

# **Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency**

## **SERC Meeting**

**Monday, October 7, 2013**

### **In Attendance:**

#### **Members:**

**Jamia McDonald – Dir. of RIEMA**

**Gina Friedman – RIDEM**

**Joseph Reppucci – Health**

**James Larisa – DLT**

**Bob Vanderslice – Health**

#### **Guests:**

**Bill Giannini – SERC TRNG CMTE**

**Frederick Stanley – RIAFC**

**Susan Mayo – Johnson & Wales Univ**

**Leo Messier – RIPCA**

**David DiMaio – Cranston Fire**

**Joe Arsenault – RITEM**

**E.S. Coutoulakis – Exeter EMA**

**Chris Albro – WFD**

**Jeffrey Varone – LEPC 2**

**Chris Harwood – Johnson & Wales Univ**

**Paul D'Abbreccio – RIEMA**

**Melinda Hopkins – RIEMA**

**Meeting was called to order at 10:03. Passed out minutes from last meeting, have not been able to locate ones from the previous meeting, please review the ones in front of you and any changes? Few changes (see written minutes) question on what year the 63k was left over from. Fy12. 14 was just applied**

**Motion to approve minutes as amended Jeff Varrone made motion seconded by Gina Friedman.**

**New business**

**School safety**

**Jamia McDonald had a meeting with Gina Friedman and Steve Conard, there is money left. Jim Ball said that it is Dwight Peavey and he is difficult to get info from. Jim Gaffey is running into resistance. Jamia will co write a letter, with DEM, to EPA for settlement info and status of settlement funds. Jim Ball gave info to Dwight Peavey on schools to clean out. DEM wanted to provide assistance, but EPA hasn't been very forthcoming. Go right to Kurt Spaulding.**

## **Open meeting laws**

**Stacy Dicola, Secretary of State's Office will come in shortly to explain open meetings. It has to be run in accordance with the law. It will be the same thing we have to do – post it, file agenda minutes, etc.**

**Paul reached out to Attorney General's office; they run a workshop every 6 months with their issues on open meetings. Went to LEPC 2 meeting they discussed rewriting their bylaws, they are out of date. Generally speaking the less you put in the better. Point of contact at Attorney Generals Office is Lisa ..... question to Chief Stanley, are your bylaws updated not sure. Would it be helpful to collect whatever ones are on record? Send us current draft bylaws. To submit to Attorney General's office.**

## **Tier II**

**Jim Larisa is going to be out on med leave for a long time. Consideration- the best way to collect data, is entry point, (provide) then there are 8 or 6 different entities that need it for compliance enforcement. As I have determined there isn't a good front to do this. There is free software online to enter it. And anyone can get it. Met with DEM on this and I am meeting with director Fogarty to see how we can get good clean data. Stanley said only one agency should be handling it. And DEM and EMA agree to that, and that is what we should march towards. But we need to map it first to understand what the right answer is. Bill Gianinni suggested maybe go beyond**

tier 2, it isn't really live information. He thinks the legislation has a reporting system that can make it more pertinent. Maybe the form should change because it gives what was there. DEM has a consultant on board and they are willing to let us use the consultant to build it. Until we get it mapped well it is hard to understand the solution. Jamia would like to have Paul lead the charge and have a meeting with DEM and consultant. Then interview each of the stakeholders. Gina agrees, but there is so much more information that is needed and it is out there sewer treatment is collected yearly, (permit) real time data. DEM has contractor on board looking at lean process, and this is something they could utilize. It will be a benefit to all of us. The "available" funding has to look at, and see if it can be used. The funding at the department of Labor and Training is no longer there so hopefully this will work.

Paul D'Abbraccio will set up a meeting with Jim Ball and work out the details.

## Workshop

Paul mentioned looking at a target date, are you able to reach out to your facilities to plan a workshop soon?? Jeff Varrone asked what type of workshop....EPCRA workshop we try to do yearly. We are looking at beginning of December Jim Ball asked if Steve Preston would be able to help with this, not sure if he is interested, he has information, so maybe we can get info from him as how to set this up, I think it should come from us (EMA) Paul will coordinate it, if there is

info we can get from Preston that will be great. Is time sufficient to get to facilities? Susan Mayo, we need to be able to disseminate information. We only have until December to spend the money. Jamia and Paul talk offline to see what the agenda would look like then email out to everyone on who the speakers are going to be. Jim Gaffey should be a good resource as well as Len Wallace and Sue Lancy (generators regulators, small businesses)

Paul, Jamia, Melinda work on a draft agenda to get out to you.

### **IT issues with DLT**

There is free software out there not sure if it will do everything. There is a pay alternative also. Jamia is meeting with DLT director on Thurs and will see how he wants us to proceed. How will we do it in the interim – short term.

### **New business**

Additional sub committees- do we want to put a temp one together to discuss IT issues. Two thoughts: One- we are going to touch everyone in business mapping – make sense of what belongs to this body, is there a need to establish one?? Who would do initial process that committee will vet, the consultant that DEM has and after we meet with him bring it back to the body and see what they think. We can come back with draft work plan on mapping business process, suggestion from Bill Gianinni, is do we want this to strictly to comply with legislation or do we want a product that gives us useful information? Useful information would be best. As

responders if we are going to use what is in Tier 2 that information doesn't help because quantities are not always accurate. We want input to reflect real time data, willing to call SERC coordinator in Florida and see how system works for them.

### **LEPC Chair appointments**

What do we have to do to get Chris on board? Chief Dimaio put out a letter nominating Chris. At the next LEPC meeting do a vote to make it legal. Accept nominations.

We will ask for letters designate the people to the SERC. Dave is still formal chair until Chris accepts the nomination. They need to schedule a meeting to vote on this. Paul stated to let him or Melinda know and one of us will go to the meeting.

### **Training**

Bill Gianinni stated there are a few housekeeping issues. He has years of minutes and wanted to know who to send them to, send them to Melinda. The training committee has not been complying with open meeting laws, do we need to comply? Anytime a quorum of the SERC body is present you fall under open meeting. But we will double check with Stacey Dicola

Are we good with FY14 grant?? How has the training committee approached the dissemination of the funds? We got an email from Jim Gumbly two days before training to authorize funds for training.

Wait until I get notification from RIEMA to spend, no I don't get that notification. Who would have that document? Ricky Jones usually decides what to spend on. We base it on grant application language. Our grant application lists all classes cited in the grant. From who to who – is the FM going to grant to EMA to grant to SERC, it will be subgranted to RIEMA we will tell you what your allotment is. LEPCs came to serc requesting to go to the conference. BG – I don't think we should look at that money as piggy bank. And everyone asks for money to go to Plymouth the next year. We got to a point that it wasn't going to be practical to spend money for classes. I want to change the paradigm but LEPC chairs don't want to spend a lot of money because they want to use it for their local fire depts.. hazmat decon team

Increased hazmat decon thru SHSP why not use some of that money for Plymouth. There are required competencies that have to be done. Or they don't meet the specs for the grant. It can be driven by the number of people that need to take it. Dem has a small group of people so I take out of training money. But fire department's have more people.

We know x \$\$ is coming and can we plan for now for the future needs so we can schedule. What is not connecting? Because the fire chiefs have so many balls in one court, police chiefs have that issue also.

Chris Albro stated that with HMPG we got released more funds, now

trying to find instructors in a two month window. How about set up plan for each year. Now money is set for certain amount of students. If the fire academy said we are going to create a curriculum we would accept. Why not put out annual training. It is hard to project when it will be held. We don't have the authority to dictate when, and Jamia said I disagree. Because we are dealing with both paid and volunteer depts. Can we get feedback from departments on when their people can attend? Hard to get instructors to volunteer. There are only 10 hazmat operator instructors. If I am the LEPC chair I can't teach hazmat anymore.....confusion was this body committing money to itself knowing that LEPC's are not voting members it may be ok. Varrone, but I am signing grant applications to get the money that I may be getting back in instructors. We are reworking our internal grant process

Why wouldn't we put all the players in the room and come up with a new way to do this. Chief Stanley will get the next meeting info to the director so we can send someone to this. Jamia will sit down with Mark Pare to discuss how do we better address this for them then sit down with Michelle San Souci and see if we can have our training meet your needs.

There are going to be requests for funding if I meet in October I owe you an ethics feed back if you are a voting member and instructors.

Regarding overlap, does it become redundant? I cannot have one

**point of contact where the training comes from, in case it doesn't meet the standards.**

**We need to revisit, the required standards for training. When the standards were put in place it was to make sure all teams were same across the board. Hazmat teams will take classes, but they were not used as meeting standards. I would rather not be redundant. Jamia and Jim Ball will sit down with Marc Pappas to go over the MOU. We will look at it and see if there is a better way. We will start internally.**

**Federal regulating authority having jurisdiction, acts as the employer, because the EMA has been acting as the employer – we are not an employer,**

**Plymouth funding, SERC training committee in August agreed to pay.**

**I will honor that but going forward there is no document to state that. Going forward I don't know who committed to what, we are fixing it. Are there any future commitments in place? No.**

**Ok lets fund those that went but going forward, we need to have documents to show it.**

**Planning committee reports that the August 10 drill at Univar went well. There was also a spill of anhydrous ammonia on September 10th that was all cleaned up. Jeff Varrone also reported that they are**

**continuing monthly training; they do four hours each month on the 24 hr component.**

**Chief Stanley- we have a meeting on the 15th in Exeter national domestic preparedness center at 10 am**

**Stanley motion to adjourn. Seconded by Bill Gianni. Meeting adjourned 11:04.**

**Next meeting November 4th at 2:00PM**