

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
Friday, October 9, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jamie Sunderland, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LEPC
Kevin Spillers, Anchorage LEPC
Stephen Jones, Bristol Bay LEPC
Libby Bengtson, Copper River LEPC
Michael Paschall, Delta-Greely LEPC
Chris Noel, Denali LEPC
Doug Fleming, Fairbanks LEPC
Michelle Brown, Juneau LEPC
Abner Hoage, Ketchikan LEPC
Scott Walden, Kenai Peninsula LEPC
Tom Trosvig, Kodiak Island LEPC
Casey Cook, Mat-Su LEPC
Tom Vaden, Nome LEPC
Hina Kilioni, North Slope Borough LEPC
Linda Van Houten, Northern Southeast LEPC
Billy Lee, Northwest Arctic LEPC
Sandy Dixon, Petersburg LEPC
Dave Miller, Sitka LEPC
Brian Templin, Southern Southeast LEPC
George Keeney, Valdez LEPC
Jamie Roberts, Wrangell LEPC

GUESTS:

Michael O'Hare, Director, DHS&EM
Bryan Fisher, DHS&EM
Jeffrey Lafferty, DHS&EM
Paul Valley, DHS&EM
Jared Woody, DHS&EM
Amanda Cooper, DHSS
Heather Ridge, Mat-Su Borough
David Caplan, DHS&EM
Ernie Misewicz, Fairbanks
Stephen Grohol, Fed Ex Express
Tom Mattice, Juneau
John C. James, Joint Ops Center
Brenden Ryan, Northwest Arctic Borough
Corey Padron, KGB
Frederick Brower, North Slope Borough
Curtis Thomas, Ketchikan

John Lewis, Delta-Greely LEPC
Pierre Aslou, Anchorage
Jade Gamble, ADEC
Carl J. Piscoya, Kawarak
Marty Peterson, Craig
Andyle Booth, Juneau (ARC)
Flower Cole, Delta-Greely LEPC
Terri Possen, Anchorage, Red Cross
Taylor Elbert, North Slope Borough
Patricia Gargan
Wesley Holloway, Sitka
Sam Kimmel, Denali LEPC
Jerry L. Kiffer, Ketchikan
Tom Gemmell, Juneau Red Cross
Don Gillie, PDC Eng
Bryon Hill, PDC ENG
Audry A. Brown, Delta-Greely LEPC
Yukon Tanner, Mat-Su LEPC
Deneen Nichols, AFD
Jim Cedeno, Old Harbor
Bobbi Anne Barnowsky, Alutiq Tribe of Old Harbor
Joan Behrends, City of Cordova
Norman Straub, Mat-Su LEPC
Steven Russell, ADEC
Stephen Wilson, AYNG

I. **CALL TO ORDER - Co-Chairs. Mr. Brian Templin and Mr. Dave Miller**

Co-Chair Templin called the LEPC Association Meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

A. **Pledge of Allegiance**

B. **Welcome and Introductions**

LEPC representatives introduced themselves.

Co-Chair Templin and Co-Chair Miller welcomed everyone to the meeting. Co-Chair Miller felt the conference had been excellent.

C. **Administrative Announcements from Co-Chairs**

Co-Chair Miller gave a safety briefing. He reminded everyone to turn their cell phones off or on silent. He also reminded them that when they speak they need to turn their microphone on and state their name.

II. **APPROVAL OF April 10, 2015 MINUTES**

Tom Vaden, Nome LEPC, MOVED to approve the minutes of April 10, 2015 as presented. Jamie Sunderland, Aleutians/Pribilof Islands LEPC, seconded the motion. It was noted that April 20, 2015 in the header should be April 10, 2015. MOTION passed unanimously as amended.

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

The Agenda was adopted as presented without objection.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

V. **CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

A. **Public Comments**

No public comments at this time.

B. **Treasurer's Report**-there was no treasurer's report.

C. **SERC Finance Committee Update**

SERC Finance Committee update – Mr. Sunderland reported the committee met a month ago and voted on some small changes to some grants.

D. **Homeland Security & Emergency Management**

1. **Strategic Plans & Leadership** – Mr. Michael O'Hare Director, DHS&EM, went over some personnel changes. He thanked John Madden for his service as the previous director. He then made a presentation to Jamie Sunderland, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LEPC, who is retiring. Mr. O'Hare introduced Mr. Mike Sutton the new deputy director. Mr. Sutton stated that the focus of the State and the Division will be toward community resilience. The Commissioner's three strategic goals are a viable Arctic strategy, improving the emergency management capability of the Department, and increasing their outreach and community capabilities. In light of this, the Division's goals are (1) support and improve Alaska's rural community resilience; (2) improve DHS&EM's process internally and externally; and (3) find the right emergency management tools to help the team with their jobs. They will refocus their efforts and programs towards improving their preparedness, their ability to respond, and recovery capabilities. He stated that they are also looking at having one preparedness conference a year in conjunction with spring LEPCA meeting, and then have regional conferences that are focused on that region's needs. The Division would also like to help the communities with

grant paperwork. They would like to work with other entities that have grants to leverage the grants, to work together to increase community resilience and preparedness.

In response to Mr. Paschall, Mr. O'Hare stated that they will look at the website and make the necessary changes to make it easier to access. In response to Mr. Jones regarding the conferences, Mr. O'Hare stated that concept was to have the large Anchorage preparedness conferences in the springtime, and then look at the resources they expend for the second and do one or two regional conferences in the fall.

2. **Operations** – Mr. Bryan Fisher, Operations Program Manager, reported it was a busy summer with flooding on the North Slope and fires around the state with the second most acreage burned in history in the state, including several urban interface fires. They were also involved in security with the International Arctic Council meeting that was held in Anchorage. This included President Obama visiting Alaska. In addition there were the landslides in Sitka and the first sea storm in August. Staff has also continued working on the mutual aid compact legislation and working for the SERC's Interstate Mutual Aid Committee.

Mr. Spillers stated that the SITREP is a complex document and they were interested in how it is pulled together with a lot of the events. He was interested in talking to someone about the process. Mr. Fisher stated he could contact David Lee.

3. **Preparedness** – Mr. Jeffrey Lafferty, Preparedness Program Manager, reported that with respect to outreach, they did numerous presentations to high school, private businesses, etc., attended many health fairs, and got the earthquake simulator out as much as they could. Public Information Officer (PIO) courses are always in high demand. They are developing a strategy and long-term goals to do more rural outreach. Training has also had a very busy year. They have developed the overall state training and exercise plan and have been working their way down the list. Staff has worked to develop a consolidated training database to help track who has been trained within the state and who has gone outside the state to train. With respect to exercise, the initial planning meeting for Alaska Shield 2016 has been held. The mid-planning meeting for Alaska Shield is scheduled for November 17-19. The Great Alaska Shakeout is scheduled for October 15 at 10:15 a.m. Currently 77,500 people have registered for it. Mr. Lafferty also stated that they are currently planning for the next conference. One day of the conference will be devoted to the After Action Review for Alaska Shield 2016.

In response to Ms. Dixon, Mr. Lafferty stated that the training database is currently available internally. In response to Co-Chair Templin, Mr. O'Hare stated that they still plan to get the earthquake simulator to Southeast.

4. **Planning** – Mr. Paul Valley, Planning Program Manager, stated they started

the initial review and updating of their emergency operations plan. They are working towards completion of their Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). Several hazardous materials/emergency preparedness program training sessions and exercises have been conducted in the past six months. They visited LEPCs in Barrow and Ketchikan. A new Tier II reporting database is being developed. He reported that in the last six months they have reviewed and created nine new SCERPs. Five SCERPs have been updated, and 17 are currently in the works. The team worked with the Department of Education and Early Development on EOP planning and training for schools. With respect to mitigation, Mr. Valley reported Craig and Ketchikan have been awarded TsunamiReady status. The Division has received the Western States Seismic Policy Council's national annual award of excellence for multi-jurisdictional planning for the Alaska Shield 2014 exercise. Mr. Valley reported they closed out three major projects with FEMA as well as awarded numerous Hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects that they are working currently. They worked with the Mat-Su Borough on three applications specifically for residential acquisition and buy-outs with respect to the Matanuska River. In terms of critical infrastructure protection, they continue working with the Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection (APIP). An area of emphasis moving forward with APIP is the Cyber Coordination Group. A new annex to the EOP is a cyber incident annex. They are also involved in the Regional Resiliency Assessment Program, a federal DHS program. An Alaska/Canada cross-border study was conducted in terms of supply chain and transportation issues during a disaster. It is in the final stages of being written. With respect to the Security Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) program, due to changes in the State Homeland Security Grant Program, it is no longer a requirement that an SVA be accomplished for those seeking grant funding. The program will probably be scaled down due to resources and manpower as well as some priority and functional changes. They are moving more towards a self-assessment approach to doing vulnerability assessments. Co-Chair Templin thanked Mr. Valley's staff for the work they have done with the school districts. Mr. Cook expressed his thanks for the assistance in getting the Matanuska River mitigation project in.

VI. LEPC VERBAL STATUS REPORTS

Anchorage LEPC – Mr. Spillers reported that their comprehensive emergency operations plan was promulgated in June and has been forwarded to the SERC for their review. They have also been updating their LEPC bylaws. In addition Anchorage had a change-over in administration and also had the Arctic Summit. With respect to the bylaws, they had to determine when they were in the LEPC lane and when they are in the Office of Emergency Management lane, which was difficult to sort out. The key piece was the statutory requirements references and compliance matrix. Co-Chair Templin stated he would be interested in seeing the matrix. Mr. Spillers stated it was on their website.

Valdez LEPC – Mr. Keeney reported they have been reviewing their bylaws. They observed and participated in the BP oil spill drill last month. They are now listening to locals versus the scripted process they do. He stated they are pushing the Great Alaska Shakeout. He has meetings scheduled with the schools. They will do an active shooter exercise October 17. They will do a mass inoculation with the city council providing the vaccines on October 22. An awareness class will be held October 15 and 16. November 11-13 there will be a workshop in Fairbanks on tsunamis. He thanked the staff that puts on the Preparedness Conference.

Kodiak Island LEPC – Mr. Trosvig reported they have conducted several tabletop exercises, held ICS 300 and 400 training twice with another section scheduled for this fall. They have had good attendance at their quarterly LEPC emergency council meetings with 15 to 30 attendees. With respect to outreach, they manned an emergency preparedness booth at the Crab Festival in May. They participated in a fire prevention fair and emergency preparedness open house. They reprinted 1500 new copies of the Kodiak area emergency preparedness pamphlet. It is also available at their website in Spanish and Tagalog. They distributed several hundred emergency preparedness backpacks. They ramped up the EOC in late August for a fire at Chiniak.

Denali LEPC – Mr. Noel thanked the Division for the conference. The borough had a busy summer. They responded to the Rex Complex fires. They had a lot of help from other agencies. A homeowners' association has approached them about developing a Firewise program. The Alaska Division of Forestry sent a representative to go over the options for the homeowners' association. He stated they will continue to work on this. The City of Anderson continues to work towards a community wildfire protection plan. Following up on some after-action reviews of the fire, they are considering implementation of a mass notification system. They intend to do some shelter training with the school district. Along with the Red Cross they did some shelter surveys. They will participate in the Winterfest in the spring. They have passed on information on the Great Alaska Shakeout to the school district.

Wrangell LEPC – Ms. Roberts reported that due to retirements and moving away from the area they lost four members of the LEPC. They are waiting for approval from the borough on their replacements. They are working through a SCERP. The community has revised their website program, so the LEPC went through website training and are ready to launch the LEPC website. They worked with the public schools to develop a school crisis plan. They participated in a disaster management and emergency preparation course put on by the American College of Surgeons. They are working on compiling a list of community resources, both human and physical, that could be made available during an emergency. The hospital received funding to put in a CodeRED reverse 911 system. They spent time registering people, tested the system, and then lost funding. They are looking at how to remedy this.

Petersburg LEPC – Ms. Dixon reported she reviewed a plan called the Operation MMCMF, Mayhem, Mass Casualty and Mass Fatality. This is an exercise the hospital is proposing for August of 2016. It is designed to test their capabilities and will also challenge the fire department, EMS, and police departments. A high school teacher approached her about coastal resiliency. She has students interested in how to prepare, respond, and recover, so they are talking about emergency planning and what resources are available for them. Information has been provided to the public regarding fire prevention. She has done some online research about what preparedness materials

and resources are available to the community. They use CodeRED as their public notification. The issue is they only have so many long distance phone lines coming into the community so they have a lot of non-connects and re-calls. They tested their public notification siren and found some malfunctions which have been rectified. She reported she has received a pitch from Fast Command, a communication management system via the internet, but they are not willing to do this right now due to funding. It could eventually potentially replace the CodeRED system. Emergency management and emergency plans were discussed with the school superintendent. They decided to re-activate the crisis team. They had information booths during the May Fest and the Little Norway Festival in May and the 4th of July. They have collaborated with the Petersburg Indian Association regarding emergency management. They met with the airport and reviewed their emergency plan.

Northwest Arctic – Mr. Lee thanked Branden Ryan for his work on their LEPC stuff. Mr. Lee reported the summer has been pretty quiet. In the spring they held a COOP drill. They did a tabletop exercise concerning a cruise ship with the Coast Guard, DHS&EM, and local fire, search and rescue, and police department. They learned a lot from it. They are updating their SCERPs in the borough. The Coast Guard is in the process of updating the subarea oil spill response plan for the Northwest Arctic. They have been involved this fall with the fall storms and the Kivalina airport erosion. The DOT conducted their airport drill. In addition, President Obama came to Kotzebue, which was quite an experience. He reported that they are now doing their fall flyers for ice. October is fire prevention month, so they're working with the fire departments and emergency planning.

Northern Southeast LEPC – Ms. Van Houten reported they did a community preparedness campaign. They have been working to expand LEPC participation. Representatives have been added from the ferry terminal, border station, school, newspaper, public radio station, and the Park Service. They have done some Tier II outreach to communities in the LEPC. They are updating the Skagway emergency operations plan. They will incorporate the 2012 mass rescue operation/shoreside response plan as well as some of the emergency food resources they recently acquired. They completed their application for StormReady and TsunamiReady designations.

Ketchikan LEPC – Mr. Hoage reported they continue to have good attendance and participation by LEPC members. They updated the information in their hazard mitigation plan and it has been submitted to FEMA. They continue to work on updating the EOP. The CERT team helped with outreach during the Blueberry Festival. Information was distributed on general readiness, tsunami hazard, and the all-hazard warning system. They continue to expand the all-hazard siren system with an additional siren added over the summer in the downtown area. They have received grant funding for a fourth siren. A fifth siren will give them fair coverage of most of the coastal area. They feel they need two more after that to have really good coverage. They participated in a hazmat tabletop exercise.

Fairbanks LEPC – Mr. Fleming reported last week they had a significant snowfall of 10 to 14 inches which caused trees which still had leaves on them to start falling over on power lines. 21,000 buildings were out of power including homes and businesses. The Red Cross opened up some 24-hour shelters. The majority of people had power back by October 4. He reported they did community emergency management expo September 19 with 40 local businesses and vendors attending. He thanked the Division for bringing up the earthquake simulator. Unfortunately they had two drownings since the last LEPCA meeting. It takes a lot of resources when someone

disappears into the Chena. With respect to training and exercises, DHS&EM did some debris management training, a basic PIO course, and the GIS set-ups. DHSS did some escort medic training. Some active shooter awareness classes were conducted. There was an exercise with the Alaska Railroad where a passenger train hit a fuel train. The basic objective of that exercise was to have a unified command with the Railroad and Government working out the response. On June 9, Chief Andrew Isaac Health Clinic conducted an active shooter exercise which Fairbanks Memorial Hospital participated in. Annually they test the water purification unit. On September 23, there were shots fired on the southside, causing the hospital and the schools on that side of town to go into lockdown for one to two hours. October 12, they will do some tactical emergency casualty care (TECC) training. They plan to participate in Alaska Shield 2016 and will be looking at what Fairbanks wants to do for that. They plan to do a terrorist event with active shooter and some cyber security throughout the government entities, plus they want to do some operational coordination the borough, city, and North Pole as well as with the State. They have been approached by the 103rd Civil Support Team to conduct a hazmat/possible radiological event after Alaska Shield. Chief Warren Cummings will be retiring.

Copper River LEPC – Ms. Bengtson reported that over the last couple months she has developed a website for the LEPC. She utilized it a lot during September, preparedness month. They also use Facebook as a way to reach the community. They had a question and answer session with the Division of Forestry. The Forestry representative answered a lot of questions and really gave them a knowledge base on what Forestry's responsibilities would be and what may be the roles of other community organizations in the event of a wildfire. She reported they participated in the local health fair in the spring. The booth was based on "who depends on you in the event of an emergency." In July they held a strategic planning meeting, which gave her goals or directions of where to take the LEPC. They developed nine goals they would like to see done, including the website and the Facebook page, along with the hazard mitigation program, having the Red Cross walk through the schools to see where they are lacking in the shelter capabilities, etc. On October 15, they have a symposium, trying to bring local organizations to the table just to talk. There are a lot of organizations that do not necessarily talk to each other. For example, they had a lot of National Park search and rescue and body retrievals this year in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, so it would be important to learn what resources they have and how the clinics would be involved. She reported that some key staff at Crossroad Medical Center is going through the CERT training. There has been some turnover on the LEPC, so they will be electing new officers and board members this quarter.

Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LEPC – Mr. Sunderland reported they held their regular quarterly meetings and kept the community members updated on Alaska Shield planning efforts for the community. In September they did some presentations for preparedness month for the city council, Lions Club, etc. They continue to purchase and distribute weather-alert radios. He reported that they expanded the LEPC. They have made contact with some of their remote communities. People in St. Paul are interested again as well as Adak. They had a booth at the Unalaska fair. He expects the LEPC to continue and be a success after he leaves.

Bristol Bay LEPC – Mr. Jones reported they continue to have their meetings monthly to keep everybody interested and back engaged. The 103rd WMD Civil Support Team came out and gave a presentation. They continue to do asset assessments and updating the list of that they have available.

They discovered that some of the facilities on the list did not know they were on the list due to turnover in personnel. With respect to outreach they are getting into the craft fair season for the area and will be having a booth there. They have updated their flyers.

Kenai Peninsula LEPC – Mr. Walden reported that the agreements for point of distribution for antibiotics have been put into final draft form and are being reviewed by the borough and DHSS for final signature. They participated in some spill response exercises in the past quarter. The RCAC/DEC spill response groups met at the borough assembly chambers in the past month for two days. There was some coordinated safety and preparedness training, continuity of operations training, and related active shooter training that they worked with DHS. U.S. Protective Services and the Coast Guard security came to the borough in July to do specifically training for businesses and to help them understand how to have their employees trained similar to what is done in the schools as well as how they really need to plan for continuity of operations related to those kinds of events in a commercial setting. The Homer area presented some Citizen Corps courses. Both Homer and Seward are involved in sponsoring the TsunamiReady program in addition to the two resiliency programs. LEPC member Tesoro had some personnel changes in safety and operations. In July they hosted the LEPC meeting at their facility to introduce their new safety people and process operators, and share how that affects local responders in addition to the LEPC members. Upcoming training includes ICS 300 and 400 courses. They continue to participate in Alaska Shield 2016 planning. They have 14 all-hazards sirens between Homer, Seward, Nanwalek, Port Graham, and Seldovia. They have experienced with some difficulties with those over the years, primarily weather related and not being able to seal the boxes up. They have overcome that problem working with the manufacturer and the borough maintenance staff. They just completed putting new cabinets on all of them. The problems they are experiencing now have to do with connectivity. This is being worked on now. They have made some basic changes to the emergency operations plans and will continue to go through the regular cycle of review. One of the things that came up is they were sent notice from an attorney in the legal department of a subsidiary of a large manufacturer that asked that they remove all written references to the term “reverse 911.” The manufacturer apparently owns that term. They have removed the term from their plans. Mr. Walden reported that the 103rd will be doing some training with them. The LEPC is reviewing some membership seats to determine the need to rename some of them or to expand the seats. The LEPC is being provided information by his office and the mayor’s office any time they are involved in the LNG/AK LNG discussion and possible development. They participated in the waterway suitability assessment as well as the development of the harbor safety committee that will be meeting on a regular basis to discuss general safety of harbors across Alaska. With this development they will likely need to expand the annexes they have for their emergency plans and emergency response. He felt with this development they will need to have a lot closer relationship with the LEPC in Kodiak when it comes to setting up the plans and understanding how an issue that occurs in the Lower Cook Inlet could affect both boundaries in a very significant way.

Mat-Su LEPC – Mr. Cook reported they elected a new chair person. They participated in outreach activities during the Alaska State Fair. They partnered with AARP in September to deliver the September preparedness fair at the Mat-Su College. He reported they had a busy summer on the emergency management side with the Sockeye fire and other things. They had to redo and retype their whole EOP. They redid their designated evacuation collection points, which were practiced during the Sockeye fire. The LEPC was used to identify and confirm other evacuation staging areas

throughout the borough. The LEPC has participated in planning for Alaska Shield 2016. They participated in the Pills to Polar Bears exercise with Public Health.

Nome LEPC – Mr. Vaden reported they had a full-scale exercise, medical surge, and hazmat May 13. They learned a lot of information from it. Public Health will be doing a point of distribution with influenza. Level III hazmat suit training has been ongoing. They have been learning a lot of interesting lessons from this. The Coast Guard was in Nome in September and reviewed the subarea oil spill plan. ADEC conducted an oil spill response exercise. The airport did a tabletop exercise September 28. They had an alert warning systems briefing, but Mimi stated she did not understand any of it because they used too many acronyms. Mr. Vaden stated that they are putting a little box on their Tier II reporting for people to indicate they do not have anything reportable, which has been working well. On October 21, they have another medical surge exercise as well as probably communications. They have found it very difficult to get people to do active shooter exercises.

Juneau LEPC – Ms. Brown reported they finished the update of their bylaws. They included the vulnerable population seat and it has been filled. They have started doing updates during the meeting from members. Every month they have one member do a presentation towards their specialty to increase the knowledge of other members. CERT expansion is currently going on. During the recent expo they got 60 new people signed up for that training so they had to split it into two sessions. The CERT coordinator went to the train the trainer training so he can be a trainer. Two other members have volunteered to do that as well. They have buy-in from the police and fire departments as well as the Red Cross. The Red Cross has a new disaster specialist in Juneau, Andrew Bachner. She stated they need more people so they can do more activities through the Red Cross. Mr. Bachner has taken this to heart and is building that team. Through relationships with different organizations they get a lot of opportunities. Public Health is doing a combined flu shot clinic and flu shot exercise partnered with the University of Alaska Southeast, Red Cross, and the CERT. The borough and schools have adopted the ALIS program. Tom did the train the trainer training on this and then went to the schools and did some training for them. A representative from the schools now attends the LEPC meeting. At the expo they had a medical clinic come for the first time. She is going to ask the LEPC to take the build-your-own preparedness kits pamphlet and start doing little workshops with the public and work with local vendors. At the expo they did the Who Depends on You theme. NOAA has a program called the WeatherReady Nation Ambassador and they send emails with a lot of information and good links. They constantly have ongoing programs. As an ambassador you can select what parts you want to participate in. She stated they became a WeatherReady Nation Ambassador. It is a good way to get information throughout the community.

North Slope LEPC – Mr. Kiloni thanked the Division for all their help and attention regarding the emergencies and disasters that affected the North Slope communities. He reported they conducted a hazmat tabletop exercise with the State, U.S. Coast Guard, and Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital. They partnered with the North Slope Borough Public Health and participated in DHSS's Pills to Polar Bears exercise. They participated in the Barrow airport tabletop exercise with DOT. They were invited to the Shell tabletop exercise to observe how they would operate in the jurisdiction in the event of an oil spill. Mr. Kiloni and the LEPC chair attended the ICS curricula train-the-trainer, and will be working on a training schedule for LEPC members and their organizations. They worked with NSB Health on an emergency preparedness segment on the local radio station. They held an emergency meeting and with the approval of the mayor declared a

disaster due to a coastal storm that greatly impacted the communities and critical infrastructure. He reported they finalized and approved the NSB local oil hazard mitigation update and will send it to the State to forward on to FEMA. With respect to the North Slope Borough EOP revision and amendment, they were given the go-ahead to create a fourth volume to include community emergency response plans. They worked with the school district and Ilisagvik College on revising the emergency operation plans and emergency sheltering plans. They have identified that there is a huge gap in the emergency sheltering plans and the inventory. The LEPC has been working with Applied Research and Environmental Science, Inc. (ARES), on a program called Historical Ecology and Risk Management Sustainability (HERMES). They conducted a pilot summer camp called Risky Business with high school students, teaching them about teen CERT and community-based monitoring, which is a citizen science approach to collecting data regarding coastal erosion. Included was a discussion with the students, staff, and faculty members on how to incorporate emergency preparedness and disaster science either in the form of clubs or curriculum. They will be creating day camps and summer camps to gather more information. He stated they had a recruiting booth at the City of Barrow 4th of July festival. They conducted outreach with ARES. They conducted outreach to create a team of citizen scientists to focus on creating a culture of emergency preparedness and community resilience. They are working with one of their Native corporations and were given two cameras to strategically mount on a building to further help in gathering data on coastal erosion. He reported they attended the Arctic Domain Awareness Committee's Community-based Observers Network (CBON), to help better understand how they can utilize community members to gather data and give them a sense of ownership as far as emergency preparedness and planning for the long term in an ever-changing Arctic. They also discussed informal networking, the pros and cons and how do deal with it. It is another gap they have identified. They are working to create Arctic Risk Management Network (ARMNET). This would serve as a platform for sharing information and best practices between practitioners and researchers who deal with issues unique to the Arctic. They are currently working with a few agencies on training and exercise opportunities on the North Slope, including preparation for Alaska Shield 2016.

Delta-Greely LEPC – Mr. Paschall stated that as said at the April meeting one of their concerns was changes with Forestry and how that would impact the community during wildland fire seasons. Fortunately the fires they had were across the river. The exception was one village that was also across the river. They did not have many issues with the changes so they are looking forward to evaluating and seeing how it works next year. One fire did jump the river which allowed the responders to start looking at the evacuation procedures that had been put in place. A few weeks ago there was an explosives issue which allowed them to work with several agencies and to look at some of their plans. They set up a small shelter as people had to leave for a short period of time. It was a real-life practice exercise.

Southern Southeast LEPC – Co-Chair Templin reported they have been involved in a number of statewide things, including the Pills to Polar Bears exercise. They revised and updated their point of dispensing plan. They conducted a full point-of-dispensing clinic at a recent cross-country race. They completed the process of making Craig a TsunamiReady community. They have been assisting the school with their crisis planning. They are currently keeping an eye on Hurricane Oho which is hitting Southeast Alaska.

Sitka LEPC – Co-Chair Miller reported that they are rewriting and updating their plans. They are

preplanning for the exodus of the assistant chief in the next six to eight months as well as his own retirement in the next year or so. They did a major oil spill exercise with DEC, the Coast Guard, and others early summer. It was still in everybody's mind when they had a real oil spill, a leak in one of tanks in the city-owned tank farm occurred around August 15. They will be working on it for some time. On August 18, they had a major rainstorm which caused mudslides. It was estimated that the hillsides around Sitka got between 10 and 15 inches of rain in six hours. Unfortunately three people died. At the same time a sinkhole occurred in the middle of town with two big propane tanks. They were able to turn off the tanks. It was a busy couple of weeks. Everybody got involved including the community, the State, Coast Guard, State Troopers, Alaska Airlines, the Red Cross and others. He stated that no matter how much you practice your plans, you do not know how it will work until it really happens. He recommended that in the future when these things happen they send people at the table down to see how it works. Sitting around a table and exercising is one thing, but hands on is a whole other thing. This was the first time they had ramped up their EOC anywhere near that level.

A. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. LEPC Classification, Standards & Funding** – Mr. Jared Woody, DHS&EM, stated that the goal was to remove some of the unclear parts they have had with the LEPCs. They looked at how they get feedback from the LEPCs and how they give feedback to the LEPCs. They will send a report to each of the LEPCs quarterly and then a year-end summary will be sent out at the third quarter of the grant. The form contains the minimum performance standards the LEPCs have to meet. Then they are looking for additional information on what everybody is doing and how much of it they are doing. They will then capture all that information, put it together and form a general idea of how much each baseline funding level is doing. They are looking to get additional details in the quarterly reports from the LEPCs. It is a way to potentially get more funding from the legislature in the long run. He went over the rest of the packet. In response to a question from Mr. Paschall, Mr. Woody stated that the Division will complete the form and send it to the LEPCs every quarter and then a year-end summary report on quarter three. In the assessment they will review for that quarter. If the LEPC finds they missed a submission deadline, etc., they can correct it for the next quarter. The goal is that by the end of the year all are in the satisfactory category.
- In response to Mr. Paschall, Mr. Woody explained that with respect to scoring, they would be looking at the three-year average. It will give the LEPC an idea of what other communities are doing and possible areas to focus on. The score will be compared to the average. They were not attempting to structure more what the local LEPC does, but were providing feedback so everybody can get an idea of what everyone else is doing, as well as start establishing a general level of activity. He sees it as constructive feedback only. Mr. Paschall stated he did not see where this was productive.
- In response to Ms. Brown, Mr. Woody stated the report would come out after the grant reporting that the LEPC does as it will be based on the grant report.

In response to Co-Chair Templin, Mr. Woody agreed that at this point in time the performance reporting is not creating new requirements for LEPCs in terms of activities and currently is not being used to judge where an LEPC is ranked as far as the baseline level in allocation for an LEPC. It is strictly information gathering and dissemination. In response to Ms. Brown, Mr. Woody stated that there was no plan at this time to use the information as a means of determining who gets how much money when the new grants come out. However, it could potentially be as they look at future requirements. Mr. Paschall stated his concern was not with them collecting data, but that ultimately it will take the local out of Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Mr. Cook felt it almost like a reverse Alaska assessment they are going to do for the LEPCs to say, here is maybe where you're weak, here is where you are strong. Mr. Woody stated that was a fair characterization of what it will be. The goal is to provide feedback. Mr. Woody agreed that the conditions are already in the LEPC grant conditions. Everything covered under the optional performance goals are not required activities by statute, by bylaw, etc. They enhance the meat and potatoes of what an LEPC is there for.

Co-Chair Templin stated there has been some email discussion regarding this and the follow-up funding level discussion. The only item he would take up on the sheet is that it says evaluation. He did not see it as an evaluation of an LEPC. It is information that the Division is tracking, because they all know the State's fiscal condition. It becomes more important in this fiscal environment that the State is confident that the \$300,000 it allocates from the general fund on an annual basis to fund LEPCs is being used and used wisely and used to great benefit. It is beneficial for LEPCs to see where other LEPCs stand. Mr. O'Hare stated they will change any word they want. It is not an evaluation to say who is good and who is bad, who is going to get money and who is not going to get money. It is an information collection/sharing opportunity.

Ms. Brown stated that she could see this being used as tool to keep LEPCs motivated in a certain direction. She did not like the word unsatisfactory as it seemed judgmental.

Co-Chair Miller stated it is not designed to judge how much money an LEPC is going to get. It is gathering data.

Mr. Woody went over the rest of the packet. He stated that during the last grant award cycle it was brought to their attention that the level I funding, the lowest funding level, has become artificially low or the other four levels have become artificially high. They identified the cause as there was never a fixed setting of how the cuts or additions would be made as funding changed over time. The goal is to come up with a ratio that will work into the future regardless of changes to the legislative appropriation for LEPCs. One example is to base it on shares, and he went over how that would work and compared it to the existing awards from this year. Another example was to work backwards from a fixed percentage cut and to give it to the Level I LEPCs to bring them up. A third example includes the ratios in alternative 1, but would introduce a probationary level funding for LEPCs that are first entering or re-entering the program.

Ms. Roberts asked if the Division has clarified some definitions of what it means to be a level 1, 2, etc. Mr. Woody stated that in the past when the LEPCs were first established the SERC created five baseline funding levels and then classified each community into these levels based on a variety of factors. These factors were never solidly recorded or used since then, so as communities have evolved, it has not kept up. Going back and revisiting them and establishing something solid is a project for the future that they are looking at. Co-

Chair Templin stated it is up to individual LEPCs to come to the Association and the SERC and make a case based on the criteria. Mr. Sunderland added that the SERC Finance Committee has moved different LEPCs to different criteria based on grant performance or lack of performance.

Mr. Paschall suggested that the discussion of the topic of funding, reporting, etc. be part of a session at the spring conference for LEPCs to sit down and discuss some of these issues. He has some real issues with some of the reporting requirements, some of the things that are done, and whether or not it is effective or just becomes a time eater on the part of the LEPCs.

Michael Paschall, Delta-Greely LEPC, MOVED that the LEPCA recommend the .25 increase shares per level from baseline of 1 share. Tom Vaden, Nome LEPC, seconded the motion.

Under discussion, Mr. Paschall stated that it would have been better if they had had this a longer time in advance. He felt the first alternative is very straight forward. Mr. Cook did not feel he had enough information. The Mat-Su LEPC spends all of its money wisely and efficiently, so to take that much out of the level 5 LEPCs is a huge chunk. He liked the idea of talking about it at the spring conference. He recommended they hold off on this. Co-Chair Templin stated there was no requirement to pass a recommendation at this meeting. Mr. Woody agreed that there was no requirement to decide on anything at this meeting. The goal was to start the discussion. Another goal is to hopefully have it in place prior to the next grant cycle. Mr. Walden agreed with Mr. Cook's comments and added that he could not vote for the motion at this time. Mr. Hoage liked the idea of having some mechanism to level the funding out as budgets change. He felt he needs more information to look at the effect it might have, and to look at some of the other proposed alternatives. Mr. Keeney agreed they need more information as well as they need to look at what an LEPC needs to get when first starting out.

Michael Paschall, Delta-Greely LEPC, withdrew his motion. The second, Tom Vaden, Nome LEPC, agreed. There were no objections.

Co-Chair Templin requested that the Division schedule a session specifically for the LEPCs at the spring conference with this item as the primary point of discussion.

- B. **DHSS Resources: Planning for People with Disabilities** – Ms. Amanda Cooper, DHSS, stated she manages the Alaska Health and Disability Program. They are funded fully from the Centers for Disease Control. Half of their program activities are dedicated solely to emergency preparedness for Alaskans with disabilities and other access and functional needs. Resources they offer include training, a get ready toolkit, a disaster preparedness toolkit, tip sheets for first responders, and other resources. These resources are available on their website. They are working on a resource page to provide resources for emergency responders, families, and people with disabilities. It will be a clearinghouse of resources on the website. Her phone number is 269-3429 and her email is amanda.cooper@alaska.gov. In response to Ms. Roberts, Ms. Cooper stated she has samples they can take back to their communities. Otherwise she can mail them free of charge.

Mr. Fisher stated that this topic is very germane to the Association and the planning committees. Access and functional needs should not be treated as a separate issue in emergency operations plans, response plans, or SCERPs. It needs to be part of every part of the appendices. Co-Chair Templin felt it is an outstanding opportunity for LEPCs to get information on a very important part of their planning process.

- C. **Electronic Damage Assessment Software** – Ms. Heather Ridge, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, discussed the Orion Damage Assessment. The capabilities are compatible with Apple or Android devices. Mat-Su uses iPads. It is FEMA compliant and does mapping, reports, and has excellent customer service. She went through how to use it using the Sockeye Fire as an example. Mr. Cook stated that the big seller of this is the ability of the State and FEMA to get real time information. It is a comprehensive damage assessment and pre-planning tool they use in the Mat-Su. In response to Co-Chair Templin, Mr. Cook stated that this program is web-based on the cloud. In response to Mr. Paschall, Mr. Cook stated it costs \$7500 a year with unlimited use.
- D. **Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS)** – Mr. Casey Cook, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, discussed why we need to be able to do this, how it works, its evolution, and how it works from the local jurisdictions all the way up to the presidential arena. National level EAS must be fully integrated from the national level yet capable of independent local priority operations. It has local, state, territorial, tribal, and federal ability to make a message which gets correlated into an aggregated gateway that can either go through the emergency alert system, wireless emergency alerts, NOAA weather radio alerts, etc. You can pinpoint where you want the message to go. IPAWS complements, but does not replace systems the state and local authorities are using for EAS. A jurisdiction chooses its IPAWS compatible software. You apply for a memorandum of agreement with FEMA, apply for public alerting permissions through the IPAWS work group, and then complete the IPAWS web-based training, and get certified. In response to Mr. Noel, Mr. Cook stated they do not have to have in-house GIS capabilities to use it. They can use a Google map.
- E. **Tier II Database** – David Caplan and Jared Woody, DHS&EM

VIII. **MEMBERS CLOSING COMMENTS - OPEN FORUM**

There were no member closing comments.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.