**STATE EMERGENCY PLANNING RESPONSE COMMISSION (SERC)**

**CONFERENCE**

**MINUTES**

**October 15, 2021**

**1:00 p.m. to 2:08 p.m.**

Virtual

Anchorage, Alaska

State Department Members

Deputy Commissioner Christenson DMVA (Acting Co-Chair)

Tiffany Larson DEC (Acting Co-Chair)

Commissioner Anderson DCCED

Rick Green DFG

Tim Dabney DNR

John Clendenin DOT&PF

Public Members

George Vakalis LEPC/URBAN - Anchorage

David Miller LEPC/RURAL - Sitka

Casey Cook LOCAL GOVERNMENT - MatSu Borough

Ex-Officio Members

Deputy Commissioner Donley DOA

Commissioner Johnson DEED

Paul Valley FEMA

CMDR Smith COAST GUARD

Mary Goolie EPA

**I. CALL TO ORDER: State Emergency Planning Response Commission (SERC)**

**Co-Chair, Deputy Commissioner Christenson, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)**

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

**A. Roll Call – Roy English, Acting SERC Coordinator**

A quorum was established.

**B. Administrative Announcements**

It was asked that everyone attending please state your name and affiliation as the meeting is being recorded.

**II. Welcome and Introductions - Membership List - TAB 2**

Deputy Commissioner Christenson opened up by reading comments from Commissioner Saxe. It was expressed that he appreciates everyone’s efforts during the pandemic. The meeting has been streamlined to minimize time and impact on participants. Information on Safe Water and Hazmat Response Checklist, comments from LEPC and SERC workgroups will be included. We also want to allow an opportunity for lessons learned to be included during this meeting.

Division Director for DEC Tiffany Larson read comments from Commissioner Brune. He thanked everyone for attending. Further discussion was mentioned regarding the upcoming DEC presentations.

Deputy Commissioner Christenson welcomed two new SERC members: DOT Commissioner Anderson and DOA Commissioner Verna. Also mentioned two SERC vacancies, LEPC Rural and Local Government Representatives.

**III.** *APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES -- TAB 3 - SUSPENDED*

**IV. Public Comment - Five (5) minutes per speaker - TAB 4**

No public comment.

**V. Consent Agenda - TAB 5**

**A. Approval of and changes to the Agenda (by item)**

An error was noted where the Finance Committee mentioned not having a presentation to give but instead would bring up items of interest as they come up. Motion was requested for approval after recognition of minor change.

**MOTION:** Rick Green, DFG, moved to approve the agenda. Tiffany Larson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Appointments**

Deputy Commissioner Christenson entertained a motion to confirm the LEPC appointment of Christopher Russel of Juneau.

**MOTION:** George Vakalis moved the motion forward, Green seconded.

**C. SERC Meeting dates**

Deputy Commissioner Christenson noted the next meeting is slated for April 22, 2022. He then asked for a motion and second to approve. Vakalis moved the motion forward, Green seconded.

VI. *State Agency Reports Suspended*

*A. DHS&EM Updates: Mr. Bryan Fisher, Director (written report provided)*

*B. DEC Division of Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) Tiffany Larson (written report provided)*

It was noted that these reports had been suspended while in a streamlined virtual format for the conference. However, Kathy Watkins had an announcement to make in that she has resigned from CERT.

VII. *Local Emergency Planning Committee Association (LEPCA) - TAB 7 Suspended*

*A. Status Report - Suspended (Reports by exception only)*

*B. LEPCA Agenda - Suspended (written copy provided)*

*C. LEPCA Previous Meeting Minutes - Suspended. Provided on DHS&EM webpage*

**VIII.** Local Emergency Planning Committee Status Reports - TAB 8 Suspended (Reports by exception only)

**IX. *Old Business - TAB 9 Suspended***

*Committee Reports (written reports provided)*

*A. Finance Committee - Mr. George Vakalis, Chairperson*

*B. Work Plan Committee - Open Chair*

*C. Interoperable Communications Committee - Mr. John Rockwell, Chairperson*

*D. Citizen Corps Committee - Michelle Torres, Chairperson*

*E. All-Hazards Plan Review Committee - Mr. Richard Hildreth, Chairperson*

*F. Training Committee - Mr. Jeff Lafferty, Chairperson*

*G. Disaster Search and Rescue Committee - Lt. Paul Fussey, Chairperson*

*H. Statewide Mutual Aid Compact - Casey Cook, Chairperson*

**X. New Business - TAB 10**

**A. Village Safe Water Program** **- Carrie Bohan**

Carrie Bohan with DEC Facilities Programs gave a broad overview of organizational chart, rural sanitation funding and Village Safe Water program. Ties between local communities, ANTHC and the way they collaborate were explained.

**B. Hazmat Response Checklist – Kathy Shea**

Presentation being briefed on is to help LEPCs develop hazardous materials emergency response plans. In it, a checklist was developed to provide an outline that LEPCs can use if they want to meet their hazardous materials response plans requirement.

**C. LEPCA workgroup – Thomas Vaden, George Vakalis**

Vaden briefly summarized a survey sent out to the LEPCs. Vakalis added that these issues have been around since the beginning of the formation of the SERC. He specifically mentioned CRTK and how in the past it was funded by DEC from a percentage of funds generated from oil flowage. This included the hiring of outside contractors to meet requirements that local communities could not meet due to a lack of expertise. He then mentioned that DHS&EM assisted where possible, but at some point, funds from oil dried up. Then there were other hazards that made communities take an all hazards approach. With this compounding hazardous materials and a lack of funding, many smaller communities don’t have the resources available that many larger communities do, both in manpower and monetarily. He also mentioned how upon reviewing of past spending when funding was available, this made him think that a review was in order for what was authorized when funding is in fact available and it may require a complete reevaluation of LEPCs and what is expected of them.

**XI.** *Other State Agency and Ex-Officio Reports - TAB 11 Suspended*

*(no written reports were received)*

**XII.** *Informational Items (provided only as reference material) - TAB 12 Suspended*

*A. SERC Policies and Procedures Manual 2018*

*(includes Ethics Information for Members of Boards and Commissions)*

*B. SERC Bylaws*

*C. State Homeland Security Grant allocations 2021*

**XIII. Public Comment – (Five (5) minutes per speaker) TAB 13**

No public comment.

**XIV. Commission Member Closing Comments and Adjournment - TAB 14**

A thank you was given for presenting members and those attending by Deputy Commissioner Christenson. He then entertained a motion for adjournment.

**MOTION:** George Vakalis moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Tiffany Larson. Meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

***Next meeting - Friday, April 22, 2022 in Anchorage***