.

The floor was open to anyone for discussion. Delegate Jim Mathias thanked everyone for attending and reminded them that his office was available at anytime to assist the people of Worcester County.

He then brought up that he had been contacted about a plan for evacuation of foreign students. Teresa Owens explained that talks about this had begun a year ago but no hard numbers were available on the actual number of students involved. This year there is a new person in Ocean City in charge of the students and more accurate numbers have become available. Talks involving our department, Ocean City Emergency Management, several State agencies, the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, and the Hotel, Motel and Restaurant Association are continuing. A discussion on this continued for approximately 15-minutes.

At this point Chairman Fred Webster interrupted the discussion and reminded everyone that the LEPC is designated to discuss hazardous materials issues and that a number of those in the room were not involved or impacted by this discussion. The room would remain available if those involved wanted to continue the discussion but he requested a motion to adjourn the LEPC meeting. The meeting was adjourned with Fred reminding everyone again of the next meeting on October 23rd.