ALASKA STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION

FALL BI-ANNUAL MEETING 2026

Virtual Meeting | October 16, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Erin Leaders-DEC: Just testing my microphone. Can you hear me okay?

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Yeah, I can hear you.

Erin Leaders-DEC: Thank you.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Tiffany, I was just getting ready to message Brian, let him know we started early in… In case he wanted to pop in yet. But I don't know if you wanted to message him instead.

Tiffany Peltier-DHSEM: it still looks like we're waiting for quite a few people, so…

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Yeah, no, that… just let him know that we popped in, that the DHSEM, we popped in early, in case he had anything that he wanted. Erin can count, too, because she's old DHSEM.

Tiffany Peltier-DHSEM: Okay. Oh, okay. Thank you.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: She's part of the old crew. No, did not feel good. Good afternoon, everyone. This is Alex Temple, SERC Coordinator. We're still waiting on some people to log in, but I wanted to say hello, as it is 1300. And, let you know it would just be a few more minutes. Ladies and gentlemen, some information has been posted into the chat just regarding meeting reminders and the SERC Fall Meeting Agenda, or packet, excuse me, has been posted in the chat also. For those that didn't receive it. so you can download from there.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Hey, Alex, it's Brian. How are we looking? We're still waiting for some folks.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: There was still some people coming on, and I was just going through it. There's 35 participants right now. We've posted the meeting reminders for conduct in the chat as well as the SERC meeting packet. And it looks like every time I scroll through it, somebody else pops up, and additional people. Looks like we are good, and then I can go through and do the roll call as soon as you… Call to order.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: All righty. Thanks, Alex. Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Bryan Fisher, the co-chair of the Alaska State Emergency Response Commission, and I call our fall October 2026 meeting to order.

A. Roll Call – State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Coordinator

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Thank you, sir. I will go ahead and begin the roll call. when I announce your section, please give me your name and let me know that you are here. Currently, the DMVA is here. Mr. Director Bryan Fisher. DEC?

Megan Kohler-DEC: Here, Megan Kohler.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Thank you. DCCED.

Sally Russell Cox-DCRA: This is Sally Russell Cox in for Director Sandra Moeller. Thanks.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Thank you. DF&G. Is anybody from DF&G on? I have Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang or Mr. Rick Green. Okay. And DHHS?

Heidi Hedberg-Department of Health: Hi, Alex. This is Heidi Hedberg, Department of Health.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Yes, ma'am. Thank you. DOL? Is there a Mr. Adam Weinert on here? Hearing nothing. DNR.

Adam Weinert-DOLWD: Can you hear me?

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Oh, go ahead, please.

Adam Weinert-DOLWD: Sorry, this is Adam Weinert with the Department of Labor.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Thank you, sir. I probably should have given you more time. Appreciate it.

Adam Weinert-DOLWD: That works.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: And next is DNR. Is there a Mr. Brent Goodrum? See him up in there. Okay, hearing nothing. DPS. Is Lieutenant Endres on there?

Lt. Ben Endres-DPS: Yeah, Lieutenant Ben Endres on behalf of Commissioner Cockre.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Yes, sir. Thank you very much. And then we have DOT.

Katherine Keith-DOT&PF: And this is Katherine Keith in for Commissioner Anderson.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Yes, ma'am. Thank you. And let's see, now we'll move into the public. We have the Local Emergency Planning Committee, Rural, Mr. Peter Gurney.

Peter Gurney-API EM/LEPC: Peter Gurney here.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Thank you, sir.

Dave Donley-DOA, Anchorage Emergency Manager: This is Deputy Commissioner Dave Donley-DOA, Anchorage Emergency Manager. I'm here on representing Commissioner Paula Verana with the Department of Administration.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Oh, thank you, sir. Yes, sir. Mr. Donley, thank you. Appreciate that. Alright, So I have that. So Mr. Donley here for the ex officio, DOA, okay. Local Emergency Planning Committee, rural, Mr. Kevin Knowlton.

Kevin Knowlton-Kawerak: Kevin Knowlton, present.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Thank you, sir. And then I have LEPC Urban, Mr. George Vakalis.

George Vakalis: Present.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Thank you, sir. And then we have LEPC. We do have a LEPC urban position that is currently vacant. And then we also have a local government representative position that is vacant. moving on to… Another local government representative, Mr. Casey Cook-MSB EM.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: I'm here.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Thank you, sir. And… For Public at Large, Mr. Benjamin Knowles.

Lt. Ben Endres-DPS: Present.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Thank you, sir. And we have Department of Administration. Do we have the Department of Education and Early Development? Mr. and Mrs. Kathy? Okay, FEMA?

Paul Valley-FEMA R10 AAO: Hello, Paul Valley's on, FEMA Region 10 Alaska Area Office.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Yes, sir. Thank you. And then we have, is the representative for Alaska Command on? I know that position was vacant, they were in the process of filling it. and then we have Coast Guard Captain Best.

Natalia Best, CAPT, USCG: Good afternoon, this is Captain Natalia Best with Arctic District.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Thank you, ma'am. And EPA.

Torri Huelskoetter-EPA: Hello, Torri Hulsketter, Federal On-Scene.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Oh. Thank you, ma'am. That is…

Erin Williams-EPA Region 10: EPA Region 10, Erin Williams, EPCRA Coordinator.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Okay, good. Thank you. I saw both your names on there. I was hoping to hear from you both. Thank you.

Erin Williams-EPA Region 10: Thank you.

B. Quorum Determination – SERC Coordinator

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: That is the state, public, and the ex officios. Mr. Director, we do have a quorum, and that completes the roll call.

C. Administrative Announcements – SERC Coordinator

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, Megan. I'll go back on the agenda here in just a little bit. Alex, any other administrative announcements? Alex did put in the chat, just a reminder for the kind of the protocol on this. Obviously, we're doing Zooms. If we have motions and votes that we're going to be taking, please feel free to come off a mute for me or put your vote in the chat. Either way is totally fine for me. But Alex, any other administrative announcements? things you want to make.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: No, sir. I did announce, earlier, about what you mentioned about in the chat, and then just a small administrative announcement, for myself. I appreciate everyone's patience with me. I've been with the division only a few months, so, thank you for your patience.

Peter Gurney-API EM/LEPC: Hmm.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

A. Opening Comments by Co-Chairpersons

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, Alex. I appreciate that. Welcome, everybody, to the 2026 Fall Meeting. We're going to skip over member introductions because I feel like we just did that as part of the roll call. If that's okay there. So I just wanted to say. Welcome, everybody. I think most of you know this is going to be my last commission meeting. I want to thank you and your departments and agencies and, particularly the community representatives on the commission, for all of your support. And over the last 32 years of, me at the division. And working with and for the SERC. It's been a heck of a ride.

You'll hear. in a little bit from our Deputy Director, Tiffany Peltier, on an update from the division. But, you know, I think everybody's well aware we're in election season. There's gonna be, some pretty significant changes going on, particularly in our agency. You know, I have been designated by General Saxe as the co-chair of this commission. General Saxe is the adjutant general of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Both he and I are retiring. I don't know if he's quite made it public yet, but I guess I just did. So, we're both leaving at the same time, I think it's a few days after me, but there's definitely gonna be some pretty big changes at DMVA, and, you know, depending on the outcome of the election, there could be some other significant changes. Throughout the entire state government, this is certainly a time of change, but, and I'll have some more comments at the end there.

I just wanted to say. on behalf of General Saxe, thank you all for the support you provided to DMVA. Most importantly, the support you provided to all of our communities, whether it was on the preparedness side. or on the rainy day side with the storms that we've faced, the fires we've dealt with. We've done it all as Team Alaska, and I couldn't be more proud of all of you and our teams for getting that work done. So, I'd like to turn it over to my good friend. And partner co-chair Meg Kohler from DEC for her opening remarks. Thank you.

Megan Kohler-DEC: Thanks, Bryan. That's a hard one to follow, but I'll have more words, but I want to thank you and Saxe for your work for the state. I think that you've captured kind of the main… talking points that I had, noted down for myself, we'll hear later from, our Division of Spill Prevention and Response, but did wanna flag on page 244 of the SERC fall packet, we have some additional comments. Including some great updates on we now have primary responsibility for our RCRA Subtitle C authorization, which is our hazardous waste program. So we received that, and we're excited about that. But I'll turn it back to you. Co-chair.

III. APPROVAL AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, Alex. We'll move on to item three, approval and changes to the agenda. I'll entertain a motion to approve the agenda as presented. the place.

George Vakalis: So moved, Vakalis.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Give it a second.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Look.

Katherine Keith-DOT&PF: Second, Keith.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you. Any discussion, any changes to the agenda? All right. All in favor of the agenda as presented, signify by saying aye. Thank you.

Adam Weinert-DOLWD: Aye.

Katherine Keith-DOT&PF: Aye.

George Vakalis: All right.

Heidi Hedberg-Department of Health: Aye.

Kevin Knowlton-Kawerak: Aye

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Any opposed?

IV. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Moving to Section 4, Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes. They are in the packet there, and I'll just take a moment here and say I hope everybody was, It's been doing this for a long time, a little happier with the format that we got this time. We got the Zoom meeting, we got the calendar invite out, and we got the meeting packet all into a single document. So, Alex, thank you for doing that. But I'll entertain a motion for approval of the previous meeting minutes from our spring 26 meeting. And a second.

George Vakalis: So move, Vakalis.

Lt. Ben Endres-DPS: Knowles.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, Kevin. Any changes to the minutes that were submitted? sent previously in the packet to everybody. Any changes to the minutes? Yeah, go ahead, Casey.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Bryan, this is Casey Cook-MSB EM. I don't know. We probably wouldn't have time to go over everything. There's a lot of terminology errors and spelling errors, and the recordings picked up the wrong, you know. Words coming out of people's mouths and getting transcribed on there. So, I would approve the minutes, just with that note that there are a lot of typographical errors in the minutes.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thanks for that, Casey. With the commission's approval, we'll go back and make sure that we do a cleanup only on the grammatical and the transcription errors that we have. We're still working through the reporters that we employ to do these meetings. We'll definitely get, Alex and David and company will come back and, look at the correcting all the grammatical errors and transcription errors if the commission's okay with that. Thanks for that, Casey. Any other changes to the previous meeting minutes? All right, all in favor of adopting the previous meeting minutes with the changes that Casey and I just discussed, signify by saying aye.

Heidi Hedberg-Department of Health: Aye.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: All right.

Adam Weinert-DOLWD: Aye.

Megan Kohler-DEC: Okay.

Kevin Knowlton-Kawerak: All right.

George Vakalis: Aye.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Any opposed? At the previous meeting minutes with the changes we said are adopted.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Do we have anybody signed up for public comment, Section 5? Alex, anybody log on or sign on for public comment?

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: No, sir, I have not been notified of any public comments, and I don't have not been requested by anybody to make a public comment.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: No, thank you. Is there anybody on the Zoom today that wants to make a public comment. This time you can come off of mute and announce your name.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: I'm sorry, Director. I did have Erin Williams. I apologize, but I do believe she wanted to make an introduction of herself. Erin, are you here still?

Erin Williams-EPA Region 10: Yeah, I'm here. if this is the time that works best for everyone, it works for me.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: you're…

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: I believe this would be a good time. Go ahead.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Yeah. Erin, please go ahead. You have five minutes.

Erin Williams-EPA Region 10: Awesome. Thank you. Thank you. Yeah, I just wanted to introduce myself. My name is Erin Williams. I'm the EPCRA coordinator with EPA Region 10 in Seattle. If you're on the LEPCA meeting this morning, you've already heard a little bit about me, but wanted to make sure I reach out to the SERC meeting, too. I work closely with our 4 States, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska on Tier 2 reporting and emergency management planning of making sure that the SERCs and the LEPCs have the information that they need. From facilities within their region to develop good emergency response plans. I coordinate a lot with Kathy Shea. We will be up in Alaska next week, as herself and Kim already know. We'll be doing a couple inspections in the Alaska area next week, and then we will be back up in Alaska this summer for 3 weeks, which is kind of a new record of doing 3 inspection weeks in Alaska for EPA and all of those inspections will be looking at both risk management plans under the RMP, the Clean Air Act, and then also at EPCRA. A few of the facilities are what are known as GDC facilities, general duty clause, which means that they don't meet the RMP reporting threshold of needing to have a risk management plan in place. But still have an obligation because they have hazardous chemicals on site. To operate their facility in a safe way.

I look forward to coordinating with everyone when we're out in the different jurisdictions. We invite the SERC and the local LEPC and fire departments to come along on the inspections. Also, if there's facilities that you're having problems getting Tier 2 from or chemical information from, always happy to help coordinate with you guys and work on bringing facilities into compliance. I will do a lot more comprehensive presentation, I am hoping, in the spring meeting, and hoping to be there in person for some face-to-face collaboration and more details on our program, and who our staff is, and what all we do, but just wanted to introduce myself. I will put my contact information into the chat if anyone wants to reach out. I'm happy to talk about any questions, concerns, things that you have going on.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you so much for that, Erin. Does the commission members, anybody on the commission have any questions for Erin? And I think she did spell it out at the end, so she won't owe us all a coke, but she mentioned EPCRA at the beginning, the emergency, Planning and Community Right to Know Act. So we're going to spell out acronyms. But any questions for Aaron from members of the commission?

Erin Williams-EPA Region 10: Yes.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you so much, Erin. We're glad to hear and see that EPA is spending a lot more time now back in Alaska supporting us and the communities that are regulating regulations. Thank you for putting your email contact in the chat there. Appreciate that. Any other public comments? This is the time. There will be one additional time at the end of the meeting if members of the public wish to comment, but anybody else that wants to comment now, please come off of mute and announce yourself.

Erin Williams-EPA Region 10: Yep.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Okay, moving on. I will go back. Commissioner Cook asked a question in the chat about the status of nominations to the commission? I assume you're referring to state boards and commissions, Casey?

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Yeah, whatever nominations are in the process of coming to this commission. Is there an update on any of those nominations?

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Yeah, thanks for that. I think, Alex, you had mentioned that we do have one vacant, was that an LEPC seat or was that… Got local governments here.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Yes, sir, we have two vacant positions. It is the rural LEPC and the Urban. I'm sorry for correction. Hold on, let me go back to my list real quick, because I'm going to get confused on my list if I don't go back to it.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: One's LEPC, and one is the local government representative.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Wonderful.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Thank you. That's what I was trying to say.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Yeah, thanks for that, Alex. So I can tell you, have we submitted or do we know if there have been people that have applied?

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: I only know of one application I've reached out to the, to the Commission and about applications, and I only know of one.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Okay. Yeah, and I will say the feedback, getting traction and action from boards and commissions has been fairly slow. I don't know if we're going to get any additional appointments prior to the administration changing over. I sit on a couple of other commissions myself. We have a number of vacancies with nominations in that we haven't heard back from all summer as well. So definitely we will reach out. I'll have Alex just reach out yet again to boards and commissions and see if we're going to get any action again, appointments on board before the spring meeting, or we will, work with the next, Boards and Commissions Office after the transition's over to make sure that that happens.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Just following up, I know it's not on the agenda, but is there a way for us as a board or a commission to advocate for any outstanding or pending appointments right now?

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Yeah, I will reach out. Yeah, thanks for that, Casey. As the co-chair, I will reach out and I think maybe met co-chair Kohler and I will both reach out to the director of boards and commissions and try to move them off the top of that center on behalf of the commission if that sounds good.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: So I don't mind. That was workable, thanks.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thanks for that. And I certainly don't mind. I mean, George might yell at me for Robert's Rules of Orders, but I'm happy if you guys post questions in the chat. Alex, if you remind me that they're there, I'm happy to try to answer them as we go through this, virtual meeting. So.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Yes, sir. We do have one question in there from Mrs. Nancy Durham. And she's asking, how do you submit?

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: So thank you for that question, Nancy. Any members of the public or members of the Local Emergency Planning Community Association that are on the meeting, if you are interested in serving on this commission or any other commission, you can go right to alaska.gov and to the governor's office, and I think it's under the Services tab.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Bob.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Boards and commissions, and you can submit an application right there for the State Emergency Response Commission or any of the other boards for commissions that are out there. So right from the governor's website. You can also, if you're on this call, you can email Alex Temple directly and tell him that you're interested in serving on the commission if you think you fit one of the open vacant seats there. And we can work through that process of getting your application in and working with boards and commissions to try to get it vetted and approved and all that. So thank you for that question. And Alex just posted his email address in the chat for everybody.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: And Mr. Adam Weinart has also posted the link for the board appointment.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Oh, perfect. Thank you very much for that. So, moving on, without any other public comment now, and again, we'll have an opportunity at the end of the meeting, we'll move on.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Moving on to Section 6, the consent agenda. In members packets, there were three items in there for you to review prior to the meeting here. Section A is the meeting dates for an in-person meeting for the spring meeting. We have a proposed date of April 2nd, 2027. I will just remind members of the commission, we tend to schedule those dates ahead of time and we look. We use those dates to procure and secure venue and meeting space.

The spring meeting for this commission is held in person in Anchorage in conjunction with our annual emergency management conference that my division puts on. So that date's there, but I believe we might have a comment from a commissioner on that one. we also have, finance committee appointments. I didn't say this in my opening comments, but this last year, the legislature did approve one-time increment for funding, essentially restoring, at least for one fiscal year funding for Local Emergency Planning Committees in the amount of $300,000. per our bylaws and policies and procedures, the Finance Committee has to approve allocations of that funding. Before my agency can administratively distribute those funds. Because the committee had not had any action to take over the last seven or eight years because we didn't have funding, we had lost the membership of that committee. So we've had a number of volunteers. Our staff has worked with our finance committee chair, Mr. Vikalis, and have those nominations. from George to us for approval for that committee. It is very important that we do get that done this meeting, because I need the committee to convene and approve allocations that we received at the beginning of the state fiscal year in July, so we can get that funding out to the Local Emergency Planning Committees, and we can discuss that more.

And the final part of the consent agenda are Local Emergency Planning Committee appointments. Those are all submitted to us and vetted through the staff, Alex and the team. ready for approval, by the Commission. So we do have those three items. First, I'll entertain a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Hey, Bryan, this is Casey. I'd like to pull section A for more conversation.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: All right, I'm totally fine with that, so… Then, we're gonna withdraw Section A of the Consent Agenda, the SERC Meeting Dates, and, look for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda for Item B, Finance Committee Appointments, and Item C, LEPC Appointments. Looking for a motion.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Cook a motion.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: And a second?

Kevin Knowlton-Kawerak: Dalton, second.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you. Any discussion for items A and B of the consent agenda? All those in favor of approving items B and C of the consent agenda, signify by saying aye.

Heidi Hedberg-Department of Health: Aye.

Kevin Knowlton-Kawerak: Aye.

Megan Kohler-DEC: Okay.

Adam Weinert-DOLWD: All right.

George Vakalis: Aye. Aye.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Any opposed? such as B and C of the consent agenda are adopted. Next, I'll entertain a motion to approve item A, the SERC meeting dates for our in-person meeting. in spring of 2027.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: I guess if I want to talk about it, I have to do that, right? So I'll do that.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Okay. Okay, so we have a motion to approve by Cook. Can I get a second?

George Vakalis: Second, big hills.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, George, and discussion. Go ahead, Casey.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Yeah, thanks, Brian. So I know we talked about this, excuse me, we talked about this at the spring conference, which should have been plenty of time, I guess, there's a year between those in-person meetings to any further scheduling should have incorporated, kind of, some of those comments. We didn't vote on it, it was just a comment that I had made, and so I understand that. you know, things happen like that, but so for today, I would like to officially request that the next in-person. SERC meeting date would be held on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday of the preparedness conference, and not on the Friday. That would be my amendment. Moving forward.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you for that, Casey. And before we move any other comments or I address that. Mr. Temple or Mr. Reilly or Ms. Torres, do you have an update? Are we locked into this? April 2nd, 2027 date because of the scheduling of the Emergency Management Conference and the venue.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Yes, sir. This is Alex Temple. I believe Michelle is on here and can answer that more appropriately than I can. However, my understanding currently is that those dates are locked in. vendors are locked in, and the venue is secured, and so for the upcoming in-person, I don't believe that would be possible without the. potentially occurring… incurring more costs, but I'll let Michelle answer that more definitively.

Michelle Torres-DHSEM: Thank you. This is Michelle Torres. So yes, those dates are locked in.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Mr. Rose.

Michelle Torres-DHSEM: just to give you a little back history on it, we originally requested earlier dates from the venue, but we were told that these were the only dates that were available. Unfortunately, that Monday… that week is a state holiday. It is Seward's Day. And I heard from a lot of our jurisdictions who contacted me, letting me know that it was very difficult for them to travel on a holiday with their office. And last year, we had planned the conference.

And we've it fell. The travel day fell on Sewards Day and many people did not like that. So the conference dates are locked in. We are having a shorter conference this year because of the holiday. So, travel day is on Tuesday, with the conference being Wednesday and Thursday, which only left Friday available for the LEPC SERC. I hope that answers your questions If you have any other questions you can feel free to ask me.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you for that, Michelle, I appreciate that. So it's like Get Smart, we missed it by that much. I will say, and there are actually items in the minutes where Mr. Cook talked about this at the last meeting, and really, what we were looking for as a commission, and I think we all, in general, supported his comments, having a meeting on a Friday afternoon in the spring really has kind of a mitigating, a muting effect of having participation. In the commission meetings themselves, and part of that is with our Local Emergency Planning Committee Association members. You know, they meet every morning of the SERC meeting as an association, but many of them end up getting stuck with, you know, having to travel Friday afternoons to get back home throughout the state. And then, in general, just a late Friday afternoon meeting, the attendance ends up seeming pretty low, so Casey's comments, and I believe the Commission in general agreed that we want to look to try to move the dates. the day of the LEPC Association SERC meeting to somewhere in the middle of the Emergency Management Conference, so not at the end or, again, not at the beginning on Monday because of the travel challenges. So that's where we're at, and I'm completely happy to support that moving forward. I think Michelle and Tiffany and the team at the division can definitely work with that. We have the venue space secured for the in-person conference. We'll be back at the DeNina Center for the next two years, I believe. So we know the venue, and we definitely, as Casey mentioned for this one, we have a year to try to plan that and adjust, like, conference delivery, the training sessions that we do, and all the support, having the in-person LEPCA and commission meeting in somewhere Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Any other discussion? Go ahead.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Got it. Well, I was just gonna say, yeah, I think that that fits kind of what I was looking for, Brian, for the conversation or discussion, and if the rest of the group is okay with that, then I'd be okay with, you know, just making that the formal. you know, accept the consent agenda, you know, the portion A of the consent agenda as written with the amendment that for 2028, the SERC meeting will be held during the week. Not on the Friday.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: So we have an amendment to the motion on the table. Can I get a second for that?

Heidi Hedberg-Department of Health: This is Heidi, I second.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, Commissioner. Any comment, discussion from anybody else? I will just add, in general, all my years of doing this and, you know, George has been doing this longer than me. We used to have pretty robust participation in these commission meetings. And these Friday afternoons, now that we're only doing one in-person meeting a year, just have really waned. And in order to empower this commission to have a more significant role and input, we really would. you know, are trying to encourage attendance, particularly in those in-person meetings, as much as we can. So any other comments from the commission members? Any discussion? Okay. First, all in favor of adopting the amendment to Section A of the Consent Agenda requiring us to schedule the Commission Meeting in 2028. In the midweek, signify by saying aye.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Alright.

Kevin Knowlton-Kawerak: All right.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Any opposed?

George Vakalis: Aye. Aye.

Heidi Hedberg-Department of Health: Aye.

Adam Weinert-DOLWD: Aye.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: All right, the amendment is adopted, and now to the Section A of the Consent Agenda. All in favor of accepting Section A of the Consent Agenda as amended. So…

George Vakalis: Aye.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Aye.

Heidi Hedberg-Department of Health: Aye.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Any opposed?

Kevin Knowlton-Kawerak: All right.

VII. STATE AGENCY REPORTS

A. DHS&EM Updates – Tiffany Peltier, Deputy Director DHS&EM

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Next, we'll turn to Section 7, State Agency Reports. Some of you have known Deputy Director Tiffany Peltier for a long time. She has been at the division for a little over 20 years now. She's one of the old timers like I am. And just in the last couple of years she was promoted to the position of Deputy Director for the division. I will say it's our intent and Commissioner or General Saxe's intent to designate Deputy Director Peltier as the acting director for the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management prior to my departure and retirement. So the agency has some continuity until the new administration transition is going to happen and all that. I'll turn it over to Deputy Director Peltier for an update from the Division of Homeland Sec.

Tiffany Peltier-DHSEM: Thank you, everyone. Good afternoon. I don't know that I will be quite as eloquent as Bryan is with these briefings. But to get started, since the last briefing, we have responded to multiple incidents, declared incidents. We are still working quite heavily on the recovery efforts from Typhoon Halong they're very complex and resource intensive. We're managing a couple of large debris removal and reinterment missions, and working through those with the communities. And we are also working with Tok and that community out there and also a debris management mission for them. We did our preliminary damage assessment, and so we will be looking to request federal assistance on that disaster. We are also continuing, our normal day-to-day operations with our planning and exercises. We had staff down in Skagway area doing the planning meeting for the next Alaska exercise that we'll be hosting next year. I know the big one a lot of communities are interested in are the federal grant levels and the funding for those. We still have a lot of uncertainty with what is going on with some of those grants. There's been some terms and conditions placed on those awards holds. A lot of those have been fought, they've ended up in court. There's been some court orders regarding them. So a lot of that's still trying to work itself out. We are continuing to try and get the holds on the FY 2025 grant awards taken off so we can get those out the door. We are working to submit all of our projects for the FY2026 awards, so that we can also then get that approval from FEMA and be able to give those awards to the communities as well. It's just taken a lot more extra work, back and forth, as we also try to work through the FEMA GO system, which is not terribly user-friendly. So it's been quite the battle as we work through that.

Initially following, Typhoon Halong, we had a lot of vacant positions. I believe at one point, we were up to, like, 20 or so vacant positions. We have filled most of those. At one point, I believe we had all of them filled. But we have seen a couple of staff members who are moving on to bigger, better things. One note is that we were able to hire the program manager for the disaster assistance center. So that has been a disaster assistance. program, so that has been a huge help in working through that as well. and things are starting to pick back up as we get more into our normal battle rhythm, but we are still very behind and working on things. I know something Bryan would definitely bring up is we have had, I know he's had more, but I've been on a couple of calls with him when Cam Hamilton, the new FEMA administrator has been on. So it's been interesting to see how he views the direction of FEMA at the federal level moving forward. He is a big proponent of mitigation and what is that going to look like? There could be some changes coming out regarding that, especially as we're at NEMA, the National Emergency Management Agency, conference next week. There should be some report outs, hopefully, regarding that as well, that we can then share with everyone across the state as we know those. I believe that is all I have for now, unless there are any questions, or if Ryan wants to bring up anything that I missed.

B. DEC Division of Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR)

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, Tiffany. Any questions for Deputy Director Peltier on division activities? Thank you very much and good luck moving forward with this, Tiffany. I appreciate it. Next, we're going to hear from the Department of Environmental Conservation. The Division of Spill Prevention and Response, SPARS. Or who's gonna report out for…

Megan Kohler-DEC: Thanks, Bryan. This will be, I want to introduce, SPAR Director Shannon Miller, to come up to the virtual podium.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Welcome aboard, Shannon. Shannon, I just want to say, I'll just do a little quick introduction. Shannon worked at a couple of departments in state government, previously in DEC and DNR, and now she's back as the SPART director, so I want to welcome.

Shannon Miller-DEC/SPAR: Good afternoon, everybody.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Shannon back and in this new role as director to lead spill prevention response. So the floor is yours, Shannon. Thank you.

Shannon Miller-DEC/SPAR: Thank you very much, Director. I am incredibly happy to be back. Feels a lot like coming home and especially excited to be here today and have the opportunity to present to this team. I know there's a lot of familiar names that I've seen come across my screen here. I'm excited to get to be able to work with the team once again. As Director Kohler had mentioned at the onset of the meeting, beginning on page 244 of your read-ahead packet, we have a lot of the information that I will be talking about today so no need to jot down dates. But some things that I did want to highlight for you, we do continue working with the state and federal agencies in our regional and area planning efforts. Most recently, we had the Prince William Sound Area Committee Meeting, which was held earlier this month in October 8th. Next in queue, we have Southeast Alaska Area Committee Meeting on the 21st of this month, followed by the Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee Meeting, scheduled for November 5th. Additionally, SPAR continues to support disaster preparedness and response. This includes supporting in the aftermath of Typhoon Halong. We did have some SPAR staff out at Kipnuk and Kwigillingok to collect samples, this is to confirm the extent of the petroleum contamination in certain parts of that community.

SPAR will continue to work with that community to ensure proper actions are taken to remediate any of the contaminated materials and as a reminder, as we transition into winter, I want to share with folks that we do have online at homeheatingoiltanks.alaska.gov. This is something that you could just drop in your search engine. And what it is, is it outlines for preventative measures that you can take to greatly reduce the risk of any home heating oil spills. So, if you have a home heating oil tank, I highly encourage you to take a look at that. And in the event that there is a spill, we do ask you to please report that as soon as possible. The sooner it's reported, the sooner we can provide you the technical assistance that's needed. And you can report spills at reportspills.alaska.gov. Again, just drop that in the search engine, and you'll have the information you need. This can be reported online now. You could do that with your cell phone, or you could phone it in. The contact information is located on that same page. And then lastly, well, not lastly, I'd like to say also thank you to the DEC and DHSEM team for putting together today's agenda and setting up this virtual meeting. I appreciate that. And lastly, I would like to say congratulations to my dear friend, Director Fisher, on this accomplished career that you've had here in the state. I know your contributions to Alaska have been substantial. I wish you the very best as you ride off into the Sunshine State and all the adventures that are in front of you, and whatever Tracy signs you up for. End of report.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, my friend. I appreciate that, Director. Any questions for DEC's FAR?

Megan Kohler-DEC: This is Meg Kohler. I don't have a question. Thank you so much, Shannon, for briefing out. I also want to highlight SPAR's accomplishments and working out in Halong-impacted communities. Our environmental health staff, our Division of Water staff are also out there continuing to support the recovery of those communities.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you for that, Co-Chair. And I'll just take the opportunity as well to thank all of you, whether you're a federal agency or a state agency on the commission if you're a local representative that supported the response to Halong, I can tell you, Deputy Commissioner Keats can tell you, she and her team are still, at it full-time, all the time, supporting the communities out there in restoration, not only of, state-owned infrastructure, but also directly supporting. The community's needs that are out there, including some repairs and restoration to some homes that were damaged. So all of the divisions in DEC, the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, the Department of Health. Every Department of Commerce, Community Economic Development, Fish and Game, all of you, the heroic work that you did to support our survivors from Typhoon Along has not gone unnoticed. We appreciate the coordination. through the state EOC for all that work. There's still a hell of a long way to go to make sure we get folks home. You know, we still have upwards of 800 folks displaced from Kipnuk and Kwigillingok.

VIII. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE ASSOCIATION (LEPCA)

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Moving on to Section 8, Local Emergency Planning Committee Association and LEPC reports, so we'll start with the Local Emergency Planning Committee Association. Mr. Vaden, are you on? Miss Durham.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: He was on a few moments ago, but I believe he was having technical issues. Let me see if he is still available.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Oh, yes. Yeah, we've been having some technical difficulties with Tom Vaden, trying to get on from Nome here. Nancy, if Tom isn't able to get on, did you want to provide a report out? For the LEPCA from the meeting this morning?

Nancy Durham-FNSB EM/FEPC Vice Chair: I can. We'll give them a couple minutes to see.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Yeah, we'll give him just a minute here. Thank you. I'll just stand by for just a second here.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Yeah, he's in the chat. He just said he's on. But Tom, if you're able to hear us, we're not able to hear you. Tom, can you hear us?

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Yeah, I see Tom, it's Brian. I see your chats there, and I see that you can hear us, but we… we still can't hear you. Seems like more fun with Zoom. I believe he logged off and logged back on, so I'm not sure that… That is going to be fixed. You know, if it's okay, Nancy, just to keep the meeting going, if you wanted to provide a quick update on what transpired at the… at the meeting this morning, or anything else on behalf of the association, that would be great. I'd really appreciate that.

Nancy Durham-FNSB EM/FEPC Vice Chair: Yes, sir. Take care. So this morning, we had elected the co-chair. Hi, that's me, Nancy. for the interim until our April, election, when we can appoint that position, in the actual timeframe for that position. So I'll be the interim LEPCA co-chair until April, helping Tom. We went over our Local Emergency Planning Committee grant funding, that we're just waiting for the SERC Finance Committee to sign off on for those that did apply for that grant, we are going to be working on a five-year plan, so we came up with a subcommittee for that. to start working on that.

We're also going to be updating our handbook and came up with us since that was done in 2018, so we have a subcommittee for that as well. And then we discuss, requesting Web EOC or a similar software system adoption from the DHSEM. So we'll be working on that. Our other thing was we went over the public alert and warning systems, IPAWS and different systems like that, with what, is being used throughout the state, and how to utilize that better, so we're discussing, that as well, and then coming up with, either a paper or letter or advocacy or something, just to brief the admin from the LEPCA with a lot of different things that we've discussed. So we're working on getting that for the new administration. And we also discussed moving the LEPCA meeting to the middle of the week and not on a Friday during the EM conference. There's my very high level overview.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Congratulations on the interim selection to the co-chair position for the Local Emergency Planning Committee Association, Nancy, and great pinch hitting there. I do appreciate that. Just one more check for Tom to see if there was anything else that he wanted to add, if we're able to hear him. Okay, thank you for that. Any questions from the commission to Nancy regarding the association meeting this morning. Okay, thank you, Nancy. Moving on, thank you, Tom. Yep, I know you can hear us, and thank you for using the chat there. I appreciate that, Mr. Vaden. I will say we had a pretty good discussion from the agencies from DEC and DMVA with the association about the funding that's available out there and that it was a one-time increment in the budget from the legislature this last year. So continued advocacy from the committee members and their communities and jurisdictions and tribes on additional.

IX. LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Moving on to Section 9, Local Emergency Planning Committee Status Reports. Alex, I believe we do have a number of reports that were submitted in writing. Were they part of the SERC meeting packet as well, the written LEPC reports?

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: No, the LEPC meeting minutes were not part of the packet. Sorry.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Okay, thanks for that, Alex.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Yeah, we have the minutes in there, but we do not have the LEPC reports.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Gotcha, okay. Now's the opportunity for any Local Emergency Planning Committee chairs or their representatives that are part of the commission meeting. If you wanted to make a verbal report to the commission, now would be the time. We did receive quite a number of written reports from the active committees, as part of the association meeting, and we're happy to share that out with the Commission after this. I would say. We still don't have funding on the street yet, so the activities that occur with our Local Emergency Planning Committees across the state, despite the fact that there hasn't been any funding support from the legislature until this year, is still great. There's a lot of work happening around the state in terms of preparedness and planning and the Emergency Community Planning Right to Know Act, all of that work continues despite the fact that funding hasn't been out there, so there's been some continued great activity with a number of the committees around the state. There's certainly some that are not functioning or active at this time that will, depending on the status of future funding, will continue to work to support from the division to make sure that they get reconstituted and, up and running with the support, from the legislature if that continues. But this is the time, if you have a report from your LEPC that you wanted to share, now would be the time. You can raise your hand or come off of mute and, introduce yourself and what LEPC you're representing and provide your testimony.

Amanda Loach-MOA EM/LEPC: This is Amanda Loach-MOA EM/LEPC. I'm the co-chair of the Anchorage LEPC.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thanks, Amanda. Go ahead.

Amanda Loach-MOA EM/LEPC: Yes, sir. I was not aware that I would be reporting during this, but I will go ahead for the benefit of the group. Our LEPC met twice since the last time this body met. We met both in June and September. We reviewed and commented and gave presentations in those public meetings for our emergency operations plan here in the municipality of Anchorage. We also have since, as a caveat, approved that emergency operations plan here in Anchorage, It's been promulgated. We've also have a new lease signed and, reviewed and commented on strategic plan for our emergency management programming here in the municipality of Anchorage.

Secondarily, we completed a survey of our voting members to try to figure out how we could come up with an improvement plan for participation, and we also completed a grant application for the LEPC grant program that was administered by Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management with that line item that was added to the state budget. That application is both for personnel for the Anchorage LEPC and for an outreach project, which is intended to increase participation in the Anchorage LEPC with our Tier 2 reporters facilities, which number in the hundreds here in Anchorage. Last, I will mention that coming up we have a bylaw update planned for Anchorage LEPC and just of light, we have a new logo. End report.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: I love new logos. Thank you for that, Amanda. Thank you for that report from the Anchorage LEPC. Any other committees? Don't have to, it is not required or mandatory, but if you'd like to provide an update on your activities to the commission, you're welcome to do so now. Okay, thank you very much, everybody. We're moving right along to item 10, old business. Can you scroll up on the agenda there, Alex? I don't have it printed out in front of me.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Finance, go ahead.

X. OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports (Written reports provided where available)

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Yeah. Oh, there you go. Thank you. So. For all business, we do have committee reports. Did we have any written reports provided?

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: The I only have two written reports, All Hazards Plan Review Committee, just a short blurb from Mr. Dave Reilly, and then we do have the Work Planning Committee. This is Aaron Leaders, and it's just from George. We have this written report right here. So three out of the four.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Okay, thanks for that. I do always want to make sure we give an opportunity for the committee chairs to, provide any, updates to the commission, live on the meeting here. So, Mr. Vikalis, do you have anything you wanted to report out in addition from the finance committee?

George Vakalis: No additional information. Thank you.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, sir. They're gonna, they're gonna, jump into it, have, have their work to do now that, George has some members of his committee to move forward, so thanks for that. Mr. Reilly, the All Hazards Plan Review Committee, any additional information you wanted to share with the Commission today?

Dave Reilly: Thank you for the jurisdictions that have been submitting their plans, we did see an uptake, since the last meeting in communities, responding and given us their plans. I wanted to reach out to Fairbanks, Kodiak, and Skagway lately, as they've been working on their Emergency Operations Plans, and tying us in. So, thank you guys, and if there's anything we can do, just let us know.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thanks for that, Mr. Reilly. We did have a pretty good conversation this morning about the role of my division and statewide inter-jurisdictional planning, particularly for the unincorporated areas of the unorganized borough. Technically, they fall under the State Emergency Operations Plan but had some additional conversations about that with the association this morning. So thank you. Lieutenant Endres, Department of Public Safety, any comment you'd like to provide for the Disaster Search and Rescue Committee?

Lt. Ben Endres-DPS: I can give a quick update. The Department of Public Safety, which includes the state troopers, wildlife troopers, and deputy fire marshals, in conjunction with our federal, state, and local jurisdictions. We respond on average about 500 search and rescue incidents a year, and we're tracking pretty well along those lines for 2026. Everything from vehicles, or rather vessels in distress, rescue of injured snow machiners, injured and lost hikers, lost skiers, ice rescues, avalanche rescues, bear maulings. recovery of drowning victims, unfortunately, aircraft crashes and wildfires, specifically the Tok wildfire that troopers were heavily involved in the immediate response. And just since May, I just picked May because it seems like that's when the cluster of aircraft crashes began to start, but we've responded to 11 aircraft crashes just since May. And sadly, many of those, we had multiple fatalities. And just to give you an example of what's going on, this week was kind of an unusual week.

With very short notice, DPS was asked to assist Wasilla with the presidential visit to include arranging for delivery and setup of a portable AMR site with a 50-foot tower at the Menards Center, as well as, requesting and the AT&T FirstNet deployable communication there at the same location and providing manpower for site security. And then moving on the rest of the week, Wednesday, a SAR up on the Baldy Trail to rescue ATVers who, sunk their ATV in the muck, were stuck cold and wet. Troopers went up on the trail ATVs and assisted them down yesterday, some hikers got stranded on the Gold Trail up in the Reed Lakes area. They were at the Gold Mint Hut, and they got snowed in with about 2 feet of snow. Didn't think they could make it out, and Eilo 3 responded up there.

It brought them out, and then today, an unusual one, but a man was stuck in the mud up to his waist out in the Palmer Hayflats area trying to duck hunt, and the water was rising slowly because of the tide coming in. Multiple agency response, including the military from the pararescuemen, as well as our Hilo 3 picked up the volunteer dive team and were en route, and then local resources were able to fortunately get him recovered out of the mud. So, you never know what's gonna happen, every day's different, but DPS stands ready to assist our small communities with search and rescue and disasters. End of report.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you for that, Lieutenant Endres. Certainly, always varied and busy, the work that you and the search and rescue partners around the state are doing, so thank you for your service, and for all the search and rescue members around the state, for what they do for all of us.

Lt. Ben Endres-DPS: And thank you, Brian. And I also want to add my congratulations to you on your upcoming retirement. So best wishes and congratulations.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Oh. Thank you, Ben. I appreciate that, my friend. Next, we have the Work Plan Committee. Ms. Leaders. There is a pretty good report in the packet that you all received, but now's your chance to brief us on it. Thank you.

Erin Leaders-DEC: Okay, thank you very much. Just only small thing to brief out on is that we are due to update the SERC Work Plan Committee, or I'm sorry, the SERC Work Plan itself for FY27-28. And so I just wanted to note that the only changes being made are removing tasks 1, 2, and 8, which have been completed, and then to remove task 7 as recommended by the Interoperable Communications Committee Chair, John Rockwell, and he did provide a justification in your packet for that recommendation. So, that's on the agenda for new business, and pending any questions, those are the changes made. It will remain the same aside from removing those completed tasks. Thank you. And to report.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you for that, Aaron. Does the commission have any questions for any of the committees or committee chairs?

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Okay, thank you. Moving on to Section 11, New Business.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Includes the Alaska Forum presentation.

A. Alaska Forum – Amy Penney-Alaska Forum

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: First, we have a presentation from Amy Penney-Alaska Forum with the Alaska Forum. Amy was also able to present this morning to the LEPCA on what the forum does. I can tell you my division, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, has partnered with the forum in the past to support some of the sessions and programming that they provide to communities around the state. Co-Chair Kohler and I thought it was a good and natural fit to have the Forum talk to us as a Commission about what they do. Very much, surrounds the work that we all do as agencies, as members of this Commission. So that's why we thought it would be a good chance to hear about the forum for all of you. So with that, I will turn it over to you.

Amy Penney-Alaska Forum: Awesome, thanks for having me here, and then I also have Tanner Johnson, my co-worker, on to assist with the presentation. I was curious, can I share my screen? I don't actually have the option of doing that, but I do have a presentation to run, if that works.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: I do not believe the meeting is set up that way for you to share your screen. I do apologize, and that's something I could address. Actually, I'm going to make a note of it for future virtual meetings.

Megan Kohler-DEC: Amy, we can see your presentation.

Amy Penney-Alaska Forum: Oh, you have it. Okay, perfect.

Megan Kohler-DEC: I believe, as a PDF.

Amy Penney-Alaska Forum: Okay, perfect. Well, I'll just run through quick then the presentation on my end and just kind of talk about what we do. So thanks for having us here. I think a lot of what we are able to provide compliments the work that you all do, and we want to just provide the knowledge of the resources that we have and training that we offer that is mainly free to communities. And so you can help us spread the word. to your contacts and get the word out.

So, the Alaska Forum as a whole is, I like to describe it as an umbrella organization. We have kind of four different tiers. The first training so in that, I'll talk a little bit about the different training opportunities we have. The first, and most relatable to all of you is our community emergency response SERC team training that we have a grant through the EPA and work very closely with Michelle Torres at the State to provide free emergency response training to rural communities mainly is our focus, and I didn't mention that in my presentation this morning. But our grant does require us providing priority to rural communities, because our goal is really to expand access to emergency response training in rural Alaska, especially where communities don't have 1st responders or emergency resources to tag in in the in the essence of a disaster.

So this training, as you're all familiar with what CERT does but the training, we prioritize communities of 2,500 or less. Not to say we wouldn't accept people from Anchorage we have in the past where there's room. We've done the training a couple different ways, where it's hybrid, they do a little work online, and then they come to Anchorage where we have travel funding to provide support and bring people to Anchorage, provide hotel, plane, food, reimbursement. We've also done full trainings in Anchorage all three days, and in this next grant cycle that starts right now, we're working with Michelle to see if there's an option to send trainers to hub communities, just to kind of break the barrier of people having to travel all the way to Anchorage for the training. So it's been really beneficial. We always get a lot of great feedback.

We're really close to wrapping up our 1st grant and then excited about expanding and continuing the grant in the next cycle. This is through our EPA Brownfields job training program. So again, it does focus on rural Alaska and employing or volunteering and matching people with opportunities in their small communities. The other piece of this grant is that anybody who takes the CERT class is also required to take a 40-hour HAZWOPer, which is very beneficial to people in rural Alaska when they're handling hazardous waste and materials in disaster scenarios, or just in everyday work. So that is the one thing that differentiates this program a little bit from others, is that it does require both the CERT and the 40-hour. The 40 hour can be done in Anchorage completely online as well with materials mailed to the communities. Or like, I said, we're exploring opportunities with Michelle to actually go out to communities to do these trainings. So we're excited to continue that program and keep it going.

We have one more one more free training opportunity, and that's for rural Alaska landfill operators. So it's called our ALOT training, Alaska Landfill Operator Training. And it's a free training through our USDA grant to provide landfill operator skills to Class 3 landfills or open dumps. The topics include what a core responsibilities for a landfill operator, personal and community safety practices, PPE, proper handling of hazardous materials, and then just best practices to keep communities safe with those landfills and clean. So we offer that training usually twice a year online, again completely free. and then also have the ability to go to communities, do an assessment of their landfill, and do the training on-site to that community and neighboring communities, if we can get them in there as well. This grant does not have travel funding for participants, but we are able to send trainers to communities on a limited basis as well. I think that wraps up the free training we have. Tanner, I'll pass it to you to talk about some technical assistance.

Tanner Johnson-Alaska Forum: Thank you. And if you, whoever's doing the slideshow, if you want to advance down to that Green Star page, I think it was about six pages back.

Tanner Johnson-Alaska Forum: You're good. Yeah, so the Green Star program is a community recognition program and vehicle for some technical assistance. The idea is to consolidate a variety of different community sectors into one review. So we're taking into account what's happening with drinking water, wastewater, the landfill and solid waste recycling. We've also folded in some, you know a new standard about community emergency response. And so, as part of a community's certification as a Green Star community, we would try and route them into taking one of our CERT courses and then being in touch with the State contact for their emergency response planning.

So the Green Star program again, is focused on rural smaller communities, 2,500 or less. Completely free for a community to enroll in, and is just an avenue for technical assistance on some of those operations.

That is tied in pretty closely with the ALOT program that Amy had mentioned. And then another aspect of that is the Safer Choice. So I think that's two slides up or so. So this is where we are trying to raise awareness of pollution prevention efforts that rural communities can instigate. And so that would be really looking at the cleaning chemicals that are getting used in offices, but then also encouraging resident awareness about safer chemicals to clean the house or the office with through the EPA's Safer Choice program, that's free. It's rolled into the Green Star program as well as an element where communities need to assess using Safer Choice as part of their Green Star certification and circle back on the Green Star certification. A community gets a 5-year work plan where they get priorities that they've also listed out, but then priorities that we identify of whether that's looking at their solid waste scores, their drinking best practices scores. To try and get them to work with state regulators to encourage better practices, and then the technical assistance that we can give them in those fields as well. That's a really quick top line overview of Green Star and the elements involved with that.

Amy Penney-Alaska Forum: If you don't mind jumping to slide 6. This is probably what you all know us most for is the Alaska Forum conference. Previously the Alaska Forum on the environment is one of the State's largest gatherings of environmental professionals. We've been around this coming February will be our 29th year, so almost 3 decades, of providing strong programming, technical sessions, keynotes for environmental professionals, tribes, regulators, government workers, educators, and so on. We love bringing people together in one place to have a forum on the issues most affecting Alaska. And one of the biggest things that we promote with our conference is that we don't take we don't take a side. We're not promoting an agenda, and if a topic is controversial, our goal is to bring both sides to the table. So everything is provided to the attendees to make their own informed decision.

With the conference this year, it's coming up February 1st through 5th, 2027 at the Denina Center. This year will only be in person due to some funding constraints we've had. We won't be offering a virtual conference going on at the same time, but we love gathering in person and we think that's one of the best parts of the conferences, that face-to-face networking and being on-site. So, we hope you all can join us February 1 through 5 at the Denina Center, where you'll see what you're used to seeing, over 100 technical breakout sessions, 6 keynotes, 70-plus exhibitors, a lot of networking opportunities. Then this year, we're also hoping to bring back our job fair, and career and craft fair, which will take place, Tuesday and Wednesday during the event, downstairs. So. we're excited to expand some opportunities there.

If you can click to the next slide, you can see the topics that the forum covers, anything from changing environments, disaster and spill response, grant writing, infrastructure, so on and so forth, but one of our goals this year is to really emphasize, and last year as well, to emphasize emergency response and preparedness, and with the help of Meg and Erin Leaders, we get a lot of great sessions on the board for that.

If you want to pop to the next slide, we're grateful for the participation from all of you that you've provided over the years, whether it's a booth or being a presenter or an attendee. It's great to have everybody on site. And collaborating and being a part of those conversations, whether they're hard conversations to have or beneficial, they're all beneficial conversations to have, but it's great, and we hope that everybody is able to join us this coming year. And I think the biggest takeaway from all of this, and one of the reasons we wanted to get our name out there and what we do, is because aside from the conference, which we love, and it's great to have everybody, together, contributing to those conversations, but we do provide all of the free training and technical assistance, and we'd love to have you all help, spread the word in the areas that you work with when it comes to CERT and ELOT.

Our next CERT class, we're planning on having a CERT basics class at the forum on Friday, and then we'll do another cohort of the SERC class plus the 40-hour HAZWOP are likely sometime in the spring. So, I think the last slide, if you don't mind going down to that because I made your job super difficult jumping around. Reach out to Tanner or I and provide if you have any connections. We'd love to connect, we'd love to get the word out if you want to get your name on our emailing list when some of those opportunities come up for CERT, HASWOPPER, ALOT, or any of those, we'd love to help you help us get the word out. It's always beneficial. So thanks for the time, thank you for having us.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: No worries, we were able to track you fairly well while you're going through your brief, so thank you, Amy.

Amy Penney-Alaska Forum: Thank you.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you very much, Amy and Tanner. Any questions for Amy or Tanner? Okay, thank you both very much for the information. The forum is, is really great. I do also encourage you, if you've never been, go in person, it's something else. It's just an incredible gathering that happens there. So thank you both for your presentation. Moving on to, item B under new business, we have the draft SERC work plan for fiscal year 27-28. for approval. so I will turn it over to Ms. Leaders, the chair of the Work Plan Committee, to give us an update there.

B. Draft SERC Work Plan FY27/28 for Approval

Erin Leaders-DEC: Thank you, Director Fisher. Sorry, were you, just to clarify, you were looking for an update on the work plan itself for approval?

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Yeah, that… yes, that's correct.

Erin Leaders-DEC: Okay. Yeah, so the SERC Work Plan Committee is responsible for updating the SERC Work Plan every two years. And so this proposed FY27-28 Work Plan, as I stated earlier, it reflects the unfinished or in progress items and incorporates the standing tasks that are carried forward from the previously approved SERC Work Plan. We're just looking for the SERC to approve this updated plan as presented, which we would work on for the next two years. Thank you.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, Ms. Leaders. And I believe also, Alex, this was in the read-ahead packet as well.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Yes, sir, it is in the read-ahead packet.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you. And you can see they are scrolling through the items on that work plan now. I will say, just on behalf of the whole commission, Aaron and team that served on the work plan committee, thank you for this. It's a really great product. There was a number of years where we kind of sat on the same work plan. So Aaron volunteered to step up and lead that committee for us and grab a bunch of folks to get this all put together. So I think he just did an excellent job on that. So thank you. Any comments or questions? on the FY27-28 work plan for the commission. All right, yeah, Friday afternoon, I know. so I will, I will entertain a motion to, approve the State Emergency Response Commission work plan for fiscal year 27-28.

George Vakalis: So move Vakalis.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, George.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Cook.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, Casey. Any additional comment? Any discussion? Okay, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

Heidi Hedberg-Department of Health: Aye.

Katherine Keith-DOT&PF: Aye.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Right.

Adam Weinert-DOLWD: Aye.

Kevin Knowlton-Kawerak: Aye.

George Vakalis: Aye.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Any opposed? Appreciate that.

XII. OTHER STATE AGENCY AND EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Moving on to Section 12, state agency and ex-officio reports. Again, I will say these are not mandatory, but we would certainly love to hear from each of the agencies, if you'd like, so we'll go ahead and start with, Sally Russell Cox, representing the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. Did you have anything you'd like to report for DCCED?

Sally Russell Cox-DCRA: I do not, sir. Thank you for the opportunity.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, Sally, for that. Anything else from DEC, Commissioner Kohler? Co-chair Kohler?

Megan Kohler-DEC: No, thank you, not this time.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Hey, did we have a representative on from Fish and Game? I'm not sure if anybody did join us.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: No, sir, I did not see anybody from DF&G pop on.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Okay, moving on to the Department of Health. Commissioner Hedberg, thank you for joining us, and Casey, I'm sure, will say this, because he always does, we definitely feel like it's important to try to get agency, heads onto this meeting, so I appreciate you taking the afternoon to be with us, Commissioner, and the floor is yours.

Heidi Hedberg-Department of Health: No updates, but it is good to hear the information being shared.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Thanks for being here, Heidi.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thanks. There you go. I knew that was coming. Thank you, Casey. Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Adam Weinert-DOLWD: Hi, good afternoon, just a short update. Deputy Commissioner Keith is on and so she could share a little bit about the work that they're doing in western Alaska, but we've been partnered with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to use our available dislocated worker funds that we received from the U.S. Department of Labor to help fund rebuilding efforts and reskilling efforts for folks who've been displaced by last year's storm. And DOT's been a great partner for us to use, and really our only partner to utilize these funds, so it's great to have that cross-agency, collaboration for that important effort. But otherwise, that's all the updates we have for the Department of Labor.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, Adam. I appreciate that, Department of Natural Resources. I didn't see Deputy Commissioner on.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Nope. No, Director, DNR was not available today, so they are not on today.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Okay, thank you for that. Anything more from the Department of Public Safety, Lieutenant Endres?

Lt. Ben Endres-DPS: No additional reports, sir.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, sir. And Deputy Commissioner Keith from the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, you have been awfully damn busy doing work for me for the last year, or I guess at least the last 6 months since the Commission last met, so it's all yours, man.

Katherine Keith-DOT&PF: Yes, absolutely, thanks Brian. And Adam, thanks to you as well. I did want to acknowledge that the benefit of these Commission meetings, it was at that last meeting 6 months ago when, Department of Labor (DOT) even DCRA decided we really should talk about how to leverage the capabilities, the funding within our respective organizations to pull together additional resources to continue the emergency repairs out on the YK-Delta and so, especially with Adam and the DOL team, we have been able to get our agreements in place out in Kipnuk and Kwigillingok right now, we have over 140 employees that all qualify for that funding and those training resources.

So they're all working, these are local folks, that are either from Kipnuk, for the majority of them, or nearby communities, but they're focusing on just rebuilding their homes, improving the safety of the board roads, continuing to clean up debris. And I was just out in Kipnuk a couple days ago, it was just an amazing experience just seeing folks have that hope, and being able to be part of that repair. So, thanks a lot for DOL, for working with us on some creative funding, and for everyone else, all the other agencies here that have helped, our staff and contractors just do what we can to continue the ongoing work. Our goal out there is through the end of November, probably in Kipnuk, have another 100 homes. That'll be able to be reoccupied by those families that wish to and so we're looking forward, to that, and, storm-free fall.

But, in other topics, like Director Fisher mentioned, with the transition planning, it's certainly what we're doing at the department, but we've been proud of the team at DOT for emergency response that we've been able to create, harden through experience, but we feel confident, regardless of the transition that we have a team that'll continue on and work with all of the agencies in the months and events ahead. So with that, I'll wrap it up. Thanks.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: I can only find the buttons there. Thank you, Deputy Commissioner, I appreciate that. It's not just the response to Halong, but I'll share that DOT has taken the lead to help coordinate with contractors for the Northwest Arctic Borough for some pretty substantial utility disruptions with water, wastewater utilities and freeze ups from last year. I think moving forward, it's something for our entities here, along with our partners at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the Alaska Energy Authority to really look at the challenge that we have with aging and failing infrastructure and utilities. And then it all goes back not only to the age of that infrastructure, but also it's all about workforce development and training, keeping people back home to work those utilities.

We continue to see an increase in disaster response and recovery activities as a result of improper or poor maintenance and operation practices, in addition to the aging infrastructure that's out there. So I'm afraid that's not going to go away but that's something that I think this commission can weigh in on in the future with the next administration on ways to address proactively. The challenges that we have over winter with either fuel shortages or utility disruptions, either power, water, wastewater, that kind of thing, but I just want to say thank you for everything that you've done for us and for the state. Deputy Commissioner, your team, they are rock stars, so thank you for that. Moving on, for ex-officio agency reports, the Department of Administration. Dave, do you have anything you'd like to report out on, Deputy Commissioner Donley?

Dave Donley-DOA: Yes, there's some really exciting upgrades occurring to the Alaska Rural Communication System. As you know, that system carries the emergency broadcast alerts out to rural Alaska. It consists of 126 sites, each one has an individual FCC television license. And traditionally, these sites have been 10-watt low-power television transmitters but we do have the authority under our new licenses to increase the power, and so we've got authorization to use some leftover capital dollars. We've upgraded Cooper Landing from a 10-watt transmitter up to a 100-watt transmitter, and we're working out some details on getting that functioning totally. Trapper Creek, we upgraded one of our very few 100-watt transmitters to 400 watts there.

Next on our list is to bring Kotzebue up to 400-watts, Nome up to 400-watts, Dillingham to increase from 10-watts to 100-watts. And for the first time, we're hoping to have a presence in Utiavik with a new 100-watt transmitter. We're working with the City of Whittier to identify a location for a new transmitter there. We're looking to put a 400-watt upgrade into Kodiak. We're really excited about these changes. A lot of them are coming with also improved, better antennas, which really does also increases the quality and the range of the transmissions. If this gets fully accomplished, it's going to be a huge, significant increase in emergency broadcast warnings that are able to go out to these communities.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you very much, Deputy Commissioner. I am an ardent and longtime supporter of Alaska Rural Communications Service. Now I'm going to start choking it up, going to the Wayback Machine. One of my first jobs in state government was converting from the emergency broadcast system to the new emergency alert system, and along with the transition from RATNET, the Rural Alaska Television Network, to ARCS, it still remains the backbone of our emergency alert system across the state. So those improvements and upgrades that are coming, long deserved and well deserved, and I couldn't be more excited to continue that partnership to make sure we can provide alert and warning to the public across the state, using ARCS as one of our primary mechanisms to get it distributed statewide. Thank you, Deputy Commissioner, really appreciate that.

Dave Donley-DOA: We'll add our new sites. We're also going to be able to increase our number of channels from four to six channels of programming. So that's pretty cool too.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: That is pretty cool, too. I think it's important that folks on the commission realize ARCS is still a vital lifeline in the state. You know, it's not just Starlink and DISH Network and all that, but ARCS is a critical lifeline to our rural communities. We certainly use it for emergency alert and warning like crazy, so thanks for that, Dave. I appreciate that, Deputy Commission.

Dave Donley-DOA: Thank you.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: And Commissioner Bishop, I appreciate you being on, ma'am. We also had lots of tough times and hard work by her team with us supporting the school districts around the state, particularly those in the Lower Kuskokwim and Lower Yukon School District, severely impacted by Typhoon Halong. Commissioner Bishop says nothing from DEED other than to thank everyone for the partnerships, particularly with labor, workforce development, environmental conservation, and DOT for all the projects and school partnerships cleaning up after the weather over the last two years. So thank you very much again for that, Commissioner Bishop.

Deena Bishop-DEED Alaska: Your leadership too, Bryan. I want to thank you. You've done well. We'll miss you.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Oh, thanks, Commissioner. I appreciate that and there you go, Casey, we got two commissioners on. We're making improvements, see? It took me a while, but we're getting there.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Good to see you. Thanks, Deena.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: So moving on, I'll give a chance real quick for the federal ex-officio agencies, any updates they have. So we'll start with the last one, Alaska Command.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: Director Fisher, I believe Alaska Command they're currently vacant. They have a vet position, an individual they're filling. I did contact them. They're still in the process of onboarding.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Okay.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: So they're not available at this time.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Copy that. Thank you. We do have a couple of representatives from EPA on. It does say vacant, but I think, Torrie, are you on? Did you have anything you wanted to report out from EPA?

Torri Huelskoetter-EPA: Yeah, I'm here. Mary Gooley was our planner, she was our ex-officio. We still have, unfortunately for me and I think everybody who's ever worked with her, is not replaced yet. We have no planners currently in region 10, we're supposed to have two in the Northwest and one in Alaska. Hopefully, maybe filling and putting out for that position, and they'll cover all of Region 10. But I think it's only been put out internally, so more to come on that, I hope, fingers crossed.

As far as what we're up to, as always, are involved in the RRT and prevention planning their facility inspections. But one of the highlights that we've been doing is I was recently able to go down to the Alaska State Firefighters Conference and give two one day sessions on lithium ion battery fire response. And we've got a lot of really great feedback and still the goal with EPA is to provide that training all over the state, kind of do a road show. We got a lot of interest in doing our full two day course, literally all over, from the slope all the way down to Petersburg, Sitka, and everywhere in between. So, hoping to be able to pull that off, and provide that training all over the state to better keep our responders safe and just provide general awareness.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you very much for that, Torri. Appreciate that. Mr. Valley, FEMA, any updates you'd like to provide?

Paul Valley-FEMA R10 AAO: Yeah, thanks, Brian. No formal report, but just a quick update, primarily for awareness for everybody. Obviously, Brian and the state, DHSEM are well aware. And, you know, really since 2018 earthquake, we have had continual joint field office operations going on here in Alaska, operating out of the annex building here downtown. That has been ongoing with various disasters on and off, but mainly on. We've been working extremely closely with the state as well as all of the state agencies and other federal agency partners throughout this timeframe.

It's been kind of an unprecedented timeframe with the increase in disasters in terms of intensity and severity and frequency of disasters. Hence the ongoing JFO operations having said that, we are in the process of, over the next couple of months, scaling down our Joint Field Office operations here physically in the Annex. And, the efforts are going to continue. We will be supporting remotely from Region 10, as well as we will have a smaller contingent of individual assistance and public assistance personnel. staying on here at the Alaska Area Office in the Annex, to continue that ongoing recovery support. So, rest assured that our operations are not ending, even though the joint JFO physical spaces may be closing down, but the operations and the efforts will continue.

That's really all I have at this time. Bryan, wish you the best. It's been a pleasure working for you both at the state and now in my present position. Really appreciate your mentorship through the years as well as your partnership. Tiffany, congratulations to you as well and looking forward to continuing working with all of you. Thanks.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thanks for that, Paul. I do appreciate that. I do want to share, and I shared this this morning with the LEPCA. I have had the opportunity seven or eight times to meet in person with Cameron Hamilton, as Tiffany mentioned earlier in her presentation, the new Senate-confirmed FEMA administrator. Just a couple of things there. I will say he's the most accessible administrator that I have seen or worked with in my 32 years, taking the time to meet directly with the state directors across the country and myself in Alaska, 7 or 8 times already. He just recently got confirmed by the Senate. I think shows that he's definitely one to want to make sure he's hearing from the states and hearing from our concerns. I feel much more optimistic now than I did a year and a half ago or even a year ago with respect to the future of FEMA and what funding is going to look like supporting our committees and our emergency management program activities across the state and at the local and tribal levels. There's still a lot of adjustment that needs to be made. There was some, it was pretty catastrophic impacts to that agency.

At the beginning of this administration, some of that is starting to settle down now. And I could just say my observations are that the staff of FEMA is in a much better place than they were even six months ago. Having some stability. For those of you that recall, Mr. Hamilton was, nominated to be the FEMA administrator. He testified before Congress that FEMA should not be eliminated. And within the hour, he was fired by Secretary Noem. Secretary Noem's gone now, and Cam came back and was renominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate in August, so, I think we have a good, strong advocate. He doesn't have a huge, extensive emergency management background, mostly in emergency medicine. He's a former Navy SEAL, but, he's surrounding himself with some pretty smart folks in DC there, and I think for the remainder of this administration, there will be some additional stability back within FEMA. For us and a lot of our locals that we pass grant money through, there's still some instability there because a lot of, there's been a lot of court orders directing FEMA and DHS to change the way they were denying and modifying our grant activities with terms and conditions. Largely around immigration and election security, so we're still wading through court orders, before we get some of that stabilized. It looks like moving forward, FEMA's gonna do some reorganization, and like Tiffany said, we'll be meeting with Administrator Hamilton next week. Down in the States to hear some new unveiling of what he is doing internally with the agency in terms of reorganization and some alignment with some of the programs that FEMA has traditionally administered over the years. But thank you for that. Paul, I really appreciate that. Last but not least, ex-officio, Captain Best. Anything from the Coast Guard?

Natalia Best, CAPT, USCG: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm fairly new in the area, I just arrived in July. For Arctic District with the Coast Guard, we had a lot of turnover this summer. So we have three new captains of the port in Anchorage and Juneau, and then also in Valdez. And so I know they've been out making the rounds and meeting with a lot of you. So we just really appreciate the partnership with everyone on this group. I saw the action item for the work plan to align the ARRT with this group more closely, and Patrick Hilbert is our incident management preparedness advisor as one of the tri-chairs there, so I know he'll be working on that effort but thanks very much for for including us.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, Captain. I appreciate that. Patrick's great. I think it'll do great as the tri-chair of the regional response team working with us to align our efforts moving forward.

XIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

The chair stated that no informational items had been submitted in the meeting packet.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: With that, there are no informational items, that were submitted in the packet, under Section 13.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: So, we are at, Section 14. Another opportunity for public comment. Do we have anybody, that wishes to make public comment at this time? I don't think we had anybody else sign up, and I didn't see anything in the chat yet. If anybody does, either put it in the chat or come off of mute now if you wanted to provide public testimony up to five minutes per speaker to the commission.

XV. COMMISSION MEMBER CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: All right, Friday afternoon, moving on to last but not least, Section 15 here: Commission Member Closing comments. So, I will just, please feel free to just come right off a mute. I know all the agency commissioners on the commission, just, made some comments, but if anybody does have closing comments that they want to provide, any of our local government representatives, or LEPC representatives, please take time now. You can just come right off of mute and make any closing comments that you have.

George Vakalis: Bryan, this is George Vakalis. I'd like to make two. First of all, I'd like to thank you very, very much. We go back many, many years working on the SERC and other things. But thank you so very, very much for what you've done for the state and for all of our communities. Are you going to be missed. You did a great job but enjoy retirement. Enjoy retirement. And then the second thing is just for everybody in general, I will get with Alex, we'll set up our finance committee now that it's been newly constituted, and try to set it up for next week so we can get that money out.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: There it is. Good to have you.

George Vakalis: That's it. Again, Bryan, thank you so very, very much for all you've done.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: George, I appreciate that. And I will just say, I'm going to show you how to actually retire, sir, my friend.

George Vakalis: Yeah, please do.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Yeah, it's been a long time since those, those meetings up in Fairbanks and Sitka, commission meetings around the state back in the 90s.

George Vakalis: Sure.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Any other? Go ahead, Casey.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Yeah, Brian, this is Casey. So, I don't want to make you tear up, so I'll just echo George's comments. And say thanks for everything you've done. That's all I got.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: I appreciate you looking out for me there, Casey. Thank you. Any other commission member closing comments? Thank you, Amanda. Okay, I think we're going to wrap this up here, so I would like to turn it over to my co-chair. And just for the record, she required me to run this meeting today, seeing as how it was going to be my last one, and it's not her last one. At least hopefully it's not her last one as the co-chair from DEC. So, Director Kohler, the floor is yours.

Megan Kohler-DEC: I think you, I wanted to give you the opportunity to finish out leading a SERC meeting. I know that you did it well and I think it was an excellent end to your SERC career. I have a couple of comments. I'll be a little bit lengthier than Casey, but I wanted to say I'm not fast enough coming off mute. I also wanted to note that DEC sits as a non-voting member on the Alaska Forum Board. They curate, as you saw, a great menu of services and programming. One item that Amy did not mention is that the conference is super well attended by representatives from our rural communities. And the planning board is made of the many, many agencies represented around the table. It's a really great opportunity to make connections. So back to closing comments, recognizing we may have new faces in some of the seats but the next time we meet in person, I wanted to say thank you. I've appreciated the conversations, both in the meetings and outside of them, over the last year and a half, and the work towards continual improvement and supporting our response posture, in Alaska with all of you. And I really look forward to the discussions moving forward on some of the items that's been raised over the last few meetings like the expanding technology.

I think Ryan mentioned something about rat technology, and I'm… I'm excited, as we move into broadband. I think that's a much… nicer term, and including the utility emergencies. I'd also like to take a moment to welcome Alex, should have done that at the beginning of the meeting, and issue a huge thanks to both the DEC and DMVA staff on their work at the LEPCA and the SERC planning.

I recognize the huge lift that this takes, and really appreciate, you keeping Brian and I lined out, that is a large undertaking to say the least, so thank you. And then before I wrap, I want to take a minute to recognize, Bryan as he heads into retirement. I have had the pleasure of working and learning from you for the last 12 years, which is really just a small blip in your career. And even when we haven't always agreed, I've really valued your mentorship and your willingness to share your experience and your partnership with DEC. I think one of the most meaningful parts of your legacy is the emergency management professionals that you've mentored, both intentionally and unintentionally, who are now spread across Alaska. They're taking what they've learned from you and using it to support their own communities and Alaskans, and your influence will continue for years to come. And that's something to be so, so proud of.

So, thank you for your dedication to the people of Alaska and the difference you've made across our state. You've spent a career helping others prepare for and respond to the unexpected, and now it's your turn, with no incident command structure and absolutely no Outlook invites required in another 30ish days. No one's counting, though. So, on behalf of the Department of Environmental Conservation and from me personally. I just wanted to wish you a congratulations, and I'm so sad, that I don't, have the panic text from you at 10 o'clock at night. So thank you. That's all I got.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you, Megan. I really appreciate the sentiment and those kind words. And thanks for leaving the last words to me. I'll just say, in the beginning, there were the dinosaurs… no, I'm kidding, You know, I started my career. This really has been my only career. I joined the Alaska Division of Emergency Services, the our predecessor name, back in the mid 90s, right out of, a year of college in the Marine Corps. And so a very short period of time in the Marine Corps and then in the National Guard. So this has been my one and only career. It's been my passion, you know, sacrificed many, many nights. I keep on telling folks where I'm moving to that, you know, I don't think I've slept without a pager or a cell phone. A pager is, I'll explain that to you later, Meg. But a pager or a cell phone on Ring on my nightstand for my entire career. So I'm certainly looking forward to not having to run to the call when the earthquake happens, and my wife is trying to take care of the kids, and I throw on my PJs and run out the door and go to work to do a tsunami warning. I certainly missed, like many of you have in your careers, either here in the military and others, sacrifice some family time. In order to support others, so it's really been the greatest honor of my life to be able to serve Alaskans and to work side-by-side with all of you. Like Megan said, you know, Megan and I don't do anything for these meetings. It's really the staff that keeps the Commission and the LEPC Association up and running. So, Alex and Kim from our team, Dave and Erin and Kathy, Kara and others at DEC, thank you so much for staffing, this commission and, doing all the work to support all of us, at these meetings that are going on and all the stuff you do throughout the year and your, your full-time jobs.

To the rest of my team, you know, I definitely feel confident that you're all in good hands. Tiffany has been there, like I said, almost as long as I have. I think she's number two in seniority. And she has brought in and hired a great team over the last year for all those vacancies we've had, to be able to continue to support Alaskans in their time of need. I am moving to Florida, I am actually in Florida this week, helping to, put furniture together in my new house down here, so I'm definitely looking forward to not having a pager or a cell phone on the side of my bed and playing golf every day if I choose to, so I'm going to close with that and just say I can't thank you enough. Everybody on this meeting, I have had interactions with some for decades, others for the last year or last couple of years, and you all have meant a great deal to me. Because you share the same passion with serving Alaskans in their time of need, so thank you all very much. I think that's, that's gonna wrap it up, and I say this to everybody, if you're ever down Orlando way, and you're looking for a place to stay and some golf to do, give me a call. We, made sure we bought a house that has some guest rooms in it for people to come visit us, so I'd love to see everybody. But don't call me about an earthquake, after the next, I think it's about 45 days or so, Meg, but, so thank you for that. I will now entertain a motion to adjourn.

Casey Cook-MSB EM: Cooks all moved.

George Vakalis: That's all.

Heidi Hedberg-Department of Health: That's correct.

George Vakalis: Second, Vakalis.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: All right. All right, the Fall 2026 meeting of the State Emergency Response Commission, is officially adjourned. Our next meeting is Friday, April 2nd, 2027. Thank you all very much, everybody. Have a great weekend. I'll see you before I leave. I will say about this, by the way, November 21st. Staff, make sure I'm saying that right, November 21st at VFW Post 9785 in Eagle River is my retirement party. All are welcome. November 21st, Post 9785 Eagle River. There we go. Now we're really done. Everybody have a great weekend.

Heidi Hedberg-Department of Health: Thank you.

Alex Temple-SERC Coordinator: That is correct, sir. Yes, November 21st.

Bryan Fisher-Director DHSEM: Thank you all.

Ytamar Rodriguez-DEC/SPAR: Thank you.