

**ALASKA LEPC ASSOCIATION**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jamie Sunderland, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LEPC  
Soren Threadgill, Anchorage LEPC  
George Vakalis, Anchorage LEPC  
John Downes, Copper River LEPC  
Michael Paschall, Delta-Greely LEPC  
Jim Maltby, Fairbanks LEPC  
Norman Kirschbaum, Capital City-Juneau LEPC  
Scott Walden, Kenai Peninsula LEPC  
Duane Dvorak, Kodiak Island LEPC  
Linda Freed, Kodiak Island LEPC  
Sarah Sanderlin, Mat-Su LEPC  
Alaine Tate, Nome LEPC  
Frederick Brower, North Slope Borough LEPC  
Mark Kirko, Northern Southeast LEPC  
Archie Ferguson, Northwest Arctic LEPC  
Janet Holten, Petersburg/Wrangell LEPC  
Scott Elmer, Sitka LEPC  
Gary Lawton, Southern Southeast LEPC  
Wanda Clark, PWS (Valdez) LEPC

**GUESTS:**

Agnes R. Takak, Shaktoolik  
Michael Sookiayak, Shaktoolik  
Ellen Sovalik, North Slope Borough  
Ann Laturno, BACH  
Janet Mitchell, KVL City Council  
Alan Wien, ADEC  
Rosie Habeich, North Slope Borough  
Ronald Coffey, BACH  
Beatrice Adler, Mat-Su Borough  
George Tom, Newtok  
Merry Carlson, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Jamie Littrell, State of Alaska, DHSS  
Bryan Fisher, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Catherine Cart, Eastern Aleutian Tribes  
Julia Kobernuss, USAF ANG  
Sandra Porter, Mat-Su Regional Medical Center  
Jennifer Rhoten, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Adrian Avey, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Wanice Cowles, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Carie Stokes, AK ANG 168 CEX  
Katherine Miller, Juneau LEPC/Public Health

Greg Williams, American Red Cross  
Lisa (Kern) Wetzleben, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Michelle Heun, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
John Nichols, Yakutat DES  
Pamela Verney, Delta Junction Adventist Community Services  
Ramona Thompson, Unalaska LEPC  
Tamra Biasco, FEMA RX  
Ladonna Lindley, Eastern Aleutian Tribes  
Austin Swan, Sr., Kivalina City  
John Lingaas, National Weather Service  
Jeremy Zidek, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Kathy Dawson, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Fred D. Eningowuk, City of Shishmaref  
Richard Groff, City of Cordova  
Beth Ipsen, Alaska State Troopers  
John Clifton, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
David Kang, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Lynne Cameron, Municipality of Skagway  
Jim Mackin, State of Alaska, DHSS  
Jeff Tucker, North Star Fire Department  
Patricia Sovulewski, ARC of Alaska  
Jennifer Bryner, Petersburg Medical Center  
Mary Margaret Brower, North Slope Borough  
Tonya D. Miller, City of Unalaska  
Lori Stender, ALCOM  
John W. Madden, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Mary Lowery, American Red Cross  
Warren B. Cummings, City of Fairbanks  
Barry Jennings, Fairbanks North Star Borough  
Genevieve Maurits, Municipality of Anchorage  
Cindy Pilot, Koyukuk Tribal Council  
Stanley Tom, Newtok Tribal Council  
Lorna Weese, Volunteers in Policing  
Melba Palmero, Adventist Community Services  
Ephraim Palmero, Adventist Community Services  
John Sargent, City of Bethel  
Patricia Little, Kenai Public Health Center  
Ervin Petty, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Deanna Humphreys, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Andrew Jones, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Margaret Arriola, BBAHC  
Robert Forgit, FEMA Region X  
Donna Patterson, ASNA Barrow  
Mark Roberts, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Scott Karner, State of Alaska, DHS&EM  
Daniel P. Hoffman, Fairbanks Police Department  
Mike Bradley, ANTHC  
Chief Sterne, Fairbanks LEPC  
Brice Eningowuk, Native Village of Shishmaref  
Major Peter Mondelli, ALCOM  
Bev Crum, Ketchikan General

I. **CALL TO ORDER - Co-Chairs Mr. George Vakalis and Mr. John Downs**

Co-Chair Downes called the LEPC Association Meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The LEPC Association members said the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Welcome and Introductions

The following LEPC Association members introduced themselves: Wanda Clark, Valdez LEPC; Archie Ferguson, Northwest Arctic Borough LEPC; Gary Lawton, Southern Southeast LEPC; Alaine Tate, Nome LEPC; Norman Kirschbaum, Juneau LEPC; Duane Dvorak, Kodiak Island LEPC; Linda Freed, Kodiak Island LEPC; John Downes, Copper River LEPC; George Vakalis, Anchorage LEPC; Soren Threadgill, Anchorage LEPC; Scott Walden, Kenai Peninsula Borough LEPC; Mark Kirko, Northern Southeast LEPC; Janet Holten, Petersburg/Wrangell LEPC; Frederick Brower, North Slope Borough LEPC; Sarah Sanderlin, Mat-Su LEPC; Jamie Sunderland, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LEPC.

C. Administrative Announcements from Co-Chairs

Co-Chair Downes requested that whenever a member speaks that they turn on their microphone and state their name. There is a sign-up sheet for public comments. He gave a safety briefing.

II. **APPROVAL OF May 15, 2008 MINUTES**

**Jamie Sunderland, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LEPC, MOVED to approve the minutes of May 15, 2008 as presented. Mark Kirko, Northern Southeast LEPC, seconded the motion. MOTION passed unanimously.**

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

Mike Paschall, Delta-Greeley LEPC, requested a discussion of funding questions. This will be taken up under new business.

**Janet Holten, Petersburg/Wrangell LEPC, MOVED to approve the agenda as amended. Jamie Sunderland, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LEPC, seconded the motion. MOTION passed unanimously.**

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Performance Matrix Update - Ms. Lisa (Kern) Witzleben, DHS&EM, gave an update on the performance matrix. The

University of Alaska-Anchorage Masters of Global Science and Logistics went through with the Division of Homeland Security and did an entire semester looking at performance measures and how it is that you develop performance measures. She stated that anyone who wants to see the full report can contact her. The overall comment given to the Division and the University was that you need to look at the qualitative first, not necessarily putting any numbers to it, when developing performance measures. They need to be clear and concise. Within each measure you can then have goals. These goals would be quantitative and would say how you would meet that measure. She stated that the big thing they wanted to give the University and the Division was to make measures very clear and concise with little quantitative, preferably none, and also to consider not having any adverbs in the measure and very few adjectives. In response to Mr. Brower, Ms. Wetzleben stated that the process to get this information would be one-on-one discussion. There is no paperwork that needs to be filled out. She could also give him the reports. In response to Mr. Kirschbaum, Ms. Wetzleben stated that there is not a website. There are examples within the reports. In response to Ms. Holten, Ms. Wetzleben stated that she did not know if there was an opportunity for the agency to provide specific training to LEPCs without talking to the higher ups in the agency, but she thought they probably could.

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Comment

No public comments at this time.

B. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Freed stated that the account is set up as a low activity business account with Wells Fargo. It is set up so we have no fees, but we also gain no interest. We have one check left. The balance in the account is \$1,536.93.

C. SERC Finance Committee update - Mr. George Vakalis, Chair, requested if an LEPC knows it will be turning money back in that they do it early so it can be reallocated. He reminded the LEPCs that their monies are coming from the general fund this year and not the 470 fund. As a result they have a little more flexibility. However, because it is coming from the general fund, it is not as easy to obtain as it is not a dedicated fund. He suggested that when the LEPCA meets in Juneau in January that before we get down there that people, as constituents, set up meetings with their legislative representative and educate them as to how important your LEPC

is to your communities and why it is important to fund it. He reminded the group that this fiscal year they were fortunate to have been able to give each of the LEPCs more money than what was allocated the previous years. He stressed that they do not know what the case will be next fiscal year.

D. Homeland Security & Emergency Management

- i. Strategic Plans & Leadership - Mr. John Madden, Director, DHS&EM, went into the past, present and future for their mission to serve the people of Alaska. He stated that the past was hallmarked by transformation. It has been realigned to make it operate day-to-day in the same way they would operate under emergencies. It was also organized so that they do not wait for something to happen and then figure out what to do, but to think their way through things, develop a doctrine that will guide them in developing their strategies, their plans, operations and tactics. The doctrine they have settled on is in three parts: (1) create and sustain a culture of preparedness, think it through what could go wrong, how do we prevent it, how do we deter it, how do we come back strongly; training, education, preparedness standards, readiness standards, drills, exercises, communications, capabilities. This allows them to do the second element of the doctrine. (2) Enable a swift, coordinated response. Coordinated means that all the assets that are needed by the local community are there and not working against each other. They are coordinated. (3) An immediate, comprehensive recovery so that as we are in emergency operations, we are still examining the needs of how do we come back, how do we rebuild, how do we rebuild wisely, how do we rebuild strongly, how do we get government to do its part to enable the private sector to come back. He stated that presently they have an emphasis of supply chain and what can go wrong with that supply chain. They also look at what capabilities are necessary in order to maintain the equilibrium in and after an emergency. He gave the example of the floods in August in the Interior and on the North Slope. Knowing the supply chain means that when the rail is cut or cannot provide, what are the effects of that and what will be the disaster seven days from now if that is not restored. That worked very well. He stated that they are now finalizing their after-action report of the division's participation in that. They are looking at it not just what they did well, what they did poorly and what they need to improve, but also looking at what if another disaster happened 800 miles away at the time we

were deeply involved in that flooding area and how could the division and the State collectively handle two concurrent disasters. They are also looking at how much bigger the one disaster would have had to be in order for the division to be even more greatly challenged and where would those resources come from, i.e. trained people, observers, and people providing assistance and operations.

Mr. Madden stated that the division has been very supportive of the Governor's subcabinet on climate change. They were asked to join the Immediate Actions Workgroup to examine those communities that were at most risk to coastal and river erosion and what needed to be done now or within the next 12 to 18 months. The group has submitted its recommendations and the Administration and legislature responded promptly. It resulted in several projects that will be administered through the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development as well as a new approach for planning from the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The appropriation allows the Division to develop a comprehensive suite of emergency plans to do a hazard mitigation plan concurrent with an emergency operations plan concurrent with an emergency evacuation plan and then to train and exercise all of them together for an entire community. They were given resources to complete six of these.

Mr. Madden stated that this week is no longer known as the LEPC and SERC meeting week, but it is a preparedness conference. Elements from more than 20 communities around the State have been in Fairbanks since Monday running through various tracks to improve their local community's preparedness. Mary Carlson will be giving a brief on this later.

Mr. Madden stated that the future is how do we institutionalize our activities? How do we get beyond the new ideas and exploring them and getting them started and get them sustained. They are holding a series of summits with public and private leadership. They will begin with the transportation sector and continue with communications, tourism, food, medical, etc. They will show sector by sector how each one does not stand alone but relies upon the other. Next month they will hold a transportation summit. They will look at how we make sure that this system works under all conditions. If we have a major disruption, how do we come back strongly, how do we provide for the needs of the people of Alaska and the economy of Alaska? He

stated that they were institutionalizing the approach of thinking our way through hazards, understanding how things work, how they can go wrong and how we can come back strongly. He added that in the future they will strengthen the partnership with the University of Alaska even more, including internships.

Mr. Madden stated that the Federal Department of Homeland Security is eager to have a model for public/private partnership. How does a state or local government work with the private sector to plan and coordinate to deter a disaster or to come back strongly from one. For years we have had the Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection which was chaired jointly by the State and the Alaska Command. It started with the energy sector and has expanded out to banking, communications, etc. It has been very effective. He stated that they are working diligently to make it more effective. When the Federal Department of Homeland Security looked around the nation for the best examples of a public/private partnership, they found several on the private side, but only one state was invited to talk and that was Alaska. We are a charter member of a national organization to try to improve all of the public/private partnerships. We have a vested interest in other states having good, resilient plans that could have an effect on Alaska's people. That is one of the things we are looking at national policy that sometimes is detrimental to the State of Alaska. Many of the national policies he feels are truly the 48 state's policies. While they fit most of the nation, they do not fit the entire nation.

Mr. Madden stated that on every level the LEPCs are fundamental. They are the unit of identification in how they translate national and state programs into the communities. The Division will continue to support the LEPCs to the fullest extent they can within their resources. They intend to develop and provide products and services that the LEPCs can use within their communities. He added that they are devoted to providing these things because when the individual, when the family, and when the neighborhood is at risk or under harm, they turn to the community. The community is the one which has the greatest opportunity for the safety of life, the preservation of property and the continuance of the community.

1. Disaster Overview - Mr. Bryan Fisher, Operations Chief, reported on the flooding and the sea storm damage that was experience in late July and

throughout the month of August. He stated that with the flooding event particularly in the Fairbanks North Star Borough there was not a lot of road damage, but there were a lot of homes that got wet and damaged. He touched on the damage that occurred on the North Slope, including damage to seawalls in Wainwright and Kaktovik, as well as in the Interior where the residents of Salcha had to move out. It also affected Nenana which is in the unorganized borough. He stated that there is a tremendous mutual aid system in the North Star Borough and it worked well like it always does. Governor Palin did declare a state disaster on August 4<sup>th</sup> which included the North Slope Borough, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Denali Borough and the Yukon/Koyukuk Regional Education Attendance Area. Mr. Fisher stated that Alaska is one of a handful of states that have a state-run individual and family assistance program funded with state dollars. The hotline is open through October 3<sup>rd</sup>. To date they have about 250 applications they have taken for individual assistance aid. They are housing about 20 families right now whose homes had enough damage or there is enough mold or other problems from the flooding that they are not able to occupy their homes. He added that they have also fielded disaster assistance centers in Salcha, the Fairbanks area and the City of Nenana to take applications, to look at any unmet needs or immediate critical needs for people who were flooded out of their homes, and then to go out and do verification of the actual damage. Half the entire division was sent up. There was not a lot of infrastructure damage in Wainwright. The sea wall did its job, but the structural integrity of it is pretty much shot and will need to be repaired or replaced. There was some pretty significant infrastructure damage in Nenana, primarily their sewer system. He stated that they have recommended asking for a Presidential declaration for this disaster. FEMA came up to do a joint preliminary damage assessment. We are waiting to hear whether the President will declare a federal disaster. Mr. Fisher added that it was a great experience for the division operationally. They will be issuing an after-action report.

Mr. Brower, North Slope Borough, thanked the Division for their timely response and their efforts to help the Borough pull through the

disaster.

2. Tri-Annual Conferences - Ms. Merry Carlson, Preparedness Chief, thanked those present for supporting the conferences and for attending them.

She stated they were half-way through the first tri-annual preparedness conference. She felt it was a great opportunity to get together, to share knowledge and understanding, but more importantly to build relationships which are really what the conferences will be about and to start new ways of thinking and planning together. She encouraged those who attended the conference to leave as a partner, as a mentor, as someone who can connect with another community so that between now and the next conference we can continue to prepare together. She stated that the theme of the next conference will be "Building Community and Organizational Resilience." She asked each of the LEPCs to think about presenting a success story at the next conference or the third one whose theme will be "Best Practices and Lessons Learned." She added that there will be planning conferences between now and the January meeting to flesh out the January and May tri-annual preparedness conferences. She thanked the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health and other agencies that contributed to the success of the conference. They look forward to expanding their partnerships to other agencies.

Mr. Brower thanked the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for holding the tri-annual preparedness conference. With each LEPCA meeting he has attended, the joint information sharing from meeting with different LEPCs across Alaska has been helpful. He was looking forward to future conferences.

Ms. Holten stated that each meeting she has attended has been building. There has been growth in both the division and the LEPCA. She stated that this has been one of the finest ones she has ever attended. She hopes it continues.

Mr. Kirschbaum asked if they had thought about videotaping or taping the sessions. He would like to see something like that available so they could bring it back to the local LEPCs and have more people learn from the experiences and education. Ms. Carlson stated that was a great idea they can

follow up on. She added that they do have available a CD of all the conference presentations.

Ms. Carlson stated that there was a field trip in the afternoon for the LEPC members and the six imperil communities to the UAF Geophysical Institute. This will be a great opportunity to get an understanding of all hazards that affect or potentially affect the State of Alaska.

#### VI. LEPC VERBAL STATUS REPORTS

Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LEPC: Mr. Jamie Sunderland reported they held a community fair last week in Unalaska. He was able to talk to people about building disaster kits. They have received three new applications from St. Paul for seats on the LEPC, which makes the LEPC more regional based. It is not easy to get people to volunteer. In their region you cannot get to the other communities from Unalaska without going through Anchorage. All you can do is set up teleconferences and keep trying. In the past quarter they have had some volcanic eruptions occur along the chain. Three volcanoes have been active. Okmok Volcano has caused delays in flights going in and out of the local communities. Things like that can be disruptive. A family that lives on the same island as Okmok had to be evacuated. The Coast Guard arranged with a fishing vessel to evacuate the family. After this there has been a lot of community interest in volcanoes and volcanic ash because it is falling in the region. The Alaska Volcano Observatory and the Geophysical Institute came out to Unalaska and gave some presentations on what was happening, what the threat is to the local communities, and how the threat can be handled. They asked him to speak about preparedness and what local people can do.

Mat-Su LEPC: Ms. Sarah Sanderlin reported that earlier in the spring their LEPC voted to meet through the summer. They completed the largest outreach project they do which is the Alaska State Fair. This was in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services Preparedness Program and the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The booth was a success. The Borough's Emergency Operations Plan was completed in April. She was invited to go to Florida to learn about special needs sheltering. They have started a work group with the LEPC members and some non-members to work on the annex for special needs sheltering. Plans for this year include their website upgrades, public outreach and education regarding Tier II reporting, and continuing to support the area's communities.

North Slope Borough: Mr. Frederick Brower reported they held two LEPC meetings this quarter, July and September. They were invited to attend an LEPC meeting at Red Dog Mine with the Northwest Arctic Borough. They did a presentation on future electronic Tier II reporting. They talked about CAMEO and MARPLOT and the capabilities for response situations and the modeling capabilities for hazmat situations and went over how it

could be used as a tool for entering Tier II reports. At the LEPC July meeting they went over their Emergency Operation Plan which was approved last week by the Assembly and Mayor. It will take effect next month. They finalized their LEPC membership roster. They are accepting applications at this time from current and future members. He has been elected the LEPC chairman, Richard Patterson was elected vice chair, and David Statty (ph) as secretary. At the July meeting they also discussed the SERC opening for a Rural LEPC representative. He was encouraged to apply. He was not appointed by the Governor but will reapply again in the future. They also discussed their hazard preparedness brochure and what it contains. They plan to do a distribution to every household across the North Slope. They discussed doing an annual all-hazard information session, including information from different departments within the North Slope Borough. Adrian Avey from DHS&EM also attended that meeting and met with the North Slope Borough's Grants Division and Finance Department. There was concern from Point Lay about starting their own LEPC. They have had a turnover of people in the community in the upper management and wanted to do future ICS training. At the July meeting the LEPC reviewed Point Lay's Hazard Mitigation Plan. During the review they identified new hazards. Point Lay's LEPC was requested to review this to help Mr. Brower with the renewal of their hazard mitigation plan.

Mr. Brower reported that in August he attended a course from the Center for Risk and Economic Analysis and Terrorists Events at the University of Southern California. The class he attended was the Executive Program on Counter Terrorism.

At the September LEPC meeting Mr. Brower gave a briefing and an update on the July 30-31 disaster in Kaktovik and Wainwright dealing with fall sea storms. The seawall was breached in Wainwright and threatened a home and other structures including the critical water and sewer systems within the community. In Kaktovik over half the airport was under water. A couple days after the storm a family was heading home and a father and son lost their lives due to the high seas. More efforts are being made to educate individuals about boating safety. At the September meeting they also discussed the upcoming tri-annual preparedness conference and members were encouraged to attend. Two individuals from Alaska National Guard 103<sup>rd</sup> Civil Support Team attended the September meeting and did presentations about the capabilities of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Civil Support Team and how they could help in any hazmat situation, and their detection capabilities for chemical, biological, or radiological situations.

Mr. Brower reported that during the quarter the North Slope Borough Health Department participated in a two-stage table-top full-scale exercise involving an RSV outbreak which is similar to what happened in the area in the recent past. It tested the State's capability to respond to an outbreak within the EOCs to the incident and test the process as to what protocols should be for the incident.

The fire department talked to the LEPC about a program they have for elder-occupied homes that do not have carbon monoxide detectors. They were looking for guidance and funding for this. They were able to fund the project and purchase 744 CO detectors and provide the fire department and other departments within the Borough with carbon monoxide training and to give them a better understanding about how and where to install the detectors.

Mr. Sunderland stated that several years ago they had a presentation about the Hesco Barriers. From the presentation yesterday they took some significant damage in some of the North Slope communities. In response to a question from him, Mr. Brower stated that there are no warranties on the Hesco Barriers. He understands it was an untested installation. It has not worked in Kivalina or on the Slope, although in Barrow they used a different type of material inside the baskets and added a dry mix concrete base so if it did get water on it, it would harden up and not deteriorate. He will recommend in the future not utilizing the Hesco Barrier.

Petersburg/Wrangell LEPC: Ms. Janet Holten reported that Wrangell did hold a meeting in August, but she does not have the contents of what they discussed. They continue to work on updating and expanding their disaster response plan taking into account the recently formed borough. She reported that she had nothing new to report on Petersburg Tier II. The disaster response plan is updated. They updated the emergency services roster and sent out letters to businesses for updated equipment lists. They have partnerships with several businesses in Petersburg to lend equipment if needed. Currently they have applications to fill one of the vacant seats. It will be filled at the next LEPC meeting. The fire department's paid staff went through the Mountain View Manor EOC checking equipment, supplies and generators. The City of Petersburg's Hazard Mitigation Plan has received official FEMA approval and final reports were submitted and final reimbursement of expenses has occurred. They have received the final documents no longer in draft form. They have started working on compliance with newscasts. They are making steady progress with "Map Your Neighborhood," but it is slower than anticipated. Future plans in Petersburg include a meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> where they will hear about the EOC. Petersburg's city management staff will tour the facility Monday morning prior to the meeting. There are plans for a table-top exercise that will activate the EOC and use the Disaster Response Plan on September 25. The Petersburg/Wrangell joint annual meeting is planned for a date to be determined in October. With respect to "Map Your Neighborhood" they hope to start public education and distribution shortly. Ms. Holten stated that they are going to explore the possibility of having the local banks hand out the seven-day survival kit calendars with their new mortgage packets.

Northern Southeast LEPC: Mr. Mark Kirko reported that like the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LEPC that although they try to have continued contact with the communities in their region, a lot of times it is very unsuccessful communication. However, they keep inviting them to the

LEPC meetings. They continue to work on their local EOP rewrites. He reported that the LEPC has not met since May. They did go to a port security meeting recently with the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard informed them about an exercise that was being planned in Skagway that was being put on by Petro Marine. He stated that they have been trying to get more familiar with what the plans are for this. It will be a full-scale exercise of an oil spill in the northern Southeast area. He reported that they have kind of adopted into the Northern Southeast LEPC some Yukon communities such as Carcross and Whitehorse. As a border community they would have an opportunity to work with and respond in a mutual aid fashion. The LEPC has invited them to the meetings to share information and network. He stated that they are working on developing a regional resource list. He reported that the area did not have any really severe weather or damage this year although rivers were above normal due to the wet weather. One of the concerns that have been brought to them in the last month was that in the West Creek area of Skagway there is a NOAA station set up to monitor the flow of the creek.

He understands that due to funding purposes it will be going away. As a community they are working to come up with funding sources to keep that monitoring station in place. Another thing that has concerned them this year is that with the tourism industry they have a lot of bus traffic in the area. The fire department has responded to five fuel spills from buses on the city roads this summer. The concern is the fuel being washed into the storm drain systems and then making its way into the streams and fish habitat and out into the ocean. In the last month the community has looked at the ordinances that are available as well as writing ordinances that will help protect this from happening in the future, and to be more stringent in the future on what we expect of these tour groups that come into the community in having plans on how they will deal with the situation. None of them have a spill plan. Mr. Kirko stated that they hope to have an LEPC meeting in October.

Kenai Peninsula LEPC: Mr. Scott Walden reported their meetings have been well attended and there has been good participation in activities outside of the meetings. They have been very active in assisting with the emergency plan revisions across the Peninsula. Specifically in reviewing and evaluating security plans with the energy sector from the refineries to Chugach Electric, as well as helping the hospital develop a good plan. He stated that they have worked with the Kenai Peninsula College Campus and the University of Alaska in response and recovery and emergency planning for, CERT teams and other activities that they should have on campus when they might be isolated from others. He reported that they did a lot of community outreach at numerous fairs, community meetings, and activities in the schools. They have participated at least at a preliminary level with the National Weather Service and others with the Storm Ready Communities related to evacuation planning and how that sort of a program might be used for other problems, i.e. a hazardous material spill in the area. The "Map Your Neighborhood Program" is ongoing. They have two neighborhoods with about 30 in each neighborhood that they call success stories. They will try to post on their website how that is going. He also reported that the Weather

Service is working through the Borough on Cook Inlet ice monitoring. He stated they are trying to get additional monitoring cameras placed out on the platforms. They are working closely with LEPC members who are industry representatives to get that coordinated and put in place. Mr. Walden stated they had some activities with the ALRM people and the civil support team that had full deployments from both West Virginia and Alaska for two days down at their office to simulate the need for replacing failed communications in a disaster. A number of Kenai Peninsula LEPC members participated.

Mr. Walden stated a couple of awareness things they have run into over the past year include satellite phones. They do regular checks on the phones to make sure they are working, but a couple of instances have occurred where they really needed them and the phones were not working. When they contacted the provider they were told they need new SIM cards now. There was no notice prior to the day they needed them to inform them of this. He recommended that others who have a quantity of satellite phones contact their vendor to make sure their SIM cards are still active and good, and also make sure there is some sort of contact when there is a change or a needed change of SIM cards. He stated that another issue they discovered this year was due to the flooding in Seward over the past couple years. There was a huge bed-load build up of gravel and debris that is almost insurmountable financially and logistically to remove. He stated that even though there has been high water noticeable down there, the river gauges do not always show that there is any high water or any flooding. They are working with USGS to see what can be done to recalibrate those gauges to adjust for the fact that there is no longer eight feet of bed there but two feet of bed.

Mr. Walden reported that their office has been participating along with DHS&EM and FEMA Region X advisory council on a quarterly basis. He has learned a number of things that he has been able to bring back to the LEPC related to FEMA. FEMA is now forward leaning and no longer sitting back and waiting to be told at a Presidential level to go do something. When an issue occurs in Alaska, they are very proactive in monitoring it. He added that we now have some good spokes people at the FEMA level attending those meetings, Mr. Madden and Mr. Forgit. He also learned that no longer do the Pacific Northwest members look at themselves as being needed to help Alaska all the time, but are realizing now with some of the problems they have had there that Alaska can be a big help to them. It is something we need to plan on locally and statewide for the future.

Mr. Walden thanked DHS&EM for their assistance on the Kenai Peninsula with technical support, financial support, and basically being available whenever they call them. He also thanked Ms. Sarah Sanderlin for assisting in the second mass dispensing exercise planning and coordination on the Peninsula in about two years. She is involved in that right now with the City of Seward.

Mr. Brower stated he could give Mr. Walden some contact information with

respect to the issue of the satellite phones. A problem he has noticed with prepaid SIM cards is that in any emergency you do not know the duration of the incident, and if that is your only form of communication, the issue of renewing the SIM cards can be an issue in the field. The company they use has an annual monthly base. It costs \$430 a year, but it is a full year membership and the minutes are an additional cost, but at no time will you have a disturbance in your emergency response capabilities with your satellite phones. Mr. Walden stated he would like to talk with Mr. Brower later.

Anchorage LEPC: Mr. Soren Threadgill reported the CDC had a proposal throughout the nation on model communities. What they wanted to look at in particular was the emergency care community and how that interfaced with the public health system. Anchorage submitted the document yesterday and will find out in about a month whether they are one of the states selected for it.

In probably October or November they will start a citywide CPR initiative. It will be partly online and partly hands on CPR training. They will be working with community partners as well as the American Heart Association on an online CPR program for a mass training.

Mr. Threadgill reported that their Type 3 All Hazard IMT Team was deployed for a shadow assignment for the California wildland fires. The State of Alaska has paid for portable tents that will be cached in areas throughout Anchorage. The AFD is involved with two national pilot projects, one through Emory University that studies cardiac arrest patients and the other through the National Institute of Health called Immediate Trials where they are given glucose, insulin and potassium on a double blind study to patients.

The National Association of Fire Chiefs has been tasked with having every state have a series of mutual agreements with the emergency response agencies in their state to mitigate any state emergency. Mr. Threadgill stated that they were in the preliminary stages of working on this now. He will be contacting every member of the LEPC to find out if their areas have memos of agreements with their emergency response partners. He will be talking with Mr. Madden later with regards to Homeland Security's role in this. They hope DHS&EM will take the lead on this as they are statewide.

Delta-Greely LEPC: Mr. Michael Paschall reported that while they had flood warnings with the events in the North Star Borough and Nenana, they fortunately escaped any flooding. He reported that they had their outreach with the fair this year. The Red Cross presented a disaster recovery trailer or shelter in place type trailer to the community this year. There was an incident recently that stretched their police services. The LEPC is going to sit down and review that event to see what other resources in the community are available to provide, for instance, traffic control, etc. They continue working on getting an "Enhanced 911" system as well as an "Emergency Alert System" in place to

service their area rather than being tied completely to Fairbanks.

Valdez LEPC: Ms. Wanda Clark reported they met over the summer. They have increased their membership by 25 percent and are continuing to look for new active members. Recently they launched a website. Over the summer they were presented with a plaque as a tsunami-ready community. They are now taking that tsunami-readiness and doing more targeted education. She stated that they are doing a lot of outreach in the community. They are printing up tsunami fliers to make sure people are aware of the evacuation sites. For the fall they plan to have an Alternate Care Site drill. The new chair of the LEPC is John Ingals. She reported that they are working to become NIMS compliant with trying to get all their members ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800 level training. They are also working to get new CERT trainers in Valdez so they can set up CERT teams. In October they are having a train-the-trainer for the ferry system for emergency management.

Fairbanks LEPC: Mr. Jim Maltby reported that attendance at LEPC meetings continues to be high. They have been focused on the floods this summer. The airport conducted an exercise this summer. It went well. There was a good debriefing from Mr. Mike Supkis from the airport as well as a good after action report. The LEPC is encouraging all of its members to get NIMS compliant.

Northwest Arctic LEPC: Mr. Archie Ferguson reported that since the last LEPCA meeting he and the fire chief went to Kobuk and Buckland to meet with the tribal councils and city councils as well as the residents in each community. The purpose was to go over the spring flood river breakups and have the communities choose an IC as well as locations for their special needs citizens and the general population for shelter in place. Both communities chose the health clinic for the special needs population and the schools for the general population. During their floods this spring breakup everything went very well.

In June he participated in their local area DOT disaster drill which consisted of a mock jetliner crash into the water off the end of the runway. They received some good feedback from the DHS&EM observers on the after action reports. Due to miscommunication during the pre-planning of the drill, the hospital and medical staff were inadvertently left out. Although they were told the hospital and medical staff would not participate, they were all waiting for them to bring in patients during the drill. As a result of the after action reports and critiques that came out of the drill, they will be doing an ICS training and train-the-trainer to include some of the hospital staff and other people who had not had ICS training. He and the fire chief will be in the train-the-trainer class as well so they can go out to the communities in the NANA region to do ICS training for each of the communities.

Mr. Ferguson reported he was invited to the North Slope Borough to review some of their written plans for each of their communities. This included hazard mitigation plans, EOC plans, etc. as well as to look at

his computer system with the electronic Tier II reporting, CAMEO and MARPLOT, and how it all works.

Mr. Ferguson and the Borough fire chief went to Selawik to help them reorganize their fire department and do some local training. They also went to McGrath to do some training with their fire department and the State Fire Marshall's Office on the Code Red fire equipment. Five communities in the Northwest Arctic Borough have this Code Red equipment, so it was nice to learn how to refuel the machines and get them reset up for the next incident. Mr. Ferguson stated he sent McGrath copies of the Kotzebue Fire Department SOPs and SOGs so McGrath can get started on a formal organization of their fire department. He stated they did Code Red training in Ambler and got their fire department reorganized and familiar with their equipment.

Mr. Ferguson reported that in August they held their first quarter '09 LEPC meeting at the Red Dog Mine. He invited Mr. Frederick Brower to attend the meeting so he could give a presentation to the LEPC membership on the electronic Tier II CAMEO and MARPLOT computer systems. They also toured the entire operations of the Red Dog Mine. The main aspect of the tour was to go over each area of their emergency response and hazard mitigation that they have in place including medical, fire for structures or industrial, hazmat of various types from the chemicals used, fuel spills, the lead and zinc materials, heavy equipment accidents, and the coastal response that they do for the ships in the event of a fuel spill, etc. He added that they have been cleared by TSA at the port site while they were there.

Mr. Ferguson reported that they are still working on NMS. He did some close-outs on some grants from last quarter and is getting ready to do some close-outs on grants for this quarter. They ordered all their radios under the LETPP grant for the Kotzebue Police Department.

Southern Southeast LEPC: Mr. Gary Lawton reported on one opportunity that he thought might be of interest. He works for the U.S. Forest Service and they have offices in many places in Southeast, on the Kenai and in Anchorage. There are other agencies that are also land management agencies that have offices around the state. He was thinking about what the Forest Service does at the local level before a disaster is declared. He presented a list of items they may be able to offer at the local area, anywhere from communications and radios to a communication system that reaches all of Southeast Alaska, to fire gear, safety gear, vehicles, fuel supplies, fuel containers, housing and electrical generators among other items. They can also offer biologists, planners, office people, law enforcement, contracting people, first aid responders, rescue people, and ICS experience. He pointed out that while they cannot just offer these things straight to the city, they can come up with a memorandum of understanding where they can direct the activities and their resources to the disaster. He has an example template of a memorandum of understanding. In response to a question from Mr. Kirschbaum, Mr. Lawton stated he could call him at the

Craig district office, 826-3271.

Nome LEPC: Ms. Alaine Tate reported she has completed ICS 100, 200, 700 training and needs to do the 800. Since the May meeting, they have had their mitigation plan approved by the State. It is going to go before the city council for their approval. Their Emergency Operations Plan is in the process of going through the State for approval. She received the crosswalk recommendations and is working on that list. She learned that the comments from DEC, etc. will be available probably sometime in November. She reported that the Nome Joint Utility Systems is applying for pre-disaster mitigation funds for shoring up poles, a bridge and utilidors for water and sewer for damages that were sustained in the past.

Coming up in October, Nome will have a health fair. Because of the health fair last year, about 75 percent of Nome's population was immunized for the flu. They hope to have the same kind of success this year. Also, in October, there will be a transportation drill in conjunction with the Department of Transportation. They hope to involve Nome Public Schools as volunteers. Nome Public Schools just completed their emergency action plan and ICS training for their staff. They will also be involved in the drill in May 2009.

Ms. Tate reported that Nova Gold came to the LEPC meeting in June and explained that their emergency action plan is almost completed. They will schedule a field trip to their mine site. She would like to get together with Mr. Ferguson to get some ideas on what they should be looking for.

Ms. Tate expressed her appreciation for the training at the conference. She felt she needs more training in Tier II and CAMEO. She would like to follow up on concerns expressed in May regarding Nome's concerns over explosives being transported around and through town and stored within city limits. These are explosives for the Rock Creek Mine. The Rock Creek Mine is covered under the umbrella of MSHA and therefore is not required to report under Tier II. She also checked EPCRA and ammonium nitrate is not listed as one of the hazardous substances that would require reporting under Tier II. She wanted to know if there was any new information that she could take back to her LEPC. Co-Chair Vakalis stated that there is documentation that the State goes by as far as what has to be reported; however, there can be exceptions made for additional items to be considered and reported upon. Several communities have done this. This has to be worked out through the Department of Environmental Conservation. If it is a major change, it would come before the SERC.

Mr. Ferguson, Northwest Arctic LEPC, stated that they have been dealing with the same things with the Red Dog Mine. One of their employees is on the LEPC. They have just asked the Red Dog Mine as a courtesy to continue giving them spill reports of any size and of any product, including used water, as well as continue with the Tier II reporting. They also fall under the MSHA regulations and do not have to report to

the local agency directly. He recommended Nome ask the Red Creek Mine to keep them informed out of courtesy. Mr. Maltby, Fairbanks LEPC, stated that MSHA is a separate issue from EPA requirements. They will fall under MSHA and EPCRA. Also, if they are handling over 10,000 pounds of materials in a single day, that has to be reported. He stressed that they not let anyone tell them that if they fall under MSHA then they are not required to meet EPA requirements, because that is not the case. Mr. Brower, North Slope Borough LEPC, added that with highly hazardous substances such as explosives, if there is stuff within your community it would be nice to now where it is housed at least for fire response, as well as to educate the community about what areas to stay away from. He recommended they ask the company to inform them as a courtesy where they store it and what they store for emergency response purposes.

Sitka LEPC: Mr. Scott Elmer reported they are currently working with a contractor to update their Emergency Operations Plan. They have received one replacement siren for their emergency warning siren system. They are working on replacing the whole system. The LEPC is working on developing a "show kit" to show what you can put into a kit for emergency evacuations. He stated that they are working with a group called the Sitka Youth First Responders. They work out of both high schools. They receive EMT training in school and also work as a team to do different community projects. They have offered to work with the LEPC and do a poll through the community to find out how many people currently are prepared in the event of an evacuation. He stated they plan to run the program for a couple years with public education, flyers, etc. and then re-poll people in a couple years and find out what kind of a difference they have made.

Mr. Elmer stated that they are in the process of working with DOT. There is a disaster drill scheduled for May 2009. They just completed a table-top exercise on this drill with all the interested parties.

He stated they continue to work with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Geophysical Institute regarding tsunami inundation mapping. They are trying to get more accurate data, marine survey data, and topographical data in order to be able to put this together.

Juneau LEPC: Mr. Norman Kirschbaum reported that they recently lost their emergency management director in Juneau, Mike Patterson. Mike Brannum is their new emergency management director. He is currently taking some training in Maryland. Mr. Kirschbaum himself is also new to the LEPC. They feel this is an excellent opportunity to look at the LEPC and do an inventory to see where they have to do better and what they can do to be more effective. They are starting several new projects, one of which is called "Exposing the Best Kept Secret in Juneau," which is the LEPC. They have also added to the LEPC meetings a 10-minute block at the end of the meeting for "what if" exercises. It has led to longer LEPC meetings because everyone gets involved. One thing that came out of the last meeting was that if Salmon Creek Dam

happened to break, it would create two halves of the city, one with a hospital and one without. As a result, at the next meeting they are scheduled to go out to the University of Alaska-Southeast and look at their facilities to see if they could set up two or three different triage centers that would be on the side of the city that did not have a hospital.

An area he has looked at is the fact that the LEPC did not have regular participation at meetings of the local hospital or any physicians or nurses groups. They are working with the hospital. He has become a member of their emergency preparedness committee. He stated they are doing a lot of outreach things to get things started. He stated that the LEPC has decided that if they meet only once month, they will never get everything done, so they are setting up three smaller committees: publicity, recruitment and training. Those committees will meet independently and report to the LEPC monthly. It is hoped this will help them get more done in a timely fashion. With respect to LEPC members and future members they are talking about attendance standards of what would really make a difference. It is difficult without good attendance each month to actually get anything done.

AEL&P lost some power grid earlier in the year. Most people in Juneau would not have realized what was happening if it were not for their energy bills. The company was able to get the diesel generators going and there was no real loss of power. Private citizens cut back on their electric usage. They are looking into why there wasn't some additional planning on the part of the industry so that there would not have been such a hard hit.

Mr. Kirschbaum stated that if any of the communities in Southeast have a Southeast Regional Health Consortium facility near them, they have polycoms available from each facility so there could be some meetings that could happen in that particular area that they would be glad to host.

Kodiak Island LEPC: Mr. Duane Dvorak stated that LEPCs are an excellent example of public/private partnerships. He reported that they also have had attendance problems. They have quarterly meetings of the LEPC and the emergency service organizations. They have noticed some tapering off of attendance. Last cycle they submitted six or more applications for LEPC membership. Those have been approved and he felt this will go a long ways towards re-energizing the LEPC.

Mr. Dvorak reported that at the end of last fiscal year they reprinted their English version of the local emergency preparedness guide and are in the process of distributing them. They currently have versions in Tagalog, English and Spanish. At this time of year they do their local advertising in the Kodiak newspaper with a half-page supplement where they talk about everything from home preparedness kits, warning signals and how to interpret them, etc. Other agencies also advertise. We are trying to promote a culture of preparedness in our communities.

Mr. Dvorak reported that the state agency that oversees local daycares invited them to provide. They were invited to speak to about 30 daycare providers. They also distributed their emergency preparedness guide as well as pulling out excerpts from the emergency operations plan regarding sheltering and evacuations, home preparedness kits not only for their families but also for their charges in their daycare operations. He stated that this is something they would like to do in the future on a recurring basis.

Ms. Linda Freed stated that they have had the same difficulty as other regions in terms of bringing in their smaller communities to participate formally in the LEPC. The route they have used to communicate with those communities is through other activities and other organizations, such as the annual Mayor's Conference that is sponsored by the Kodiak Island Borough. Another avenue is when people are going out to the communities. They can tag on and do emergency preparedness training and talk with them at that time.

Ms. Freed stated that the City of Kodiak has needed to replace its police station for years. The police station houses the regional dispatch facility, the public safety answering point as well as currently housing the contract jail for the region. A new police station is out to bid with those bids to be opened October 10<sup>th</sup>. The City of Kodiak has dedicated a significant sum of money and has designed a purpose built emergency operations center within the new police department.

Copper River LEPC: Co-Chair Downes reported they were successful in getting the NOAA weather radio in their area last year. They are now working with NOAA on the second phase to get the NOAA radar in the valley. He also reported that in the last month they lost a fire truck due to vandalism. A lot of people have been volunteering their equipment to the Kenny Lake Fire Department. He stated that they are in the process of updating their hazard analysis which should be done in the next couple weeks. They are going through their emergency operations plan now.

Towards the end of the summer they were working on a plan for doing a drill involving a bus crash. In the middle of their planning they had a bus crash. There were no fatalities. It was a good drill with a good outcome.

A. Public Comments

Ms. Michelle Heun, DHS&EM, reported that Ketchikan was absent from the meeting due to weather. She thanked everyone for sending a representative. She stated that one of the reasons the grant allocations were increased this year is because Bristol Bay LEPC has gone inactive. The community will still report Tier II activities and do LEPC functions without an

official role.

Announcements: Co-Chair Vakalis stated that the field trip after lunch begins at 1:00, not 1:30. He has been asked to announce that anyone who was interested in the PSIC grant should see Bryan Fisher sometime today.

At the next meeting in Juneau, if you plan to try to speak to some of your legislators about the effectiveness of LEPCs, how important they are and why they need to funding, it is suggested that you schedule an appointment before December because they get booked up.

#### VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Comprehensive Community Planning - Mr. Andy Jones, DHS&EM, stated that on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Governor Palin signed Administrative Order 238 which formed the Governor's Subcabinet on Climate Change. The Immediate Actions Workgroup was formed and looked at dealing with early assessments and development of an action plan by addressing climate change impacts on coastal and other at-risk communities. They also developed a recommendation report to the subcabinet. It stated short-term projects, 12 to 18 months and how it could minimize the loss of life and property to the six identified imperiled communities. These communities are Kivalina, Koyukuk, Newtok, Shaktoolik, Shishmaref, and Unalakleet. The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management were asked to assist the communities in peril to develop a suite of comprehensive plans. The Division decided to adopt an interrelated systematic approach with four phases: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Each phase would build on the accomplishments of the preceding phase by treating each as a comprehensive process. Within a suite of comprehensive emergency plans there are the local hazard mitigation plan, emergency operation plan, emergency evacuation plan, and the continuity of operations plan. Training follows, as without training you cannot utilize these plans. He touched on the various plans and their benefits. The local hazard plan identifies the risks and vulnerabilities of the community, sets clear goals and states mitigation strategies. The community would also qualify for the hazard mitigation grant program and the pre-disaster mitigation grant program. Once the community qualifies for this, they can execute their hazard mitigation projects. The emergency operations plan provides a template for coordination during a response. It facilitates future planning needs. An emergency evacuation plan provides a template to execute during an evacuation. A continuity of operations plan ensures safety of personnel and visitors, serves as a foundation for continued survival of leadership, ability to perform functions that the local government is expected to perform during a crisis.

Mr. Jones stated that the six communities were selected to receive this suite of comprehensive plans based on their location and what they face, i.e. massive erosion due to sea storms and being cut off by flooding. Newtok is already looking at moving to a new site.

Mr. Jones stated that for the future of comprehensive planning, the Division is looking at extending their reach to more of an all hazard comprehensive planning for more Alaska communities. They hope when the project is in its final phases to have a template that communities could use to develop for themselves. There are already a lot of resources on-line so the LEPCs can start being active about developing their own plans, including on the Division's website and FEMA's website on COOP.

- B. FEMA Region X Earthquake/Mitigation Updates - Ms. Tamra Biasco stated that she is the new Earthquake Program Manager. She stated that FEMA has developed a new branch called Risk Analysis. Included in the branch are mitigation planning, flood hazard mapping, the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program, the National Dam Safety Program, and the multi-hazard software program that they use for mitigation. She talked about what they are doing in the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) and what they may be able to provide to local communities. She encouraged communities to submit their local hazard mitigation plans as that is how they get grants. She stated that they are working on training to take the locals up and running for a local hazard mitigation plan that can be submitted to the State in order to get grants for things such as earthquake retrofit of schools, etc. She stated that the NEHRP consists of four agencies: FEMA, the National Institute of Science and Technology, the National Science Foundation and USGS.

Ms. Biasco stated that FEMA has a program called the National Earthquake Technical Assistance Program which provides training to local communities. It includes training on rapid visual screening of seismic hazards in the community, procedures for post-earthquake safety evaluation of buildings, earthquake hazard mitigation for structural elements and retrofit of one and two-story family dwellings.

Future things they are working on in the NEHRP program include a state website link. They encourage the new NEHRP training. FEMA headquarters has partnered with Safe America Organization and picked four communities in the Lower 48 for a Safe America. They are looking at how seismically retrofitted they are and how they can handle a seismic event.

She added that FEMA regional people have pushed to try to get something in either Alaska or the Northwest. Also, it is

a high priority from the regional administrator and deputy regional administrator to get Region X, and specifically Alaska on the high list of earthquake hazards.

Mr. Brower, North Slope Borough LEPC, asked about the process of FEMA communicating with communities. Ms. Biasco recommended that if they have a FEMA contact, they should feel free to contact that person. It would be up to FEMA to include the state. Or if they have a state contact, she recommended pushing them to talk to FEMA. Mr. Robert Forgit recommended that they go to the state first and work through the state. He added that his office works very closely with their state partners to ensure that questions are answered. For information you can come to anyone.

- C. Clarification of Funding and What Funds can be used for - Mr. Michael Paschall, Delta-Greely LEPC, stated that like many LEPCs they get in the position of trying to determine what to spend funds on. Last year they were disallowed some expenditures on outreach materials and publications to be handed out to the general public. One of the items listed as a primary purpose of the LEPC is outreach. At the last SERC meeting when they added promotional material they limited it to only 20 percent of the expenditure, which he sees as a limitation that did not exist before. The question he had was how do they as an LEPC know without asking every time how they can spend their money?

Ms. Heun stated that they are in the process of developing the 2010 application for LEPCs. They would welcome any suggestions or input for revising the application. She stated that this is a planning grant. Publications on local emergency preparedness have always been allowed. Historically, LEPCs have a very difficult time spending this money. They looked at what would allow the LEPCs to solicit more volunteers to become active and how to get emergency information out to the local communities. The 20 percent is the little giveaways such as pencils, erasers, key chains, etc. Those should not have been allowed throughout the years. They wanted to put in place a method for the LEPCs to get these items, but they have to cap it at 20 percent because this is a planning grant, not a "thing" grant. They encourage the LEPCs to call them and ask. She stated that publications have never been an issue.

Co-Chair Vakalis gave some history on the guidelines. Years ago there was no set criteria established for how the funds were to be distributed. Funds were distributed based on plans the LEPCs submitted to the Finance Committee. There was no standard by which the Finance Committee could base a realistic distribution based on the requirements and the

information they were being provided. The LEPCA suggested that they get together as an association and come up with what all of us thought was important. During that time the majority of the funding that the LEPCs received was from the 470 fund which basically is for hazardous mitigation. There were two problems with that fund. As the flow of oil diminished, so did the amount of monies available to LEPCs. The second problem was that it was very, very restrictive as to what the funds could be used for. This was a problem as the SERC and the state encouraged LEPCs to be all hazards, not just hazardous materials. He stated that at the same time they were trying to figure out what it really takes to operate an LEPC. It takes more money to operate some LEPCs than others. We had to have a system where it was based and distributed fairly. With the help of the LEPCA they designed a baseline based on the size of the LEPC. It was based on geography, population, and the known hazards in the community. It was also for what was needed to run an LEPC, i.e. phones, computers, staff, etc. When they looked at these things and the amount of money that was available, it was apparent that there was no way they could ever fully fund an LEPC just the baseline alone. Co-Chair Vakalis stated that we are now using general funds which can be used for all hazards so, for example, if you need a brochure to put out to the community on an all-hazards type thing, you can do it. If the person you have on staff works not only on hazardous materials, but also on other types of hazards, then you can partially pay the salary of that person with general fund money. Based on the suggestion of the LEPCA they also developed another mechanism for funding. If we ever were able to fully fund baseline and there were other monies available and the LEPC needed money for a special project within the community, as long as it fell within the all hazards, then the Finance Committee with the assistance of staff would evaluate based on established criteria those special projects and decide if they could be funded or how much could be funded. He added that we have not had special projects because we have not been able to even take care of baseline. When money is turned back early enough, then they can allocate that money back to some other LEPC to take care of a special project. Ms. Heun reiterated that if an LEPC needs to turn money back, they need to turn it back early so it can be reallocated.

Mr. Paschall stated that his concerns were not about the amount of money. In their case, they were following the goals the LEPC has based on the material provided to them in the grant application and grant award and then were told this \$300 doesn't qualify. He wanted to be able to know that ahead of time. Ms. Freed, Kodiak Island LEPC, stated that they have learned over the years that if there is any

question at all in your mind, make a phone call or an email. It has always been their understanding that they could not use LEPC money for "stuff." Mr. Paschall stated he was talking about brochures and pamphlets to give to community members and use in schools. Ms. Freed state they would still check with the division to make sure the brochure they were going to produce would be covered. Staff is easily available and very responsive. Mr. Paschall stated that if there is something that says the money cannot be spent on something like that, why is it not in the grant material. Ms. Freed stated that you cannot address every issue in either the application or the contract itself. Ms. Heun stated that Adrian Avey is working on the application. It will be distributed prior to March. She added that there was an opportunity for LEPC members to testify before the SERC Finance Committee in May.

VIII. MEMBERS CLOSING COMMENTS - OPEN FORUM

Mr. Norman Kirschbaum, Juneau LEPC, stated that there is an extremely big learning curve from the minute you start an LEPC. He would love to see the history Co-Chair Vakalis gave written somewhere.

Ms. Janet Holten, Petersburg/Wrangell LEPC, stated she has contacted staff probably many times more than she needed to, and that when they could not do something, staff had at least four suggestions of how they can accomplish what they were trying to do. She agreed it was a learning curve. She encouraged everyone to use the resources within the division.

Co-Chair Vakalis stated he had been asked to cover something which he felt was appropriate and the timing is probably long overdue. It does not pertain to anybody specifically, it really doesn't, but it is just a reminder. All of us have been appointed, as you know, to an LEPC and the state has very strict ethics laws and especially in the most recent history, of course, the ethic laws have been highlighted over and over again for one reason or another for incidents beyond any of our control that have happened throughout the state. So as a reminder, when all of us accept an appointment to an LEPC to the SERC or even local jurisdiction commissions, there is an ethic requirement for us to review the ethics policy, look at the document that's sent to you, sign it and send it back. But what I would encourage you to do is that every once in a while you pull out your copy of that document and look at it and see what it says that you can and cannot do, and what an ethics violation is, because sometimes it's not that apparent to you that you may be violating the Ethics Law, but you may be. And so just to make sure that we're all doing what we're supposed to be doing, every once in a while

pull that document out, take a good look at it and just make sure that you're refreshed. And that was what I was basically asked to comment on.

Co-Chair Downes thanked the people in the gallery for attending. He invited them to come to the SERC meeting as well.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Jim Maltby MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Michael Paschall seconded the motion. The MOTION passed unanimously.