

MINUTES
Meramec Regional Emergency Planning Committee
12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 1, 2016
MRPC Office
4 Industrial Drive, St. James, MO 65559

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Kraig Bone called the Aug. 31, 2016 meeting of the Meramec Regional Emergency Planning Committee to order at 12:32 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andrea Rice, Susan Long, Richard Bray, Wendy Squires, John Lucas and Kraig Bone.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Larry Flesher, Brad Nash, Darrell Skiles, Janie Jadwin, Kris Bayless, Doug Drewel, Ken Ramsey, Ray Massey, Donna Kreisler, Margaret Biolsi, Ron Smith, Brad Barton, Doris Coffman, Jim Vandivort, and Marvin Wright.

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:

Tammy Snodgrass, Chery Dupes, Bonnie Prigge, Linda Carroll, Mark Burchfield, Chuck Fisher, Jon Soucy.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Andrea Rice made a motion to approve the agenda. Susan Long seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Andrea Rice made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 31, 2016 meeting. Susan Long seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Cheryl Dupes with MRPC presented the statement of revenues and expenditures through the month ended September 30, 2016. (attached)

Andrea Rice made a motion to approve the statement of revenues and expenditures through the month ended September 30, 2016. John Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tammy Reported that she received the application the first part of October and sent out training needs surveys. Two counties did not return the survey - Gasconade and Washington. Tammy suggested submitting Awareness and Operations training for those two counties. She stated that she needed to finalize the application as it was due November 15th and still had to go out to Ron Smith and the county commissioners for signatures. She stated that she sent emails to the county EMDs for Gasconade and Washington counties asking them to request training, but had not heard back from either.

It was suggested by Andrea Rice that if no training surveys come back from a county that the fire chiefs should be contacted rather than the EMDs. She added that she would like to see the training catalog in advance so fire departments could be contacted to confirm their lack of interest in training.

Other issues with training that were discussed included getting 15 students for a class in order to avoid it being cancelled. Another question was what were the training levels of department members. Ms. Snodgrass explained that she used to include asking how many members were trained in Awareness, Operations and Technician hazmat when she gathered information for the hazmat plan. However, when the MREPC switched from its hazmat plan format to the state template – it no longer had a place to include that information – so she took that question off the survey. It was suggested that asking for training levels be incorporated into the training survey in the future.

Andrea suggested that classes should be arranged for Gasconade and Washington counties by listing the EMDs as contact person. If the EMDs can't get a host agency for the class or enough people to sign up for it, then it will be cancelled. At least there would be some potential for hazmat training for that county. She felt that the class should focus on the basics (Awareness and Operations) and Richard Bray agreed due to the turnover and new folks always coming on board.

Ms. Snodgrass reported that railcar training was requested by Sullivan but they don't have a place to hold the training that meets the requirements. However, Cuba does. She stated that she was contacting Cuba to see if they would be willing to host the training.

Classes are county specific now and each agency was to pick three classes. Ms. Snodgrass asked that if there were any additions or changes to the HMEP training request, that they be submitted by the end of the week.

Andrea made a motion to move forward on the grant application with any changes due by Friday and going ahead with Awareness and Operations for Gasconade and Washington counties. John Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Tammy reported that Ryan Dunwoody received some Tier II forms and edits to the hazmat plan in late and that the plan should be distributed in the next few weeks.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mark Birchfield from the National Weather Service (NWS) office in Springfield introduced himself and spoke about some of the types of information they could provide during Hazmat incidents. Wind speed direction and any expected wind shifts are just a couple of conditions they can provide information on during a hazardous materials incident. The NWS phone is staffed 24 hours day, seven days a week. In cases of fire, departments can call the center to get updates on various weather conditions that might affect the fire and how they attack it. The Springfield office serves Dent and Phelps counties but these services are also offered by other weather districts. Bonnie Prigge suggested including this information in the training module. Mark also provided business cards which included different websites that provide weather related information including the NWSChat link which could be useful for dispatch centers to communicate with the weather center.

Jon Soucy, a chemical security inspector with the St. Louis office of Homeland Security, introduced himself and provided handouts on Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) – a new Homeland Security initiative. He reported that the main focus of CFATS was to cover the nearly 3,000 high risk facilities in the United States.

Members were asked to email Ms. Snodgrass about their interest in a tabletop or full scale exercise and she would be in touch with the EMDs. Kraig Bone asked about including the commissioners on that email.

Susan Long reported that they are looking into a professional grant writer for the county but that commissioner Dave Dudenhoeffer informed her that the county has free grant writing hours available through MRPC. Ms. Snodgrass confirmed this and added that member cities also have free grant writing hours. Counties get 18 hours of free grant writing hours and Bonnie reported that MRPC has done grant applications for the Missouri Foundation of Health. It was suggested Ms. Long get in touch with either Ms. Snodgrass or Kelly Sink-Blair.

REPORT FROM SEMA REPRESENTATIVE:

Ms. Snodgrass reported that Brett Hendrix could not make the meeting but invited everyone to his next Region I SEMA meeting was scheduled for December 1, 2016 from 10 to noon. Lunch would be served and the group would be celebrating Maries County EMD Ken Ramsey's retirement.

REPORT FROM MDNR REPRESENTATIVE:

No report.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MRECP MEETINGS:

March 29, 2017

June 21, 2017

ADJOURNMENT:

Andrea Rice made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.