

MINUTES
of the meeting of the
CARSON CITY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
March 4, 2008

The Carson City LEPC held a public meeting on March 4, 2008, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Fire Station No. 1, 777 S. Stewart Street, Carson City.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Alternate Chair Steve Albertsen. Voting members present were Steve Albertsen, Robert Charles, Jonathan Crawford, Brian Crowe, Vicky Fogelman, Phillip Harrison, Hank Lucas, Bonnie Parnell, Darren Selby, and Tom Tarulli (which constituted a quorum).

Voting members absent were Kevin Curnes, Dave Dawley, Stacey Giomi, Linda Hurst, Lee Radtke, and Ray Saylo. Non-voting members absent were Jerry Evans, Keith Forbes, and Rhett Milne (with Gina McGuire of the National Weather Service attending in Rhett's absence).

Also present was Tom Vetica, Federal Housing and Urban Development.

2. Approval of December 4, 2007, Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Darren Selby, seconded by Phillip Harrison, with motion carried, that the minutes of the December 4 meeting be approved as submitted.

3. Public Comments and Discussion

- Tom Vetica of Federal Housing and Urban Development (Reno Field Office) introduced himself and said that his agency works in providing short and long-term housing in recovery efforts. The Reno office covers the entire state of Nevada with the exception of Clark County. The agency, through the President's Office, has kicked up its efforts in disaster recovery, and as liaison for Northern Nevada, he wanted to introduce himself to the committee. He said that they were currently gathering housing inventory across the state, working with the various housing authorities, to serve housing needs after a disaster.
- Gina McGuire, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service, introduced herself, stating that she was filling in for Rhett Milne who was in Australia on assignment.

4. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the FY 2009 State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Planning, Training, and Equipment Grant Application

Tom Tarulli presented the proposed SERC application to the committee, stating that they were seeking funds in the amount of \$24,111 in support of the Quad County Hazardous Materials Response Team.

Because communications can be difficult when team members are in their encapsulated suits, the first item of equipment being requested is a converter for the radios, called Small Talk, which will allow team members to project their voices better and in a clearer fashion. Sixty of these units are being requested at a total cost of \$11,670.

The second item relates to the ability of the crews to determine how much air they have when in their suits by simply looking at their air gauges (purchase of upgraded gauges at a cost of \$1,241).

The last item requested is a thermal imaging camera which will allow the team to quickly look at a room, truck, etc, and be able to determine at a distance with the infrared which parts were hot, if any chemical reaction was being performed, etc. (at a cost of \$11,200).

After discussing these items, it was moved by Bonnie Parnell, seconded by Jonathan Crawford, with motion carried, that the FY 09 SERC Planning, Training, and Equipment Grant application be approved as discussed.

5. Report of the January 10 Quarterly SERC Meeting

As Stacey Giomi was not present to report on this meeting, it was stated that copies of the minutes were available for anyone who wished to read them. One item mentioned was in regard to the Continuity of Government exercise reported on by Stacey that the Carson City LEPC was planning to conduct. Vicky Fogelman then stated that she believed this exercise would be held in May, with a briefing held in April to present a scenario that would involve continuity of operations for a longer lasting event than the short-term ones usually dealt with and planned for. This would involve department heads and critical players throughout the city as well as possibly including some of the critical businesses in the city to work through the planning process (including the utility companies). She asked the committee to let her know what agencies outside the city they believed should be included in this process. She also asked anyone who might have samples of continuity of operations plans developed for their agencies to share them in advance of this exercise.

Phillip Harrison said that his business, Taiyo America, has done this for both its headquarters in Japan and all its subsidiaries, using a scenario such as an earthquake and then determining how many days a certain operation or function might be down and how critical that function was to the survival of the business.

Steve Albertsen said that one problem encountered in the Katrina disaster was a lack of law enforcement personnel showing up at work because they wanted to take care of their families first and there had been no plan in place regarding this issue. He said these are the types of issues now being addressed, such as bringing the families in and making them safe, allowing critical personnel to report to work.

6. Reports from LEPC Members

- Brian Crowe updated the committee on Western Nevada College's homeland security grant previously approved by this committee for a Whelen siren which feeds internal speakers in many of the college's buildings. A letter of intent has been issued to the contractor and the equipment has been ordered, with Brian stating that the critical path was now the submission of the plans for the pole in the foundation and the design of the siren to the State Public Works Board whose approval is required.

Brian said that there will be three control locations, one mobile positioned in a public safety squad cars and two fixed. The system is a tone alarm, but also allows for both pre-recorded voice messages and then the broadcasting of live voice messages through a microphone. Brian will supply the frequencies that will be used for the radio system to the Sheriff's Office, and Steve said that they would then be able to tune in and monitor as well as to respond if necessary. Brian said that in the future when more money became available, he wanted to tie this system in so that the Sheriff's Office would get notice immediately when the siren was activated.

- Hank Lucas mentioned that all the regional hospitals have been taxed with the inordinate amount of flu cases occurring over the last couple of months.
- Vicky Fogelman addressed the following issues:
 - She asked if anyone knew of any radios interoperable with city frequencies that might be available for the Health Department's use. Steve said that he would check to see whether the Sheriff's Office had any extra and would also check with Stacey to see whether the Fire Department had any. Steve mentioned that there was a city radio communications committee that has been working on trying to get all the frequencies assigned to the city together and developing a plan for full interoperability. Steve said that Vicky could contact Jack Freer at the Sheriff's Office in regard to this matter.
 - Vicky requested that the Health Department be contacted whenever there were call-outs for radiological events, including fire, because there might need to be some follow-up in regard to long-term health-related issues.
 - Vicky mentioned that the Surge Committee recently reported that there were only about 500 beds available in all of Nevada for surge capacity. She said she would therefore like to work with the city and the hospital on developing some new alternate care sites

that could be used for minimal care until the patients could be hospitalized, as well as emphasizing social distancing and self-care in the event of a large-scale event.

- She mentioned that they were starting to develop a first responder plan for distribution of anti-virals, antibiotics, etc., if needed for critical resources, particularly first responders, and that they would be following CDC guidance as much as possible. They still need to determine the number of people they would be dealing with and that those who would be affected will be contacted in the near future, asking for one or two people from each department to be selected to pick up the medications for their facilities when they were needed.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for June 3 at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Fire Station #1.

8. Adjournment

It was moved by Robert Charles, seconded by Brian Crowe, with motion carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Recorder: Judy Dietrich