**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)**

**ASSOCIATION**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**October 14, 2022**

**8:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.**

Marriott Hotel

Anchorage, Alaska

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amanda Loach Anchorage

Deborah Jones Bristol Bay Borough

Michael Paschall Delta-Greeley

Forest Shreeve Denali Borough

Nancy Durham Fairbanks North Star Borough

Tom Mattice Juneau

Brenda Ahlberg Kenai Peninsula Borough

Casey Cook Mat-Su Borough, Co-Chair

Tom Vaden Nome, Co-Chair

Scott Barr North Slope Borough

Billy Lee Northwest Arctic Borough

Craig Warren Sitka

Tsai Tsai Southern Southeast

George Keeney Valdez

Dorianne Sprehe Wrangell

ABSENT:

Copper River

Ketchikan

Kodiak Island Borough

Petersburg

Skagway

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kathy Shea, ADEC

Andy Preis, Anchorage OEM

Mary Goolie, EPA

John Clendenin, Fairbanks

(Indiscernible), ADEC

John Andrews, DMWA-Outreach

Allison Nubler, ADEC

Megan Kohle, ADEC

Karen DeClerck

Samantha Planner

Aaron Hankins

Kara Kusche, ADEC

Lore Olson

**1. CALL TO ORDER: Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Association**

**Co-Chairs, Mr. Casey Cook and Mr. Tom Vaden**

Co-chair Tom Vaden called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Co-Chair Tom Vaden welcomed everyone to the meeting in-person and online. The members introduced themselves.

1. **Administrative Announcement from Co-Chair**

Co-Chair Tom Vaden made the administrative announcements before the meeting started.

**II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Minutes from April 22, 2022**

**MOTION:** Deborah Jones, Anchorage, moved to approve the April 22, 2022, meeting minutes. Tom Mattice, Juneau, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. APPROVAL OF, AND CHANGES TO, THE AGENDA**

Co-Chair Tom Vaden asked for a motion to approve, or to make changes to, to the agenda.

**MOTION:** Deborah Jones, Bristol Bay, moved to approve the agenda as presented. Tsai Tsai, Craig, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**(Written reports where available)**

Co-Chair Tom Vaden noted that the items in red should have been reviewed before the meeting.

1. SERC Finance Committee
2. Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM)
3. Strategic Plans and Leadership
4. Operations
5. Preparedness
6. Planning
7. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR)

**VI. LEPC VERBAL STATUS REPORTS**

Co-Chair Tom Vaden asked members to share what their LEPC groups have been doing since the last meeting.

**Forest Shreeve, Denali Borough.** Mr. Shreeve said he has been the Denali Borough’s emergency manager since June 2022, and this was his first meeting.

Co-Chair Tom Vaden deferred Forest Shreeve’s report until later in the meeting so he could get a sense of what was reported.

**Tsai Tsai, Craig on Prince of Wales.** A meeting has not been held in a while. We are focusing on preparing the City of Craig. We are also considering having an exercise with the people in the community.

**Scott Barr, North Slope Borough.** (Indiscernible -- away from microphone.)

**Nancy Durham, Fairbanks North Star Borough.** (Indiscernible -- away from microphone.)

**Amanda Loach, Anchorage.** We have been working hard to get the Anchorage LEPC going again. The Whole Community Information Forum gave a presentation at our quarterly meeting. We want to commend the state for giving us a full year to provide input and prepare data for the Alaska assessment, as well as assessing our capabilities and jurisdiction. We reviewed and updated our All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was approved in May. Our five-year update of the Emergency Operations Plan will be forthcoming this quarter. We updated our website to include a statewide training calendar with new information on mitigation and preparedness. The website will also be updated with different languages to improve accessibility. A grant was obtained by the Anchorage Fire Department for a wellness program for employee fitness, wellness, and mental health resiliency. We are building a training team, in coordination with neighboring boroughs, for Urban Search and Rescue, Train the Trainer. Our Emergency Operations Center has been active. We responded to the Elmore fire. We did contingency planning with the University of Alaska, Anchorage, for a visit from President Trump, which was called Rally 45. We responded to a small landslide. We have been monitoring the western storm and amplifying messaging to assist them. We conducted two tabletop exercises with a cyber focus and an active shooter focus. Our big news is we have seated seven new members on our committee. We will be adopting our quarterly Work Plan to review and update with our LEPC. Finally, we anticipate a Bylaws update this quarter as well.

**Brenda Alberg, Kenai Peninsula Borough.** Our LEPC officer elections will be October 19, 2022. We completed a revision to our Bylaws and would like to thank the State of Alaska for their template and recommendations. We would also like to thank the Division of Homeland Security for their support during the landslide at Lowell Point Road, and the Division of Forestry for their assistance in submitting a grant application under the recent Community Wildfire Defense Grant and helping us complete our Areawide Community Wildfire Protection Plan in April, which was contingent upon our ability to apply for the grant.

**Scott Brainard, Ketchikan.** (Indiscernible -- away from microphone.)

**Michael Paschall, Delta-Greely.** We had some issues with washouts and flooding along the Richardson Highway that impacted traffic flow earlier this year. Other than the inconvenience caused, it was not a major event. We are preparing for a significant increase in tractor trailer traffic over the next two years to ensure that local organizations are prepared. We are also looking at how we can make our Advanced Life Support EM Service sustainable over the long-term, as well as the funding challenges associated with being in an unorganized borough.

**Tom Mattice, Juneau.** We had our first hybrid LEPC meeting last week, and it was well attended. We were fortunate to have good online attendance of LEPC meetings during COVID with typically about 30 attendees. We are happy to see an increase in online trainings, which helps support our jurisdiction when we cannot bring in as many instructors as we would like. We held two in-person real-world exercises this year: an airport exercise and a cruise ship exercise. We had a large-scale event with the Iron Man Competition. It was great to see the community coming together to support this event. We have been working with the City Assembly to review landslide and avalanche hazard mitigation maps. It is always a push-and-pull situation when you are trying to enforce codes that may hamper development. We dedicated new workgroups to the Whole Community Input Forum and the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. We are working on how to support a jurisdiction that may not always embrace mitigation plans to the fullest. As an example, a recent landslide destroyed three homes in our community, although the hazard mitigation maps indicated that those areas were hazardous. There was also challenges associated with a landslide that turned into a tree-falling event with respect to communicating with insurance companies. We have been very busy, but it has been good.

**Craig Warren, Sitka.** We are working on updating our plans. It is amazing when you start reviewing a plan that you think is current and then you see a hospital listed that has been closed. We are working with the Coast Guard on wide area operations for cruise ship passengers. We anticipate half a million cruise ship passengers next year, which is quite a lot for a town of 8,600 people. If one of those ships have an emergency, it is going to be exciting. We are working on plans in case of a bridge loss because the bridge services the island that houses the airport and our only hospital. We are working on, and having difficulties with, the landslide verbiage and hazard maps. When you get insurance companies involved and property owners suddenly see their property values decreasing significantly, things become political very quickly.

**Billy Lee, Northwest Arctic Borough.** We have not been doing much since COVID as we lost some of our key people during that time. All our member terms have expired, so we are working on reorganizing. We have been working on completing our Village Certifications. The mayor has given the order to go to each village and ensure that their certifications are complete and do trainings. We will hold a big meeting once we receive funding. We weathered the storm well. We had some high wind warnings, but no significant damage.

**Deborah Jones, Bristol Bay Borough.** Our LEPC has not met in person. There has been a lot of personnel turnovers within the borough. At the last meeting, I announced we had a new planner, but that person has since left, and we just hired another new planner last week. Our Village Councils have reorganized, and we are working with them to get our LEPC meetings going again. We hope to work on that throughout the winter. There has been a lot of internal things happening with my job at the fire department, and we are working to add another position to reduce my workload so I can focus on the LEPC. Although we have a history of high turnover within the borough, I am hopeful that we will fill the position. If anybody has ideas on how to get people active within a community, please let me know. We are a small community of about 850 people spread over three areas in the wintertime, but we expand to 10,000 to 12,000 in the summertime due to the fishing industry. The possibility of things going wrong in the summertime are huge but getting the year-round residents to participate in the wintertime has been difficult.

**George Keeney, Valdez.** We held LEPC meetings online during COVID. We are now holding hybrid LEPC meetings both in-person and online. We have several active members, but it was difficult to get a quorum. We had huge turnovers within the City of Valdez, the college, the hospital, and the schools, so it has been difficult to review and update the plans. We are getting ready to do a COVID flu vaccination in partnership with the fire department, the public health nurse, the hospital, and volunteers. Giving shots is a great way for medics to get training. We currently have an EMT class in the high school, as well as first aid certification and ETT classes. The ETT class has 20 students. Next week, we will be using the EMT students as patients in a hospital evacuation exercise. The City of Valdez purchased over $200,000 in emergency food supplies. We have a COVID medical alternate site at the school’s gym, as well as the ability to setup equipment for any type of medical response. The City of Valdez updated their Emergency Operations Plan, and it was reviewed by the LEPC. We did a three-year airport drill with the Valdez Fire Department and the airport DOT crew. We will continue to support the LEPC and see if we can keep it going.

**Karen DeClerck**. No report.

**Samantha Planner.** No report.

**Aaron Hankins, Petersburg.** Mr. Hankins introduced himself as the new emergency manager for Petersburg. He has only been on the job for a week and half, so he would like to just listen during this meeting.

**Kara Kusche, DEC, Spill Prevention Response.** Ms. Kusche introduced herself as the program manager for the Prevention and Technical Support. She would just be listening during today’s meeting to learn more about what the LEPC does.

**Chief Jerry Reddick, Skagway.** Emergency management responsibilities in Skagway are shared between Chief Reddick, as a member of the Skagway Police Department, and the city manager. They had some rockslides and floods. Today, he would just be listening to see where things are going throughout the state.

**Casey Cook, Mat-Su Borough.** We are continuing to meet online on a quarterly basis. We are reviewing our Emergency Operations Plan. We held a Firewise mailer campaign this summer and sent information to several hundred residents. Our 14th Annual Preparedness Expo was attended by about 15,000 people, as well as vendors and food trucks. We are still working on our certifications. We delivered two MyPI courses this year with about 40 children participating. One of our local fire departments started a Teen Firefighter I Program through the school where students receive school credit and qualify as a firefighter I at the completion of the program.

**Forest Shreeve, Denali Borough.** Mr. Shreeve reported that their LEPC has not met since he became the emergency manager. This summer’s Clear fire affected 73,000 acres, and he spent his first two months on the job responding to the fire. He attended the Division of Forestry’s Fall Fire Review this week and made contacts for developing a boroughwide CWPP. Firewise efforts will include brush collection, as well as chipping and disposing of brush in the borough. We have a Mutual Aid Agreement between six fire departments, the Clear Space Force, and the National Park. He is familiarizing himself with the Emergency Operations Plan, the All-Hazards Plan, and the two CWPPs within our borough. We are working on developing a boroughwide CWPP. We are also working on an official addressing system to help our emergency responders. We have made sure that all the roads within the borough have names, and there are no duplicate names. At the beginning of 2023, official addresses will be issued to residents and businesses, which will help our emergency responders know exactly where to go during an emergency response. We applied for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant. The Division of Forestry said even if we do not get the grant, they think state money can be allocated to create a boroughwide CWPP, especially after the Clear fire and the beetle kill in our borough.

**Tom Vaden, Nome.** Many of the LEPCs are floundering due to the pandemic. We had several meetings, but there was not a huge turnout. The response to the recent western storm was good. As a hub community, people are looking to us for help, but we do not have authority within smaller communities, although the tribal entities do. The hospital is probably more of an organizing hub than the City of Nome, which is only 15 square miles. We are doing more Tier II work, but there are limitations. We are getting pushback from organizations that think we need to file Tier II reports, although we disagree. There is no enforcement on Tier II. We have encountered a lack of cooperation in our airport exercise. When we asked a major airline and the TSA for their Emergency Operations Plan, they refused to share them with us. We cannot evaluate a response at the airport if we do not know what the other players are supposed to be doing. Our EOP is in the final stages. We have two annexes to complete, a cyber annex and a pandemic annex. We suggested publishing the EOP, with an explanation that two annexes would be forthcoming, because we are 12 years behind. The fall storms pushed our sheltering limits. The City of Nome decided to do a shelter but then changed their mind when they found out all the guidelines and requirements that had to be followed. The City of Nome is requesting more ICS training, so I sent information on how to get a CID and where to access the ICS classes.

**Scott Barr, North Slope Borough.** (Indiscernible -- away from microphone.)

**Bryan Fisher, Director of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management.**

There had been an unprecedented number of disasters this year. We have been dealing with 22 declare disasters since Halloween last year, including everything from landslides to the unusual winter storm we are currently responding to with FEMA on the West Coast. The record is 23 in a single year. Our agency has been incredibly taxed. Responders must make adjustments when a disaster occurs depending on the unique governmental structure, or absence of a governmental structure, of the affected community. We have a staff of 60 employees on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, so we rely heavily on contractors to help with long-term recovery when working with FEMA, as well as repairing and rebuilding infrastructure. For the last disaster, the Governor declared a disaster very quickly. We also asked for a federal disaster declaration and were given that quickly, including FEMA’s Individual Assistance Program, which we rarely receive.

In addition to the devastation of infrastructure and homes in many communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Norton Sound regions, there was substantial and severe loss of subsistence camps, including gear, boats, boat motors, as well as the camp structures themselves. We are supporting the response to the loss of subsistence camps, although our program traditionally helps repair and replace nets and fishwheels, not subsistence structures themselves.

Communities and government agencies have been discussing food security. Casey Cook and I are on the Governor’s Alaska Food Security and Independence Task Force and have been engaged with that group throughout the summer. They have a draft report that will be published in November and will share with our partners. It is one thing to repair homes that were damaged to ensure families have a place to live, but it is another to address the serious issues of losing subsistence food, especially at the end of hunting season. It is important for us to assist in rebuilding subsistence camps, as well as replenishing supplies and equipment, so individuals can provide for their families and work on replenishing their food supplies next year. Communities that were not damaged are sharing their subsistence food with their neighbors. Donations from Alaska Sea Share gets salmon out to the regions to replace what was lost.

We are working with the Food Security and Independence Task to identify a process and budget to acquire large disaster food caches for the state. Rather than MREs, it will be freeze dried, dehydrated, and can foods. We are working on a State of Alaska Disaster Food Cache to provide more food to communities, other than what we normally do with the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. We hope to receive funding next year to start purchasing food for the food cache. Space to store food is an issue that we will be working on over the next few years.

We are developing a Local Cyber Security Grant Program. The state will receive $2 million per year for a four-year program. It will be 90% federal money and 10% state and local share, and then it escalates each year until it reaches 75% federal money and 25% state and local match. Cyber security is a priority for the Governor. He asked the Legislature, through the budget process, for the cost share to meet the nonfederal match. We are trying to make the cyber security money as accessible as the Homeland Security Grant Program.

We developed a statewide Cyber Security Plan to address improving our posture and capability to respond and recover from cyberattacks or threats of cyberattacks. The plan will include funding for priority areas established by the Planning Committee. The first year’s grant money will be used to develop a cyber plan, identify investment areas, and decide how to make money available. We are administering that plan and will put applications in coordination with the plan’s priorities. We will also have an External Review Committee making award recommendations with me having the final approval. The statewide Cyber Security Plan will provide additional information and help communities add annexes to their Emergency Operations Plan or larger cyber response, recovery, and deterrence plans. Technical assistance will also be provided. Part of the money will be used to write the plan, but most of the money will go directly to the communities, as required by law. We formed a Planning Committee with IT, cyber professionals, as well as various sectors of healthcare and energy to drive that effort.

Disasters have hit everywhere from the Southeast to the North Slope last year. The relationships built in organizations like the LEPC Associations are incredibly helpful and important to us. When disasters happen, coordination and the ability to respond quickly and effectively has been enhanced by these organizations working together.

**Question & Answer Session:**

Tom Mattice, Juneau, noted that the Governor allocated money to food caches for the state several years ago. He asked what was different this time.

Bryan Fisher, Director of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, said during the Parnell Administration, there was a capital project to buy disaster food. However, that project did not provide resources for storing the food. We had between $4 and $5 million in the project, which was enough to purchase the food, but not to locate and secure appropriate food storage around the state. This time, we are looking at the budget requirements primarily on the storage side. The Governor’s vision is to secure emergency food cache material from commercial vendors in the Lower ’48, but over time that would be replaced by “Alaska MREs” or Alaskan grown shelf-stable foods that are manufactured and produced in Alaska. We are focused on asking the Legislature for the right amount of money to store, maintain, and distribute the food caches. The original grant, which did not provide enough money to secure food storage, lapsed and the money was turned back into the general fund. We have learned from that effort and are making sure to have all the resources to buy, distribute, and store the food appropriately.

Casey Cook, Mat-Su Borough, said the Governor’s Alaska Food Security and Independence Task Force document was currently out for public comment. It is about 140 pages and covers subsistence, logistics, supply chains, and more. He asked everyone to review it and provide comments. Comments are being taken seriously. For example, a comment was made to the committee that food security needed to have its own department and not be spread out between multiple departments, so the Governor declared an Office of Food Security would be developed about a week after reviewing the public comment.

Scott Barr, North Slope Borough, asked if the committee would be reaching out to individual communities regarding potential food storage ideas.

Bryan Fisher, Director of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, said they were looking for effective ways to store food around the state. It has not been decided if we will obtain commercial storage or acquire land to build our own storage. The method may vary depending on the quantities of food and where the food will be stored. Anyone with ideas, requests, or suggestions can forward those to Mr. Fisher.

Scott Barr, North Slope Borough, (indiscernible -- away from microphone.)

Bryan Fisher, Director of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, said most of the commodities will have a 25- to 30-year shelf-stable lifespan. We want to ensure the food is dietarily and culturally appropriate. Conceptually, the plan is that food with expiration dates will be actively managed and donated to local food banks before the expiration date.

**Meg Kohle, Alaska Department of Environmental Conversation.** A written report was provided in the briefing materials. We have been working on our disaster response, a contingent of spill responders went out, and we provided technical assistance over the phone to reduce the stress on other resources. Our Food Safety and Sanitation staff have been stepping into the disaster role and are working with DMVA staff. We anticipate more of that in the future, as well as more outreach. Another piece of our disaster response has been the impacts to the water and wastewater systems from the storm. Our Remote Maintenance Worker programs and regional partners continue to do a tremendous amount of work to support the water and wastewater facilities. That will be an ongoing effort with in-place emergency response capacity, and we anticipate seeing more need during the winter storms as well.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

*(Break from 9:09 a.m. to 9:27 a.m.)*

Co-Chair Casey Cook called the meeting back to order at 9:27 a.m.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **DHS&EM - Resilience Briefing -- Dave Reilly, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management**

Dave Reilly gave the Resilience Briefing. Resilience is the ability to plan and prepare for, respond to, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events. Enhanced resilience allows better anticipation of disasters and planning to reduce disaster loss rather than waiting for an event to occur and paying for it afterwards.

The All-hazards Resilience Team’s Rural Resiliency Workshop will be held in Anchorage in March 2023. We hope to have a representative from the municipal government and the tribal government for an All-Hazard Workshop. AST, USGC, NOAA and members of other state agencies will do presentations. We also do training exercises and tabletop exercises. We anticipate holding a Rural Resiliency Workshop in the North Slope Borough in October, and then we will start working down the western side of the state.

We anticipate doing a Tsunami Operations Workshop in Kodiak at the end of March 2023 to talk specifically about tsunamis in Kodiak and not just general information.

There are three main functions of the All-Hazard Resilience Team. The first one is geohazard mitigation. The geohazard coordinator looks at the Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, which includes our workshops, installing and updating sirens, and evacuation routes and signs, as well as any training that goes with tsunamis. The second is the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, which has a lot of outreaches and includes our earthquake simulator and the National Earthquake Technical Assistance Program (NETAP), which is a series of classes throughout the summer. The third is the Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection (APIP), a public/private partnership established to better prepare critical infrastructure owners and operators to mitigate, respond to, and recover from disaster. There are about 700 members throughout FEMA Region 20, which includes Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and part of Canada. Each monthly meeting has a training segment. Last month’s meeting focused on morgue operations, and this month’s meeting will be on food stability and security.

SCERP, Small Community Emergency Response Plan, is a customized, community-specific document designed to assist communities of less than 2,000 people in disaster planning and response. It is a walk-through checklist that includes critical locations, contacts, and resources available. Each plan is specific to a community and comes in a plastic binder with laminated pages to ensure they are waterproof. The plan goes through the first 72 hours of various emergencies from sewage leaks to western winter storms. The plan includes ICS (Incident Command System) charts and positions, as well as evacuation routes. Up to seven copies are supplied so they can be positioned in different locations throughout the community in case a disaster wipes out a specific area. Finally, the Training Department builds a tabletop exercise so the communities can practice the plan.

**Question & Answer Session**

George Keeney, Valdez, said the SCERP was also useful for agencies within a community. He is working on an emergency plan for their Senior Center. He asked if he could get the SCERP to use for his community.

Dave Reilly, DHS&EM, said they could provide Mr. Keeney the electronic toolbox for the SCERP, which includes the layout of everything.

1. **DHS&EM - Whole Community Input -- JJ Little, Community Planning Section, Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management**

JJ Little, Planner for the Community Planning Section in DHS&EM, gave a presentation on Whole Community Input. Our team consists to Todd Russell, Roy English, and JJ Little.

Last spring, Tom Mattice brought up some very good points about the Whole Community Input forms that the federal government was having us complete to receive federal funds. I had recent discussions with Region 10 about why Alaska is so special. Unorganized boroughs are challenging, because they may not have the infrastructure or manpower to meet the requirements to even get a seat at the table to get these grants.

We talked about national preparedness goals and how we are going to respond to and recover from national disasters, while focusing on the things that impact our communities from the greatest risks. The bottom line is our goal in any disaster response is to provide rapid and sustained support to the communities and citizens across the state of Alaska.

We talked about the geographical separation in Alaska and weather extremes; low population density, which is 733,000 people or 1.2 people per mile; and the subsistence lifestyle and why it is important to have food caches. We discussed the primary delivery of supplies being the rail belt, the roadway system, or airplanes. We talked about the Port of Alaska in Anchorage. While that is a hub for fuel and cargo, we need redundant points of distribution within the state to ensure we are getting the recovery and viability to the communities.

We talked about milestones such as hazard mitigation plans, SCERPs, and state declarations on floods, landslides, and winter storms. There are annual regional disasters such as flooding, storms, and fires. Our federal partners and teammates in the Lower ’48 do not realize the scope of disasters that we embrace. In addition to the annual disasters, there are bigger disasters like the 1964 earthquake, which includes a response from the Distribution Management Plan for Alaska.

We talked about short-term goals. We talked about the LEPCA and the SERC and the fiscal challenges to ensure they remain relevant within the communities and have a viable team infrastructure that can help local communities during response efforts.

We talked about long-term goals for the resilience workshops and various plans.

We discussed things that we need help with including technical assistance for unorganized boroughs and possible accommodations. When Region 10 talks about the DICCE concept, they mean Diversity, Inclusion, Climate Change, and Equity. They need to think outside the box and come up with some accommodations the allow Alaskan communities to have a seat at the table even when they cannot meet the requirements. I look forward to meeting with you leaders to discuss possible accommodations, review them with our director, and then get them to FEMA so they can help us.

We talked about the National Preparedness System. From a community standpoint, when you look at the chart of all the things we do, this is the core doctrine for FEMA. In my family, I use the term OODA loop, which means Observe, Orient, Decide, and Act. Community threats include manmade threats, technological threats, and natural threats. When you decide which OODA loop is the most important for your community, it makes it easier to do the Whole Community Input from a preparedness perspective.

Why is this important? Increasingly, the federal government is establishing requirements. For example, a requirement of the EMPG Grant is 85.7% of all your projects must be tied to closing capability gaps identified in the THIRA and SPR. We need to be able to articulate that and capture it on paper to remain in a viable position to continue getting those grants. We do that through the Alaska Assessments, a community’s annual requirement to identify their biggest threats. It establishes a baseline for a community’s current activities, their current or recent responses to major or minor events, and projects the future growth of the community’s emergency management capabilities and requirements. This is very important for us to be able to capture. We can work together to make it easier. For example, Oregon is doing surveys instead of sending out the Whole Community Input forms and Washington is doing more technical assistance within their communities. We would like to come up with something very Alaska specific that enables everyone to do this accurately and in a professional way.

1. **DEC - Action Tracker Brief**

Megan Kohle, ADEC, said she would be available during the Action Tracker Brief to provide historical data. In 2018, the LEPCA and the SERC developed an ad hoc workgroup to look at problems, solutions, and a formalized path forward. The group was unable to continue discussions during the COVID pandemic. However, a document was created and used for the basis of the recommendations to be reviewed.

JJ Little, DHS&EM, said there were two categories on the Action Tracker, completed tasks and incomplete tasks assigned by the LEPCA or SERC to workgroups. The Policy and Procedures Manual needs significant revisions. Several duties and requirements are not being accomplished, or may not be possible, based on the capabilities of each community. The workgroup recommended a comprehensive revision of the Policy and Procedures Manual, which would be reviewed at the next SERC meeting. Our biggest challenge now is the lack workgroup chairs to guide those discussions.

*JJ Little, DHS&EM, reviewed the incomplete tasks on the Action Tracker and the recommendations. After each presentation, the item was open for discussion.*

**#1 -- SERC Work Plan Committee.** The SERC Policy and Procedure Manual (P&PM) requires significant revisions. It specifies several duties and requirements that are not being accomplished and may not be possible. The work group recommends that a comprehensive revision of the P&PM is completed for the SERC’s review and action during the next SERC meeting. The revision will realign the document with processes that are in place.

**Questions and Answers Session**

Michael Paschall, Delta-Greely, pointed out that the All-Hazards Plan was not included in this document or on the table for discussion. Every community in the state deal with different situations, but much of the information is general and not specific to a region. Every time our LEPC is supposed to do something, I question what the state is going to do because they have staff and we do not.

JJ Little, DHS&EM, said he looked forward to working with Mr. Paschall on a solution.

Kathy Shea, ADEC, said the items in the Action Tracker came from the workgroups. There were SERC members on the SERC workgroup, and LEPC members on the LEPCA workgroup. This item could be addressed during the Policy and Procedures Manual updates.

**Item #2: SERC, Work Plan Committee**. The workgroup expressed concerns about the liability that may result from gaps associated with LEPDs that are not represented by LEPCs. Additionally, the workgroup requests that the SERC provide clarification of what the Policy and Procedures Manual requirement that DHS&EM will “represent the interest of citizens” that are not represented by an LEPC. There were no questions.

**Item #A.1, SERC, Work Plan Committee.** The requirement, contained in the Alaska Statute, for the SERC, and delegated to the All-Hazards Plan Review Committee to review plans needs further definition. The committee does not have the time or technical ability to review the plans identified in the statute. The workgroup requests the SERC’s assistance to clarify/limit the duties ascribed to the committee or resources to meet the assigned duties.

JJ Little, DHS&EM, said the committee looks at mitigation plans or EOPs and signs off on them, and then they go through the planning cell of DHS&EM. He was not sure if this needed to be an action item.

**Item #A.1, LEPC, Work Plan Committee.** The requirement for presenting an AAR to the SERC for all “disasters occurring in an LEPC’s or state agency’s area of responsibility” was discussed. The SERC needs to provide clarification on what constitutes a disaster. The LEPC recommended that the threshold for delivering AARs to the SERC should be events that require state agency response or state disaster declarations.

**Questions and Answers Session**

Scott Barr, North Slope Borough, (indiscernible -- away from microphone.)

Bryan Fisher, DHS&EM, said there was no monetary threshold. Our recommendation is to declare a disaster or respond locally when an event happens. We have more flexibility on the state level, and the Governor has broad powers to declare a state disaster. The real constraints are in Alaska Statute 26.23.900, which is the definition of a disaster. Some things are clearly disasters, while other things are clearly not a disaster under the Disaster Act. Economic disasters and erosion was removed from the Disaster Act in the 1990s. You do not have to know the entire cost or scope of a disaster to ask for help from the Governor. Our recommendation is to call the State EOC when an event occurs and let us know what is going on. If you make it a two-way conversation, we can help inform your leadership about whether a disaster declaration is possible when an event occurs.

Scott Barr, (indiscernible -- away from microphone.)

Bryan Fisher, DHS&EM, said the Governor did not declare a disaster for the Chukchi Sea storm last week. Acting Mayor Kerry made a local disaster declaration on behalf of Mayor Brower. We received a copy of the ICAST declaration as well. We asked if the Governor needed to make a disaster declaration, and we were told no. However, you can ask for a disaster declaration after you identify the extent of the damages. Our understanding is the damage was minimal in the Northwest Arctic Borough. Most of the damage was in the North Slope Borough area. We can continue to communicate on this issue through ICAST and the Mayor’s office. There are no time limits in the State Statutes. My guidance is if it is not an emergency to you, it is not an emergency to the Governor. If you need assistance, you probably will not get it a year after the event, although there are no hard and fast time limitations on the state’s side. There are restrictions on the federal side, which is within 30 days of an event, or 60 days at the maximum with an extension.

Scott Barr (indiscernible -- away from microphone.)

Bryan Fisher, DHS&EM, said erosion happens regularly with wave action and river action and is not covered under the Disaster Act. However, the effects of erosion from a defined disaster like a storm or a flood can be covered. Whether it is homes or improved infrastructure, neither the State nor FEMA can respond to erosion of unimproved natural features. We cannot provide support to repair a bluff that falls in because there is nothing to repair that was previously funded or invested in.

*Due to time constraints, JJ Little, DHS&EM, did a quick review of the remaining incomplete items on the Action Tracker.*

The infrequency of the SERC meetings and the lack of committee chairs to guide the meetings was discussed. Committee chairs need to be identified so we can send work out and get the ball moving instead of just identifying problems.

There was discussion of reassessing the boundaries of the LEPCs and LEPDs, as well as workloads, abilities, and time. There was also discussion about technical capabilities for unorganized boroughs to accomplish the duties and responsibilities of LEPCs.

*JJ Little, DHS&EM, said the other items on the Action Tracker could be reviewed and any questions could be addressed after the meeting.*

Kathy Shea, ADEC, asked everyone to review the Action Tracker and let me know if there were any questions, comments, or additional information needed.

1. **DEC - Flowchart and Emergency Plan Checklist**

Kathy Shea, ADEC, gave a presentation on the Flow Chart and Emergency Plan Checklist. The hazmat checklist was introduced a few meetings ago and can be used to develop your Hazardous Materials Response Plan. The updated plan will be available on the DEC Tier II website.

The E-plan access flowchart allows you to access your Tier II data. We ran into some issues with fire departments and emergency manager not having good access to the E-plan database, so we created a direct route for them to go directly through the DEC Tier II coordinator to gain access. This new access eliminated the need to go through LEPC chairs, who are busy and do not always have the ability to access the Tier II information in a timely manner.

**Question and Answer Session**

Michael Paschall, Delta-Greely, asked is DEC has entered the fuel tanks over 500 gallons that must be registered into the Tier II system so that information was available to fire departments.

Kathy Shea, ADEC, thought Mr. Paschall was referring to a program on Class 2 facilities, which is no longer operated at ADEC. If a facility has 1,200 gallons or more of a petroleum product, it needs to be reported on a Tier II form. However, we do not have a list of the facilities in the state that might have 500 gallons or more of fuel. ADEC no longer requires organizations to register their tanks.

1. **EPA - Summer 2022 Tank Farm Inspections**

Mary Gooley, EPA, introduced herself and gave a presentation on the summer 2022 tank farm inspections with DEC and the Coast Guard. EPCRA (Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act) created the SERCs, LEPCs, and the requirements of Tier II reporting. Federally and nationally, there are Tier II reporting thresholds of reportable requirements of hazardous substances, and then fuel reporting is added to Alaska’s Tier II reporting.

LEPC members talked about having questions about bulk fuel storage facilities earlier in the meeting. The Class II requirement is no longer in place by DEC for those who have 500 gallons of fuel or more, but on the federal side there are Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) requirements for facilities with more than 1,350 gallons of fuel as a prevention plan that requires them to do monthly and annual checks on the fuel tanks, as well as secondary containment provisions. Although they do not have to supply the SPCC plan to the EPA, they do have to provide it to us when we do an inspection. An LEPC Chair can request the SPCC plan at an airport or anywhere there are bulk fuel tanks to see what preventative measures they have in place. If there is pushback and they do not cooperate, contact the EPA.

Any entity with bulk fuel storage over 42,000 gallons must have a SPCC plan as well as a Facility Response Plan that outlines how they will respond in an emergency. Again, you should be able to view those plans. If there is pushback and they do not cooperate, call the EPA.

There are about 400 facilities that have 42,000 gallons or more of fuel storage and are required to have Facility Response Plans. The EPA does not receive enough funding to inspect all of them all because many are not available on the road system. The Coast Guard, who also has responsibility for bulk fuel storage, is partnering with the EPA to work with and train each other on monitoring activities.

There are communities that do not have SPCC or Facility Response Plans in place, so we emphasize compliance. In 2019, the Coast Guard received funding to go out during the summer months with a Marine Safety Task Force to do bulk fuel storage inspections. They have had two successful years of getting out to hub communities and are focusing on Arctic Western Alaska and using Civil Air Patrol to go out to the villages. They invited the EPA to join them this past summer, and we were able to participate in Kotzebue and Bethel, and their hub communities. Our infrastructure is aging and some of the fuel tanks are old tanks from the BIA from the 1940s and 1950s. With the continuing partnership between the EPA and the Coast Guard, we anticipate going out next summer as well.

We also coordinate with DEC to let them know where we will be going, because there are active spills in communities that revolve around bulk fuel storage tanks. We do not have enough trained individuals in communities to do proper fuel transfers. Sometimes during a fuel transfer the person walks away, and an overflow occurs. The cost of the cleanup is prohibitive because it is hard to get contaminated soil out of a community and replace the response equipment.

The EPA and the Coast Guard are doing work jointly, as well as communicating with DEC. As a reminder, there are requirements of bulk fuel storage communities that they have a level of fuel that is stored and not just in transfer. They must report this on their Tier II reporting to the LEPCs and the SERC, as well as local fire departments. They also must have a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan in place if they have 1,350 or more gallons of fuel. If it is up to 42,000 gallons, they must have both a SPCC and a Facility Response Plan in place.

**Questions and Answer Session:**

In response to a question, Mary Gooley, EPA, said when a Facility Response Plan was in place, the facility must be able to do decontamination if there is a spill. However, they would probably rely on the responders in case there were exposed personnel.

Co-Chair Tom Vaden noted that in the April 22 meeting minutes, several names were misspelled and should be corrected: Amanda Loach, Tsai Tsai, and Scott Barr.

**VIII. MEMBERS CLOSING COMMENTS**

Amanda Loach, Anchorage, said she appreciated all the information during the meeting. She asked who she should contact for questions about the state programs and initiatives highlighted in the read-ahead materials.

JJ Little said he could answer those questions.

**MOTION:** Nancy Durham, Fairbanks, moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Scott Barr, North Slope Borough. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.