

SERC Meeting  
October 15th, 2021

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1 English: Uh, I ask that as I call on your position, you state  
2 your name very loudly, very clearly, uh -- so, that  
3 this can be transcribed, and, uh -- we'll move  
4 forward. Uh, it looks like we have a few people still  
5 coming in, uh -- uh -- we'll go through rollcall real  
6 quick and then go back and if there's anyone I missed  
7 -- we'll see if they joined, uh, late. All right,  
8 starting off now. We have (inaudible - 00:00:33)  
9 representation, DEC?

10 Anderson: Yes, this is, uh, Commissioner Anderson.

11 English: Okay. (Inaudible - 00:00:49) okay. DFG. Green?

12 Green: Did you say Fish and Game, Green?

13 English: DFG? Department of Fish and Game.

14 Green: Rick Green.

15 English: Have a little echo here. I'm going to mute some of  
16 the calls, uh -- if you need to unmute, uh, \*6. Okay.  
17 DHSS? Department of Labor? DNR?

18 Dabney: Good afternoon, this is Tim Dabney. I am the deputy  
19 director for the Division of Forestry representing DNR  
20 Commissioner Corri Feige. Tim Dabney. Thanks.

21 English: Thank you. Department of Public Safety? DOT, I saw  
22 that you had joined.

23 Clendenin: John Clendenin.

24 English: Got you. Okay, moving onto public members. Urban  
25 LEPC? Uh, I see you, George.

1 Vakalis: George Vakalis.

2 English: Okay. Urban LEPC? We have a vacancy in the rural  
3 LEPC. Moving onto rural LEPC?

4 Miller: Dave Miller.

5 English: Got you. Local government?

6 Cook: Casey Cook from Mat-Su Borough.

7 English: Thank you. Another vacancy for the other position,  
8 local government. Public at Large? Moving onto ex  
9 officio. DOA?

10 Donley: This is Dave Donley.

11 English: Thank you. DEED?

12 Johnson: Uh, Michael Johnson, commissioner here.

13 English: Thank you, sir. FEMA?

14 Valley: Good afternoon. Paul Valley from the FEMA Region 10  
15 Alaska area office.

16 English: Thank you. Alaska Command? Coast Guard?

17 Smith: Smith (inaudible - 00:04:49)

18 English: EPA.

19 Goolie: Hi, this is Mary Goolie with EPA in the Anchorage  
20 office. Our RT coordinator, Alaska area planner. We  
21 also have our federal on scene coordinator for Alaska,  
22 Torri Huelskoetter is, uh, on the line as well, if you  
23 want to show your camera, Torri, if you have a chance?

24 Huelskoetter: Hey, I'm here.

25 Goolie: Thanks.

1 Huelskoetter: Thanks, Mary.

2 Goolie: Thank you.

3 English: Okay, uh -- going back through some of the ones that  
4 may have come in late, uh -- just to make sure, uh --  
5 DCCD? DHSS? Department of Labor? DPS?

6 (CROSSTALK)

7 English: Sorry, go ahead.

8 Anderson: Hi, this is Julie. Did you not hear me earlier when I  
9 said I was present? Commissioner Anderson with DCCED.

10 English: Did not.

11 Anderson: Okay. Yep, I'm here.

12 English: Perfect. Okay. Uh, and we'll move onto the, uh,  
13 Urban LEPC and the Public at Large. Okay, that brings  
14 us to nine members. We have a quorum.

15 Christenson: Okay, good. So, uh -- I'm going to open it up and  
16 I'm going to just read, uh, comments from Commissioner  
17 Saxe, so -- bear with me here. I'd like to thank  
18 everyone for attending today's SERC meeting. I'd like  
19 to extent my personal appreciation to the emergency  
20 managers across the state that have dedicated so much  
21 time and effort to managing the ongoing pandemic and  
22 the delta variant surge. I know this response has put  
23 extreme demands on all of our time. We've streamlined  
24 the format for this meeting, so as to minimize the  
25 time and impact upon you, as -- and as you may have

1 noticed on the agenda, there's information on  
2 (inaudible - 00:07:04) safe water ha- -- and hazmat  
3 response checklist and we'll have comments from the  
4 Local Emergency Planning Association and the SERC  
5 group -- workgroups during this meeting. We also want  
6 to allow an opportunity for you to provide any lessons  
7 learned or identify outstanding issues, needs for  
8 response, or vaccination efforts that the SERC may be  
9 able to assist with. The COVID pandemic has been a  
10 primary focus since March of 2020 as we all know, uh,  
11 for most of the state, local government, commu- -- and  
12 communities, uh -- and we'd like to thank DHSS, uh,  
13 for their ongoing efforts and work to mitigate and  
14 manage the response, uh -- throughout the COVID  
15 response, Department of Heal- -- of, uh -- DH- --  
16 DHS&EM has continued to, uh, meet the needs and  
17 support the communities as we're responding to other  
18 disasters, what we call naturally occurring disasters,  
19 and just to, uh, highlight a few of those that --  
20 that, uh -- we've been dealing with, uh, back in July  
21 we had that magnitude 8.2 earthquake and tsunami  
22 warning out by Chignik, and the tsunami warning went  
23 from McCloskey (ph), uh, through the Kenai Peninsula.  
24 Uh, multiple volcanic eruptions in the Aleutians.  
25 Mass care support for multiple arson fires in the Two

1 Rivers and Pleasant Valley area in July, August. Uh,  
2 the unclean water system issues in July. Mass care  
3 support for Munson Creek and Chena Hot Springs,  
4 (inaudible - 00:08:35) wildland (ph) fire in June.  
5 Some graveside erosion coordination in Clark's Point  
6 in June. Water systems issues in Emmonak (ph), uh --  
7 Buckland Ice Jam flooding in May, and then, uh, of  
8 course you know, our annual river water, Yukon  
9 (inaudible - 00:08:52) river breakup in May. So, uh -  
10 - I'm going to pass it over to Tiffany (ph) if you  
11 have any comments.

12 Larson: Yeah, thanks, Deputy Commissioner, uh, Christenson.  
13 Uh, first, I'll read some comments just -- just as you  
14 did from, uh, Commissioner Brune. Uh, I'm pleased to  
15 welcome everyone to the October 2021 SERC meeting, uh  
16 -- thank you for taking the time to join us today,  
17 and, I'm happy to be sitting in for Commissioner  
18 Brune. So, we're also welcoming, uh, Kara Kusche  
19 (ph), who is on this call, uh -- Kara, if you've got  
20 your camera, you can pop on and say hi. Kara, you're  
21 on mute.

22 Kusche: Oh, gosh. Sorry, guys. Hello. I'm Kara Kusche,  
23 program manager here with SPAR, uh -- SPAR division.  
24 I am doing prevention and technical support program  
25 management, and happy to be here and look forward to

1 working with you all.

2 Larson: Thanks, Kara. Uh, other remaining remarks. Our  
3 village safe water program and rural maintenance  
4 worker program we'll be presenting later on in this  
5 meeting about how we and our partners work with  
6 community statewide to deal with freeze up and water  
7 issues during the winter months. Uh, our inner-agency  
8 coordinator unit, Kathy Shea (ph), who's also on this  
9 call, will be presenting later in this meeting about  
10 the DEC hazmat response plan checklist, which has been  
11 recently -- is a recently developed new tool to assist  
12 planners in ensuring that their hazmat response plans  
13 meet consent -- uh -- content requirements. We  
14 encourage you to check out the checklist, uh -- and to  
15 help in creating or updating your plan. Uh, we have a  
16 lot of disaster and other resources on our DEC  
17 website. Please encourage individuals, businesses,  
18 and communities to check them out. We've provided  
19 links to a variety of those tools in our write up in  
20 the SERC binder, uh -- despite the ongoing pandemic,  
21 DEC remains fully functional in our day to day  
22 activities with most staff working between home and  
23 the field office as needed. Uh, generally, uh,  
24 specific information about DEC's 50th anniversary,  
25 winter storms and freeze up, emergency planning,

1 significant spills that have occurred since the last  
2 SERC meeting, and other items of note are included in  
3 the ADC, uh, write up in the binders. Thank you,  
4 again, for joining us today, and I look forward to a  
5 productive meeting.

6 Christenson: Thanks, Tiffany. Uh, want to just, uh, welcome,  
7 uh, two new members to the SERC, although I think  
8 they're both being represented today, and that would  
9 be, uh, the DOT and PF Commissioner Anderson and also,  
10 uh, the DOA Commissioner Verana (ph). Uh, and I also  
11 wanted to, uh, just foot stomp what Roy mentioned  
12 earlier, where we do have two vacancies to the SERC  
13 and, uh -- we're actively looking to fill those, so  
14 that would be the LEPC rural, and, uh, the local  
15 government representatives, so if you have any, uh,  
16 nominees for that, please get with Roy English. The  
17 next thing on the agenda would -- would have been the  
18 approval of previous minutes, but I think due to a  
19 transcript problem, they ended up not being available,  
20 so we'll, uh, suspend that, and -- and attend to that  
21 at next -- at -- at the next meeting, uh -- and then  
22 that brings us to the first public comment period.  
23 And, uh -- I think Roy's going to monitor it to see if  
24 there's anyone. We would ask that you keep your  
25 comments to three to five minutes, uh -- so, I'm going



1 to pass over to you Roy, to -- to, uh, see if we have  
2 any public comment.

3 English: No immediate public comments at this time.

4 Christenson: Okay, so that'll bring us to the consent agenda,  
5 and I'm going to need a -- uh -- a motion to approve  
6 the, uh -- in a second to approve the agenda for  
7 today.

8 Green: Motion to approve the agenda, Rick Green, DFG.

9 Larson: Seconded.

10 Christenson: Okay, and then we're supposed to do a voice vote.

11 I guess, uh -- we can just all speak up. Uh --  
12 because I -- I -- if you guys use the little hand  
13 thing, I can't see them all, so -- is there anyone  
14 that doesn't -- is there any -- how about let's do it  
15 this way. Is there anyone that does not approve the  
16 minutes?

17 Vakalis: I have -- I have a question, uh --

18 (CROSSTALK)

19 Christenson: -- the agenda. Yes?

20 Vakalis: Yeah, this is George Vakalis, uh -- on Item 10 Delta,  
21 uh -- this is George Vakalis again. I do not plan on  
22 giving a presentation. I thought they had already  
23 taken this off but, uh, I will address different  
24 issues as they come up.

25 Christenson: Noted. Okay. With those chang- -- with that

1 change, striking 10 Delta, is there anyone that  
2 objects to approving the agenda? Hearing nothing,  
3 we'll -- the agenda's approved, uh -- the next thing  
4 would be the LEPC appointments, uh -- and I'd like to  
5 entertain a motion and a second to confirm, uh, an  
6 LEPC appointment from Juneau, Christopher Russel (ph).

7 Vakalis: Vakalis, uh -- so moved.

8 Green: Green, second.

9 Christenson: Okay, so since -- since voting on Teams or Zoom or  
10 whatever we're on is a little difficult, I'm going to  
11 -- I'm going to by exception too. Is there any --  
12 any, uh -- any nays? Anyone who objects to the -- to  
13 that nomination? Okay. Then, hearing none, uh, that  
14 motion is -- is approved, uh -- third thing on here is  
15 the dates for future SERCs, uh -- spring we have  
16 slated for 22 April, 2022 and there may have been a  
17 date put out there for October, uh -- in the fall,  
18 2022, but, uh -- it's so far out that we're not going  
19 to actually schedule the date right now. Uh -- my  
20 notes say we need to vote on that. Is that true, Roy?

21 English: Yes, sir.

22 Christenson: Okay. Do I have a -- a motion and a second?

23 Vakalis: Vakalis, so moved.

24 Green: Green, second.

25 Christenson: Anyone object? Okay, April 22nd, 2022. And then

1 fall will be to de- -- be determined. The state  
2 agency reports, uh -- from Mr. Fisher and from DEC,  
3 uh, are -- have been provided in materials, and so  
4 we're not going to, uh -- discuss them here unless  
5 there's any -- anyone has any comments or discussion  
6 on them. Okay. Uh -- next, Local Emergency Planning  
7 Committee Association -- the status report, uh, I had  
8 -- the note I have says that there will be comments in  
9 New Business. Uh, the LEPCA agenda written copy was  
10 approved and the previous mini- -- meeting minutes,  
11 uh, I don't -- I think that was the same transcript  
12 issue, because it says the wri- -- written copy for  
13 approval will be in the spring. The next item would  
14 be the Local Emergency Planning Committee Status  
15 Reports, and that notes that that is suspended and the  
16 reports are by exception only, uh -- do we have any  
17 LEPCs that would like to speak and, uh -- uh -- in  
18 this is- -- in this, uh, section? Hearing none, we'll  
19 move onto Old Business, and, uh -- in the agenda it  
20 shows the, uh, workgroups and the committee reports  
21 that have been provided.

22 Watkins: Can I please say something?

23 Christenson: Yes, you can.

24 Watkins: Okay, it's Kathy Watkins (ph). I'm the, uh, current  
25 chair for the, uh, citizen core (ph) for the SERT

1 program, and I just --

2 Christenson: Hi, Kathy.

3 Watkins: I want to say three things. One is that I did resign,  
4 uh, as the committee chair effective this month, uh --  
5 and I want to tell Kevin Reed (ph) thank you so much  
6 for the opportunity that he gave me to serve on this  
7 commission. It was a -- truly an honor to do that.  
8 And that, uh, I just hope that the new chair in the  
9 future, whoever the -- you guys choose will still  
10 continue to, uh, include the Alaska state SERT  
11 newsletter in the report. I think it's been -- uh --  
12 I hope it's been a valuable tool for some people out  
13 there who didn't know what SERT was and have now --  
14 have a better understanding of what SERT is and the --  
15 and the benefits that it can bring to your community.  
16 So, I want to tell the board thank you so much and  
17 everybody on the committee for the -- the opportunity  
18 that I had to serve with you guys. So, thank you very  
19 much.

20 Christenson: Well, thank you, Kathy, and you've done a lot of  
21 great work up there in -- in Willow with the SERT  
22 team, so much -- uh -- and the work with the  
23 community, so really -- it's really been appreciated.  
24 Thank you. Any other, uh, comments before we move  
25 onto New Business? Okay, uh -- I'll pass this over to

1 the -- for the safe -- Village Safe Water  
2 presentation.

3 Bohan: All right, good afternoon. Uh, this is Carrie Bohan  
4 with, uh, the DEC Facilities Programs, which does  
5 include Village Safe Water, and, uh -- I'm going to  
6 test my technology skills here and attempt to share a  
7 slide presentation with you. Uh -- let's see if I can  
8 make it work here. And I think I'm going to lose  
9 sight of you all, uh -- so, maybe someone could  
10 confirm for me that you're seeing just the slide  
11 presentation, not the notes section and all that?

12 Larson: That's correct, Karen.

13 Bohan: Excellent. All right. So, uh -- thank you for the  
14 opportunity to be here this afternoon and share a  
15 little bit of information about our programs. Uh, as  
16 I said, my name is Carrie Bohan. I'm the Facilities  
17 Programs Manager within the Division of Water at DEC,  
18 uh, and I'm sharing a little bit of an org chart here  
19 as far as the structure of my section, uh -- we're  
20 made up of three programs, Village Safe Water,  
21 Technical Assistance Program, and the State Revolving  
22 Fund Program. And I'm planning to give you kind of a  
23 broad overview of rural sanitation funding, and then  
24 also speak a little more specifically to the programs  
25 in our, uh -- in our section. And I would welcome



1 questions or -- or comments throughout, uh -- I'm  
2 fairly casual and I like to make sure that I'm hitting  
3 on the right topics that are of interest to you all,  
4 so please feel free to hop in if you have a question.  
5 Uh -- so, while I -- I'm mostly meant to focus on the  
6 work of our DEC programs, it's really important to  
7 acknowledge that we're just part of a much larger  
8 team, uh -- for overall sanitation funding and, uh --  
9 and support. So, this group of blocks that I've put  
10 up here, uh -- are meant to reflect our funding  
11 partners. Indian Health Service, USDA Rural  
12 Development, Environmental Protection -- Protection  
13 Agency, and then the State of Alaska is responsible  
14 pe- -- for providing, uh, matching funds to many of  
15 these federal funding sources, uh -- it -- in most  
16 cases, the funding comes through those federal  
17 agencies and -- and then is distributed to either the  
18 state of Alaska, uh -- Village Safe Water Program, or  
19 the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, primarily  
20 in the case of the Indian Health Service funding. And  
21 collectively, we are all working towards a shared goal  
22 of protecting public health and the infrastructure  
23 investments that have been made, uh -- in rural  
24 sanitation over the past, uh, 40 years, and also, uh -  
25 - working with the communities to help build



1 technical, managerial, and financial capacity. And  
2 so, both the state through DEC and -- and other  
3 agencies and ANTHC have programs that work towards  
4 these goals. So, for the state of Alaska, the remote  
5 maintenance worker program, which I'll talk a little  
6 bit more about, uh -- as we move through the  
7 presentation is our Technical Assistance Program and  
8 ANTHC has a similar but slightly different Tribal  
9 Utilities Support Program. Uh, we do work really  
10 closely to make sure that we're complementing each  
11 other, but not being duplicative of our efforts, uh --  
12 so it's -- it's a really great collaboration, uh --  
13 both -- both agencies also have a -- uh -- an  
14 organization -- a program that focuses on assisting  
15 communities with the financial and managerial capacity  
16 building. For ANTHC this is a program called the  
17 Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative. It's an  
18 opportunity for communities to work directly with  
19 ANTHC and join in with the other, uh -- I think  
20 there's, uh, 35 to 40 communities right now  
21 participating, and in -- in essence they're  
22 contracting ANTHC to take on the financial and  
23 managerial components of operating their water and  
24 wastewater utilities. And so, they do have some  
25 efficiencies gained in that, and some financial



1 savings. Uh, at the same time they work with the  
2 communities to keep building that local capacities in  
3 those areas. And then, at the state, uh -- in the  
4 Department of Commerce Community and Economic  
5 Developments, uh -- Community and Regional Affairs  
6 Division, the remote maintenance workers' sister  
7 program, uh -- Rural Utility Business Advisor Program,  
8 works directly with rural comments on financial and  
9 managerial aspects. Uh, things like, uh -- creating  
10 budgets and maintaining their, uh -- collection policy  
11 and, uh -- just a- -- all the bits and pieces that are  
12 required to maintain a sustainable, uh, utility. So,  
13 uh -- many of you may have heard through various, uh,  
14 means a little bit about the work that Village Safe  
15 Water and ANTHC do. Uh -- and I don't really have a  
16 gauge on -- on how familiar everyone is, so I  
17 apologize if I'm diving a little too deeply here, but,  
18 uh -- we together support about 200 rural communities,  
19 uh -- and we divvy up our support for engineering  
20 services. Uh, so, ANTHC provides support to about,  
21 uh, two thirds of the communities, and Village Safe  
22 Water provides engineering support to about the other  
23 third, uh, so we -- we provide support to all the, uh,  
24 communities that don't have, uh, primarily an -- uh --  
25 uh -- native Alaskan population, but, uh, we sort of



1 have a -- a hodge podge of communities spread all  
2 across the state, uh, and that primarily is based on  
3 the staffing levels at the two agencies. Uh -- so, as  
4 we move forward into the next couple of slides, it  
5 starts to get a little confusing, but, uh --  
6 regardless of which agency is supporting the  
7 community, if they're eligible for -- for one of the  
8 funding sources that are identified across the top  
9 here, then -- then they're eligible. Uh, there's  
10 often some confusion, uh -- people will hear well,  
11 that's a -- that's an ANTHC community and have the  
12 perception that they don't have access to resources  
13 and funding that are administered through VSW, so, uh  
14 -- just want to make that point clear, that, uh --  
15 communities get -- are -- are equally eligible for the  
16 support and services, uh, despite which lead agency is  
17 providing, uh, their engineering support. And this  
18 group of agencies, uh -- work together on a very  
19 regular basis. I probably speak to each of the  
20 funding agencies at least once if not more a week, and  
21 we, uh -- get together on a monthly basis to talk  
22 about ongoing projects and community needs. So, it's  
23 a very regular and ongoing conversation. So, as I was  
24 saying, trying to not make it too convoluted here,  
25 but, uh -- on the -- the left hand side, you'll see



1 these three sort of barrels of funding. The state of  
2 Alaska, USDA, and EPA. They all feed into what we  
3 call the Capital Improvement Project Funding System  
4 that is administered through Village Safe Water. Uh,  
5 adjacent to that, to the right, you'll see these other  
6 barrels -- Indian Health Service, and a couple of EPA  
7 barrels. Uh -- they feed into a separate funding  
8 system that's administered through IHS, Indian Health  
9 Service, and ANTHC, uh -- that's the Sanitation  
10 Deficiency System. So, both of these funding systems  
11 function similarly, have slightly different  
12 eligibility criteria, slightly different, uh --  
13 evaluation criteria for projects, but we, uh -- all  
14 the agencies get together in the spring to evaluate  
15 projects for funding under both systems. So, again,  
16 we have, uh -- really strong collaboration on making  
17 sure that we're seeing a holistic picture of the  
18 project needs for all communities, and, uh -- and then  
19 making decisions that ensure no community is getting  
20 left out. Uh -- so, uh -- each of these funding  
21 agencies provide funding, uh -- collectively we're at  
22 about \$100 million a year. Uh -- of course, if the  
23 infrastructure bill that we're hearing about passes,  
24 that will bump up, uh, exponentially, uh -- and the  
25 funding can be used for planning, uh -- design, and



1 construction. So, the typical process for a project  
2 is that, uh -- the assigned engineer from either VSW  
3 or ANTHC will work with the community to identify  
4 project needs, uh -- the information pertaining to  
5 that particular project is entered into the Indian  
6 Health Service Sanitation Deficiency System Database,  
7 uh, and then one of the agencies -- uh -- the -- the  
8 community will apply for funding from one of the  
9 agencies for a planning project that usually takes  
10 about two years and results in a document that lays  
11 out the different alternatives for resolving the  
12 issue, and cost estimates. That planning document,  
13 then, also gets entered into the SDS system, and is  
14 sort of the golden ticket for applying for  
15 construction, uh -- and so construction can take, well  
16 -- design is maybe a one to two year process, and  
17 construction can take one to five years, depending on  
18 the complexity of the project. So, it is one thing  
19 that we often, uh, are faced with, is a very clearly  
20 identified project that -- in -- in an ideal world, we  
21 could fund and resolve instantaneously, and the  
22 reality is it's somewhere between a three to five year  
23 project to secure funding, conduct planning, design,  
24 and implement the project. So, I'll take just a  
25 minute to elaborate a little bit on Village Safe Water



1 specifically. Uh -- we have two main functions. One  
2 is as I've just described, to provide funding for  
3 capital improvement projects. But once those projects  
4 are funded, uh, for those communities in which VSW is  
5 the lead agency, our engineering staff will provide  
6 project management and oversight for those capital  
7 improvement projects. And -- and, uh -- I assume you  
8 guys can all guess, but up here in the -- the top  
9 corner, that is a honey bucket hopper, uh -- and this  
10 is their wastewater operator, who is emptying the  
11 hopper in the middle of the winter, uh -- and then the  
12 photo below is, uh -- a couple gentlemen who are  
13 getting ready to -- to hook up a honey bucket hopper,  
14 uh, not in the winter. So, for each of the items I'm  
15 going to talk about moving forward, I'm trying to call  
16 out, uh, specific, uh -- maybe takeaways that I think  
17 are pertinent to this group when considering emergency  
18 response. Uh -- so, things that Village Safe Water  
19 has to offer up, I think, for the good of the group is  
20 we have very consistent routine, uh, conversations and  
21 contact with community leaders and water system,  
22 wastewater system operators. Uh, and so, often the  
23 engineers either at VSU or ANTHC, uh -- have better  
24 knowledge than -- than most about what's going on in  
25 the community, particularly in regards to the



1 sanitation system. Also, we maintain historical  
2 records, uh -- plant drawings, distribution system  
3 drawings, uh, that may be helpful in an emergency  
4 circumstance, uh, I'll be referring to the Tuluksak  
5 water treatment fire -- water treatment plant fire,  
6 uh, in a future slide, and one of the things that we  
7 were able to provide last winter when that was all  
8 happening was a planning document that had some really  
9 great, uh, reference materials that could be used  
10 while folks were making plans with how to move  
11 forward. Also, depending on the time of year, we may  
12 have crews on site in communities, uh, who are  
13 actively working on a project that's being funded by  
14 one of the agencies I -- I shared before and so we may  
15 be able to leverage those individuals in a community  
16 to help address an ongoing circumstance. Uh, also, we  
17 have a lot of historical knowledge within the group,  
18 uh -- as -- as a -- uh -- whole, on previously  
19 identified issues and perspectives. I think one  
20 aspect that is a big challenge in, uh, dealing with  
21 emergency circumstances, especially winter issues in  
22 our rural communities or their sanitation systems is  
23 that, uh -- yeah, some of these things maybe go- --  
24 have been going on for a much longer time for, uh --  
25 or are caused by, uh, something that we were already



1 well aware of, but to somebody who is new to the  
2 circumstance, it may not be that evident, and so we  
3 can offer some historical reference and perspective to  
4 some of the situations that are going on. Also, we're  
5 the path to funding, uh, through those agencies that I  
6 described earlier, so ultimately, it's important that  
7 we're in the know about what remaining needs haven't  
8 been met, so that we can tee up a project for -- for  
9 future funding. So, I'm going to, uh -- kind of  
10 shuffle over to our technical assistance program and  
11 talk for a minute about the remote maintenance  
12 workers, uh -- I think they're pretty well known  
13 throughout the state for -- for folks who deal with  
14 rural communities, uh -- so, this is a team of folks  
15 who provide onsite training and technical assistance  
16 and also emergency response to the 200 or so rural  
17 communities, uh -- it's jointly funded by EPA and DEC.  
18 And we here at DEC, uh, grant a good portion of money  
19 to five different regional tribal health consortiums,  
20 uh, as a -- a partnership opportunity. So, here is a  
21 slightly outdated map but, uh -- give you just a sense  
22 of our partners. Uh, the dark purple out of Kotzebue  
23 up at the top -- we have one RMW that works there in  
24 Kotzebue for the Maniilaq Association. Uh, and then  
25 moving down to the brown area. In Nome, we fund one



1 and a half RMW positions with Norton Sound Health  
2 Corporation, and then they fund, uh, the other half  
3 position. In Fairbanks, the turquoise area, we've got  
4 three RMWs that work, uh, for Tanana Chiefs  
5 Conference. In the red section, uh -- so, the -- the  
6 blue starts, which I appreciate may be a little harder  
7 to see here, but they indicate where the RMW actually  
8 resides. So, we have a grant with Yukon Kuskokwim  
9 Health Corporation, and they have two individuals that  
10 are physically located in Bethel, but the other three  
11 are living and working out of Emmonak, St. Mary's, and  
12 Holy Cross. Then we have one RMW with Bristol Bay  
13 Area Health Corporation in Dillingham. And then the  
14 remaining part of the state -- the kind of south  
15 central, southeast Kodiak, Aleutian, Pribilof, uh --  
16 we have DEC employees who live and work out of the  
17 Anchorage office that support these communities, and  
18 those are regions where, uh, we don't presently have a  
19 -- an external partner who is interested or willing to  
20 take on the -- the work in those regions, so we have,  
21 uh -- three and a half fulltime positions out of  
22 Anchorage, plus a supervisor who provides support not  
23 only to our staff but, uh -- to work with the  
24 supervisors at the health corporations to -- to make  
25 sure everybody's got what they need. And so, we're

1 always begging the RMWs to send us photos of their  
2 work, but, uh -- there's usually just such a small  
3 crew working on, uh -- emergencies that there's nobody  
4 to take a photo, so, uh -- a couple of them now are,  
5 uh -- showing their sense of humor and sending us  
6 selfies. So, this is Billy Westlock (ph). He, uh,  
7 lives in Emmonak, and this is actually a waterline  
8 break in Emmonak that he was responding to. Uh, this  
9 is a unique circumstance in that Billy lives in  
10 Emmonak. That's not, uh -- most communities don't get  
11 that -- that level of response, that quickly, but in  
12 almost all cases, when something's not functioning  
13 correctly in the water -- wastewater system, the RMW  
14 is the first person that the operator or the city  
15 manager or the city administrator will call for  
16 assistance. Uh, so this is, uh, a photo of Steve  
17 Evervoldt (ph), who just recently retired after 20  
18 some years with DEC's RMW program and they're, uh,  
19 putting a repair clamp on a wastewater sewer line, uh  
20 -- and so again, just -- just reiterating that, uh --  
21 the RMWs are really the first responders in sanitation  
22 emergencies. Uh, this final picture is, uh -- Shane  
23 McIntyre (ph). He lives in Bethel, and, uh -- the  
24 equipment that's behind Shane is a jetter and a hotbox  
25 and what they're doing is shooting high pressure hot



1 water into a frozen water line in Chefnak last year.  
2 Uh -- but the -- the takeaway that I -- I want to  
3 point out is that we have RMWs who -- who have, uh --  
4 worked with the same group of communities -- they're  
5 all assigned 10 to 15 specific communities, so they  
6 don't really cross over, uh -- unless there's a -- an  
7 extenuating circumstance, so we have RMWs that have  
8 worked with the same group of communities for 25 or  
9 more years, uh -- so they have very longstanding  
10 relationships with people in the communities, uh --  
11 they have generally more experience with the water and  
12 wastewater systems than anyone else in the community  
13 due to frequent turnover and the positions that --  
14 that deal with the utilities, and so they're just, uh  
15 -- really incomparable resource. They're -- they're  
16 really invaluable to emergency response. Uh -- so  
17 while I've been focusing really on the programs within  
18 our division, I -- I want to make sure and acknowledge  
19 that we do have a group of programs focused  
20 specifically on wastewater within the Division of  
21 Water, and so whenever there is a wastewater  
22 emergency, they're very actively involved as well.  
23 But then we partner very closely with the Division of  
24 Environmental Health here at DEC, primarily the  
25 Drinking Water Program, uh, but also solid waste and

1 others when there's an emergency, uh -- the program  
2 manager at the Drinking Water Program, uh -- she and I  
3 talk multiple times a week and certainly water is an  
4 emergency going on. We're in constant contact, uh --  
5 they have both an environmental program specialist and  
6 an engineer assigned to each community. They work in  
7 a -- a regional fashion, but each community has a  
8 particular individual that's assigned to them, and in  
9 most cases they're all on a first name basis, uh --  
10 very good working relationships in almost all cases,  
11 so when things start to -- to, uh -- to go south if  
12 you will, the operators are quick to reach out to the  
13 Drinking Water Program for assistance, uh, and they  
14 also have a 24 hour emergency phone number. They're  
15 responsible for issuing boil water notices and other  
16 health advisories when there is an emergency. Uh, so  
17 we're in very close contact with them in all cases.  
18 So, just quickly, uh -- go through what I would call a  
19 typical emergency response circumstance. So, uh -- if  
20 you can imagine in the middle, the community  
21 identifies that there's a problem, generally the first  
22 response is that the operator or somebody in the  
23 community calls the remote maintenance worker.  
24 They'll begin identifying what materials are needed to  
25 resolve the issue and -- and procuring those

1 materials, and then getting out on site. Uh, the  
2 folks in the (inaudible - 00:40:39) region use our own  
3 snow machines, uh -- we use boats and planes and what  
4 have you, uh -- but we base them regionally so they  
5 can respond in a very short timeframe. Uh -- also, if  
6 there's a need, uh -- the community will reach out to  
7 RUBA for assistance with drafting emergency ordinances  
8 and di- -- disaster declarations and things of that  
9 nature. At the same time, the operators likely call  
10 the Drinking Water Program, and they'll issue a boil  
11 water notice if it's warranted, help develop a set --  
12 sampling plan for, uh -- taking whatever samples are  
13 needed to demonstrate that the system can come off the  
14 boil water notice, and also doing engineering review  
15 of any plans or system modifications that need to take  
16 place. Uh, generally about this time, the Village  
17 Safe Water or ANTHC engineer is also informed of the  
18 ongoing circumstance, and they'll start to work with  
19 the community on developing long-term solutions, and  
20 pursuing funding opportunities. And while all of this  
21 is going on, obviously we're feeding information to  
22 Megan so she can share it with others. So, I'll just,  
23 uh -- use again, as an example, the water treatment  
24 plant (inaudible - 00:41:56) fire in Tuluksak, uh,  
25 back in January. Uh -- I have a very clear

1           recollection of this circumstance. I was at Home  
2           Depot on a Saturday, walking down the aisle, got a  
3           text message from Megan that said she'd been informed  
4           by the Village Safe Water engineer assigned to work  
5           with Tuluksak that, uh -- that the (inaudible -  
6           00:42:13) was on fire. I reached out to the remote  
7           maintenance worker program manager who in turn reached  
8           out to the assigned RMW out of Bethel, uh -- within  
9           seconds, he was sending us photos, uh -- and so, we  
10          had a pretty clear picture of what was going on. I  
11          reached out by text to ANTHC, and to our EPA funding  
12          partner, and, uh -- you know, in the span of about  
13          five minutes, the folks in our, uh -- larger team if  
14          you will, uh -- I could confirm that everyone who  
15          needed to know was in the loop and -- and of course,  
16          the community had reached out to the RMW directly, and  
17          also to -- to our Village Safe Water engineer, uh --  
18          and then, uh -- Megan and Cindy Christian (ph), who's  
19          the Drinking Water Program Manager, and I started to  
20          coordinate from there, so, uh -- it doesn't take but a  
21          couple of minutes to get our whole group rallied and -  
22          - and, uh -- moving forward. And then, uh -- as we  
23          saw, particularly with this instance, the health  
24          corporations have their own set of responsibilities as  
25          the public healthcare provider in the regions, and so

1 even outside of the scope of what they do under their  
2 remote maintenance worker grant through DEC, they take  
3 on, uh -- additional responsibilities and start to  
4 take action where it's needed. So, while I have  
5 everyone's attention, I thought I would also just  
6 share a little bit more information about a couple of  
7 the other programs, uh -- and -- and why they might be  
8 relevant to the conversation of -- of emergency  
9 response. So, going back to our technical assistance  
10 program, and their, uh, operator certification  
11 program, this is a group that is responsible for  
12 certifying water and wastewater operators, uh -- so  
13 all water systems that serve 25 or more individuals  
14 but then also the larger wastewater systems that  
15 serve, uh -- 500 or more individuals, and that  
16 certification -- there's four levels for each water  
17 and wastewater -- and it's based on the complexity of  
18 the system, so we have a lot of information about each  
19 specific system in order to make that classification,  
20 uh, and that -- that may be relevant information to  
21 share in an emergency circumstance. Uh, we also  
22 facilitate operator training and other, uh, support  
23 that can -- can go to, uh, assist the communities and  
24 the operators in being successful and operating their  
25 systems and just as an example, uh, in the last couple



1 of years, the team has started producing these  
2 calendars, uh -- each year, and I appreciate it's  
3 really small here, but, uh -- the text in the -- in  
4 the boxes for each day reflect things that the  
5 operator or maybe the city clerk or the administrator  
6 need to be aware of, uh -- and plan for. So, whether  
7 it's paying their taxes, or turning in water samples,  
8 or submitting a report, uh -- and I primarily bring  
9 this up because we are finalizing this calendar for  
10 this year, uh -- for two -- or pardon me, 2022. And,  
11 uh -- we have some flexibility about adding additional  
12 things, so if there is some type of reminder that this  
13 group feels would be useful to include in a calendar  
14 like this for rural communities, uh, we do have an  
15 opportunity to -- to make some additions here and we'd  
16 be happy to have discussions about other reminders  
17 that -- that y'all might think could fit in here. Uh  
18 -- other ta- -- takeaways are, again, we have constant  
19 contact with operators and owners of water and  
20 wastewater systems, and we maintain a database with  
21 contact information, uh -- and specific data about  
22 those systems and that may be useful to others in an  
23 emergency circumstance. And then, uh -- again, I  
24 think the Village Safe Water program rightfully so  
25 gets a lot of attention, uh -- but we also have



1 another funding program that I think is -- is a little  
2 bit, uh, less promoted, less well known and that's our  
3 state revolving loan fund. And this is something  
4 that's funded primarily through grants from EPA, uh,  
5 with state match and it allows us to offer very low  
6 interest loans to water and wastewater utilities, uh,  
7 and public water systems and municipalities, to do  
8 water, wastewater, and water quality improvement  
9 projects, uh -- the interest rates these days are  
10 somewhere, uh, around 2%. And we can make loans of up  
11 to 30 years, and in some cases, we're able to  
12 subsidize those loans, uh, at -- at a very substantial  
13 rate, so we do that by reducing the principal that's,  
14 uh, due for repayment, uh -- I think I've mentioned  
15 that, that we -- we actually bring back loan payments  
16 from previous loans and add them to our, uh -- fund so  
17 we -- that's where you get the -- the term revolving  
18 is we're continuing to grow the loan fund as, uh --  
19 older loans are repaid. And there's been a -- a  
20 substantial amount of work done at the federal level  
21 between EPA and FEMA to make sure that this is a -- a  
22 valuable funding source, uh, when working in emergency  
23 circumstances, uh -- I think after super storm Sandy,  
24 there was a recognition that there needed to be an  
25 improved relationship there, so, uh -- the -- the SRF

1 funds can be used as a bridge loan for communities  
2 until FEMA funds become available, and there had been  
3 some, uh -- challenges to making that work and -- and  
4 EPA and FEMA have done a really great job of trying to  
5 smooth that out so states can navigate that process a  
6 little more easily, uh -- so we can make funds  
7 available for emergency circumstances. Again, we have  
8 existing relationships with communities and, uh -- and  
9 the systems. So, just a couple of, uh, last thoughts  
10 because I know you, uh -- you have a big agenda today.  
11 I don't want to take too much time, uh -- I guess I  
12 just want to reinforce that within this larger  
13 network, uh, that I've described, we have a really  
14 strong established network for responding to  
15 sanitation emergencies, uh -- we do have funding for  
16 long-term capital improvement projects, uh --  
17 unfortunately, we don't really have access to much in  
18 the way of emergency funding, but ANTHC does have a  
19 small bit of emergency funding each year. I think  
20 they limit each individual allocation to around  
21 \$5,000, but, uh -- we can certainly help facilitate  
22 getting in touch with them if -- if a circumstance is  
23 appropriate. I think -- so, that's all I have. I'd  
24 be happy to answer any questions.

25 Christenson: Okay, I'm not hearing any questions.



1 Bohan: Fair enough.

2 Christenson: Thank you -- thank you, Carrie.

3 Bohan: Sure. Thank you.

4 Christenson: I think next up, we have Kathy Shea. She's going  
5 to talk about haz- -- the -- hazmat's -- hazmat  
6 response plan checklist. Kathy?

7 Shea: Good afternoon, everybody. Uh, thank you, Carrie,  
8 that was really great, uh, information for us, and  
9 while Roy is pulling up my presentation, uh, I just  
10 wanted to note Carrie, you mentioned that you reached  
11 out to Meg during some of the, uh -- during the --  
12 especially I think it was the Tuluksak response, and  
13 that's Meg Collier (ph) at DEC, who's our disaster  
14 coordinator, if that wasn't clear to everybody who was  
15 listening. Excuse me. And I know Roy is working on  
16 the presentation that I have. Perfect. It's not --  
17 that'll work. Uh, so yeah, so good afternoon, I'm  
18 Kathy Shea with the Alaska Department of Environmental  
19 Conservation. I do, uh, the community right to know  
20 coordination for DEC, including the Tier 2 reporting,  
21 and I just wanted to present a little bit on a new  
22 tool that we've developed over the past couple of  
23 years to help LEPCs develop their hazardous materials  
24 emergency response plan. Uh, Roy, if you could go to  
25 the next slide, please? Uh, you know, one of the key

1           responsibilities that LEPCs have in, uh -- you know,  
2           as part of their -- their ongoing activities is the  
3           development of an emergency response plan. Uh,  
4           they're meant to -- specifically for hazardous  
5           materials, and they're meant to review it annually or,  
6           uh, as community conditions change. You know, if they  
7           get a giant new facility with a -- an extremely  
8           hazardous substance in the middle of their review  
9           process, uh, they might want to do their planning a  
10          little earlier. Uh, they usually should submit that  
11          plan to the SERC for review, and then they evaluate  
12          whether or not they have the resources, uh, to  
13          implement the plan, they implement the plan, and then  
14          they exercise the plan, and -- you know, they go in  
15          that circle. Uh -- the facilities with extremely  
16          hazardous substances also have the responsibility to  
17          share their emergency response coordinator's name with  
18          the LEPC, and they're supposed to participate in the  
19          planning process. Uh -- so, that's just a little  
20          history of what the LEPCs are supposed to do, and the  
21          facilities, uh -- next slide, please. And then, the  
22          next two slides are just -- you know, I'm not going to  
23          read them, but they are the nine mandatory and minimum  
24          requirements that are meant to be in the plan per  
25          federal and state statute. Uh -- next slide, and then

1 go ahead onto the next one, too, please. And so, we  
2 developed this checklist, and what it does is helped  
3 provide an outline that the LEPCs can use if they want  
4 to meet their hazardous materials response plan  
5 requirements. I think I'll just state plan from now  
6 on. Uh, so if you can go to the next slide, that  
7 would be great. It's a little bit of a closer look at  
8 what information is required -- or is outlined on this  
9 plan, and basically all -- each of the sections in  
10 blue is one of those mandatory requirements that was  
11 on the previous, uh, couple of slides. And below  
12 that, you have ABC, which, uh -- which directs the  
13 planners and the readers to where they might find some  
14 of that information. And so, we refer people to the  
15 area and regional response plans that the Coast Guard,  
16 EPA, and DEC work on together, uh -- we refer to  
17 existing emergency plans that the LEPCs might already  
18 prepare, uh -- you know, the intent is that this  
19 checklist might be used as an appendix to those  
20 existing emergency plans, uh -- it's not meant to be a  
21 cumbersome process or just another -- you know,  
22 another plan. Uh -- we're hoping to make it easier,  
23 uh -- you know, by incorporating the work into the  
24 planning activities that are already going on, rather  
25 than having an entirely separate, uh -- planning



1 process just for hazardous materials. And so it's a  
2 tool, it's not required. Uh, we sent you a copy of  
3 the checklist. It's three pages long. I'm just  
4 showing you Page 1 today in the slides, uh -- but you  
5 can look, you know, in your meeting invite. If you  
6 would like to see the full checklist, I welcome and  
7 hope for comments on it. On its usability and what  
8 could make it better, uh, because I'm sure it's not  
9 perfect. It -- it's version one. So, that I think is  
10 all I have unless there are any questions if you want  
11 to go -- yeah, thanks.

12 Christenson: Well, thank you, Kathy, uh -- I'm not hearing any  
13 questions. Let's move onto Tom Vaden, uh, LEPC --  
14 LEPCA co-chair, and going to talk about, uh, the LEPCA  
15 workgroup.

16 Vaden: LEPCA -- can you hear me?

17 Christenson: Uh, I heard you then.

18 Vaden: Okay, so at Tab 10C shows us, uh, we want to do the  
19 primary (inaudible - 00:56:53) for the LEPC survey we  
20 did, and we did -- what we did is we, uh, had 18 of  
21 the 21 LEPCs respond to the survey, and, uh -- and  
22 then that's the results. And this is what we're  
23 trying to do, is give you a higher overview of you  
24 know -- of -- of what's going on with the LEPCs, and  
25 we'd like to address this at the LEPCA meeting in

1 April, and then forward it more to the SERC to kind of  
2 figure out how, you know -- if -- what we can do to  
3 come up with some solutions to the, uh -- workgroup  
4 findings and recommendations. Is there any questions?  
5 Well, if no questions, I'm going to go back on mute.

6 Christenson: Okay, thank you, Tom. Uh -- so, uh -- 10D was  
7 stricken from the agenda, uh -- George, did you have  
8 any -- anything to add?

9 Vakalis: Yes, thank you very much. So, if -- if you had the  
10 chance to look at some of the issues that was  
11 outlined, uh, you know, by the LEPC committees that  
12 worked on this, the workgroup, uh, these -- these  
13 really have been around since the very, very  
14 beginning. These same type of issues. Uh -- when the  
15 LEPCs and the SERC was first formed, it was to take  
16 care of, uh -- SERC (ph) Title 3, the community right  
17 to know. And it was funded primarily from DEC, and it  
18 was, uh -- a percentage of the funds generated from  
19 oil -- oil flowage, and as a result of that, uh -- the  
20 LEPCs, uh -- were not quite as encumbered, uh, as they  
21 are now, and I -- I'll explain why that is. So, just  
22 dealing with the community right to know, uh -- and  
23 you saw on the previous chart, uh, by the previous,  
24 uh, speaker, some of the requirements just under the  
25 community right to know that the LEPCs are required to



1 do -- and they were doing that to the best of their  
2 ability. They were getting funding from, uh, the  
3 flowage fund, uh -- they were hiring, uh, contractors  
4 -- a lot of them hired outside contractors because  
5 they did not have the expertise, and for the most  
6 part, they got buy-in from the local jurisdictions.  
7 Keeping in mind that some of the LEPCs are a part of  
8 an LEPD, and so, uh -- that makes it a little bit more  
9 complicated, uh, but, uh, they -- they -- they were  
10 able to go ahead and do the most -- for the most part,  
11 and of course, uh -- you know, the -- the Department  
12 of, uh -- Military and Veterans Affairs assisted  
13 wherever they could in that endeavor. But at some  
14 point, uh -- in, uh -- a few years ago, it was  
15 determined that you know, uh -- first of all, the --  
16 the oil flowage funds had started to dry up. If you  
17 look at the state of Alaska, and you look at  
18 everything that you have to deal with when it comes to  
19 potential dangers, you know -- certainly chemical  
20 spills and material spills, uh -- certainly are -- are  
21 one of the dangers, but you also have dangers of  
22 forest fires. You also have -- in some areas you have  
23 hurricane winds. Uh, in other areas you have  
24 tsunamis. Uh, you have massive flooding throughout  
25 the state, in an awful lot of flooding prone areas.

1 And I can go on and on, uh -- snow load problems. Uh,  
2 you name it. And so, as a result of that, uh -- the  
3 LEPCs, uh -- were getting more involved in some of  
4 these other activities, because, uh -- you know, in  
5 some of the communities, the, uh -- the materials or  
6 the hazardous materials part was not really a major,  
7 major threat. And so, it was decided, uh -- based on  
8 communities from LEPCs as well as the SERC as a whole,  
9 to become all hazards. And when they started to  
10 become all hazards, uh -- I think the difficulty  
11 became more and more clear for these LEPCs for the  
12 same reasons that they were having difficulties with  
13 just dealing with the hazardous materials. Now that  
14 was compounded but yet most of their time was dealt  
15 with all these other type of dangers. Uh, one of the  
16 things that, uh -- is prevalent -- and that is that  
17 your smaller communities or those places where you  
18 have an LEPD, they -- they really just can't, uh --  
19 they don't have the resources available that the  
20 larger communities do, uh -- both in manpower and also  
21 monetarily. Uh, larger communities that are  
22 organized, communities from the standpoint of they're  
23 an actual government entity, they have a tax base, et  
24 cetera -- they -- they're able to go ahead and do what  
25 has to be done to protect the public, to include, uh -

1 - you know, the mandates of -- as -- as outlined by  
2 SERC Title 3 as well as all the other dangers out  
3 there. But where you really run into the problem is  
4 your smaller, smaller communities, and those  
5 communities that are so separated under the LEPD, uh,  
6 system that, uh -- it -- it's just a challenge, and I  
7 think, you know, the workgroup, what they've come up  
8 with, clearly outlines what that challenge is, and so  
9 I think you know, from our perspective as a SERC, uh,  
10 we certainly ought to allow them to come up with what  
11 they think suitable recommendations would be as to how  
12 to solve some of these problems, but I do think also  
13 as a SERC, since the SERC -- just its entity itself --  
14 you know, covers -- has an awful lot of resources  
15 available to it, and has to prioritize what's the most  
16 important thing. Yes, we have to comply with the  
17 federal law, that's a given. But there's other things  
18 out there, so I think we really need to see what kind  
19 of suggestions they come up with as far as solutions,  
20 and then we as an L- -- uh -- as a SERC figure out how  
21 we can help them, uh, in -- in orchestrating these  
22 solutions, or perhaps even changing the format of the  
23 LEPC, because it's pretty flexible as to how your  
24 LEPCs can operate. The one thing in the -- in the  
25 title is clear. You have to have one SERC and at



1 least one LEPC. So, I think what we need to do is  
2 based on recommendations coming forward, uh -- next  
3 spring, I think we really need to take a hard look and  
4 figure out what should, uh -- this really look like  
5 going forward? And what should the missions be going  
6 forward for the LEPCs? So, that's -- that's -- that's  
7 my piece. Uh -- and that's my comment on it. Uh, it  
8 is -- it is a challenging issue. And then, with the  
9 funding drying up, uh, like it has, uh -- you know,  
10 that makes it even more difficult for some of these  
11 communities, smaller communities. I will tell you  
12 that some of the things -- I looked at, uh -- you  
13 know, what the spending plans were in 2019, uh -- but  
14 when we were using operating dollars and they had  
15 operating dollars available to them, for the most  
16 part, all of those endeavors, uh, that they undertook  
17 with those funds were actually authorized because they  
18 had to come forward with a plan as to how they were  
19 going to spend those monies and, uh -- even though in  
20 today's times, when the money is, uh -- definitely not  
21 there, or -- or short in a lot of areas, uh, maybe we  
22 need to relook at what's authorized for them to  
23 actually spend the money on as well. So, I -- I think  
24 it's -- I think it's a complete reevaluation of the  
25 LEPCs and -- and what we really expect from them. Uh

1 -- and that's the end of my comments.

2 Christenson: Those are really good comments, George. Thank  
3 you. Any other -- does anyone else have any comments?  
4 Okay, uh -- next we have a listening session regarding  
5 ongoing COVID impacts and, uh -- it's not really a  
6 formal presentation, it's just an opportunity for SERC  
7 members to voice any concerns or issues. Hearing  
8 nothing, uh -- other state agency and ex officio  
9 reports, uh -- we received a DOT written report. I  
10 don't know if anyone is discussing that or if it's  
11 just available. Okay, well, it's Tab 11, so it's  
12 available to the commission. Informational items, uh  
13 -- they were provided as reference material. There's  
14 SERC policies and procedures manual from 2018, the  
15 SERC bylaws and the State Homeland Security Grant  
16 Allocations for 2021. Which brings us to our second  
17 public comment period. Roy, do we have anyone on for  
18 public comment?

19 English: I'm checking now. I do not see anyone wishing to  
20 participate for public comment.

21 Christenson: Okay. Well, that brings us to closing comments.  
22 Uh -- so, first of all, I really appreciate the  
23 presentations that we had. I know it takes a lot of  
24 time to put those together, but, uh -- you know, I  
25 know I learned something, and I think probably



1 everyone else did. It was, uh -- really good material  
2 be -- for the -- for this group here. Uh -- so, I  
3 want to just pass over really quick, Tiffany, uh --  
4 did you have any closing comments?

5 Larson: Yeah, thanks, Craig. Uh, I also really appreciate the  
6 presentations here today, and as the, uh, two  
7 presenters from DEC stated, that if you've got any  
8 follow up questions, please do reach out to them, uh -  
9 - or myself or the commissioner, and we'd be more than  
10 happy to help answer those questions. So, thank you.

11 Christenson: Okay. Well, I guess that concludes this meeting.  
12 I don't have a gavel, but if I did I would rap it on  
13 the table. Uh -- Roy, am I missing anything? Is  
14 there anything else before we let people go and enjoy  
15 the snow?

16 English: Uh, no, sir. Uh, that -- that would be it. Uh -- so,  
17 at this point, I guess we're looking for a motion to  
18 close the meeting.

19 Christenson: Okay, sounds good. Do we have a motion and a  
20 second to close the meeting?

21 Vakalis: Vakalis, so moved.

22 Christenson: Can I get a second?

23 Larson: Tiffany Larson (ph), seconded.

24 Christenson: Is there any objections to closing the meeting?

25 Okay. Well, everyone have a good weekend, and we're

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out of here. See you later.



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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Taylor Normington, do hereby certify that I have listened to the recording of the foregoing; further that the foregoing transcript, Pages 1 through 43, was reduced to typewritten form from the digital recording; and that the foregoing is an accurate record of the recording as above transcribed in this matter.

DATED this 16th day of November, 2021.

*Taylor Normington*

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