



WORCESTER COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
1 W. MARKET ST., ROOM 1002
SNOW HILL, MARYLAND 21863
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LEPC MINUTES 04/23/09

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
	Danny Tilghman	City of Pocomoke
	John Ross	Wor. Co. Public Works
	Virgil Shockley	County Commissioners
	David Redinger	Tyson Foods
	Buzzy Bayles	Ocean City LEPC
	Jim Smith	Delmarva Power
	Roger Steger	Delegate Mathias Alternate
	Jim Mathias	Md. House of Delegates
	Ed Berger	Atlantic General Hospital
	John Brenner	Lower Shore ARC
	Troy McCabe	Lower Shore ARC
	Ed Tudor	Wor. Co. Dev. Review & Permitting
	Ric Chatham	Chesapeake Utilities
	Gry Wesenberg	Worcester Health Dept.
	Bob Mitchell	Wor. Co. Environmental Programs
	David Shipley	Wicomico County LEPC

The meeting started at 9:03 with a welcome from Chairman Fred Webster and introductions from those present. Fred Webster noted that Lt. Brumley, Pocomoke Police, David Collins and Col. Doug Dods from the Sheriff's Office were unable to attend due to conflicting meetings.

On a motion from Virgil Shockley seconded by Ed Berger minutes from both the October 2008 and January 2009 meetings were accepted for approval. Roger Steger noted that the date for the next meeting, in the January minutes was incorrect. With the correction noted the minutes passed without opposition.

Old business:

Chairman Webster again reiterated that any member with suggestions as to topics or speakers for future meetings is urged to contact either himself or Executive Committee Chair Virgil Shockley with suggestions. Commissioner Shockley noted that he was still working on getting a speaker from the Cooperative Extension Service to speak to the group on anhydrous ammonia usage on area farms.

Chairman Webster spoke about the LEPC grant funding from the Maryland Department of the Environment. This year's grant paperwork had been received and part of the money designated to purchase a pair of manuals on the Community Right to Know regulations. The books also come with monthly newsletters and updated information as regulations change. He also pointed out on the conference table two handouts. One had a brief explanation of what Tier II forms are and who should file them. The other was from the EPA with a listing of the farming operations exempt from the ammonia reporting requirements.

With that Chairman Webster also addressed the new poultry farm regulations regarding ammonia releases. Thirteen growers had made initial phone contact on by January 21 and twenty farmers have since filed the required written follow up plans.

Gry Wesenberg, substituting for Ed Potez from the Health Department, reported on a drill held recently involving distribution on medications from the Strategic National Stockpile. The drill involved notification by the State to the Local Emergency Operations Centers. The EOC's would then notify the Health Department. The objective of the exercise was to see how quickly the Health Department staff and set up to inoculate a mass quantity of people. The next phase of this drill, to be held in June, will run basically the same event only the clinic will add "victims" actually going through the screening process and being inoculated.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Commission President Virgil Shockley –Commissioner Shockley is still working on having Laura Hunsberger or someone from the Extension Office to do a presentation to the group on the use of anhydrous ammonia on local farms. Although the next meeting will be after the planting season, when most of this chemical is in use, he feels that the members are aware of the potential danger.

Plan Development: David Fitzgerald – No report.

Hazard Identification: Jeff McMahon-Nothing new to report on identification.

Public Education: Choppy Layton – No report

Medical Coordination: David Collins – Out of the Area. No report

Mutual Aid: Ed Carmean – No report

Bylaws: Sheriff Chuck Martin – No report. Chairman Webster noted that any bylaws changes are due to the Sheriff or Col. Dods by July 1. They will be put in proper order and be forwarded to the membership by email prior to the July 23rd meeting for review and a vote.

Recruitment: Buck Shockley – No report

New Business:

Fred Webster reported that the Maryland Emergency Management Association annual conference will take place May 26-29 at the Clarion in Ocean City. Several of the sessions involve LEPC's and other items that may be of interest to members of the LEPC in their individual fields. Registration forms would be available to anyone interested after the meeting.

The State of Maryland will be holding a Governor's Cabinet level "hurricane" exercise sometime in June. Since it is based on a hurricane event it's expected that Ocean City and Worcester County may be involved in it. The date and actual scenario have not yet been released.

Presentation:

David Shipley the Deputy Director of Wicomico County Emergency Services, and Wicomico's LEPC Chairman gave a PowerPoint presentation on their committee and its activities. He gave an overview of their committee structure and duties of those involved. At their May meeting they will have a private company come in a stage a hazardous materials tabletop exercise for the membership. David also briefed everyone on the challenges faced by their LEPC. Wicomico has --- Tier II reporting facilities. In addition they have a rail line approximately 70 yards from the trauma center at PRMC and a port where barges deliver and off-load all the gasoline and fuel oil that is distributed on the Lower Shore. The three fuel facilities pose the potential for spills or leaks from the barges or tanks and then from the many delivery trucks moving the fuel to other locations. A short question and answer session followed the presentation.

Good of the Committee:

Delegate Jim Mathias reported on the recently completed legislative session in Annapolis. He was pleased with the outcome of the bill regarding the State Police Helicopter service. The program will remain intact with money allocated for replacement of two of the aging fleet.

He reminded the committee with the passage of the slots bill and the potential of Ocean Downs becoming one of the locations that we should look toward any hazardous materials sites near the area of the track and the potential for evacuations of large numbers of visitors from the slots.

Both Delegate Mathias and Commissioner Shockley agreed that in a disaster situation it's important to provide the public with a unified message regarding the event. The opportunity exists of creating confusion with the public if multiple sources are reporting slightly different messages.

With no other business to be conducted Fred Webster reminded every that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 23, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15