

IOWA EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
Minutes of October 8, 2004
Hoover Level A Conference Room
Hoover Building
Des Moines, Iowa

Members Present:

Chris Scase
Anne Jackson
Sue Lagneaux
Tom Sever
Kathy Lee
Jim Kenkel
Dan Rogers (via telephone)
Julie Bell
David Miller
Mary Jones
John Whipple
Frank Magsamen

Guests:

Steve O'Connor, Wapello County EMA,
Allan Mathias, Clarke EMA
R.D. Keep, Mahaska EMA

Staff:

Carmeline Murphy
Lisa Sexton
Connie Gilbert
Rodney Tucker
George Hess
Tina Lowery - EPA
Barbara Waller – DOT RSPA

Correspondence, Speeches, Conference Reports

Chris Scase asked for a report on the Homeland Security Conference July 13-15, 2004. Connie Gilbert reported the conference went well. About 400 attendees. The emphasis was on Homeland Security issues. Chris Scase said there had been extensive discussion about having speaker from IERC, but did not get on the agenda. Connie Gilbert said they will take a look at that for next year.

Tina Lowery – surplus computers are available from EPA for LEPCs and local jurisdictions. EPA will be leasing computers and will surplus their current inventory. Tina requested a prioritized list of qualified jurisdictions who could use the surplus computers and needs a quick turn around. The surplus computers include CPU, monitors, keyboards, and mouse. Have 50 at the regional office. Paul Sadler said that 14 were received in April, but one with bad ram. Nine counties have benefited from that distribution. The Radiological Shop does the actual work of receiving, testing and distributing the used computers. He will put together a new request for the new batch of computers.

Committee Updates: Membership /Reports

None of the committees met since the last meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Sue Lagneaux to approve November 6, 2003 minutes. Second by Anne Jackson. The motion carried.

Motion by Sue Lagneaux to approve January 8, 2004 minutes. Second by Jim Kenkel.
Motion carried

Anne Jackson moved to approve March 4, 2004 minutes, Second by Tom Sever. Motion carried.

New Business:

HMEP Grant approval:

HMEP program report - Lisa Sexton. Each county or region that wants to participate in the training or planning grants, submitted an application. The amount awarded is done by formula. Money was set aside (\$7500) to assist local and state members to attend the Regional LEPC Conference in Kansas City in 2005. Lisa said that 4 new applicants applied under the program, Appanoose, Davis, Lucas and Monroe (ADLM). The amount that each county received this year was similar to last year. Grant amount was level with last year's.

Motion to approve awards as calculated by staff by Anne Jackson, Second by Jim Kenkel. Motion carried.

Southern Iowa Regional Emergency Planning District – application.

Paul Sadler – Seven counties in southern Iowa have petitioned the IERC to disband their individual LEPCs to form a regional planning district that will be called the Southern Iowa Regional Emergency Planning District (SIREPD). Those counties are Clarke, Decatur, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, and Van Buren. Sadler went through the application and explained all the different steps that each county had to complete in order to submit the application. The seven counties in the application have met all of the criteria in the application. It was noted that, the counties making up the proposed district are not contiguous, just like the Region 6.

Motion by Anne Jackson to approve the application for the formation of the Southern Iowa Regional Emergency Planning District (SIREPD), with the understanding that, if additional counties wish to join the SIREPD in the future, they must complete the application process and be accepted by the SIREPD. Second by Sue Lagneaux
Motion carried.

Motion by Anne Jackson to accept the resignation of LEPC members for Clarke, Decatur, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, and Van Buren. Second by Sue Lagneaux. Motion carried.

Barbara Waller

Barbara Waller is with DOT's RSPA (Research and Special Programs Administration). Barbara has been traveling to introduce herself and the Hazmat & Transportation (HMT-SALE) program to the County Coordinators. She has been providing 30 minute videos to every fire department nationwide. She said that 80% of fire fighters in Iowa are

volunteers. Barbara provided folders to the IERC members on the materials she has been distributing to the Counties.

Tom Sever asked Barbara about the new Emergency Response Guidebooks. He said they have received 13,000 copies but need at least 10,000 more. Barbara said to call 202-366-4900 for the shortage of ERGs.

Anti-Meth Additive in Anhydrous Ammonia

John Whipple – Since 1998, a group of people have been working on a new additive to anhydrous ammonia, which would counteract its use as a main ingredient in making meth. John said they went to Washington D.C. to see about getting Federal Regulation to allow the additive in ammonia. It is estimated that it could cost \$6.5 million a year to just add the compound. The compound cannot be used in refrigeration ammonia. The compound is calcium nitrate. John said that the additive could possibly be a reality after spring of '05.

Proposal By DOT to Remove Placards.

Proposal to remove placards from vehicles. Tom Sever said that on August 16th Homeland Security and DOT want to put out proposed rule comments. The proposal is to remove placard railcars and semi trailers to prevent terrorism. The bad thing is, if a rail car tips over, the first responders would have difficulty to figure out what is in the container, and no one is in favor of doing it. Chris volunteered to submitted comments for the IERC.

Jim Kenkel moved to add comment to not to remove placards. Second by Tom Sever. Motion carried.

County Concerns about Annex P and Tier II reports.

Gary Brown, Coordinator in Woodbury County, was not able to make it to the meeting this morning due to the weather. His concerns center around the outdated Tier II database, Annex P requirements, liability, outdated forms, etc.

Agency Reports

Division of Labor

302-312 – Still working on 2002 database, but 2003 will not be done by January 1, 2005. The 2004 database will not be done until after July 2005. She is asking for \$7000 to do '03 database and \$7000 for '04.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

Section 301 Resignations from Region 5, - Roger Johnson, and Gary Imhoff. In light that they have designated replacements, Dave Miller moved to accept the resignations. Second by Anne Jackson, motion carried.

Sadler reported that to the best of his knowledge, there are at least 2 members in each LEPC. He noted that HLSEM stopped keeping track of those statistics many years ago.

Section 303

He said that all counties have compliant Annex P with the exception of Adams County, however, the requirement that the hazardous materials annex be reviewed each year makes that a rolling target.

Section 305

Training Funds and Courses – no report.

Rodney Tucker reported that he is working with TRANSCAER to get “Whistle Stops” in several cities around Iowa. Maybe 1½ years from now, things will start rolling. “Whistle stop” is a tour of train/semi-truck used in training for first responders in technician awareness.

Dept of Natural Resources

Section 304 and Section 313

Year to date spills 587. Last year it was 580. We average is about 900 spills a year. 403 toxic release inventory reports submitted to DNR.

DNR & EPA & several other groups conducting six regional water security conferences in spring of 2005.

EPA

Tina Lowery introduced Terry Blunk. Mark Smith is the new branch manager. Stakeholder meeting will be held November 9-10th in Kansas City at the Discovery Center. Agenda is being sent out. Each state representative will be asked to give an update on what is going on in their state. LEPC conference in fall 2005. Save the date cards have been sent out. TRI workshop – will only have one because of the budget.

Next meeting of IERC is March 3, 2005.