Thurston County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

MINUTES
July 22, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: ZOOM

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian VanCamp at 1:03 p.m.

2. Attendance: A quorum was present.

LEPC Members:
Brian VanCamp, Chair, South Bay Fire
Scott Lancaster, WSP
Cherie Nevin, Thurston County
Paul Brewster, TRPC
Sandy Eccker, TCEM
Patrick Knouff, City of Olympia
Conny Garcia, American Red Cross

Sarah Carlson, City of Lacey
Brian Hurley, City of Tumwater
Sue Poyner, TC PHSS
Alison Meyers, WA Dept. of Ecology
Kyle Bustad, WA DES
Lit Dudley, WSDOT
Jack Lane, TC Public Works

Guests:
Sarah Spearman, TCEM
Patrick Soderberg, TC Environmental Health
Kim Mask, WA EMD/SERC
Ed Taylor, City of Lacey

Vivian Eason, TCEM
James Yates, TCEM
Tim Lupher, USCG
Micah Good, City of Centralia

3. Public Comment:
No comments from the Public

4. Approval of April 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes:
Brian VanCamp moved to approve the minutes, Jack Lane seconded, and the motion carried.

5. Hazardous Materials Response Plan Review & Adoption:
Cherie Nevin communicated that the Hazardous Materials Response plan was sent out to everyone for review and feedback. The original plan was completed in 2018, with a requirement that it be reviewed annually, and any necessary updates be completed. The plan is required to be redone every five years. The Fire Chiefs Association Operations Committee has been assisting with updating the current plan. While there have not been dramatic changes to the plan, there have been updates to contact information, as well as outdated information. Cherie reported that there have been updates to some of the maps, specifically of the Tier II facilities located in Thurston County, as well as a map of the major arterial roads in Thurston County. Cherie communicated that notification procedures, critical information about plans, dates, etc., have also been updated. Brian VanCamp commented that Jon Kalar has done a great job with working on the plan on behalf of the Fire Chiefs Association. After the updated plan is adopted, the next steps would be to set up training, next year, for first responders, to include fire and law enforcement, along with Public Works. Allison Meyers questioned when comments are due. Brian VanCamp communicated that allowing another two weeks for jurisdictions to provide feedback, would be fine, with a finalization deadline of September 1, 2021. Patrick Soderberg posed the question about sites storing hazardous materials that are not under a Tier II reporting requirement but have a significant potential for release. Patrick will work with Cherie on developing language to communicate with those facilities that do not have a reporting
requirement. All updates to the plan will be completed prior to the next meeting. The plan will be presented for adoption at the LEPC meeting held in October.

6. **Capabilities Brief from the 10th Homeland Response Force**
   Kristen Retherford was not available to attend.

7. **Cascadia Rising 2022 Update:**
   Brian VanCamp reported that there has been a significant amount of progress on developing scenarios for the tabletop exercise. During the previous committee meeting, WSDOT provided information on the performance of bridges and highways, that will be used to assist in developing the scenarios. Brian communicated that he has invited other jurisdictions throughout the county, to participate in the exercise, but has not yet received any responses. Brian reported that Sandy Eccker drafted a project schedule, the committee approved it, and it will be available as part of the guideline proceeding forward.

8. **Thurston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:**
   Paul Brewster presented a presentation on Hazard Mitigation and Planning for Disaster Resilience in the Thurston Region. The presentation provided an overview of the Stafford Act, types of disaster declarations, types of hazards the community is susceptible to, the hazard mitigation planning process, and the role the LEPC can play in supporting the Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Paul communicated that the LEPC will serve as an Advisory Committee for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Paul mentioned the LEPC could be instrumental in evaluating and advising on the communities’ risk assessment, as well as advising and to an extent, leading the charge on the public engagement strategy. Brian VanCamp questioned if Paul has a number and type of participants from the LEPC, that he would like to have involved. Paul communicated that preference would be to have approximately 12 members who are interested in participating and learning more about the process, to include individuals from the private sector, utility representatives, school and fire districts, and some of the smaller special purpose districts. Paul also mentioned meeting with the Fire Chiefs Association, and determining their role, and how they would like to participate in the plan development. Paul suggested sending a survey to LEPC members to ascertain people’s interest, with what the commitment timeline and expectations are. Brian suggested also sending a focused invite to the areas that are not yet well represented.

9. **SERC Update:**
   Kim Mask reported that Annie Merritt has moved on to the Continuity of Government Program Manager and is no longer supporting the LEPC’s or the SERC. The SW Program Manager position recruitment is open for anyone who might be interested in applying. Kim communicated, that Jay Havner, the Westside representative for the LEPC’s, and a member of Seattle Fire, has sent out a survey asking how to better engage with the LEPC’s. If anyone is interested in completing the survey, please let Kim know, and she will send it out. The next SERC meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2021, in Spokane, in conjunction with the WSEMA Conference. The Whole Community Engagement Course for LEPC’s is open to any LEPC or SERC member. There are six dates available. If anyone would like additional information, please contact Kim, and she will get the information sent out. The registration link is listed below. Cherie Nevin communicated that in working on the Hazardous Materials Response plan, there will be a need for some funding, beginning with a tabletop, and then leading up to a functional exercise. Cherie inquired if there is grant funding available from the State in the HEMP program. Kim responded that there is a grant application that would need to be submitted. A team is then put together to review the application, and it is then forwarded on for approval. Funding for this years grant applications have already been approved,
but Kim communicated that when the funding becomes available next year, she will keep everyone informed.

Registration link for Whole Community Engagement for LEPCs: https://www.asg-inc.org/whole-community-engagement-for-hazmat-planning/?cc

10. Hazardous Materials Incident Review:
Alison Meyers from Department of Ecology presented a report based on calls received from February 22, 2021 through July 21, 2021. Alison reported that Dept. of Ecology received 25 calls for spills in Thurston County, eight of which required field responses. Most calls were for oil spills, however, there were some non-oil spill reports as well. Alison communicated that by “non-oil” spills, that could mean hazardous material releases, sewage spills, fish kills, or any other wildlife emergency. Under State Law, Dept. of Ecology is also responsible to assist in the cleanup of drug labs. During this quarter, Dept. of Ecology responded to three illegal marijuana grow operations. Alison explained, working with the Narcotics Task Force, respondents first go in and complete air monitoring to ensure the conditions inside are safe for officers to go in to remove any plants or equipment, to help dismantle the grow operation. After all the evidence has been collected, the respondents from Dept. of Ecology, return inside to remove the hazardous chemicals that are associated with the grow operation. The hazardous chemicals are then packaged and taken for proper disposal. A lot of the chemicals that are removed and disposed of consist of large liquid fertilizers, pesticides, acids, bases, oxidizers, and then several unknown substances that then must be classified so they can be disposed of. Additionally, pressurized cylinders, such as carbon dioxide are also collected and disposed of. Alison reported that they received a call on May 7, 2021, that originated as a medical emergency. Once on site, it was determined that the employee had mixed cleaning chemicals together, and inadvertently created chlorine gas. Once respondents of Dept. of Ecology arrived on site, the chemicals were tested, packaged up, and sent for disposal.

11. Cooperating LEPC Members Report:
Nothing to report.

12. Next Meeting: October 21, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

13. Meeting Adjourned:
Meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.