

1 STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION MEETING

2 April 7, 2017

3 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

4 Anchorage Hilton

5 500 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK

6
7 ATTENDEES

8 Dean Brown, DNR

9 Jay Butler, DHSS

10 Zainab Cheema, DHS&EM

11 William Comer, DPS

12 Robert Forgit, FEMA

13 Abner Hoage, Local Government

14 Laurie Hummel, DMVA; SERC Co-Chair

15 Donald Jurewicz, USCG

16 Jill Klein, DF&G

17 Nick Knowles, EPA

18 Richard Koch, Alaska Command

19 Shannon Miller, DEC; SERC Co-Chair

20 Dan Monteleone, DOT&PF

21 Chris Noel, LEPC - Rural

22 Fred Parady, DCC&ED

23 Tom Vaden, LEPC - Rural

24 George Vakalis, LEPC - Urban

25 Pamela Walton, DHS&EM

1 CALL TO ORDER

2 (SERC Co-Chair Laurie Hummel called the meeting to order at
3 1:00 p.m.)

4 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: It is 1300 hours, or
5 1:00 p.m., for those of you in the Air Force.

6 It's time to call to order the State Emergency
7 Response Commission Meeting.

8 I am Laurie Hummel, Commissioner of the
9 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs. And I am your
10 co-chair for today's meeting, along with Shannon Miller, who's
11 here to my right. Shannon is the Environmental Program Manager
12 of Spill Prevention and Response for the Department of
13 Environmental Conservation.

14 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

15 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: So we want to welcome
16 everyone. It promises to be a productive meeting on a
17 beautiful Friday afternoon. So a productive and yet
18 (indiscernible - cough) meeting, which I think is what we all
19 look for.

20 And if you have -- would you like to make some
21 opening remarks, Ms. Miller?

22 CO-CHAIR MILLER: Thank you.

23 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Here you go.

24 CO-CHAIR MILLER: Thanks.

25 I appreciate that introduction. As she

1 mentioned, my name is Shannon Miller. I work with the
2 Department of Environmental Conservation. I am not, however,
3 the Program Manager. That is Graham Wood. And unfortunately,
4 he and our Director were called out of town and unable to be
5 here. But I am happy to be here today and representing DEC.

6 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. Well, that's what it
7 says on my script, and so I think you've been promoted. And
8 I'll let Mr. Wood know the unfortunate news after the meeting.

9 I'd like to pass over now to the coordinator,
10 Zainab Cheema. And Zainab is going to go through roll call,
11 declaration of a quorum, and make some admin announcements.

12 MS. CHEEMA: Thank you.

13 Good afternoon, everyone. So I will take roll
14 call, by state members and public members and ex officio
15 members. So if I call either your state department, please
16 state "present," and also state your name for me. Anyone else,
17 if I call your organizations, please state "present."

18 ROLL CALL

19 Participants signed in.

20 MS. CHEEMA: All right. Thank you.

21 QUORUM DETERMINATION

22 MS. CHEEMA: We do have a quorum present today.

23 ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

24 MS. CHEEMA: Also, as a reminder, the SERC
25 meeting is a public meeting. To allow the reporter to make

1 accurate minutes, I would like to ask SERC members, anyone
2 testifying, too, state their name into their microphone each
3 time they begin to make comments. Press the bottom silver
4 button to talk and again to turn off the microphone when
5 finished. Please bring the mic close to you when you do speak.

6 Also, if you wish to address the SERC during the
7 public comment period, there is a sign-in sheet at the -- on
8 the table located outside this room. Please limit your
9 comments to five minutes. If you have information that
10 requires more than five minutes, you're invited to send written
11 correspondence to me at zainab.cheema@alaska.gov.

12 Note this room's fire exit signs. They are
13 clearly marked above the appropriate doors and indicate where
14 to exit from this room and the building in case of a fire or an
15 emergency.

16 I'd also like to request that you please silence
17 your phones at this time.

18 Lastly, please note the Revised Agenda and
19 Meeting Packet updates. The revisions contain updates to the
20 SERC Agenda at Tab 1; SERC Membership List, Tab 2; LEPC
21 Appointments, Tab 5B; LEPCA Agenda, Tab 7B; and Old Business,
22 Tab 9.

23 Thank you.

24 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Thank you, Zainab.

25 OPENING COMMENTS by Co-Chairpersons

1 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: I'd like to thank everyone for
2 attending today's meeting. I'd also like to state this is day
3 one of my new bifocals, so I know I need them when I'm about to
4 read.

5 As always, we had a really busy fall and winter
6 season since we last met. Although our season has been
7 relatively slow here in Anchorage, we did experience some
8 winter weather on St. Lawrence Island, which impacted Savoonga
9 and Gambell.

10 Beginning on December 28th of last year and
11 continuing through New Year's Day, a series of back-to-back
12 strong, sea storms, with extremely low temperatures,
13 hurricane-force winds, and a four-to-nine-foot storm surges --
14 that's four-to-nine-foot, not 49 -- four-to-nine-foot storm
15 surges moved in the Bering Sea and impacted St. Lawrence Island
16 and majority of the west coast of Alaska. At one point,
17 approximately 1500 miles of coastline, about 50 percent of the
18 state, including the interior, were under a winter flood
19 warning. The storms were significant enough that Governor
20 Walker declared a disaster on the 1st of February.

21 As disaster response and initial recovery
22 activities were taking place, Department of Military and
23 Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Environmental
24 Conservation conducted two significant rural engagement and
25 coverage events, along with many of the agencies represented

1 around the table here today.

2 In early February, we supported the 19th Alaska
3 Environmental -- excuse me -- the Alaskan Forum on the
4 Environment. It was held here in Anchorage, and it provided
5 significant engagement with rural Alaskans, covering a broad
6 range of topics, including emergency management, hazardous
7 waste, pollution response, and coastal erosion.

8 Later in February, Department of Military and
9 Veterans' Affairs conducted its first Rural Resiliency Workshop
10 in Bethel. And there we brought 17 communities, 17 communities
11 or regional entities from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area.
12 During the workshop, communities developed or updated their
13 Small Community Emergency Response Plans, SCERPs. And they
14 were able to practice basic emergency management skills through
15 a Tabletop Exercise. The workshop included presentations from
16 the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management,
17 from the Department of Environmental Conservation, from the
18 Alaska National Guard (indiscernible), from Alaska Native
19 Tribal Health Consortium, from FEMA, and the American Red
20 Cross.

21 Just this week, many of our staff participated
22 in multiple events across Anchorage, including Division of
23 Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Spring
24 Preparedness Conference; the Alaska Search and Rescue
25 Leadership Conference; and the Statewide Haz-mat Working Group

1 Meeting. It was a very busy and productive week. I'm thankful
2 to each and every one of you, as you lead your organizations in
3 a spirit of partnership and collaboration.

4 As budget discussions are occurring, ongoing,
5 everlasting in Juneau and also in Washington, it is
6 important -- it is more important than ever for us to work
7 together towards our common goals.

8 And finally, I'd like to thank the local
9 representatives we have on the commission and those of you who
10 are in the audience. Without your enduring commitment to
11 emergency preparedness and resilience, we would not be able to
12 help make Alaska a safer place to work, live, and play.

13 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

14 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: At this time, I would like
15 you, if you want, to look at Tab 3, those of you who have a
16 packet. You'll see the previous meeting minutes. And at this
17 time, assuming everyone received the packet ahead of time and
18 has had a little bit of time to review it, I would request a
19 motion to accept these minutes.

20 MR. VAKALIS: So move. Vakalis.

21 MR. PARADY: Second.

22 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: And a second made by Fred
23 Parady.

24 Is there any discussion, or does anyone have any
25 proposed changes to the minutes?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Question.

2 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Question?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible). No
4 question.

5 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: No question.

6 If there are none, then I'd like to call for
7 those in favor of the motion to accept the minutes. All in
8 favor?

9 (Aye chorus.)

10 Aye?

11 (No audible response.)

12 All right.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT

14 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Now it is time for Public
15 Comment. And I'd like to ask the Coordinator Zainab, Zainab,
16 has anyone signed to speak up for the Public Comment time?

17 MS. CHEEMA: No. I believe no one has.

18 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. I will ask again,
19 toward the end of the meeting, to allow a maximum opportunity
20 for anyone who comes in through the meeting and -- oh, this
21 just in.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

23 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Didn't we just introduce
24 ourselves?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

1 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: I can't hear you.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

3 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Yeah. We did that, member
4 introductions. Yeah, we don't want to do it again.

5 Anybody want to introduce themselves again?

6 Okay. All right. So we will go past the Public
7 Comment phase, and we'll circle around to it at the end.

8 And now I'm at Consent Agenda, which if you're
9 following along in your booklet tabs, it is at Tab 5.

10 CONSENT AGENDA

11 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: So I would like to refer you
12 back to Tab 1. Sorry about that. And I will ask if there is a
13 motion to approve the agenda and a second to that motion.

14 MR. VAKALIS: So move. Vakalis.

15 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. Is there a second?

16 MR. HOAGE: Abner Hoage. Second.

17 APPROVAL OF, AND CHANGES TO, THE AGENDA

18 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Are there any recommended
19 changes to the agenda for today?

20 MR. HOAGE: Abner Hoage. I recommend that we
21 strike Richard Patterson from Tab 5B. He's no longer with
22 North Slope Borough.

23 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. So LEPC Appointments,
24 Tab 5B, North Slope Borough, we will remove Richard Patterson,
25 as he is no longer a resident of North Slope Borough.

1 Thank you for that.

2 Any other suggestions for adjustment?

3 (No audible response.)

4 SERC CONSENT AGENDA

5 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. I'd like to -- do we
6 need to vote? Do we need to vote to accept the agenda? We had
7 a motion to approve, and we had a second. Do we have to take a
8 vote?

9 Don't have to take a vote.

10 All right. I refuse to be led away from here in
11 handcuffs by the Robert's Rules of Order police.

12 LEPC APPOINTMENTS

13 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: On next to Local Emergency
14 Planning Commission appointments. I would like to entertain a
15 motion to confirm the LEPC appointments. And those can be
16 found in Tab 5B, for Bravo.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved, with the
18 exception of the removal of Richard Patterson from North Slope
19 Borough.

20 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. Very well. We have
21 entertained a motion to confirm the LEPC appointments.

22 Zainab, do we need to vote on this?

23 MS. CHEEMA: (Indiscernible).

24 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: We do?

25 MS. CHEEMA: Yes.

1 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Do we need a second?

2 All right.

3 MR. HOAGE: Abner Hoage. Second.

4 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: All right. We have a second.

5 All those in favor of confirming the LEPC appointments as they

6 stand, with the removal of Richard Patterson of North Slope

7 Borough, please say aye.

8 (Aye chorus.)

9 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Anyone opposed?

10 (No audible response.)

11 SERC CONSENT AGENDA

12 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. On toward the State

13 Emergency Response Commission Consent Agenda. The agenda is

14 found in Tab 5C, and these are the dates for the proposed fall

15 2017 and spring 2018 meeting dates.

16 Zainab, do we need to vote on this for consent?

17 MS. CHEEMA: (Indiscernible).

18 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Yes, we do.

19 I think that you're dialing a friend over there.

20 All right.

21 MR. VAKALIS: Move to approve. Vakalis.

22 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: All right. Vakalis has moved

23 to approve.

24 Second?

25 MR. COMER: Second.

1 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: All right. We have a second.
2 All those in favor of the proposed dates under
3 the consent agenda, please signify by saying aye.

4 (Aye chorus.)

5 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Anyone opposed?

6 (No audible response.)

7 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: All right. Very well. We are
8 on to, for those of you who like to take notes, Tab 6.

9 DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

10 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: And I would like to invite our
11 representative from Division of Homeland Security and Emergency
12 Management, none other than the Director himself, Mike O'Hare.

13 MR. O'HARE: I was waiting for the applause, in
14 the other room, then come in after.

15 (Applause chorus.)

16 MR. O'HARE: Madam Chair, I'm honored. Thank
17 you very much. I appreciate the love and the applause from the
18 Commission.

19 For the record, Madam Chair, my name is Michael
20 O'Hare. I'm the Director of the Division of Homeland Security
21 and Emergency Management for the Department of Military and
22 Veterans' Affairs. It is an honor to be here, honor to see our
23 partners in emergency response; preparedness, response and
24 recovery; also known as the usual suspects. It is an honor to
25 be here.

1 I'll give you a brief update on the Division and
2 what we are -- what we are doing, what we are focusing on.
3 Madam, you had mentioned -- Madam Chair, you mentioned the
4 Preparedness Conference that we had the last couple of days.
5 We had an incredible three days: Keynote speakers; training;
6 workshops ranging from Terrorism Law Enforcement Certification
7 to Firewise, to Training and Exercise Planning Workshops.

8 There were some incredible keynote speakers from
9 California, to discuss the California wildfires; the Baltimore
10 civil unrest events, the riots that went on in Baltimore; and
11 yesterday there was an incredible presentation of the San
12 Bernardino shooting, from Lieutenant Mike Madden, who was
13 the -- one of the first on the scene for that. Incredible
14 presentations. Great, great learning opportunities. And
15 that's the whole purpose of the Preparedness Conferences, is
16 that we get together as a team and we learn and understand. We
17 train. We exercise. We break bread. We network. There may
18 be a beer involved later on in the evenings, but it's the -- it
19 is the essence of the team, the Team Alaska getting together
20 and understanding what we do, how we do it, and how we can
21 learn from each other.

22 So I want to commend my team for putting this
23 together, as they always do, a great, great conference. And we
24 have taken this from twice a year here in Anchorage to once a
25 year here in Anchorage, with the SERC and LEPCA meetings tacked

1 on to Health and Social Services Conference. It, again,
2 working with other partners. So that having it once a year,
3 here in the fall, allows our Division to really focus on
4 getting out to the rural communities and rural engagement and
5 getting out to the regions and the smaller communities and help
6 them be better prepared for disaster. And our Bethel
7 conference was a great success. We are going to do more of
8 them, more information to come. But it's getting boots on the
9 ground, face-to-face (indiscernible), eye-to-eye, to understand
10 what is important to those rural communities and how we can
11 help and how we can help them become more resilient.

12 But as I opened up the Preparedness Conference,
13 I realized it's been a year since we have seen each other. The
14 last that I -- I miss a lot of you. I miss a lot of you. And
15 these things are really fun, and they are really effective. So
16 we are going to look at my (indiscernible) -- what the hell is
17 he talking about now? We're going to -- we're going to talk
18 about kind of Balancing Workshops so that we can continue not
19 just the rural engagement, but also maintain that balance and
20 posture for catastrophic, as well, because we have to look for
21 and maintain for a posture for the catastrophic disasters, as
22 well. So more to come on that. But a great Preparedness
23 Conference.

24 With regards to the Division, we are focused
25 again, like I said, continuing momentum on catastrophic

1 preparedness and readiness, with additional focus on readiness
2 and preparedness and resilience for the rural communities.
3 Madam, you mentioned Small Community Emergency Response Plan.
4 Very, very effective for small communities, to enable them to
5 have a really quick understanding of what the heck we're
6 supposed to do if something happens in their community. We
7 have had great responses. That the hurricane storms that we
8 saw in the fall and the winter, past winter, we had a response
9 from Shaktoolik.

10 The community of Shaktoolik called my office,
11 called Kim Weibl's office and said, hey, we don't have our
12 SCERP fully implemented or finished, but what we did have
13 really helped us organize, and it really helped us understand
14 what we need to do, and we did it. We ran through the
15 checklist and it worked. We were more prepared. We weren't --
16 we were more confident. And with that confidence comes good
17 preparedness and good resilience. So that is the end result
18 that we want to see, is to get those smaller communities better
19 prepared and more resilient to handle disasters. So I'm very
20 excited about that.

21 Just some things that we've been working on. We
22 mentioned the Bering Sea storms. As always, there's storms
23 always here. Preparedness and Outreach and Rural Engagement.
24 We had our tsunami -- our annual Tsunami Alert Warning Test on
25 the 29th. It was very successful. It is a statewide alert

1 warning. We activated, soup to nuts, our callout system, not
2 only to my staff, the staff at the Department of Military and
3 Veterans' Affairs, but also those communities that were
4 potentially impacted, to literally employees at the State
5 Emergency Operations Center. Make a hard phone call to those
6 communities. Make sure that our contact information is
7 correct. But also more importantly, make sure that they
8 receive the warning.

9 And it's a great, great exercise. It's a great
10 opportunity for us to update our data in our community
11 databases, and it keeps us -- it keeps us frosty. So we had
12 that on the 29th, and it was very successful.

13 Another program, another success I want to talk
14 about, is the Community Emergency Response Team training, CERT,
15 that we are implementing with the Alaska Military Youth
16 Academy. This is truly a partnership with our Department
17 internally, Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, and
18 AMYA Director Bob Roses. Actually, it was the idea of the
19 Deputy Commissioner Bob Doehl -- I want to give him all the
20 credit that's due him -- was, "Hey, why aren't teaching CERT at
21 AMYA?" And great idea, boss.

22 So with the help of Michelle Torres and the rest
23 of my team, we have implemented in the curriculum Community
24 Emergency Response Training to these kids so that they get an
25 understanding of emergency management, what it is, get them

1 better prepared to assist their communities. When they go back
2 out to the communities, they could be the (indiscernible) in
3 those communities, not only for our team, but to the community
4 leadership, as well, on how to organize and how to better
5 respond.

6 Because as you know, in those communities, there
7 is a lot of leadership changes that rotate out. It helps to
8 have an individual who has had some training, that can advise
9 leadership on what to do. It also deepens the benchmark in our
10 business of having a farm, if you will, of emergency managers
11 out in the community. And it also develops leadership for the
12 local community, helps develop some recruiting opportunities --
13 I won't be shy on this -- recruiting opportunities for the
14 National Guard and the Alaska State Defense Force. Again, some
15 terrific leadership opportunities.

16 So we are going to increase that capacity.
17 There were 50 graduates that were certified, Emergency Response
18 Team certified. And we are going to increase that this
19 semester to, hopefully, the entire cadre. We are working on
20 those deals right now. So very, very successful. How do we
21 get -- how do we get Emergency Management out to the local
22 communities? It's a great, great success for us.

23 I mentioned Rural Resiliency Workshops. We're
24 going to -- we got Bethel. We're going to do Kotzebue. We've
25 got a big push, since the Alaska Shield Exercise, for movement

1 coordination and control. It is a -- yeah, it's a -- it's a
2 military term. What it means is, when big, bad things happen
3 here in Alaska, how do we get that -- that big federal goodness
4 up here in a -- in a fashion by which the State's priorities
5 are met, met in a timely fashion, and how logistics -- how
6 logistically we get it up here? And then from there, how do we
7 get it from wherever it's centralized out to those local points
8 of distribution, where they actually need to have it? How does
9 the water and food get to those survivors? And so we're
10 working on that logistics movement through our partners at FEMA
11 and Department of Defense.

12 Thanks, you guys. We appreciate your
13 partnership.

14 And we're moving on forward with that.
15 Sometimes FEMA headquarters -- and actually, all of us, we go
16 through an exercise and we all crack a beer and say, "Hey,
17 great job; we did that." Then move on to something else.

18 We identified a real big gap here; that
19 logistics, any big event here in Alaska is a logistics
20 nightmare. How do we answer that logistics call? So more to
21 come. But it is a -- it's going to be a long-term push in
22 (indiscernible) for all of us.

23 The other push, of course, that we're working on
24 is -- working on with our partners at Department of
25 Administration and -- or, Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure

1 Protection, the infrastructure protection is the cyber
2 planning. Cyber is one of the biggest threats we all face in
3 the state and the nation. (Indiscernible) when I got back from
4 a policy conference in San Jose, or specifically regarding the
5 National Governors Association on cyber planning, cyber
6 governance, cyber policy.

7 And so we're taking some successes from other
8 states to see how we can Alaskanize them to come up with some
9 sort of -- not just reasonable, but effective cyber policy for
10 the State of Alaska and how -- not just state and local
11 government. How do we implement cyber security policies and
12 procedures and good hygiene in response to government systems,
13 but also, how do we partner up with the critical infrastructure
14 in the private sector, as well? More to come. But these are
15 the things that we are planning on.

16 Exercises. Gosh, we love to exercise. And, you
17 know, we try and support everybody's exercise as we go, ranging
18 everywhere from Alaska Shield, as I talked about, Arctic
19 Chinook, Arctic Eagle, Arctic Something. Great names; really
20 cool names. And we try and coordinate these on our calendars,
21 coordinate what resources we can bring to bear, whether it's
22 standing up the State Emergency Operations Center for periods
23 of time to support our partners' exercises, our local
24 customers' exercises. And it is a scheduling challenge, but my
25 marching orders are, we support them all. Because we're all in

1 this together, and we're all going to -- we're all going to
2 play together when things happen.

3 Also, as I understand, we are looking at
4 National Guard planning for hillside fire planning, and having
5 a small Tabletop Exercise next week to get an understanding of
6 resources that can be brought to bear for an urban incident
7 like that. You know, we had the -- we had the brief, at the
8 LEPCA, on the McHugh Creek Fire. You know, what happens if
9 that thing gets real bad, went over the ridge? What do we have
10 to work with?

11 So some great things going on. I got to tell
12 you, Madam Chair, I've got an incredible team, great team,
13 great team all around. This is Team Alaska. This is how we --
14 this is how we roll. This is how we plan, train, and fight
15 together. And actually, a lot of us are friends. I'm glad to
16 call them my friends. Great partners and an incredible
17 mission.

18 And so pending any questions, Madam, that
19 concludes my testimony.

20 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Are there any questions for
21 Michael O'Hare?

22 LIEUTENANT JUREWICZ: This is Lieutenant Donald
23 Jurewicz, Coast Guard.

24 I don't have a question, but I have a quick
25 comment with regards to your presentation. And originally I

1 was going to save this for a side-bar conversation, but I -- on
2 behalf of Coast Guard, we sincerely appreciate everything you
3 guys are doing. Excellent partners, specifically included the
4 U.S. (indiscernible) within your training, EMI, ICS training.
5 Some of us took part in the Train-the-Trainer courses, and
6 exactly like you said, developed those partnerships that works.
7 And we're one team here.

8 MR. O'HARE: You bet.

9 LIEUTENANT JUREWICZ: So thank you, sir.

10 MR. O'HARE: Oh, thanks. Appreciate it.

11 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Thank you.

12 Thanks, Mike.

13 MR. O'HARE: My pleasure.

14 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: You're paroled.

15 LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE ASSOCIATION

16 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: All right. Now on to Tab 7.

17 And I'd like to invite Abner Hoage to give a status report on
18 the Local Emergency Planning Committee Association.

19 STATUS REPORT - Abner Hoage, LEPCA

20 MR. HOAGE: Madam Chair, thank you.

21 Abner Hoage, I am the co-chair for the LEPCA.

22 Dave Miller is my other co-chair, and he left me hanging in
23 this meeting, so I got it all to myself. So it was great fun.

24 I've been here all week at the conference that
25 the Division put on. And I would like to thank Director O'Hare

1 and his staff for, again, the great job that they do with
2 putting that together. Every time, without question, we know
3 that it's going to be a good conference when we come in. So
4 thank you to them for that.

5 The LEPCA did meet today and throughout the
6 week. You know, one of the things that we do -- or, one of the
7 reasons that we come together is to learn about areas that we
8 can improve. So I'm going to mention a couple areas for
9 improvement that we discovered this week, and then I'll move on
10 to all the really good stuff.

11 But some things that you may hear come up again
12 in the near future, and things that were discussed this week:
13 Communications. Communications. I've been involved in
14 emergency response and emergency management for about 25 years
15 now. Communications is always an issue. And it's an issue in
16 our State. It's an issue -- interoperable communications from
17 agency to agency is an issue. And the staff at the -- the
18 Exercise staff at the Division looked back through some old
19 After-Action Reports, and they found that for years it's been
20 an issue. And it continues to be an issue. And we're going to
21 fix those. But as we fix them, there will still be other
22 communication issues that come up. I'm not sure that we'll
23 ever completely solve them, but we have to continue to focus on
24 it, because it's one area that we can have an impact and that
25 we can make the biggest difference on the outcome of a

1 disaster. So keep that in mind, moving forward.

2 Another area related to communications: How do
3 our citizens access our services? They do it through
4 communication systems. And something that we should put on our
5 radar is the 911 system. Recently there was an outage. It
6 started in the Lower 48 but affected some of our areas in
7 Alaska where cellular users specifically were not able to
8 access the 911 system and reach an answering point. And I
9 don't remember what the quoted time was that that was out. But
10 any amount of time that that 911 system is down and our
11 citizens can't access emergency services is not a good thing.

12 In addition to that, there have been some other
13 issues. And I just learned about this today, so I don't have
14 all the details. But I know that the Division's going to look
15 into it as well. But there were some issues where some of the
16 towers got routed to the wrong PSAPs. One example was Delta
17 was rerouted to Cordova. So they call 911 on their cell phone,
18 and they get Cordova. And that's not very useful. That will
19 delay care. So another area for improvement that we need to
20 keep on our radars as we move forward.

21 That being said, let's talk about some of the
22 good things at the LEPCs. LEPCs are functioning very well
23 across the state. They continue to do good work for a very
24 small financial investment. Many of them are experiencing
25 turnover, but that's not unexpected. As people go through life

1 processes and retire and move on, you know, you get new people,
2 and fresh blood sometimes is good. So they're working through
3 that, but they do have turnover.

4 Most, if not all, of our LEPCs are working on
5 some sort of plan updates, and that's an ongoing process. You
6 know, you evaluate your plan, you develop it, you implement it,
7 you evaluate it again, and you just continue the circle. So
8 those will always be in process, but there's a lot of it going
9 on over this next year with many of the LEPCs, and that's a
10 good thing.

11 Our Tier II Reporting System, I think, is
12 working very well. Many of the LEPCs reported that they have
13 received and processed their Tier II Reports and that they're
14 good for the year.

15 We're also doing a lot of training and
16 exercising across the state. Again, almost every LEPC reported
17 some level of either exercise or training or both.

18 And then the last thing is, Director O'Hare
19 mentioned that they're doing something with CERT. But we're
20 hearing a lot about an increased use of CERT throughout the
21 state; those programs being implemented. And if you're not
22 completely familiar with CERT, Community Emergency Response
23 Team, the real premise of that is to train people in their
24 community to know how to react in a disaster, to take care of
25 themselves and take care of their neighbors. You know, isolate

1 utilities; check on people; make sure they're safe. And that
2 can take some of the workload off your emergency responders
3 early on in a disaster. So it's a good thing to see that
4 resurgence of CERT in our state, because it's going to lessen
5 the workload on our emergency responders.

6 That's all I have.

7 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Thank you, Abner.

8 Any questions for Mr. Hoage?

9 (No audible response.)

10 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Thanks a lot. Lot of good
11 news in there, lot of good work.

12 LEPC AGENDA

13 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. Moving on. The LEPCA
14 Agenda.

15 Is that where we are? Yup.

16 Previous Meeting Minutes. So these are under
17 Tab 7B.

18 Do we vote on this? What do I do with it?

19 MS. CHEEMA: (Indiscernible).

20 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. Just to know that
21 they're there.

22 MS. CHEEMA: Uh-huh.

23 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. So under Tab B,
24 everyone should find the LEPCA Agenda and previous meeting
25 minutes, to review at your leisure.

1 LEPCA PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

2 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: And under Tab C is the
3 previous meeting minutes for the LEPCA.

4 And we thank the LEPCA for providing those.

5 LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

6 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: All right. On to No. 8, Local
7 Emergency Planning Committee Status Report. I understand that
8 there are no reports that are on the agenda or wish to be
9 given.

10 Am I incorrect? Are there any reports that
11 would like to be -- you'd like to give for the LEPCs?

12 (No audible response.)

13 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: All right. Seeing none.

14 We have break potential, but I think that we
15 have a good head of steam going. So begging your indulgence,
16 we'll move on to Tab 9, Old Business, Committee Reports.

17 OLD BUSINESS

18 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: And just a reminder to
19 everyone to please limit your presentations to five minutes.

20 COMMITTEE REPORTS

21 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Finance Committee.

22 Mr. Vakalis.

23 FINANCE COMMITTEE

24 MR. VAKALIS: Thank you, Commissioner.

25 Just a couple things to report on. As we

1 mentioned at the last meeting, the Finance Committee, with an
2 awful lot of input from the LEPCs, looked at revising the
3 formula to use in deciding the allocation of funds to the
4 various LEPCs. Just as a reminder, in the past it was mostly
5 weighted towards hazardous materials and waste, as opposed to
6 all-hazards.

7 So the way that the money was allocated in the
8 past was really based on that criteria, and very little
9 criteria given to -- very little deference given to the
10 criteria of all-hazards. So to try to bring it up to where it
11 should be and try to make it fairer so all these other aspects
12 are taken into account, the Committee basically came up with a
13 formula.

14 And the formula is really for several reasons.
15 One is to certainly pick up all the other type of hazards that
16 communities have to deal with. But I think, even more
17 importantly, to come up with some type of a standard that staff
18 can use when they come up with their recommendations for the
19 allocation of those funds. And when we did approve and
20 allocated this last go-around of funds using this mechanism, it
21 was stated at that time -- and it's still stated today -- that
22 this is a trial basis, that we're going to try it for a year,
23 and if we have to tweak it because of concerns that some
24 communities may have -- and I understand there may be one or
25 two communities that have some concerns -- so this is a trial

1 basis, and we're going to do it till we get it as close to
2 right as we possibly can.

3 And that's my report.

4 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Is there a time frame on the
5 trial basis? In other words, did you say one year?

6 MR. VAKALIS: It's one year.

7 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay.

8 MR. VAKALIS: And so it will be, when we go
9 through the next go-around, that's your cycle; then we'll tweak
10 based on comments we receive from the LEPCs.

11 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. Very well.

12 Any questions for Mr. Vakalis?

13 MR. VAKALIS: I would like to add one other
14 thing. I'm sorry.

15 It's that time again to be thinking about your
16 reports and your applications that are due to give to staff so
17 that they can start putting together the funding for next year,
18 funding recommendations.

19 And also I would like to recommend to everyone
20 that you take a real close look at your budget. It's that time
21 of year where sometimes some LEPCs are a little bit behind on
22 the expenditure of those funds. And the last thing we want to
23 see is those funds basically going away because they weren't
24 expended. So there is mechanisms in place, that if you feel
25 that you are not going to be able to totally expend your funds,

1 you need to notify staff right away so that the Finance
2 Committee can reallocate those funds to somebody that needs
3 them.

4 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Is there a suspense date on
5 these --

6 MR. VAKALIS: I think that's going to go out in
7 writing by the staff.

8 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. Thank you.

9 The Work Plan Committee, Merry Carlson.

10 Whoop, no report. My mistake.

11 Interoperable Communications, John Rockwell.

12 INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE - John Rockwell

13 MR. ROCKWELL: Thank you, Madam Chair.

14 For the record, my name is John Rockwell. I'm
15 the Statewide 911 Coordinator. I'm also the first
16 (indiscernible), (indiscernible) contact with the State, and
17 active (indiscernible).

18 (Indiscernible). Many have. I'm very familiar
19 with the communication issues that Mr. Hoage brought up
20 regarding the outage in Delta. AT&T acknowledged.

21 So today's interoperable landscape is changing.
22 In the past, interoperable communication meant that we're P25
23 compatible, where you can communicate at the same time. But
24 with the evolution of new technology which includes the Alaska
25 Land Mobile Radio System, 911, Next Generation 911, and Long

1 Term Evolution Markets Communication and networks that are on
2 the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (indiscernible).

3 The role of the (indiscernible) is also
4 changing. Today's critical element: To ensure a highly
5 functional emergency communication ecosystem. And that starts
6 with a strong governance structure. That has to be at the
7 policy level.

8 Back in July of 2016, a group of public safety
9 leaders and (indiscernible) experts met at the State Crime Lab
10 to discuss the landscape and ecosystem of interoperable
11 communications and governance. The focus of the meeting was
12 twofold: First, to educate the leaders on issues we face in
13 Alaska regarding interoperable communications; and, secondly,
14 to engage in a governance model for the State of Alaska. To
15 facilitate the discussion, we presented on the current state of
16 interoperable communications. We listed deficiencies on issues
17 like 911, (indiscernible) funding, interoperable governance.
18 We use the same (indiscernible) emergency (indiscernible)
19 communications guide and worked on drafting an administration
20 order to create the governance structure and updated the
21 mission and (indiscernible) statement of our state
22 (indiscernible).

23 The administration order, or administrative
24 order, is to establish the Statewide Interoperability
25 Governance Board, or SIGB, as the governing structure for all

1 interoperable-related programs. And that's been presented to
2 the Governor's office. The AO is currently (indiscernible).
3 Hopefully, we'll get more information later this summer.

4 Next slide.

5 Also the Commissioner of Public Safety, Walt
6 Monegan, has agreed on the creation of an Office of Emergency
7 Communications within DPS, which endeavors to consolidate staff
8 on efforts like interoperable communications, which is the SWIC
9 position. FirstNet, Single Point of Contact. Statewide 911
10 coordination. Updates in management of the Statewide
11 Communication Implementation Plan, or the SCIP. Support for
12 the Statewide Inoperability Governance Board, or the SIGB, once
13 it gets stood up. And the continued support for the Alaska
14 Land Mobile Radio System.

15 If I can change the (indiscernible) and bring
16 some FirstNet talk into this, because as many of you know,
17 FirstNet is an independent authority created by the Middle
18 Class Tax Relief Act of 2012. And it's within the NTIA, or the
19 National Telecommunications and Information Administration.
20 This is to provide emergency responders with the first
21 nationwide high-speed broadband network dedicated to public
22 safety.

23 Back on March 30th, FirstNet announced that they
24 have selected AT&T to partner with them for this effort. Once
25 we've receive the State plan, which is -- the window that AT&T

1 has from March 30th is 90 days. Once we receive that State
2 plan, and if we decide to, what we call, opt in to that State
3 plan within the 60-day window that the Governor has, one of the
4 perks to getting AT&T is they promised that they will provide
5 all public safety entities with priority and preemption, even
6 before they build that Band 14 Public Safety number. So we'll
7 know more again probably in the late fall time frame regarding
8 the actual plan for the State and whether the Governor has
9 decided to opt in or opt out.

10 So our overall goal is to have a fully
11 functional Office of Emergency Communications and governing
12 body, with both the responsibility and authority to focus on
13 statewide interoperability challenges, to include
14 (indiscernible) FirstNet, 911, (indiscernible), and
15 (indiscernible).

16 And that -- I think that ends my report for now.

17 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Thank you.

18 Are there any questions for Mr. Rockwell?

19 (No audible response.)

20 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Can you tell me again the name
21 of the new Division within Public Safety that Commissioner
22 Monegan is standing up?

23 MR. ROCKWELL: Well, we're trying to create the
24 Office of Emergency Communication.

25 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: The Office of Emergency

1 Communication. That sounds like you. Are there others?

2 MR. ROCKWELL: Well, right now I hold many of
3 the hats.

4 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: You, too.

5 MR. ROCKWELL: But we're hoping to broaden that
6 through some of the legislative changes that have been boiling
7 up, can I say?

8 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Uh-huh.

9 MR. ROCKWELL: We have a recent house bill, 160,
10 for example, that is addressing a surcharge, which I don't
11 believe it's going to make it up to a vote this year. And so
12 one of the efforts that I'll be working on will be getting the
13 subject matter experts together regarding the surcharge and
14 looking truly at how can we modify, to help all the 911
15 entities, whether they're in a funded State environment or even
16 the rogue entities that have no funding.

17 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Thank you. Thanks very much,
18 John.

19 Citizens Corps Committee (sic). Heather Ridge
20 from Mat-Su Borough.

21 CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL - Heather Ridge

22 MS. RIDGE: Good afternoon. Thank you for
23 having me. I am not Casey Cook, obviously. As most of you
24 know, Casey likes EMI, and that's where he's at again.

25 So what I have for you is basically CERT.

1 I know you stole my thunder; you stole my
2 thunder.

3 So that's about all I had to report on is CERT.
4 But to give you what's going on around the state, you know,
5 with the decrease in funding, CERT kind of took a dive. But I
6 think communities are now seeing the importance of having CERT,
7 so we're coming up with creative ways to fund it. In the
8 Mat-Su Borough, we're not sure how it's going to be funded yet,
9 but I have some ideas.

10 Fairbanks, let me start out with Fairbanks.
11 They are very active. Right now I think they have 264 members.
12 Cordova, I know Miss Joanie is here; let me know she had 15.
13 And they are holding a CERT class this July, I believe. And as
14 we know, Michelle Torres is at AMYA. And in Southeast we have
15 Corey Padron and Zach. I actually just came back from EMI, and
16 surprisingly, those two were sitting next to me. I had no
17 idea. So they are going to be getting CERT started in the
18 Southeast in their VPSOs.

19 And then in Mat-Su, first, everybody's heard of
20 Willow CERT. And a quick little story: Willow CERT got their
21 backpacks the day before Sockeye Fire started. And not many
22 people knew that. So they are probably our oldest CERT people,
23 but they're the most active.

24 And then the Mat-Su Borough has staff at the
25 main building in Palmer. And I just reached out to them, to

1 try to get them active again. And then we have Kathy Cappa at
2 Colony High School, and she is working with the teachers to get
3 CERT going there.

4 And then our goal is to -- excuse me. Let me go
5 back.

6 So there's one class in November, that
7 Willow CERT is going to be holding. And then we're hoping to do
8 a few more this year. And then one of my goals -- and I just
9 spoke with Michelle Torres about this -- is to get CERT going
10 in the schools more, getting it as an academic, where the kids
11 can get credit for it for graduation; just what they're doing
12 at AMYA. So if we can get our kids in it and then grow them,
13 you know, into adulthood, they'll always have that information.

14 And then Chickaloon, Lou was a CERT Program
15 Manager, so we're hoping to get him up and running in the
16 Mat-Su again.

17 And then lastly, we -- on September 30th is our
18 Mat-Su Emergency Preparedness Expo, and we invite everybody to
19 come out to that. And our CERT Team actually has three things
20 that they're going to be doing that day for the expo.

21 Does anybody have any questions about CERT?

22 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: I'm wondering if you have
23 reached out to Junior ROTC entities in the schools.

24 MS. RIDGE: Ma'am, I have not at this time.

25 I've been in this position -- well, with CERT now for two

1 weeks, literally. Casey said, "Hey, you're going to EMI."

2 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: That darned Casey.

3 MS. RIDGE: So here I am.

4 I know. I'm throwing him under the bus.

5 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: He just keeps going back to
6 school.

7 Thank you very much.

8 Any other questions for Ms. Ridge?

9 (No audible response.)

10 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Thank you, Heather.

11 MS. RIDGE: Thank you.

12 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: All-Hazards Plan Review
13 Committee. Ms. Kim Weibl.

14 ALL-HAZARDS PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE - Kim Weibl

15 MS. WEIBL: Good afternoon. Co-Chairs of the
16 Commission, thank you.

17 I'm Kim Weibl. I am the Program Manager in
18 Planning now at the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency
19 Management, so that's a change from when we were here before.
20 We have had our annual meeting last week for the All-Hazards
21 Plan Review Committee; attended well. We talked about what we
22 did in the last year and the plans that we reviewed, things
23 that we've done over the last year.

24 So in the last six months since the last report,
25 we have reviewed and completed four new Small Community

1 Emergency Response Plans. Those from Huslia, Coffman Cove,
2 Mountain Village, and Nunam Iqua. And two reviews were
3 completed for communities that were already done; that would be
4 Kotlik and Kenny Lake. So those were just updates, one-year
5 updates.

6 So total for Small Community Emergency Response
7 Plans, currently we have 69 throughout the state. We have
8 another 45 communities that are actively working. So that's a
9 lot of small communities that are actively working on plans.

10 We have begun work on the Homeland Security
11 Annex to the State Emergency Operations Plan. That will be
12 updated and included in the 2018 update.

13 Our Resiliency Team has just been recently
14 tasked with drafting State Long-term Recovery Framework, so
15 we're looking at what that -- what that means and what we have
16 to kind of start with to do that in the coming year, as well.

17 And lastly, the State of Alaska Hazard
18 Mitigation Plan will be updated by September 2018 and
19 promulgated by the Governor.

20 So that's all I have for you guys, unless you
21 have questions.

22 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Any questions for Kim?

23 (No audible response.)

24 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Thank you, Ms. Weibl.

25 MS. WEIBL: Thank you.

1 CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Training Committee. Jeff
2 Lafferty.

3 It's like a family reunion; isn't it, Mike?

4 TRAINING COMMITTEE - Jeff Lafferty

5 MR. LAFFERTY: Madam Chairman, Commission
6 members.

7 Jeff Lafferty, I'm Preparedness Program Manager
8 for the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
9 I oversee Exercise, Training, and Outreach. And I'm here to
10 brief you up on what the Training Committee for our
11 organization has done over the course of the past year.

12 We've been very busy, so to speak. Right now we
13 only have one person who is actively in the Training Section
14 itself. That's Eva Edwards, and she's been very busy. I can
15 tell you, last year, 2016, we directly coordinated 41 courses
16 within the State. That is at all levels, whether it be in
17 local, other State agencies, or sometimes even for private
18 businesses and nonprofits. We put through 684 folks in those
19 trainings. This year alone, to date, we have put together 29
20 sessions within the State and have trained a total of 55
21 people.

22 And you may say, well, that's a lot of courses,
23 but with the low turnout there, with only 55 graduates. But
24 what we're counting in that is some of the training sessions we
25 held for some of the small communities concerning SCERP. So

1 that's why those numbers are low with a high number of
2 trainings.

3 Thus far I can tell you, Eva and the Training --
4 the Training Section itself -- and this is an overall training
5 count. Localized trainings, we put together 12. Now, this is
6 going to be different from the numbers that I just gave you for
7 '17, but this is counting anything that we've helped
8 coordinate, whether we have done the training ourselves or we
9 have gone ahead and assisted in setting that training up or
10 even gotten approval from the Emergency Management Institute
11 for an agency to hold training.

12 So at the local level, 12 trainings have been
13 put on, of which we have touched or been involved, with a total
14 of 50 people trained. State agencies, there have been eight of
15 those trainings set up through our desk, with 51 people
16 trained. And our national partners, we put together 26
17 trainings, with a total of 111 people trained. Some of these
18 have been within State; and some of those, with the training
19 partners, have been outside of the State. Whether that's been
20 going to another State or going back East to -- where Casey
21 Cook is right now -- back to the Emergency Management
22 Institute, or EMI. So we've been very, very busy.

23 During the conference yesterday afternoon, we
24 held our -- we held the, we'll call it the now Annual Training
25 and Exercise Planning Workshop that Mr. O'Hare spoke about.

1 During that time, we pulled together all the grant-recipient
2 communities. We brought in our Training and Exercise folks,
3 and we sat down and we did a review of the process that we use
4 to develop our Multiyear Training and Exercise Plan, which
5 covers three years for the MYTEP.

6 We talked about how we put that together, both
7 on the Exercise side and the Training side, some of the
8 requirements that we have to go ahead for communities to
9 request training or assistance for exercises. And we encourage
10 them to go ahead, once they left the conference, to go back to
11 their communities, develop their own Training and Exercise Plan
12 so that they can send those in to us. And we put that -- those
13 in as addendums to our Multiyear Training Plan.

14 If you look on our website right now, you'll see
15 the MYTEP that covered the past three years. We have a goal
16 right now of taking the information we gained from the workshop
17 yesterday. We have got 45 days to get that compiled and put --
18 update our training plan and submit that through our chain of
19 command for approval. Once that's done, we'll post that on the
20 website.

21 I can tell you, our goal in the MYTEP, we've got
22 some lofty goals, but we think they're very doable goals. One
23 of the things that we're trying to develop are regional
24 instructors for a lot of courses that right now we sometimes
25 have to send folks outside of the state for or we have to

1 travel instructors from one side of the state to the other to