

**State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)
LEPC/SERC Liaison Committee Meeting
Tuesday December 10, 2019 – 10:00 AM**

Committee Members Attending

- Julie Benedict – VDH, Committee Chair (Designee for Chris Bell)
- Kim Lapierre – SERC Chair
- Todd Sears – AOT, SERC Vice Chair
- Matthew LaRock – EHS Seat on the SERC
- Erik Rosenbauer – LEPC Seat on the SERC
- Victoria (Tory) Littlefield – RPC Seat on the SERC
- Josh Cox – Non-Voting Member – Vermont Emergency Management
- Glenn Herrin – Non-Voting Member – Vermont Emergency Management

Interested Persons Attending

- Prescott Nadeau – EMS Seat on the SERC

Call to Order – 8:34 AM

Todd Sears moved to approve the minutes from the September 17, 2019 Committee meeting. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

No public comment.

Re-Alignment of LEPCs Discussion:

The product of this committee will be to present one recommended option for LEPC consolidation/realignment to the SERC at the February meeting for the full body's ratification. After the SERC's decision on this matter the next step will be to develop the implementation of this decision.

The various LEPC consolidation/re-alignment models were discussed as well as the validation of planning assumptions.

The challenges for one LEPC are that details and nuance in one statewide plan might be lost. Local involvement may be challenging as well. Structure of the statewide plan was discussed as well. The statewide plan could include annexes for each county.

Todd Sears spoke about the idea that VEM could formalize the structure that the Engagement Section at VEM would be dedicated to working with a full-time employee of the SERC on administrative support of the one statewide LEPC. Unless there is a full-time employee to support this model, it would not work. The full-time employee idea was discussed further. This employee should ideally be a contractor working directly for the SERC but they would need to work closely with the Engagement Section within VEM.

Julie Benedict stated that engaging better with local EMDs should also be a focus of this consolidation model.

Kim L. – We would also need to convey the benefits of this model to the LEPCs. Such as fulfilling HAZMAT Planning responsibilities at the state-wide level.

Todd Sears – The single LEPC would be providing the counties/locals the LEPC Plan thus freeing them from this requirement. Another tool would also be a statewide GIS hazmat facility data.

Todd Sears - Two structures are being created – an emergency management director round table and one statewide LEPC.

Current LEPC responsibilities were discussed further.

Matt LaRock – The one statewide model should be selected given we can get one FTE to support it.

Todd Sears – One of the most salient points against this model is lose of local control and we need to address it however the one statewide LEPC model can still resolve this.

Messaging on how the one statewide LEPC model was discussed as well. The message would be that the one LEPC model would provide centralized HAZMAT planning and decentralized all-hazard planning.

LEPC Officers' structure and Bylaws of the one statewide model was discussed.

VEM support with engagement of the locals and support for statutory changes is critical to this model working.

Tory Littlefield – In favor of one statewide model. The timing of being able to hire an employee was discussed as it aligns to state fiscal years.

July 1, 2020 – Planning for one state LEPC is completed

July 1, 2021 – New state LEPC takes over LEPC requirements and old LEPCs transition completely to new title/structure

Todd Sears made a motion that we proceed with the development and integration of one statewide LEPC model. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting date/time of the LEPC/SERC Committee will be determined at a future date. Possibly at the end of January 2019.

Meeting Adjourn: 9:40 A.M.