

**Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency
State Emergency Response Commission Meeting
Monday, May 5, 2014**

In attendance: Guests continued:

Jim Ball, RI DEM FEMA – not present

Joe Repucci, RI Dept. Health EPA – not present

Jim Gumbley, State Fire Marshall Gina Friedman, RI DEM

**James Larisa, RI Dept. Labor & Training Bill Giannini, SERC
Training**

**RI Dept. Administration - not present Chris Harwood, Johnson &
Wales**

League of Cities & Towns - not present Michele Franco - RIEMA

RIAFC – not present John Washburn, RIEMA

Joann Securo, RI DOT Tom Guthlein, RIEMA

Paul D'Abbraccio, RIEMA Mark Pappas, RIEMA

LEPC-1 – Steven Preston Mike Hogan - RIEMA

LEPC-2 – Jeffrey Varrone RIAEMA – not present

LEPC-3 – not present RIPCA – not present

LEPC-4 – not present Dawn Lewis, HARI

LEPC-5 – not present Tonya Calanara (intern) - RIEMA

Others: All captured on sign-in sheet (attached).

Paul D'Abbraccio called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

Paul D'Abbraccio (RIEMA) stated that they have not received any minutes for review at this time and noted that this matter would need to be tabled until the minutes are received and reviewed

Old Business

Paul D'Abbraccio (RIEMA) stated that he has not received the By-Laws from Anita Flax, Esquire at this time.

New Business or Topics

Paul D'Abbraccio (RIEMA) announced there would be a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant presentation. The meeting was then turned over to Mike Hogan (RIEMA) who, after distributing materials, presented the PowerPoint presentation. All questions were addressed by Mike Hogan (RIEMA) throughout the presentation.

LEPC-1 – Steve Preston. It was stated that there was nothing new to report.

LEPC-2 – Jeffrey Varrone. He indicated that they met again with Eastern Chemical and the State Fire Marshal and they have now

agreed to hire a fire protection engineer, in addition to an environmental engineer. He explained that it was still on-going and they will be submitting the plans to the State Fire Marshal.

Jeffrey Varrone further stated that Gary Benoit, from Rae Systems, will be meeting with them at DEM tomorrow (May 6, 2014 @ 1:00) to review some coordination between the new Guardian software and the older software. They are also continuing (on a much smaller scale) with a couple of Hazmat teams for a port drill which will occur on May 29, 2014 @ 10:00. Jeffrey Varrone requested that Marc Pappas (RIEMA) send a couple of people to the drill to observe.

LEPC-3 – No report.

LEPC-4 – No report. It was noted that E. Stefan Coutoulakis sent an email stating he was not available today, but could be reached by telephone, if necessary.

LEPC-5 – No report.

Training/Planning Sub-Committee

Bill Giannini (SERC Training) indicated the next training meeting will be May 21, 2014.

Jim Ball (RI DEM) was asked by **Paul D'Abbraccio (RIEMA)** if **Chris**

had shared any information with him. Jim Ball (DEM) indicated he had not but he assumed he was going to have the meeting the same day to take place after the training meeting. Jim Ball (RI DEM) then asked Jeffrey Varrone (LEPC2) if he had heard anything about that and he indicated they had a discussion, but there was nothing to report. Jeffrey Varrone (LEPC2) went on to state that Tonya Calanara (RIEMA) was drafting a form to be submitted to the Planning Committee, similar to the one that the Training Committee submits for training.

Jim Ball (DEM) addressed Bill Giannini (SERC Training) and inquired if any requests for training had to be submitted to the full SERC. Jim Ball (RI DEM) indicated that they DEM would like to participate in the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training (8 hour refresher) and Bill Giannini (SERC Training) responded there had to be a political subdivision to receive grant funds. Jim Ball (RI DEM) went on to explain that RI DEM is a public employee (state agency). Bill Giannini (SERC Training) indicated there should be funds for the training. A discussion took place about possibly voting on the request, however, Bill Giannini (SERC Training) indicated he would like to be sure that funds would come from planning. Mike Hogan (RIEMA) confirmed that the Plymouth and New Orleans conferences were part of planning. Once again, Bill Giannini (SERC Training) indicated he believed there were funds to cover the training requested by Jim Ball (RI DEM).

Paul D'Abbraccio (RIEMA) asked Jim Ball (RI DEM) when the HAZWOPER was planned for DEM. Jim Ball (RI DEM) indicated it was planned for September, 4th and 9th. Paul D'Abbreccio (RIEMA) recommended that this was something that could be addressed at the training meeting on the 21st. Bill Giannini (SERC Training) clarified that it had already been addressed previously at the April meeting and it was agreed it should take place sometime between the 1st and 15th, so the September 4th and 9th dates were acceptable. He further questioned that when the training was approved at the April meeting it was all conditional on the answer. He further inquired if it was being adopted as policy. Paul D'Abbreccio (RIEMA) indicated he could not answer and that only Executive Director Jamia McDonald could answer that question. Paul D'Abbraccio (RIEMA) suggested this issue be moved to June; however, Bill Giannini (SERC Training) pointed out that there are trainings scheduled prior to the June meeting.

Mike Hogan (RIEMA) confirmed that the grant is still with the RI Fire Marshal's office and recommended that these procedures be adopted as soon as possible. Paul D'Abbraccio (RIEMA) noted that he believed Executive Director Jamia McDonald is headed in the same direction, but would not make that call for her.

Bill Giannini (SERC Training) suggested that they move ahead for next month and he will bring the requests made May 21st to the June SERC meeting. Paul D'Abbraccio (RIEMA) wanted to point out that Executive Director Jamia McDonald is not trying to complicate these

matters; however she does want a plan in place and that plan to be followed.

Commodity Flow

Paul D'Abbraccio indicated they are moving ahead with EA Engineering. He noted that there was a little hiccup in that he arranged to get interns from the URI Transportation Center and by the time it was ready to go they were waiting on something from EA, which they never received. Therefore, he was not sure what the outcome would be, but reiterated that they are under contract and ultimately will have to complete the contracted work.

Jeffrey Varrone (LEPC2) mentioned there was a question about whether or not Eastern Screw Rail Service was still in use and it was determined it was and he stated that they need to be sure the point where they start counting is north of that rail cutoff. Paul D'Abbraccio (RIEMA) indicated, just for informational purposes, he was aware they were working with electronics, to include digital cameras in a couple of locations to capture the information they need, but that this process does not involve us.

There being no further business to discuss, Steve Preston (LEPC1) motioned to adjourn, and Jeffrey Varrone (LEPC2) seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 PM.

**Next meeting will be held on Monday June 6, 2014 at 2:00 PM at
RIEMA Headquarters 645 New London Ave, Cranston, Rhode Island.**