

**MICHIGAN EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**State Emergency Operations Center
January 14, 2003**

Commissioners Present

John Ort, Chair
Amy Butler, Vice Chair
Burton Eichler
Kenneth Gembel
Christopher Johnson
Gregory Kirt
Tom Martin
James Miller
Dawn Mills
Gail Novak
Ida Shelly
Lori Simon
Arthur Tanis
Robert Tarrant

Commissioners Excused Absence

Richard Guttowsky
Arthur Lenaghan
Gordon Van Gelder

Others Present

Susan Parker, DEQ
Herb Corey, Ingham County LEPC
John Misaros, St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland LEPC
Thomas Rayburn, Great Lakes Commission
Lt. Dave Wood, HMTC
Bonnie Fighter, MSP/EMD
Dana Wolverton, MSP/EMD

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** At 1:33 p.m., Chair Ort called the meeting to order. Chair Ort introduced new members to the SERC and new EMD staff. Ms. Amy Butler, new Vice-Chair, is the chief of the Environmental Science and Services Division, of Department of Environmental Quality, Mr. Tom Martin, new commissioner for Consumer and Industry Services, and Lt. Dave Wood, new manager of the Hazardous Materials Training Center. Roll was called.
2. **Approve Agenda.** A motion was made by Commissioner Tanis, seconded by Commissioner Kirt, to approve the agenda as submitted. Unanimous approval.
3. **Approve Meeting Minutes.** A motion was made by Commissioner Kirt, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 8, 2002. Unanimous approval.
4. **Chair's Report.** Chair Ort thanked all those commissioners who attended the conference at Crystal Mountain. With the early out retirements, the division lost 25% of its staff. Since that time, nearly all positions have been filled. Chair Ort reported on the serious budget issues facing the state and the division. Chair Ort explained that the new governor's position on the status of homeland security and EMD's role is status quo right now. He also advised that Teresa Bingman is Governor Granholm's staff liaison with the Emergency Management Division. Mike McDaniel has been appointed as the governor's homeland security advisory. Mike was previously with the Attorney General's office, is a member of the Michigan National Guard, and has also been appointed as the new deputy director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Chair Ort met with Vice-Chair Butler and discussed the direction of the commission. Both feel it is very important for the commission to integrate with

homeland security efforts and be prepared to utilize resources, as they become available. John will be speaking at two workshops at the Michigan Townships Association Conference the end of the month. In his presentation, he will stress the importance of the Sara Title III program and getting local plans completed.

5. **DEQ Activity Report.** The mailing of the 2002 Tier Two reports was sent to over 5400 facilities in December. A copy was provided to commissioners. The new software is not ready for distribution. DEQ plans to test it with a few facilities this year and hopes to have the software ready for distribution next year. An updated tally for TRI reports received for the 2001 report year has been completed. 936 facilities reported. This includes 76 new facilities (15 reporting because of the lower threshold for lead). 61 facilities that reported in 2000 were not subject to reporting in 2001. Total releases decreased by 14 million pounds or 10% from 2000. Waste management transfers (recycling, energy recovery, treatment) increased 60 million pounds or 22% from 2000. SARA Title III/Tier Two training was provided to the Michigan Boating Industries Association members in December. DEQ is planning SARA Title III workshops to be held late spring in northern Michigan locations. Tonya Schelter will begin next week as the new database manager for the SARA Title III Program. She will also handle the Annual Wastewater Reporting (AWR) program. Integrated Contingency Plan information was forwarded to reporting facilities in early January. A copy was provided to commissioners. This information is available on the web (Assistance & Support Services/ Environmental Reporting/Emergency Planning) and will be updated regularly. The Tier Two and ICP packets will both be forwarded to LEPC chairpersons and emergency management coordinators soon.
6. **MSP/EMD Activity Report. Approval of Plans.** Ms. Bonnie Fighter distributed a listing of facilities for acceptance by the SERC. Of the 60 that applied for the HMEP grant, 44 followed through with an agreement. A motion was made by Commissioner Tarrant, seconded by Commissioner Simon, to accept the facility plan listing. Unanimous approval. The hazmat plan submittal sheet was revised to more clearly identify information that could be referenced to the county plan for fire department, and information that must be in the off-site hazmat plan. Plan writing workshops will be scheduled in each district in February and March. Staff is currently working on updating our LEPC roster. It should be completed in the next week. New Certificates of Appreciation have been printed for commissioners to present to LEPCs. Ms. Fighter advised that commissioners should let her know when they plan to attend an LEPC meeting. An updated LEPC meeting schedule was distributed. Ms. Fighter also distributed a report with the percentage of plans submitted within each county. Commissioner Tarrant suggested that more emphasis be given to the more populous counties and they should be a priority from a homeland security standpoint. He also suggested that the county population be added to the statistics. Chair Ort advised that staff will include the population information to this report and email it to the commissioners.
7. **GIS Mapping.** Mr. Thomas Rayburn, of the Great Lakes Commission gave a brief overview of some of the services they provide. The commission collects and distributes data and information, i.e., environmental and economic sensitivity data, potential spill sources, potential response resources. The most popular product the commission produces is the Inland Sensitivity Atlas which is a topographical map. At this time, port security is one of the priorities of the commission. Mr. Rayburn can be reached at email address Tray@glc.org. or refer to the website, www.glc.org.
8. **Commissioner Updates.** Commissioner Gembel advised that a Subcommittee Chair Meeting was held prior to the Commission Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to welcome Vice-Chair Butler and explain some of the projects the subcommittees were working on. Vice-Chair Butler gave her view of the current problems and offered suggestions; i.e. when a county reaches 100% plans completed, awarding the LEPC a certificate signed by the director and the governor, including a press release. A lengthy discussion followed. Commissioner Kirt suggested that more contact be made with the county board of commissioners.

9. **Public Comments.** John Misaros advised that in the LEPC successes he has been involved in, the county board of commissioners' involvement was the key to the success, i.e., the coordinator reporting regularly to the commission, advising what the risks are if the plans aren't completed. Commissioner Novak advised Oakland County is pushing to do a Chemical Awareness Week program in their school districts and would like to incorporate it into the curriculum. She also advised that the Michigan Chemistry Council is doing vulnerability assessment training of facilities between now and April. She will forward the information when she receives it. She also voiced her concerns in the new confidentiality legislation. Chair Ort advised that the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has already put together a position paper on FOIA.
10. **Adjourn.** Commissioner Simon moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Commissioner Gembel. Unanimous approval. The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2003, at the Kellogg Center on the campus of Michigan State University. The meeting is being hosted by Ingham County LEPC.