STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION MEETING

April 7, 2017

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

Anchorage Hilton

500 West 3rd Avenue, Anchorage, AK

ATTENDEES

Dean Brown, DNR
Jay Butler, DHSS
Zainab Cheema, DHS&EM
William Comer, DPS
Robert Forgit, FEMA
Abner Hoage, Local Government
Laurie Hummel, DMVA; SERC Co-Chair
Donald Jurewicz, USCG
Jill Klein, DF&G
Nick Knowles, EPA
Richard Koch, Alaska Command
Shannon Miller, DEC; SERC Co-Chair
Dan Monteleone, DOT&PF
Chris Noel, LEPC - Rural
Fred Parady, DCC&ED
Tom Vaden, LEPC - Rural
George Vakalis, LEPC - Urban
Pamela Walton, DHS&EM
CALL TO ORDER

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

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

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

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

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

CO-CHAIR MILLER: Thank you.

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Here you go.

CO-CHAIR MILLER: Thanks.

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

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. Well, that's what it says on my script, and so I think you've been promoted. And I'll let Mr. Wood know the unfortunate news after the meeting. I'd like to pass over now to the coordinator, Zainab Cheema. And Zainab is going to go through roll call, declaration of a quorum, and make some admin announcements.

MS. CHEEMA: Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL
Participants signed in.

MS. CHEEMA: All right. Thank you.

QUORUM DETERMINATION

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

MS. CHEEMA: Also, as a reminder, the SERC meeting is a public meeting. To allow the reporter to make
accurate minutes, I would like to ask SERC members, anyone

testifying, too, state their name into their microphone each
time they begin to make comments. Press the bottom silver
button to talk and again to turn off the microphone when
finished. Please bring the mic close to you when you do speak.

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Thank you, Zainab.

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

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

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

As disaster response and initial recovery activities were taking place, Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Environmental Conservation conducted two significant rural engagement and coverage events, along with many of the agencies represented
around the table here today.

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

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

Just this week, many of our staff participated in multiple events across Anchorage, including Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Spring Preparedness Conference; the Alaska Search and Rescue Leadership Conference; and the Statewide Haz-mat Working Group.
Meeting. It was a very busy and productive week. I'm thankful to each and every one of you, as you lead your organizations in a spirit of partnership and collaboration.

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

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

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

MR. VAKALIS: So move. Vakalis.

MR. PARADY: Second.

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

Is there any discussion, or does anyone have any proposed changes to the minutes?
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Question.

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Question?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible). No question.

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: No question.

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

(Aye chorus.)

Aye?

(No audible response.)

All right.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).
CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: I can't hear you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

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

Anybody want to introduce themself again?

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

MR. VAKALIS: So move. Vakalis.

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


APPROVAL OF, AND CHANGES TO, THE AGENDA

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

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

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

Any other suggestions for adjustment?

(No audible response.)

SERC CONSENT AGENDA

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

Don't have to take a vote.

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

LEPC APPOINTMENTS

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

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

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

Zainab, do we need to vote on this?

MS. CHEEMA: (Indiscernible).

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: We do?

MS. CHEEMA: Yes.
CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Do we need a second?

All right.


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

All those in favor of confirming the LEPC appointments as they stand, with the removal of Richard Patterson of North Slope Borough, please say aye.

(Aye chorus.)

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Anyone opposed?

(No audible response.)

SERC CONSENT AGENDA

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. On toward the State Emergency Response Commission Consent Agenda. The agenda is found in Tab 5C, and these are the dates for the proposed fall 2017 and spring 2018 meeting dates.

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

MS. CHEEMA: (Indiscernible).

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Yes, we do.

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

All right.

MR. VAKALIS: Move to approve. Vakalis.

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: All right. Vakalis has moved to approve.

Second?

MR. COMER: Second.
CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: All right. We have a second.

All those in favor of the proposed dates under the consent agenda, please signify by saying aye.

(Aye chorus.)

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Anyone opposed?

(No audible response.)

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

DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

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

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

(Applause chorus.)

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

For the record, Madam Chair, my name is Michael O'Hare. I'm the Director of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs. It is an honor to be here, honor to see our partners in emergency response; preparedness, response and recovery; also known as the usual suspects. It is an honor to be here.
I'll give you a brief update on the Division and what we are -- what we are doing, what we are focusing on. Madam, you had mentioned -- Madam Chair, you mentioned the Preparedness Conference that we had the last couple of days. We had an incredible three days: Keynote speakers; training; workshops ranging from Terrorism Law Enforcement Certification to Firewise, to Training and Exercise Planning Workshops.

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

So I want to commend my team for putting this together, as they always do, a great, great conference. And we have taken this from twice a year here in Anchorage to once a year here in Anchorage, with the SERC and LEPCA meetings tacked
on to Health and Social Services Conference. It, again, working with other partners. So that having it once a year, here in the fall, allows our Division to really focus on getting out to the rural communities and rural engagement and getting out to the regions and the smaller communities and help them be better prepared for disaster. And our Bethel conference was a great success. We are going to do more of them, more information to come. But it's getting boots on the ground, face-to-face (indiscernible), eye-to-eye, to understand what is important to those rural communities and how we can help and how we can help them become more resilient.

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

With regards to the Division, we are focused again, like I said, continuing momentum on catastrophic
preparedness and readiness, with additional focus on readiness and preparedness and resilience for the rural communities. 

Madam, you mentioned Small Community Emergency Response Plan. Very, very effective for small communities, to enable them to have a really quick understanding of what the heck we're supposed to do if something happens in their community. We have had great responses. That the hurricane storms that we saw in the fall and the winter, past winter, we had a response from Shaktoolik. 

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

Just some things that we've been working on. We mentioned the Bering Sea storms. As always, there's storms always here. Preparedness and Outreach and Rural Engagement. We had our tsunami -- our annual Tsunami Alert Warning Test on the 29th. It was very successful. It is a statewide alert
warning. We activated, soup to nuts, our callout system, not only to my staff, the staff at the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, but also those communities that were potentially impacted, to literally employees at the State Emergency Operations Center. Make a hard phone call to those communities. Make sure that our contact information is correct. But also more importantly, make sure that they receive the warning.

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

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

So with the help of Michelle Torres and the rest of my team, we have implemented in the curriculum Community Emergency Response Training to these kids so that they get an understanding of emergency management, what it is, get them
better prepared to assist their communities. When they go back
out to the communities, they could be the (indiscernible) in
those communities, not only for our team, but to the community
leadership, as well, on how to organize and how to better respond.

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

So we are going to increase that capacity.

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

I mentioned Rural Resiliency Workshops. We're going to -- we got Bethel. We're going to do Kotzebue. We've
got a big push, since the Alaska Shield Exercise, for movement
coordination and control. It is a -- yeah, it's a -- it's a military term. What it means is, when big, bad things happen here in Alaska, how do we get that -- that big federal goodness up here in a -- in a fashion by which the State's priorities are met, met in a timely fashion, and how logistics -- how logistically we get it up here? And then from there, how do we get it from wherever it's centralized out to those local points of distribution, where they actually need to have it? How does the water and food get to those survivors? And so we're working on that logistics movement through our partners at FEMA and Department of Defense.

Thanks, you guys. We appreciate your partnership.

And we're moving on forward with that.

Sometimes FEMA headquarters -- and actually, all of us, we go through an exercise and we all crack a beer and say, "Hey, great job; we did that." Then move on to something else.

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

The other push, of course, that we're working on is -- working on with our partners at Department of Administration and -- or, Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure
Protection, the infrastructure protection is the cyber planning. Cyber is one of the biggest threats we all face in the state and the nation. (Indiscernible) when I got back from a policy conference in San Jose, or specifically regarding the National Governors Association on cyber planning, cyber governance, cyber policy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I don't have a question, but I have a quick comment with regards to your presentation. And originally I
was going to save this for a side-bar conversation, but I -- on behalf of Coast Guard, we sincerely appreciate everything you guys are doing. Excellent partners, specifically included the U.S. (indiscernible) within your training, EMI, ICS training. Some of us took part in the Train-the-Trainer courses, and exactly like you said, developed those partnerships that works. And we're one team here.

MR. O'HARE: You bet.
LIEUTENANT JUREWICZ: So thank you, sir.
MR. O'HARE: Oh, thanks. Appreciate it.
CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Thank you.
Thanks, Mike.
MR. O'HARE: My pleasure.
CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: You're paroled.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE ASSOCIATION

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: All right. Now on to Tab 7. And I'd like to invite Abner Hoage to give a status report on the Local Emergency Planning Committee Association.

STATUS REPORT - Abner Hoage, LEPCA

MR. HOAGE: Madam Chair, thank you.

Abner Hoage, I am the co-chair for the LEPCA. Dave Miller is my other co-chair, and he left me hanging in this meeting, so I got it all to myself. So it was great fun. I've been here all week at the conference that the Division put on. And I would like to thank Director O'Hare
and his staff for, again, the great job that they do with putting that together. Every time, without question, we know that it's going to be a good conference when we come in. So thank you to them for that.

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

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

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

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

That being said, let's talk about some of the good things at the LEPCs. LEPCs are functioning very well across the state. They continue to do good work for a very small financial investment. Many of them are experiencing turnover, but that's not unexpected. As people go through life
processes and retire and move on, you know, you get new people, and fresh blood sometimes is good. So they're working through that, but they do have turnover.

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

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

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

And then the last thing is, Director O'Hare mentioned that they're doing something with CERT. But we're hearing a lot about an increased use of CERT throughout the state; those programs being implemented. And if you're not completely familiar with CERT, Community Emergency Response Team, the real premise of that is to train people in their community to know how to react in a disaster, to take care of themselves and take care of their neighbors. You know, isolate
utilities; check on people; make sure they're safe. And that can take some of the workload off your emergency responders early on in a disaster. So it's a good thing to see that resurgence of CERT in our state, because it's going to lessen the workload on our emergency responders.

That's all I have.

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Thank you, Abner.

Any questions for Mr. Hoage?

(No audible response.)

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

LEPC AGENDA


Is that where we are? Yup.

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

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

MS. CHEEMA: (Indiscernible).

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

MS. CHEEMA: Uh-huh.

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

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: And under Tab C is the previous meeting minutes for the LEPCA. And we thank the LEPCA for providing those.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

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

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

(No audible response.)

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: All right. Seeing none. We have break potential, but I think that we have a good head of steam going. So begging your indulgence, we'll move on to Tab 9, Old Business, Committee Reports.

OLD BUSINESS

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Finance Committee.

Mr. Vakalis.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MR. VAKALIS: Thank you, Commissioner.

Just a couple things to report on. As we
mentioned at the last meeting, the Finance Committee, with an awful lot of input from the LEPCs, looked at revising the formula to use in deciding the allocation of funds to the various LEPCs. Just as a reminder, in the past it was mostly weighted towards hazardous materials and waste, as opposed to all-hazards.

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

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

And that's my report.

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

MR. VAKALIS: It's one year.

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay.

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

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. Very well.

Any questions for Mr. Vakalis?

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

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

And also I would like to recommend to everyone that you take a real close look at your budget. It's that time of year where sometimes some LEPCs are a little bit behind on the expenditure of those funds. And the last thing we want to see is those funds basically going away because they weren't expended. So there is mechanisms in place, that if you feel that you are not going to be able to totally expend your funds,
you need to notify staff right away so that the Finance Committee can reallocate those funds to somebody that needs them.

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

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

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Okay. Thank you.

The Work Plan Committee, Merry Carlson.

Whoop, no report. My mistake.

Interoperable Communications, John Rockwell.

INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE - John Rockwell

MR. ROCKWELL: Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

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

So today's interoperable landscape is changing. In the past, interoperable communication meant that we're P25 compatible, where you can communicate at the same time. But with the evolution of new technology which includes the Alaska Land Mobile Radio System, 911, Next Generation 911, and Long
Term Evolution Markets Communication and networks that are on the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (indiscernible).

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

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

The administration order, or administrative order, is to establish the Statewide Interoperability Governance Board, or SIGB, as the governing structure for all
interoperable-related programs. And that's been presented to the Governor's office. The AO is currently (indiscernible). Hopefully, we'll get more information later this summer.

Next slide.

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

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

Back on March 30th, FirstNet announced that they have selected AT&T to partner with them for this effort. Once we've receive the State plan, which is -- the window that AT&T
has from March 30th is 90 days. Once we receive that State plan, and if we decide to, what we call, opt in to that State plan within the 60-day window that the Governor has, one of the perks to getting AT&T is they promised that they will provide all public safety entities with priority and preemption, even before they build that Band 14 Public Safety number. So we'll know more again probably in the late fall time frame regarding the actual plan for the State and whether the Governor has decided to opt in or opt out.

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

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

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Thank you.

Are there any questions for Mr. Rockwell?

(No audible response.)

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

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

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: The Office of Emergency
Communication. That sounds like you. Are there others?

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

    CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: You, too.

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

    CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Uh-huh.

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

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

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

    CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL - Heather Ridge

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

    So what I have for you is basically CERT.
I know you stole my thunder; you stole my thunder.

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

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

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

And then the Mat-Su Borough has staff at the main building in Palmer. And I just reached out to them, to
try to get them active again. And then we have Kathy Cappa at Colony High School, and she is working with the teachers to get CERT going there.

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

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

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

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

Does anybody have any questions about CERT?

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

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

I've been in this position -- well, with CERT now for two
weeks, literally. Casey said, "Hey, you're going to EMI."

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: That darned Casey.

MS. RIDGE: So here I am.

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

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

Thank you very much.

Any other questions for Ms. Ridge?

(No audible response.)

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Thank you, Heather.

MS. RIDGE: Thank you.


ALL-HAZARDS PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE - Kim Weibl

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

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

So in the last six months since the last report, we have reviewed and completed four new Small Community
Emergency Response Plans. Those from Huslia, Coffman Cove, Mountain Village, and Nunam Iqua. And two reviews were completed for communities that were already done; that would be Kotlik and Kenny Lake. So those were just updates, one-year updates.

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

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

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

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

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

CO-CHAIR HUMMEL: Any questions for Kim?

(No audible response.)

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

MS. WEIBL: Thank you.

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

TRAINING COMMITTEE - Jeff Lafferty

MR. LAFFERTY: Madam Chairman, Commission members.

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

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

And you may say, well, that's a lot of courses, but with the low turnout there, with only 55 graduates. But what we're counting in that is some of the training sessions we held for some of the small communities concerning SCERP.
that's why those numbers are low with a high number of trainings.

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

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

During the conference yesterday afternoon, we held our -- we held the, we'll call it the now Annual Training and Exercise Planning Workshop that Mr. O'Hare spoke about.
During that time, we pulled together all the grant-recipient communities. We brought in our Training and Exercise folks, and we sat down and we did a review of the process that we use to develop our Multiyear Training and Exercise Plan, which covers three years for the MYTEP.

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

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

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