

DATE: October 20, 2009

TO: Members of the RI State Emergency Response Commission

FROM: Ann Bell

SUBJECT: Minutes of the October 19, 2009 Meeting

The meeting was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 801 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI,

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Ball RIDEM

Steve McCartney Chief, Warwick Police Department

Gary E. Meegan Warwick Fire Department

Steve Moore Naval Station Newport

Stefan Coutoulakis LEPC 3

Dennis Dos Santos Fortune Metal

Richard S. Gates, Jr. Fortune Metal

Terry Court Tiverton Power

Tricia Keegan Tiverton Power

Kevin Bieu Tiverton Power

Mike Francisco Sperian Protection

Joel Tomasetti Sperian Protection

Terry Medley Teknor Apex Co.

Paul D'Abbraccio RIEMA

Susan Mayo Johnson & Wales University

Gina Friedman RIDEM

Mike Brazel FEMA

Kevin D. Quinn Union Fire District, LEPC 4 Chair

Steve Preston Woonsocket, LEPC 1

David Medeiros Rhode Island State Police

David DiMaio Cranston Fire, LEPC 3

The meeting was called to order at 3:12 p.m.

Paul D'Abbraccio asked if there was anything under old business.

Steve Preston stated none.

Executive Director Smith stated he had spoken with Mrs. Leduc at the Department of Labor & Training and tried to nail down a time for mutual convenience for a follow-up to the old issue of discussion of various agencies regulatory and issues of monitoring chemicals and waste at various facilities around the state. There had been a team at the Department of Labor & Training, he believes a Mr. Larissa who had been running that program at one time and there were some questions that arose in previous discussions as to what extent DLT was still sending people in the field and monitoring that situation and levying fines, etc. As it relates to Tier II it is the task and follows discussion of the SERC to sit down with Director Powell and to talk about a way forward with that and make sure we are tracking there. He has spoken with Ms. Leduc who is the Administrative Assistant to the Director. He had a side conversation with the deputy director of DLT, Lisa D'Agostino, but now must go to the director's level. Just trying to coordinate that and will put that meeting together.

Paul D'Abbraccio stated Planning Committee report, Chief Dillon was not there today and Training Committee report Bill is not here. Steve Preston stated at the last meeting for the Planning Committee they had submitted a request to use significant portion of the training dollars for some community outreach for a reverse 911 system and some public media outlets. However, the wording was not correct so it did not get approved. However, they are working with Jim Gaffey from EPA Region 1 and Chief Dillon is going to resubmit that and feels confident that some additional wording will get that training and

planning done. They considered producing some magnets with the information on it. We found that the community's people are not familiar with it and so when they get messages it creates some panic. They are trying to do a public outreach to get them familiar with it. We have this capability and can make these calls and will move forward. They have also completed and the committee approved a training brochure for the Fire Academy that will be reproduced and mailed out to all the fire departments within the state showcasing what classes can be offered under this grant and how to go about obtaining those classes making sure we have a straight short chain-of-command and goes to the LEPC chairs and goes to the appropriate committee and then it goes up to the Fire Academy or to the Planning Committee, whichever it needs. The Training Committee, we are awaiting on the HMEP grant for this year. He spoke with Rick Jones last week. From the e-mail we received from Washington, it is in the pipe and should be here shortly and once it arrives we will review it and see if there were any conditions that were put on the scope work that was written for the grant and if there are none we will be able to move into developing some additional classes and providing those services.

Paul D'Abbraccio stated first item hot wash for the October workshop, since everyone is here; we have the opportunity to discuss what happened today. He stated everyone did a terrific job. Maybe some things we can improve upon the next year. Steve Preston stated the only thing we can improve upon is getting

additional participation from industry. Gina used her e-mail database.

I had sent out all the invitations to all the LEPC chairs and we physically mailed out 380 hard copy invitations using the best available data, thanks to Stefan. We had a great turnout today, 113 which was the final number for the turnout but he thinks additional publication of this for next year is who we want to be and I had the opportunity to float around today and ask different industry, some that were in my LEPC some that were not if this was where we should be going and everybody really enjoyed the information and felt it was germane to their job. Chief Smith stated he wanted to congratulate the group that put this together and there was good interaction and participation and learned that we have not been holding this meeting every year but clearly there is a cry from the communities and industries that we need to do this. He was very pleased to hear the positive comments and results from the interaction today and hopefully those positive comments will translate into some discussion within the industry leaders and maybe we can follow up. We need to make sure we do this every year and listen to comments to try to find ways to attract more people to participate proactively. Paul D'Abbraccio asked we wanted to consider a press release prior to the event like ProJo business for example. Chief Smith stated he sent Steve Kass to take some digital shots. Chief Smith stated he would encourage the organizers of the event if they have some e-mail addresses from some of the leaders in industry. We can make sure that they are included in the RIEMA news distribution and it is a good idea to put it out as Providence business or just a press release about

this particular conference. Paul D'Abbraccio asked if we wanted to consider exhibits in the future. Steve Preston stated that it used to be about 500 or 600 people and we got away from that and we could bring it back to that level and at that point in time we could showcase some of our assets, our USAR teams, our HazMat teams. Show industry that to make the 911 call where all resources are coming to. This was created in such a short time to meet the grant requirements that it was not as big as it could have been. Paul D'Abbraccio stated also to consider topics of discussion, other people we can put on the agenda. Steve Preston stated that maybe February at the latest to get this information out to private industry prior to March 1 because the tier IIs are due then so you want to get to get that latest tier II data out to them to make any changes in the regulations. The Code of Federal Regulations can change in July of every year so we have that time frame. There were several questions today about the July 2010 regulations that are coming about and the plating industry. Gina Friedman stated they are going to do an outreach for paint strippers. We are working with the Pollution Prevention Group, the DEM and agreed with EPA to do some outreach, it will still be difficult but we are going to mainly focus on the auto body industry just because they are the biggest effected source we have in the state. Gina asked if we want to consider getting an evaluation sheet back out to all the participants to ask them what they like, what they did not like and what they would like to see on the topics for next year. Chief Smith stated he thought it was a great idea. We should make a concerted effort by the end of the week to follow through. Steve Preston asked

if Michelle could send it out because she has all the data. Chief Smith asked who to send it to. Paul D'Abbraccio stated we would do it in house.

Steve Preston stated also coming up with the new regulations by July 2010 the nickel platers are required to enclose their tanks. Gina stated they are having a difficult time with that. They are supposed to keep their tanks covered, the problem is that we have people with automated lines and still we cannot see how this is going to physically happen. EPA was supposed to come down and do some training but most of the industry she has spoken with do not understand who wrote the regs and if they have actually been in a plating shop. In some parts of the country this may not be an issue but for here this is a critical issue to the small places. Steve Preston stated the plating industry has taken a beating. We have lost a large part of our plating industry. There used to be 35 platers and now currently down to 5. Len did give out some information on that particular group at EPA that is handling that but it will be a problem and put some of the smaller guys out of business. Gina stated the painting industry may actually adversely impact some of the auto body shops.

Paul D'Abbraccio asked if any of the local chairs had anything to add.

Steve Preston stated they postponed their regular quarterly meeting to coincide with this meeting so we did not overburden industry with another meeting and will be starting our outreach to our new facilities

in Pawtucket, Central Falls, Scituate and Foster. Paul D'Abbraccio asked if Bill Giannini was still moving forward with the training committee meeting on Wednesday. Steve Preston stated the current meeting is October 21 at 2 p.m. at the Schofield Barracks for the training committee. I have been informed it may be a light meeting because three or four of the chairs will be at the Cranston PD for a chemistry class.

Chief Smith noted there were attendees that are not usually at the meeting and encourage people to attend. The map on the easel represents the new LEPD districts that are official in the state and we are identifying the chairs of those districts. He wanted to point out the latest official chair is Deputy Chief Quinn after a telephone vote that Paul conducted amongst all recording members who is the chair of the southernmost area of the state. Congratulations to Chief Quinn. Steve is in the north and the central chair is Chief DiMaio and the east bay is LT Mike Carey. Chief Smith stated that part of the catalyst for redistricting was that in having nine districts we had some that were not as active as others. In the northernmost district which used to be a different one there were a few people in the Foster area that had an interest but did not have an active district to participate. We believe with these districts if there is a structure fire or a chemical spill or any kind of hazardous response required in the Foster district, now instead of responding and Steve's team rolling in on mutual aid responding to an area not knowing who the business owners are, not knowing the layout of the factory, not knowing all the

specific details because it is not their district, it puts them at a disadvantage. Now instead you have a very active leadership, you have the person from Foster that will be active in that larger district that knows the owner that understands the floor plan, that will bring training to that particular facility if needed and have the interaction from the owners of that company. If there is a response necessary now there is active knowledge of the event. For firefighters safety, for the ability to respond to and handle a difficult situation puts us in a better position to respond and contain a situation. The other element is that of mitigation; compliance, practical mitigation strategies whether it is the design of the vessel or barrels or whatever it happens to be if the hazard is mitigated through that positive interaction it is less likely to have an event to take place to begin with.

We did check up against population; we looked at NFPA standards for response, etc. and still work okay. Hopefully in the big picture it will be less work and wanted to thank each person to take on the responsibility.

Paul D'Abbraccio asked if anyone had anything to add. Steve Preston stated Jim Gaffey from EPA asked that there are a few things that he would like to see, maybe a PDF file of the new districts on Rhode Island's web site and also through the contact information for each of the chair persons easy access for everyone.

Paul D'Abbraccio stated next meeting is November 02, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Schofield Barracks.

Director Smith stated the just came back from the Ohio for the National EMA Conference and said it was a great conference. There are some positive developments at the national level in support of first response public safety. They talked about exercise and we should discuss. Administrator Fugate does not like is the exercise schedule that we have to follow looking out to 2010, 2011, and 2012. There are some elements of rad that has to be every three years. There are other elements of what we do that is on a timeline. He does not like the fact that things are scripted. Administrator Fugate is trying to foretell he is encouraging the states to try to take a look at a less scripted exercise, maybe not as many of the major statewide, regional but what he calls thunderbolt exercises. He has turned his agency on its ear by all of a sudden putting a call out at 0600 to say there has been a seismic event in California and mobilize in Washington. He did this to keep everyone on their toes. His approach is positive and he is not afraid. Director Smith stated he would interested in everyone's comments and suggestions as we take SERC forward and how can we make SERC a very viable and important committee, how can we influence all the elements of what you have for responsibilities. Director Smith stated we have a good team to make a difference in difficult economic times. He stated he would like to see that we have already talked off-line and amongst yourselves and when we meet on November 2 under new business to discuss. He pointed out that we have a new road map for the state. He wants each of the LEPC chairs report out for your districts, what is

going in district, what is improved.

Director Smith stated he wanted to mention that he went to the URI Bay Campus and got a tour of some fusion water. Scientists state it is safe even though it still exists. The most exciting thing about it is some recent events in the state and some change in personnel and Jim is taking over the responsibility for DEM. He stated Paul D'Abbraccio recently was appointed by the Governor to officially name him as the State Liaison Officer to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Director Smith stated he got a pledge from Mr. Bisehaus and others at URI who are looking forward to moving ahead with our shared knowledge and capability.

Steve Preston stated that he has a state official who openly said he is supporting a no-notice exercise. Steve stated this is an outstanding decision. Director Smith stated that we have looked at seismic activity in the region. He stated Administrator Fugate wants to wipe the slate clean and look at water resources for the entire country and that includes mitigation strategies, floods from hurricanes, drinking water, artesian contamination everything we are managing in the country. We have duplicitous efforts, managing water resources and are we doing it wrong. This is new thinking and what can we do as a SERC. He stated he does not want us to do things the same old way and how can we make a difference.

Chief Smith asked if there were other questions and comments. Terry

Medley from Teknor Apex stated she is 20 years in environmental and almost didn't come because of the itinerary, sounding more like a training course. The gentleman who was with her was new in the environmental field and she wanted to come in case he had any questions. Chief Smith asked if having sat through day of the SERC Conference was there anything that she learned and surprised her or might have missed out on if she had not come. Terry stated she had no idea there was so much involvement with the LEPC which she learned a lot about. Chief Smith stated he appreciated her comments.

Trish Keegan from Tiverton Power reiterated on Terry Medley's comments. She stated it was valuable to be part of this exercise and look forward to working with Mike Keurig on local emergency planning committees. Steve Preston stated he prepared the itinerary and will look better at improving it in the future. Trish Keegan also stated it would be good to know who some of the participants are in the room in the future. Chief Smith thanked Trish for her comments. He stated he would like to have an e-mail sent to all those who attended and those who did not attend about what was talked about and to contact us to stay engaged.

Paul D'Abbraccio asked if anyone had anything to add. He made a motion to adjourn which was seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.