

IOWA EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
Minutes of March 2, 2006
Hoover Building, Level A
Des Moines, Iowa

Members Present:

Julie Bell
#Elizabeth Christiansen
Dean House
#Jim Kenkel
#Sue Lagneaux
Frank Magsamen
Chris Scase

Absent:

#Anne Jackson
Mary Jones
Kathy Lee
#David Miller
Brad Nocita
Heidi Patterson-Runyan
Daniel Rogers
John Whipple
(# - voting member)

Staff:

George Hess - EPA
Tina Lowery – EPA
Jim McDonald – EPA
Connie Gilbert -HLSEM
Paul Sadler – HLSEM
Lisa Sexton – HLSEM
Guests:
Bob Goldhammer – via
phone
Gary Haden-McKinzie
Environmental
Peggy Relitze

Meeting was called to order by Chris Scase at 9:00 AM. A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting. Introductions were made. It was noted that the date on the agenda was incorrect.

Public Comments/ Reports

IDSIS GIS – Peggy Relitze from Polk County LEPC talked about a demonstration of a computer program from IDSIS GIS at their next LEPC meeting on April 10th. The demonstration will introduce a new Tier II program that the Polk County EMA would like to use to manage the Tier II reports that come in. It is a program that could tie into the state Tier II program and would cut down on paper. It is a commercial alternative to Tier II Submit. The demonstration is open to interested IERC members.

Bob Goldhammer reported that the planning committee for the Region 7 2007 –LEPC Conference will be April 3rd in KCMO. Tentatively planning on a conference in August 2007. Location around Kansas City area.

Chris Scase said that she and Paul Sadler had reviewed the administrative rules to ensure compliance with provisions of the Open Meetings rules. In addition to IERC agendas, minutes and information sent by e-mail to IERC members and interested public members, IERC meeting announcement have been posted on the HLSEM website for some time and agendas will continue to be posted in the HLSEM office as per the admin rules.

Committee Updates: Membership / Reports

Executive Committee – no report – We need to look at the standing committee list and see if there should be some changes.
Information Education - no report

LEPC Support – no report
Fee Legislation Study Committee – no report

Agency Reports

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

Section 301 – LEPC membership – Appointments and Resignations

Paul Sadler noted that he had re-established a database of LEPC members. He provided a list of resignations in Fremont County for action when a quorum is met. Sam Haun is the new coordinator in Fremont County and he is being proactive in a numerous ways, including the resurrection of the LEPC. All of the old LEPC members are being resigned and a new list of active individuals will take their place. Chris Scase noted that new appointment are automatically accepted when they arrive in the HLSEM office, but resignations require action by the IERC to ensure that no one quits without a replacement.

A question was asked if there was any activity by counties to form more regional emergency planning district. Paul Sadler said he is not aware of any indications of more regions. For a number of years, Polk County LEPC and surrounding LEPCs have discussed merging into a regional planning district but so far it is still in the early stages of discussion.

LEPC Membership Report - As far as is known, all LEPCs have at least two members.

Section 303 – Plan Submissions – Paul Sadler said that Iowa can be very proud that we have nearly 100 percent compliance in planning. Adams County only county without a compliant plan at this time. Because it is a yearly requirement to update the plan, some counties tend to fall in and out of compliance only because the time has expired for review and update of their plan, but their plans remain viable. HLSEM tied the incentive of the EMPG grant to the yearly review and update of the Hazardous materials plans. This year, HSLEM is implementing new rules that will require that all county plans be reviewed and revised by September 30th.

Sue Lagneaux arrived at 9:25 and a quorum was met. While she got settled we went on with the agency reports.

Section 305 – Training Funds and Courses – Lisa Sexton – ‘07 application for HMEP (Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant through Department of Transportation, Hazardous Materials Registration fees) has been submitted. The deadline was moved up but we met it. We received level funding, although we had hoped there would be an increase. The deadline is Sept 1st and staff reviews the applications and commission awards the grants at the Sept. meeting. Lisa provided some statistics about the use of the ‘05 training grant. She said 3,113 people were trained in ‘05 and another 250 people trained by hazmat. In ‘06 - 500 people have been trained since October 1, 2005.

Division of Labor

Section 302 & 312 – Tier II Reporting & facility Submissions – no report. March 1 was deadline for submitting 05 Tier II reports. It is believed that past information has been put into the data base and should be available for reports soon, however nothing has been seen so far. The information generated by the Tier II forms is needed by HLSEM for planning purposes. They have had problems with computers crashing, rebuilding the system, corruption of data, funding the staffing of input. It was noted that 20% of the Tier II reports come in paper form and have to be typed into the data base and another 25 % come in on a disk and have to be downloaded into the database. Anne has been utilizing personnel in her building who have “down-time” to do that input and HLSEM has stepped up to help as well. There appears to be no consistent dedicated staff to do this work, other than Anne.

Bob Goldhammer noted that Iowa does not have a way to enforce the filing of Tier II information. He asked if enforcement of 312 could generate money. Chris acknowledged that part of the problem is that own state level database is not up to date enough to determine who is not in compliance. George Hess said EPA could do the enforcement but there have been very few requests for enforcement. George said that EPA has been talking to Anne and her boss about the Tier II database problem. Chris requested a copy of the correspondence.

Dept. of Natural Resources

Section 304 & Section 313 - Emergency Notifications & Form R Reporting. Kathy Lee could not be present. Field Office Logs and Spill reports have been provided to the IERC by e-mail. No TRI forms have been received yet. They are not due until July 1, 2006. The Iowa Hazmat Symposium will be October 26th and 27th.

There being a quorum we returned to the top of the agenda to take care of items that need to be voted on.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Elizabeth Christiansen to approve September 29, 2005 minutes. Second by Susan Laneaux. The motion carried unanimously .

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of officers: Chair and Vice Chair

Currently Chris Scase is chair and Sue Laneaux is Vice Chair.

Chair - Chris graciously offered to relinquish the chairmanship. Consensus of the Commission is they are confident in the job that Chris and Sue are doing and would like to see them continue another year. Motion to nomination Chris Scase for IERC Chair by Jim Kenkel, second by Elizabeth Christiansen. Motion to close nominations, by Jim Kenkel, second by Dean House. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair – Sue also graciously offer to let someone else have her post, but also expressed willingness to continue. Moved by Dean House and second by Elizabeth Christiansen second to nominate Sue. Jim moved to close, second by Elizabeth Christiansen.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chris Scase and Sue Laneaux are re-elected for another year.

At this time Bob Goldhammer excused himself from the conference call

EPA Reports

The 2007 LEPC conference is in the planning stages and will be in the KC area. The presentation from 2005 LEPC Conference is available on the EPA website. Steve Wurtz working on TRI workshops. One live workshop will be in KCMO April 27th. Also St Louis and Cedar Rapids will have one day workshops. Three web-based training will be offered as well, for different levels. One will be for “beginners”. First one will be offered later in March. Tina provided a handouts for the TRI workshops. TRI 2004 data will be released to the states next week. Public release of TRI data will be in April. Pat Reitz designed a brochure, “Chemical Risk Information Branch” which Tina provided to the Commission. We should know more about the RMP grants by the end of March. Budgets might be cut. RMP grants cover emergency response aspects of RMP and EPCRA. Iowa HLSEM has a grant currently and will be putting on some training in the next few months.

George Hess reported on RMP internet site – after 911 it was removed from the internet. It will soon be available to implementing agencies by a password system. LEPCs and emergency planners, Ag, Labor, HLSEM, should request access to the RMP website through Tina. It will still be available by disk.

Headquarters realized that some businesses are no longer around and for RMP there is now a structure in place to flag those businesses and get the data base cleaned up. A letter has been sent out to key facilities to tell them they can update their information on-line. Those who have lost the information as to how to get on line need to call or send a letter to the help desk for a new profile.

A year ago, EPA put together an ammonia manual for refrigeration facilities. Analysis of accidents showed that 7 percent of RMP facilities are refrigeration units and account for 35 percent of the accidents that are reported. It will be available by the end of the month online and by hard copy.

Tier II Submit is available and is being used in Iowa.

EPA Region 7 working with EPA Headquarters for national guidance on NH3 fertilizer retailers guidance RMP and have gotten the go ahead to start on that now. It is expected to be out in a year from now.

Jim McDonald reported that he attended a SONS (Spills of National Significance) planning session in Memphis. It will be a three day functional exercise and executive table top in June '07 – probably scenario that includes a oil release in the Great Lakes and a New Madrid earthquake that will cover 13 states. Rodney Tucker from DNR and Jack

Briggs from HLSEM were there. Iowa is participating, but it is not expected that Iowa will be “impacted” and will play as a support state. It will be a significant exercise and will test the National Response Plan, National Contingency Plan and the states response plans.

FEMA Reports – no report

Public Comment

Bob Goldhammer signed off at 9:50. No comments from the public.

Agency Reports

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division

Section 301 – LEPC membership – Appointments and Resignations

Fremont County resignations – Moved by Elizabeth Christiansen. Second by Jim Kinkle. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting will be September 28, 2006. The future availability of the current conference room may be in question for future meeting. HLSEM is negotiating a move to Camp Dodge by the September meeting. IERC members should be aware that the next meeting may be in a different conference room, although we will make every effort to keep it on the Capitol Complex.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Sadler