

MINUTES
of the meeting of the
CARSON CITY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
September 9, 2008

The Carson City LEPC held a public meeting on September 9, 2008, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Fire Station No. 1, 777 S. Stewart Street, Carson City.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Stacey Giomi. Voting members present were Steve Albertsen, Robert Charles, Jonathan Crawford, Kevin Curnes, Dave Dawley, Stacey Giomi, Phillip Harrison, Linda Hurst, Bonnie Parnell, Lee Radtke, Ray Saylo, Darren Selby, and Tom Tarulli (which constituted a quorum).

Voting members absent were Brian Crowe and Hank Lucas. Non-voting members absent were Jerry Evans, Keith Forbes, and Rhett Milne.

Also present were Stacey Belt (Carson City Health & Human Services), Mary Ellen Radtke, and Marena Works (Carson City Health & Human Services).

2. Approval of March 4 and June 3, 2008, Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Steve Albertsen, seconded by Phillip Harrison, with motion carried, that the minutes of the March 4 and June 3 meetings be approved.

3. Public Comments and Discussion

Mary Ellen Radtke mentioned that she had been quite impressed with the tent set up by the hospital during the recent exercise held in Carson City and that the response time had been fantastic.

4. Discussion and Action to Approve the Appointment of Marena Works, Carson City's Health & Human Services Director, as the Health Representative to the LEPC

Stacey Giomi introduced Marena Works, who became Carson City's Health & Human Services Director in June. It was then moved by Dave Dawley, seconded by Bonnie Parnell, with motion carried, that Marena Works be appointed as a LEPC member.

5. Discussion and Action to Approve the FFY 2009 U.S. Department of Transportation, Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Application to be Submitted to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

Stacey Giomi informed the committee that this grant was essentially a training grant which was limited to a request of \$30,000. When this grant application was received, an e-mail had been sent out to committee members asking if anyone in their respective disciplines would be interested in attending the HazMat Explo in Las Vegas (which was the main thrust of the grant) and that responses were received from a few agencies, including the Health Department, the hospital, and City environmental (from Public Works). (Others interested in attending were from the Sheriff's Office and the Fire Department.) So the first item being requested on the grant was funding to send these individuals to the HazMat Explo (to be held November 3-6).

Stacey said that he would also like to request grant funding to provide some flammable liquids training for members of the Quad-County HazMat Team. He mentioned that when Carson City conducted a commodities study a few years back, the number one commodity that the city was repeatedly being exposed to in the transportation corridor was fuel (whether diesel or gasoline). He said that he has worked with the Fire Department at N.A.S. Fallon and because they had a good training program in this regard, he would like to seek funding through this grant to bring them to town and host a regional flammable liquids fire extinguisher training and haz-mat seminar.

It was then moved by Lee Radtke, seconded by Darren Selby, with motion carried, that the committee approve the submission of the grant application as described. (The grant application is requesting \$10,453.88 for the HazMat Explo and \$19,287.24 for the flammable liquids training, for a total request of \$29,742.)

6. Discussion Regarding Vigilant Guard Exercise Conducted in June and Continuity of Operations Exercise Conducted in July

Stacey Giomi stated that the Vigilant Guard exercise conducted in June was a statewide exercise mostly tasked at the National Guard level, with the City's participation mainly challenging the hospital and the City's Department of Health & Human Services in terms of surge capacity. He stated that both the Guard's mobile hospital and the City's mobile medical facility were set up during this exercise.

Linda Hurst mentioned that the hospital did identify a problem when trying to transport patients from the hospital to the Sierra Surgery Center because there was no real path between the two and that they had to go over a bridge, over gravel, up and downhill, etc. However, they will be working on resolving this problem and she felt that everything else went well. She also mentioned that quite a few people looked at the mobile hospital while it was set up and had been quite impressed.

Marena Works mentioned that the City's mobile medical facility also went very well and that it was able to be set up very quickly. This facility was meant more for a quick triage rather than for long-term usage and that they were very happy with the result. This exercise gave them a good idea on what to expect in the future and what kind of equipment they would need. Stacey Belt then mentioned that they were able to identify the versatility of the unit because it was so easy to set up, with their only challenge being its transportation from the Corporate Yard to the hospital and back again. Because it was so portable and flexible, it will be able to be used in a variety of ways.

Bonnie Parnell stated that she was very impressed with the City's facility and felt that the State could learn from it, such as the height of the beds which would allow for more procedures. She also had a concern over the Guard's hospital because of the 12-hour minimum turnaround time to physically get it where it was needed and she hoped that the Guard and the City could learn from each other in regard to these issues. She then suggested that the City set up its facility during the legislative session to let people see what was available. Marena felt this was a good idea as the City needed to get more practice in setting it up anyway, but she also mentioned that the point of the City's facility was to get it up quickly while the point of the Guard's was to provide for more long-term care.

7. Report of the July 24 Quarterly SERC Meeting

Stacey Giomi reported on the July 24 SERC meeting (which he had not been able to attend), mentioning the following:

- Carson City's grant application (approved at the previous LEPC meeting) requesting funds for the weather network had been approved. Because the Public Works Department will also be contributing funds to this project, Stacey said that there will be six weather stations in Carson covering from the north to the south through the center of town, one east and one west, and an additional one in Lakeview. The weather information is fed directly to the internet, which information in turn can be retrieved by anyone. This data can also be fed into the City's hazardous materials software, with the advantage being that data from the closest site to an occurrence could be fed into a plume modeling software package which would allow them to see the proposed track of a chemical release. Stacey mentioned that anyone who wanted to look at an example of what this website will look like could check out <http://www.ggfire.com>, which is the website of a Florida fire department that currently uses this system.
- A regional hazardous materials technician class will be held in Carson City (beginning September 15). Stacey said they were trying to do some succession planning for their haz-mat team, as Carson City has 15 haz-mat tech positions on the team and that there was no one currently available to take the place of anyone who decided to leave.

- Training for the new database for hazardous materials permitting will take place in September for both industry and responders. Stacey mentioned that once this database was up and running, he would give the committee a demonstration—probably at its next meeting.

8. Reports from LEPC Members

- Tom Tarulli reported that although there was no funding to support the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) or to hire a coordinator, the team was alive and well, ranging from 60 to 70 members. He said that the team is split into five different groups with five different team leaders and that he meets with these team leaders on a regular basis. One group is responsible for sheltering, such as opening up a shelter at one of the schools using the Red Cross trailer; one group is in charge of animal rescue and sheltering in a disaster; one is an administrative group that can either work in the EOC or help in a disaster doing paperwork; one group can do any type of rehab during a large drill/exercise or a disaster, such as providing food, drink, shelter, etc.; and one is an operational group consisting of people who are skilled to assist fire crews on medical or fire or do other types of field work.

Upon a question by Bonnie Parnell as to how a citizen could offer his services during an emergency, such as sheltering for animals, Stacey Giomi stated that the City could not coordinate this with private citizens because of liability issues. Tom mentioned, however, that if city resources were completely tapped out, Animal Control could be an intermediary by simply putting two people in contact with each other but stressing that it would not be City-sanctioned or operated.

- Phillip Harrison mentioned that if there was any information which the LEPC Chair would like disseminated to the business sector or especially manufacturers to just let him know and he would do so.
- Kevin Curnes said that there will be a flu clinic held on October 25 and that they were looking for volunteers. There will be a drive-through clinic at the Health Department and a walk-in one at the high school. Stacey Belt then asked the committee to help get the word out that it was important for people to get their flu shots this year.
- Ray Saylo said that he received a demonstration from Brian Crowe at WNC on the college's emergency alert system and went over the training they were providing for the college's staff. He mentioned that this system was way above what many colleges have in terms of emergency systems. Brian, however, will be making some suggested improvements to the system, mainly to make it more tamper-proof by hardening the speakers so that individuals would not be able to disable them.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for December 2 at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Fire Station #1.

10. Adjournment

It was moved by Jonathan Crawford, seconded by Robert Charles, with motion carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Recorder: Judy Dietrich