

**WASHINGTON STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION  
(SERC)  
MEETING MINUTES**

**March 29, 2006**

***MEMBERS PRESENT***

Don Bivins – Chair  
John Butler – Department of Ecology  
Mark Ligman – Boeing Company (Alternate)  
Sam Lorenz – Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs-Eastside)  
John Wheeler – Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs-Westside)  
Mark Arras – Washington State Patrol  
Roger Hieb – Emergency Management Division (Alternate)  
Richard Schroedel – WSEMA Representative

***EMD STAFF and SERC REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT***

Ron Wilson (EMD)  
Deborah Henderson (EMD)  
Jeanette Lomax (EMD)  
Lu An Johnson (EMD)  
Sadie Whitener (Ecology)  
Idell Hansen (Ecology)

***CALL TO ORDER***

Don Bivins, SERC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 and welcomed all participants and guests.

***CHAIR COMMENTS***

Don Bivins indicated the state legislative session came to a close with some success. The Regional HAZMAT funding initiative made it through the budget process and became part of the supplemental budget. He indicated we must move forward to the final phase of work that will answer all remaining questions regarding the regionalization issue. He drew attention to a meeting tomorrow (30 March 2006) in Olympia, during which the scope of work will be developed. The funding will begin to flow on July 1, 2006, but he wants to get started immediately on the development of the Scope of Work for the contractor, yet to be selected. The effort will be to develop draft outlines of the study prior to the fall election campaigns. This is a good news project that currently has momentum, but needs a sustainable funding source. In keeping with this thought, we should not seek Homeland Security funding and try to get a sustainable state funding package.

## ***NEW BUSINESS***

John Butler asked if someone could speak to Senate Bill 6433. Roger Hieb responded with the following: Engrossed Senate Bill 6433 originated from Senator Kastama and was designed to provide emergency management-type support on a regional basis through the creation of a disaster fund initially funded by a surcharge on insurance policies. The bill passed back and forth between the Senate and House, was diluted or changed each time, and eventually died, primarily as a result of intense lobbying by the insurance industry that opposed the surcharge. Eventually, and as a surprise to most parties, 2 Million dollars was appropriated on a one-time Grant basis with provisos attached. Called the Emergency Management and Preparedness Appropriation Grant (EMPAG), it calls for 1.6 million dollars to be passed through to local entities and tribal governments with 400K dollars kept in-house to administer the grant process. Grant parameters have yet to be defined.

## ***WORKGROUP REPORTS***

### SERC Charter Review

Don Bivins wants to set up a conference call to begin going through the bylaws. More information will follow.

### LEPC Support

Mark Ligman recapped the SERC's decision to send letters to the LEPCs reminding them to make sure their emergency response plans are submitted and current. If they have not submitted their plans, the next step is to send the elected officials a letter notifying them of the delinquency. He also explained the intention to try to work with those LEPCs that are struggling, the need to look at doing a cross- state trip to visit those LEPCs, in particular, to try to help them get into compliance. Previously, a decision had been made to do this in the Spring. The SERC Coordinator could put together a group, including SERC members who are able to participate. The LEPC/Tribal Workshop is scheduled for May 9-10 at the Coast Hotel in Wenatchee. Training will be available for interested participants on May 8<sup>th</sup>. This is the first effort at combining what have been in the past two workshops into one.

Ron Wilson indicated he has attended two LEPC meetings so far, with more scheduled in the future. He views this as one of his primary roles—support to the LEPCs.

### Public Outreach

LuAn Johnson, Public Education Program Manager for EMD, gave a short presentation about the direction of Public Education at EMD and spoke about her desire to reach the LEPCs and Tribes. She indicated the Public Education Strategic Plan is completed. Her focus is on changing public behavior as a means of improving emergency preparedness. In her view, threat and consequence should be balanced, and people must take responsibility for their

actions. She wants to use public education to break down the psychological barriers of “I don’t know how”, or “It’s too hard”, or “I can’t afford this”. She envisions a new website for EMD that will provide focus and will be easily accessed by all LEPCs, Tribes, and jurisdictions. It would include several pertinent links and streaming video that would help people face the reality of what is potentially before them. She will be attending the LEPC/Tribal Workshop and will convey this message utilizing all channels available to her.

John Wheeler asked LuAn about emergency preparedness training for Special Needs populations. LuAn, who prefers the term “specific needs,” indicated there is no directed training focusing on that population beyond what has been routinely available.

#### EPCRA Reporting Compliance/Industry Outreach

Sadie Whitener reported that everyone has been busy with EPCRA Workshops and Tier Two reporting this time of year and that the workgroup had not met. She reported that seven EPCRA Workshops were conducted in the last few months, in partnership with LEPCs and EPA. These were presented, in part, to educate reporters on the change to the reporting requirements. The presentations always include encouragement to businesses to get involved with their LEPC. She also shared her observation that it appears that due to the requirement change reporters are checking the storage quantities closer and some are actually reporting larger volumes than in previous years.

#### Regional HazMat

John Butler reported that a meeting was scheduled for March 30 to discuss next steps. Mindful of the ultimate goal of legislative funding for statewide CBRNE/HazMat response teams, he requested full support from SERC members. Ecology received a supplemental budget add of \$150,000 for a second phase cost benefit analysis report. It was noted that while most support the concept, it is difficult to support a program without specific details. It will be the workgroup's task to identify many of these specifics prior to the contractor performing the cost benefit analysis that include:

- Risk based formula
- Team definition
- Training & equipment standards
- Interoperability
- Response time standards
- Mutual aid
- Cost recovery
- Determine administrative agency
- Regional alignment
- Indirect costs (overhead)
- Sub-contracting with private sector

### Training Coordination

Mark Arras indicated Ron Bowen had completed a conference call to Ron Britton, FEMA Region X, seeking to post all training, from multiple sources, on the FEMA website. Ron Britton's position is being dissolved, so the outcome of this project is not known. Ron Bowen wants to look at the EMD website for inclusion of the training material.

### HazMat Plan Template

During a February 22<sup>nd</sup> conference call, Jeanette Lomax and the committee determined building a plan template from scratch is too large a project. The committee wants to search for existing templates to shorten the process. Jeanette indicated she has been in contact with Clark County Nevada officials, who sent her a plan for review.

### **FUNDING ISSUES**

With the exception of Regional HazMat funding previously shown, no funding issues were discussed.

**NOTE:** Don Bivins deferred discussion on Commission membership until the next meeting. At least three Commission positions remain unfilled at this time.

### **NEXT/FUTURE MEETING(S)**

The next meeting will be in conjunction with the LEPC/Tribal Workshop in Wenatchee on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Agenda and exact time/location will follow under separate cover.

The Commission agreed to have the November meeting in Snohomish County. Ron Wilson will coordinate.

### **ADJOURNMENT**