**MINUTES**

**Meramec Regional Emergency Planning Committee  
12:00 p.m.   
Wednesday, March 11, 2020  
MRPC Office  
4 Industrial Drive, St. James, MO 65559**

**CALL TO ORDER:**Vice Chairman Jeff Breen called the March 11, 2020 meeting of the Meramec Regional Emergency Planning Committee to order at 12:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Honor Evans, Larry Flesher, Darrell Skiles, Kendra Mobray, Dan Dyer, Andrea Rice, Susan Long, Richard Bray, Jeff Breen and John Lucas.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Brad Nash, Doug Drewel, Roger Wilt, Steve Brown, Margaret Biolsi, Ron Smith, Wendy Squires, Doris Coffman, Kraig Bone, Jim Vandivort, Dave Sansegraw, Chuck Fisher, Nick Hughey and Bill Goad.

**STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:**

Tammy Snodgrass, Linda Loughridge, Linda Carroll, Kathryn Hawes, and Bonnie Prigge with MRPC; Alan Cortrivent, DNR; and Mike Harris, Missouri Emergency Response Commission Executive Director.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**Susan Long made a motion to approve the agenda. Richard Bray seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**Darrell Skiles made a motion to approve the minutes. John Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**Linda Loughridge with MRPC presented the statement of revenues and expenditures through the month ended Feb. 29, 2020.

Larry Flesher made a motion to accept the month ended statement of revenues and expenditures as presented. Richard Bray seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Loughridge also presented the revised budget.

Susan Long made a motion to accept the revised budget as presented. Richard Bray seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

HMEP Grant Application and Training Survey Results

Tammy Snodgrass reported on HMEP funded training opportunities and what classes have been held or are scheduled.

Report on Staff Activities

Tier IIs – Kathryn Hawes informed the committee that Tier IIs have been coming in and that the deadline is the end of the moth.

Commodity Flow Study – Ms. Hawes indicate she would be conducting flow studies on Highways 89 and 133 this week. It was reported that a current version of the flow study would be made available to the committee. A summary by county would be going out with the training surveys.

Plan Distribution – Ms. Snodgrass asked members on recommendations on how to economically distribute the plan as CDs are becoming obsolete. New computers do not automatically have CD drives anymore. Richard Bray stated that he prefers CDs. It was suggested that CDs be sent and then if the recipient doesn’t have a reader, then they could be sent a link to Hightail to download the document.

COVID-19

Vice Chairman Breen spoke briefly on the Governor’s teleconference that was held on March 10. The topic of the teleconference was COVID-19. He reported that all state websites have a link to coronavirus information including a hotline which is 877-435-8411. Vice Chairman Breen stated that the federal government will be sending $14 million to the state of Missouri to assist in the purchase of personal protection equipment for emergency responders.

Mike Harris, Missouri Emergency Response Commission Executive Director, reported that Missouri has been planning on how to deal with the coronavirus since it was first reported and he said the state is leaps and bounds ahead of others. He stated that health officials are pushing the basics of washing hands, no shaking hands and social distancing. Mr. Harris also stated that he felt that there would be more deaths in Missouri from the flu than COVID-19. Anyone with concerns about COVID-19 and its symptoms can call the hotline or their local health department for the most accurate information.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Annual Training Survey

Ms. Snodgrass provided a draft of the annual training survey for review and approval. She noted that the Hazmat IQ class will be removed from the final version as Mike Harris is in the process of developing a course in-house that would be less expensive and more efficient. There were no real changes from last year, other than dates. It was noted that two drone classes will be added. These classes will be required for those wanting to purchase drones. If approved by the committee, the training survey will be sent out the end of March with a return deadline of May 1.

Susan Long made a motion to approve the training survey as presented. Larry Flesher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commodity Flow Study

Summaries of the flow studies in Crawford, Dent, Gasconade and Maries counties have been completed and were provided to committee members. Ms. Snodgrass stated the Osage County summary was about half done and then there were still a couple of counties that she still needs to prepare summaries for. The summaries would be going out with the training survey. Larry Flesher suggested that a notation be placed on the summary reminding the organizations that some of the data in the flow study and plan is considered proprietary and should not be shared outside of each member’s emergency response agency.

**PRESENTATION**

Missouri Emergency Response Commission Executive Director, Mike Harris

Mr. Harris opened his remarks by stating the MREPC is very important to the MERC and that this group was the oldest organization he has [referring to MRPC], having been around for 50 years. He went on to note that MREPC gets things done with the local LEPC’s and their counties and help them do what they need to do.

Mr. Harris mentioned that drone purchases with CEPF funds have been suspended since January but will be reinstated after the April 23 commission meeting since policies and criteria have been set. CEPF funds can be used to purchase drones, train operators and sustain the drones. Classes will be offered by MU and a sustainment program is required by the FCC. He went on to say that the drone belongs to the LEPC and that they have to approve the purchase and maintain the drone. The drone must be made available to any emergency response team in their counties.

He reported that his office is in talks with subject matter expertsabout classes to increase HazMat training for law enforcement. They are also working on providing courses for HazMat response teams in emergency rooms. Mr. Harris indicated that hospitals are not getting the training and support they need.

Mr. Harris stated he believes strongly in what the MERC does and that there needs to be a shift in focus from urban to rural areas. It’s the rural areas that need the support so the MERC will be putting more emphasis on rural emergency response agencies.

Mr. Harris informed the committee that it’s likely the deadline for the HMEP grant for next year will be up to Oct. 15, 2020. This earlier deadline will allow for classes to get scheduled, submitted and be ready to go by Jan. 1, 2021.

He reported that more people will be sent out reminders on TIER II and a new video is scheduled to be produced in November or December. Mr. Harris also informed the committee that a new TIER II computer reporting system is being developed specifically for MERC. It will be a much more user-friendly system and will be going live in October. Training will be available for those who will be entering data into the system.

**REPORT FROM SEMA REPRESENTATIVE:**

No report was given.

**REPORT FROM MDNR REPRESENTATIVE:**

Alan Cortrivent reported that in the last six months of calls, there were no really serious incidents. If anyone was interested, he had a copy of the report.

He mentioned that there had been some shakeups in the DNR office and that it was currently running short of staff until the positions could be refilled.

Mr. Cortrivent mentioned that DNR will be reevaluating how they respond to petroleum spills. If the spill is less than 300 gallons, they may not respond unless there is an environmental concern. He reminded everyone that 50 gallons is still reportable. He concluded his report by stating that DNR will still send personnel to a spill if the local agency requests assistance.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:**

June 17, 2020

Aug. 25, 2020

Oct. 13, 2020

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Bonnie Prigge announced that the Coalition for Roadway Safety meeting would be April 3 at noon at the MRPC office. The announcement was made during this meeting as several of the members present were also involved with the upcoming meeting.

Susan Long mentioned that she would like to see a presentation on CAFOs, (Concentrated Animal Feed Organizations) at an upcoming meeting. She believes that there will soon be more liquid manure transports on the road and she has concerns if one of them were to be involved in an accident and the contents spilled over the road. Mr. Cortrivent said he could contact someone in the central office and arrange for them to give a presentation.

Ms. Snodgrass mentioned that a few years ago the MREPC had a CFATS presentation where they discussed a new program that would require extra planning on the part of any critical facilities that had threshold quantities of hazardous materials. She added that it was her understanding that they’ve been doing aerial surveys and contacting those facilities who appear to have those threshold quantities of hazardous materials and informing them that they must comply with CFAT rules. Ms. Snodgrass noted that may of the rural schools have propane tanks that would meet that threshold. She also stated that she has received calls from a few of the schools. She suggested having a representative come to a future meeting and inviting school principals and superintendents to join in as well.

**ADJOURNMENT:**Darrell Skiles made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

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Kraig Bone, Chairman Date

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Attest Date