

## State Emergency Response Commission Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 22, 2024

**Time:** 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

**Location:** Sandoval County Fire Department, 301 Piedra Lisa St, Bernalillo, NM 87004

### 1. Roll Call – Introductions

Name	Organization	Membership	Virtual/In Person
Scott Overpeck	NWS	Commissioner	Virtual
Jess Lewis	UNMH	Commissioner, HMSB, Legislative/Policy/Bylaws Standing Committee	In Person
Karen Sanders	Roswell/Chaves County EM	Commissioner	Virtual
Zach Wachter	NMDHSEM	LEPC Standing Committee	In Person
Ron Fitzherbert	Amador Health Center	Commissioner	Virtual
Jos Lesscher	FFD	Commissioner - Chair	In Person
Adele McKenzie	NMED – DRB		Virtual
Krista Schultz	NMED - DRB		Virtual
Mark Alsfeld	NMDPS		Virtual
Jared Tapia	NMDPS		Virtual
Jeff Wenzel	RRFR	HMSB, Legislative/Policy/Bylaws Standing Committee	Virtual
Anthony Leyba	SFMO		In Person
Lenora Lesscher			In Person
Lisa Coleman	DHSEM		In Person
Tim Yackey	NMDOH/BHEM		In Person
Selma Eikelenboom			In Person
Jackie Onsurez	WIPP	Commissioner	Absent
Jason Bowie	NMDPS	Commissioner	Absent

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Jess Lewis to approve, second by Jos Lesscher. Motion carried.

### 3. Reports of Officers Boards and Standing Committees

Zach Wachter reported on the activities of the HMSB on behalf of Bill Hageman. DHSEM and LANL have been working collaboratively. DHSEM will be assisting with the LANL HazMat Challenge. DHSEM is working on strategies to flow through more HazMat grant monies. Advised that an HMSB meeting is scheduled for the following week. DOT and Environment department have not responded to requests to participate.

Zach Wachter reported for the Legislative Policy and Bylaw standing committee and suggested changes to the SERC bylaws. Changes included the designation of a vice-chair and language to support continuity of government.

Zach Wachter reported out for the LEPC standing committee. Working toward LEPC compliance. Discussion ensued on the letter of the law and what operationally occurs with the conduct of LEPC and SERC business in New Mexico, particularly as it applies to committee member appointment and planning districts.

Jess Lewis motioned to table the discussion; Jos Lesscher seconded. Motion carried.

#### **4. America's Water Infrastructure Act**

Adele MacKenzie advised that a paper was sent to upper management to determine their process. Advised that Stephen Conolly is the best contact for emergency releases into a drinking water source as the Drinking Water Bureau does not have 24 hour on call staff.

Jos Lesscher expressed concerns over proposed AIWA policy for not being comprehensive in the chemicals it covered.

NRC calls EOC Duty Line, Calls DRB, NMED (Stephen), SERC

Jess Lewis moves to table to next meeting to allow time correct draft. – Scott Overpeck Second – motion carried.

#### **5. Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (HMER)**

Zach Wachter stated that DHSEM had updated the contact information in the HMER plan. Advised that the HMSB would be working on a more comprehensive update of the HMER plan.

Jess Lewis motioned to table the HMER plan discussion. Jos Lescher seconded. The motion carried.

#### **6. Commission Bylaws**

Discussion of additional SERC bylaw updates to allow for a vice chair and continuity of operations in the event the governor fails to recommission members to the point that a quorum cannot be made. Jess Lewis moved to adopt bylaws. Jos Lesscher seconded. Motion carried.

#### **7. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Accountability**

Discussion of how the SERC wishes to proceed with the appointment of LEPC committee members. This issue was raised by Tarrant County in previous correspondence with the SERC. Zach Wachter will draft a policy on behalf of the commission to present at the next meeting which establishes procedures for a planning district to present committee member candidates to the SERC which will subsequently approve them. This approach will follow what is written in EPCRA while allowing for local autonomy.

## **8. Annual SERC Report**

Mr. Wachter will send out copies of the last SERC report. He stated that with the increased activity with the SERC and HMSB there is an opportunity to increase what is included in the SERC report.

## **9. Hazardous Materials Safety Board**

Discussion of HMSBs responsibilities to establish training curriculum for state HAZMAT responders as well as developing the HMER plan. Jos Lesscher, Jess Lewis, and Anthony Leyba discussed the challenges that faced the HMSB in the past in establishing state HAZMAT training standards.

## **10. Radiological and Hazardous Materials Committee**

Zach Wachter asked if the commission would like to invite the RHMC to future meetings. The commission supported this.

## **11. Other Business**

Jos Lesscher motioned to make Jess Lewis the Vice Chair of the commission for a 12-month term. Scott Overpeck seconded. Motion Carried.

## **12. Public comments**

Members of the public voiced concerns over the possible construction of a solar farm in Santa Fe County and the hazard posed by the lithium-ion battery storage that would accompany it. Members of the public expressed additional concerns that Santa Fe County does not currently have an LEPC and asked the SERC to work with Santa Fe County to remedy this. The commission agreed to contact Santa Fe County to address the concern over the lack of an LEPC.

## **13. Adjournment**

Jess Lewis moved to adjourn. Scott Overpeck seconded. Motion carried.