



Minutes – February 12, 2018

The regular meeting of the Michigan Citizen-Community Emergency Response Coordinating Council (MCCERCC) was held on Monday, February 12, 2018, at 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by the Chair, Capt. Chris Kelenske.

Roll call was taken by the Chair, and the following Council members were present: Mr. Marc Breckenridge, Mr. Brad Deacon, Mr. Jay Eickholt, Mr. Ken Gembel, Mr. Tutt Gorman, Mr. Chad Veerer (on behalf of Ms. Ginna Holmes), Capt. Chris Kelenske, Chief Kerry Minshall, Ms. Eileen Phifer, Dr. Phil Schertzing, Dr. Jackie Scott, Mr. Kevin Sehlmeier, Ms. Sara Stoddard, and Chief Michael Yankowski.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Deacon made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Motion was supported by Ms. Phifer. The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Breckenridge made a motion to approve the November 6, 2017, meeting minutes. Motion was supported by Mr. Eickholt. Minutes were approved as presented.

Chair Kelenske welcomed new MCCERCC member, Ms. Sara Stoddard, who is from Oakland County Health Division. He also congratulated Chief Minshall on his reappointment to the Council until December 2021.

Reports of Committees

Citizen Corps

Mr. Chad Veerer from the Michigan Community Service Commission presented a report on behalf of Ms. Holmes.

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know

Mr. Breckenridge recognized Ms. Brenna Hartner* to report on the status of the LEPC Handbook and Mr. Eickholt to provide a SARA Title III update.

Ms. Hartner stated the contents of the handbook have been completed thanks to Mr. Eickholt. The handbook esthetics are in the edit phase but should be completed prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Eickholt reported that 2,693 facilities submitted annual reports to date, and they are expecting another 4,000 this month. Five SARA Title III sessions were held throughout the state in order to answer questions. He indicated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) postponed a ruling until May 1 that will likely impact animal waste and require farms to report hazardous releases to the air.

Hazard Mitigation

Dr. Schertzing recognized Mr. Matt Schnepf* to provide an overview on hazard mitigation grants in Michigan and a Safe Room Project update.

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Mr. Schnepf reported they currently have 42 ongoing hazard mitigation grants for just under \$30 million, which includes all three hazard mitigation programs. Another 16 applications have been submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He provided a handout to Council members and highlighted activities regarding the 2018 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Programs, the 2017 PDM Program, and the Disaster 4195 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

Mr. Schnepf distributed a handout titled *Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report*, and provided an overview of the new study regarding emergency management and hazard mitigation.

Mr. Schnepf reported on the topic of safe rooms, indicating that FEMA does fund construction of these rooms for protection against tornadoes, thunderstorms, and such. Safe rooms can either be built/installed at single family dwellings or as community rooms that are placed in schools, buildings, or park settings. Currently, grants are approved for two safe rooms at a private campground in Salem Township (Allegan County) to protect up to 470 people; 8 rooms at a Boy Scout camp in Lapeer County to protect 960 people; and 11 rooms for a Boy Scout camp in Muskegon County for occupancy of 1,300 people. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has an approved grant to design facilities at state parks and state campgrounds, and is working on the second phase of that funding. The DNR also submitted 2017 funding for safe room facilities, and they are waiting for a response from FEMA.

Old Business

Chair Kelenske revisited the topic of a new MCCERCC committee to serve as advisory council for statewide preparedness in Michigan, and he recognized Ms. Jane Yount* to provide an overview.

Ms. Yount stated the official name of the committee will be the MI-READY Advisory Panel. It will be comprised of preparedness partners to include, but not limited to, local partners, the American Red Cross, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Michigan State Police (MSP) Cyber Unit, the MSP Michigan Intelligence Operations Center (MIOC), the Department of Civil Rights, the Department of Education, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), the National Weather Service, and more. The panel will not be a decision-making entity, but will provide advice and best practices in an effort to consolidate and coordinate messaging and outreach efforts, and to get ideas from the Council. Once the panel initially convenes, an organizational chart will be established. Chair Kelenske added that Ms. Wendy Galbreath* will chair the panel, but will not have a vote on specific activity.

Though creation of this advisory committee is within the purview of the Chair, Captain Kelenske asked for the views of the Council on the establishment of the new committee, and Council members voted unanimously in favor. He advised that the MI-READY Advisory Panel will be included on the next meeting agenda under "Reports of Committees."

Chair Kelenske addressed the topic of posting the MCCERCC Annual Plan on the Council's website page. There was discussion regarding the pros and cons, and a suggestion was made to obtain direction through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process. Chair Kelenske asked members to review the Plan prior to the next meeting, and his staff will consult with the FOIA coordinator for direction. Council members will receive an email regarding a final decision on this topic.

New Business

Chair Kelenske announced that the MCCERCC secretary, Ms. Gail Novak-Phelps, no longer serves on the Council as her appointment term expired. He stated that Mr. Deacon has agreed to serve as the new secretary, but the position is open to others who might be interested.

Mr. Eickholt made a motion that Mr. Brad Deacon serve as new secretary for the MCCERCC. The motion was seconded by Ms. Phifer. Motion adopted.

Ms. Hartner reported on FY 2018 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant applications. She stated that 50 counties have submitted for the HMEP Grant, with a few more still coming in. They also submitted the HMEP Annual Progress Report for FY 2017.

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Ms. Hartner announced that a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting will take place the morning of May 8, just prior to the start of the 2018 Great Lakes Homeland Security Training Conference and Expo (GLHSTCE). This will provide LEPC chairpersons and emergency managers with better information on SARA Title III emergency planning and Tier II reporting. She will conduct the training with Mr. Mike Young from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Ms. Hartner clarified that there has been a 50 percent cut in HMEP grant funding for the state of Michigan for the FY 2017 grant cycle. This is a significant hit and was based on a new risk formula adopted by the Department of Transportation (DOT). As a result, she is emphasizing to LEPCs and emergency managers the importance of accurate release reporting. LEPCs are pushing the message to their fire departments as well.

There was much discussion among Council members regarding the accuracy of chemical release reporting. Chair Kelenske suggested a couple meetings be scheduled throughout the year, outside of the MCCERCC, to formulate a plan that would ensure spills are accurately being reported. Ms. Hartner will work with Mr. Young and others from the DEQ on a messaging format that can be distributed to local fire departments regarding the proper process of release reporting.

Ms. Tammy Blackburn* provided an update on the 2018 GLHSTCE. They are finalizing the conference agenda and expect to have it completed next week. Invitations will go out in the next week or two and include lodging and registration. She announced the names of keynote speakers, and she reminded Council members that their invitations are assigned and should not be transferred.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Dr. Scott announced that she is retiring from the Department of Health and Human Services on March 30, 2018. Her bureau position will be filled by Ms. Linda Scott, who will also likely replace her on the MCCERCC. She thanked everyone and said it was a pleasure working with them.

Chair Kelenske thanked Dr. Scott for her service over the years, stating she has been a great advocate of all programs and a great friend as well.

Adjournment

Mr. Deacon moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Breckenridge. Motion adopted. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Mr. Brad Deacon, Secretary

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