

MINUTES
Meramec Local Emergency Planning District
12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2023
MRPC Office
4 Industrial Drive, St. James, MO 65559

CALL TO ORDER:

Jeff Breen called the Nov. 7, 2023, meeting of the Meramec Local Emergency Planning District to order at 12:31 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Members participating in-person were Jeff Breen, Wendy Squires and John Lucas. Participating via Zoom were committee member Jeff Arnold and Stephen McClane with the Missouri Emergency Response Commission (MERC).

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Honor Evans, Brad Nash, Clyde Zelch, Doug Drewel, Scott John, Steve Vogt, Ron Hoffman, Kim Sallin, Chelsea Smith, Joshua Krull, Margaret Biolsi, Ron Smith, Joshua Pearson, Ron Jones, Mark Diedrich, Shawnee Douglas, Kraig Bone and Floyd Haworth.

STAFF & GUESTS PRESENT:

MRPC staff present were Tammy Snodgrass, Linda Carroll, Kathryn Hawes and Linda Loughridge. Participating guests were Cody Garner with Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Brett Hendrix with SEMA, Steve Runnels with the National Weather Service, Sarah Tary with Washington County Health Department and John Marti with Rolla Fire and Rescue.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Tammy Snodgrass added an additional item to the agenda, the voting in of two new members. Wendy Squires made a motion to approve the agenda with the noted addition. John Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Wendy Squires made a motion to approve the minutes. Jeff Arnold seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Linda Loughridge, MRPC, presented the financials for the month ending Oct. 31, 2023. She informed the group the budget is currently showing a deficit, but it should level out once the TIER II funds are received. MLEPD should be receiving those funds shortly, including some back payments that were due to errors in recording. Until the TIER II funds are received, Linda said MRPC will put any payables due to MRPC on hold.

It was also noted that although the budget included \$7,700 for an audit, there would be no audit conducted. MERC does not require an audit Linda said but added that the group may want to consider having a financial review conducted at a later date. The cost for this would likely be around \$1,000.

Stephen McLane with MERC mentioned that MLEPD should be receiving an estimated \$25,766.11 in TIER II funds.

Wendy Squires made a motion to approve the financials for the month ending Oct. 31, 2023. John Lucas seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Training Survey and HMEP Training Grant Application

Tammy explained the process and reviewed the classes requested with the group. Five classes were requested for agencies in Phelps County. One class, Hazmat Awareness is not covered since it is available on-line. Jeff Breen with the city of Rolla Fire and Rescue deferred to Phelps Health Ambulance as to the priority of classes to include in the application. Wendy Squires with Phelps Health suggested the following: Hazmat Basic Life Saver, Hazardous Materials Refresher and Anhydrous Ammonia Railroad Training. Jeff agreed to drop the Hazardous Materials Technician Training saying there were some technician level classes that would be available through the MERC/SEMA grant if awarded.

Dent and Washington counties submitted no requests for classes. Tammy will reach out to agencies in those counties who have requested classes in the past.

The group discussed the lack of participation in trainings and the difficulty in filling up classes. It was mentioned that an effort should be made to reach out directly to volunteers with training information, in the event leadership isn't passing along the information.

Wendy Squires made a motion to approve the training survey as presented and to submit the HMEP application by the end of the month. John Lucas seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Staff Activities

Hazmat Classes – Tammy reported hazmat classes were held Oct. 7-8 in Potosi.

She also shared flyers on Critical Incident Stress Management classes from Warrior's Rest Foundation. These classes are being funded through the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

Plan Distribution – Tammy reported the plan was distributed and the annual report was submitted in September. The plan was made available through an on-line document sharing site.

Membership – Tammy encouraged members to continue to think about someone they could recruit to help boost membership and attendance at meetings.

Exercise for 2023-24 – Tammy said attended the PAM exercise in Cuba and mentioned that Jeff Breen was there as well. She said it was a good exercise with a lot of good information.

Tammy suggested coordinating with other exercises occurring in the region and Wendy Squires mentioned a chemical exercise that would be taking place in Phelps County on March 7, 2024. She said she would loop Tammy in.

Steve Runnel with the National Weather Service said that if any of the exercises could use weather information as a part of the exercise, the weather service would be glad to assist.

SEMA/MERC grant status – Tammy reported she is still waiting to hear back from MERC. Stephan McLane with MERC reported that MERC has finished its part and it's gone to the Director of Public Safety for final determination. Stephan said his goal is to have an answer by Nov. 15.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Members

Tammy introduced Sarah Tary with the Washington County Health Department and John Marti with Rolla Fire and Rescue. The committee was asked to vote on their membership.

John Lucas made a motion to approve the addition of both Sarah Tary and John Marti to the MLEPD roster. Wendy Squires seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Discussion on Needed legislative Changes

State Law Governing LEPCs – Tammy reminded the group that the state law that governs LEPCs and LEPDs sunsets this year, unless new legislation is put in place. She summarized a letter that would be sent to legislators encouraging them to reauthorize the law governing LEPC's and LEPD's. The letter included recommendations for fee changes, which haven't been updated since the law first went into effect. Also included in the letter was a recommendation for creating a tier system for the TIER II funds, with larger facilities paying more than the smaller facilities. Tammy said she also included a recommendation that the \$1 million dollar cap on MERC be increased. Stephan McLane mentioned that in 2023 the fee per facility was \$48.50.

She also mentioned the letter that would be sent to other LEPC's and LEPD's encouraging them to contact their legislators and support that legislation and the changes to make it viable. She added that she hopes to get the letters out by the end of the month.

Tammy said Sen. Justin Brown is on the MERC board and that she would try to visit with him to discuss his sponsoring a bill to reauthorize the state law governing LEPCs and LEPDs as well as educate him on MLEPD activities.

Tammy said the issue will be included in the state priorities report that is compiled every year and shared with the districts' state legislators.

REPORT FROM MERC REPRESENTATIVE

No report was given.

REPORT FROM SEMA REPRESENTATIVE

Brett Hendrix reported the next quarterly stakeholder meeting would be Dec. 7 at 10:00 a.m. at the Dent County Fire Protection District office. He also mentioned that Mark Friedman is the new Crawford County EMD and said he would reach out to him about participating in this group. Brett said a full scale exercise revolving around organo phosphates would be held in Laclede County in April or May. Not much is happening with training right now he said but did note SEMA is prioritizing one day classes.

REPORT FROM MDNR REPRESENTATIVE

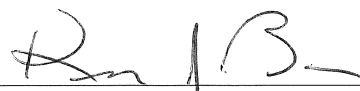
Cody Garner shared a copy of a recent Merlin report showing incidents in the region. The report shows what was reported and what MDNR responded to in each county. He said there is a public page and if anyone was interested in accessing it, they should contact him.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 27, 2023 June 26 Aug. 28 Nov. 6

ADJOURNMENT:

Wendy Squires made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.



Kraig Bone, Chairman

3/27/24

Date



Attest

3-27-24

Date

