

MINUTES
of the meeting of the
CARSON CITY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
March 7, 2006

The Carson City LEPC held a public meeting on March 7, 2006, 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 Chairperson Stacey Giomi. Members present were Jonathan Crawford, Brian Crowe, Linda Hurst (Nurse Manager for Carson-Tahoe Regional Medical Center representing Kelly Dawson), Keith Forbes, Stacey Giomi, Phillip Harrison, Hank Lucas, Rhett Milne, Lee Radtke, Ray Saylo, and Daren Winkelman (which constituted a quorum).

Absent were Steve Albertsen, Ken Arnold, Dave Dawley, Jerry Evans, Mike Mitchell, Cliff Sorenson, and Yvon Weaver.

Also present were Tom Tarulli (CERT/Public Education Coordinator, Carson City Fire Department), Kevin Curnes (Safety Services Manager, Carson City School District), and guests Mary Ellen Radtke and Joseph Goni.

2. Approval of December 6, 2005, Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Lee Radtke, seconded by Ray Saylo, with motion carried, that the minutes of the December 6 meeting be approved as prepared.

3. Public Comments and Discussion

Tom Tarulli said that the Fire Chief recently sent him to a class through homeland security on how to prepare evaluations on the training a department conducts. Although the Fire Department has been doing this on a regular basis, the federal government is now looking at the states and the country as a whole to make sure that everyone conducting hazardous materials training was properly documenting when, how, and with whom it was done, as well as who was asked to participate and who benefitted from it. This information, along with a critique of the training itself, would then need to be submitted to the State and the Feds. It is anticipated that this procedure will be standardized sometime within the next couple of years, and then become part of the grant criteria. Stacey said that the LEPC has been preparing these reports—whether for a haz-mat drill (functional or tabletop) or an actual incident—and submitting

them to the State although there has been no requirement yet to do so.

Tom also mentioned that the third graduating class of CERT will be held April 6, with most of that class joining the team, which will then complete it at 70 members. In addition, another 25 people not joining the team will become certified in the program. Tom mentioned that next year's plans include more teen programs (with this year's teen program at Silver State High School going very well) as well as programs for the Hispanic community, the deaf population, and a group of nurses at the hospital.

4. Discussion/Action to Appoint Kevin Curnes (Manager of Safety Services, Carson City School District) as Replacement for Mike Mitchell as Transportation Representative on the LEPC

Stacey mentioned that the school district was the transportation representative on the LEPC because it had the largest contingency of mass transportation within the city, and as Mike has handed off the district's safety work to Kevin, Kevin was now the perfect match to represent the school district on the committee.

It was then moved by Phillip Harrison, seconded by Brian Crowe, with motion carried, that the committee appoint Kevin Curnes as the replacement for Mike Mitchell.

5. Discussion/Action to Accept the 2006 U.S. Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) "Mid-Cycle" Grant Award (06-HMEP-01-03) from the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

Stacey said that he had spoken at the last meeting about applying for a mid-cycle grant to be used for regional communications planning. An application for this grant was subsequently submitted to the SERC by the combined LEPCs of Carson City, Douglas County, Storey County, and Lyon County. These counties, in addition to Mineral and Churchill Counties, will be formed into a six-county regional communications system group. Stacey said that although this would definitely be a long-term project, it was absolutely necessary to begin the process as the use of VHF frequencies will be going away, and the pooling of all their resources will allow them to trunk their VHF channels.

A grant award of \$25,000 has since been awarded by the SERC, essentially to be used for handling planning, developing interlocal agreements, and analyzing the current status of communications. Stacey stated that this would be broad-reaching communications, affecting just about anybody who wanted to join with the exception of private industry. He felt that the community college system and the Carson City School District could definitely be included in this project, with those bringing frequencies to the table being of added benefit.

It was then moved by Ray Saylo, seconded by Daren Winkelman, with motion carried, that the committee accept the grant from the SERC (06-HMEP-01-03) in reference to the communications.

6. Discussion/Action Regarding the 2007 SERC Operations, Planning, Training and Equipment Grant Application

Stacey said that this 2007 SERC grant application was submitted on behalf of the LEPC for response equipment and training materials, and then listed the individual items requested in that application (with a total amount requested of \$17,078). He said that the purpose of these requests was to ensure that Carson City's personal protective equipment and detection equipment were up to the proper levels, as well as purchasing a laptop computer to help with the Community Emergency Response Team training. The SERC will be considering these applications at its April meeting, with the final grant award being reported to the LEPC at its June meeting.

It was then moved by Hank Lucas, seconded by Lee Radtke, with motion carried, that the committee approve the 2007 SERC Operations, Planning, Training and Equipment grant application submitted to the SERC.

7. Discussion/Action Regarding Report of the January 12 Quarterly SERC Meeting

Stacey reported on some of the issues addressed at the January SERC meeting held in Las Vegas.

- There were some changes happening at the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) in regard to haz-mat inspections. Currently, a haz-mat permit fee of \$150 is charged by the SFMO, and although a portion of these fees (\$60) goes to the SERC (which in turn gives the money back to the counties in the form of grants awarded to its LEPCs), the remaining \$90 is retained by the SFMO to support its inspection program. However, the SFMO does not do these inspections in Carson City - the Fire Department does. As the Nevada Revised Statutes require these monies to be collected, Stacey said that he is attempting to enter into an interlocal agreement with the SFMO to direct that money to the Fire Department for the support of its inspectors, with the possibility of hiring a part-time inspector for the purpose of completing these inspections. In response to a question as to the policy in Reno regarding this matter, Stacey replied that Reno imposes a fee on top of the SFMO's fee, which he stated Carson City will not do.
- Some minor policy changes occurred, mainly dealing with how the LEPCs report training and exercises to the SERC.
- In regard to the hazardous materials database, the State is still planning to go to the internet-based system where facilities will pay its fees online (rather than being billed) and be able to update its chemical information online. However, because this will be such a large database and there are so many departments involved, the Department of Public Safety IT is working with the State Department of Information Technology to make sure this data will be secure. So although this program is about nine months behind schedule - it will eventually be put into place.

8. Discussion/Action Regarding Status of the 2006 Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) Grant Funding

Stacey said that the federal government has significantly changed the way homeland security funding was being distributed, essentially forcing local governments to get together with tribal and state governments to develop statewide initiatives (rather than county-by-county ones). So, instead of local governments being able to purchase the tools they needed through this grant funding as previously, bigger statewide initiatives such as interoperability communications and developing a statewide coalition for community education will be funded. Stacey therefore felt that the majority of the funding will be going to the largest counties of Clark and Washoe because they have the most programs up and running—with the remaining funds being filtered out to the remaining counties. He also stated that another big component for this funding will be a statewide information fusion center, where data would come in and then be disbursed (e.g., law enforcement data on terrorists, weather information, and wildland fire information). This would allow for information to come into one central point, be analyzed, and then redistributed to the people who needed to know it.

9. Reports From LEPC Members

- Lee Radtke said that he will be moving out of Carson City to Southern Utah in April. He mentioned that the CERT program has gone very well, becoming a very strong structure through the team leader training, and that he has enjoyed being a part of that program. Stacey then thanked Lee for all his help to the community.
- Rhett Milne mentioned that the National Weather Service has been quite busy this winter with the storms—and unfortunately with a lot of warm storms that brought flooding. He also mentioned that the snow pack was excellent above 7000 feet with a good water content but a little behind below that elevation. But because it looks quite active in the next few weeks for cold storms, he was hopeful that the snow pack would increase. Stacey then thanked Rhett for his help during the recent two storms, saying that he had been invaluable to those in Emergency Management and the LEPC (not only to those in Carson City but also to all the other counties) in keeping them informed. He also asked Rhett to pass these thanks along to the others in the NWS.
- Jonathan Crawford mentioned that there has been a change in management at *The Nevada Appeal*, with Barry Ginter replacing Barry Smith. Although he hasn't yet talked to the new Barry about his participation in this group, he was confident that he would be supportive of any of its projects.
- Ray Saylo said that during the recent flooding events, a shortcoming was discovered within the city in regard to being able to communicate, including the Sheriff's Department not having enough of the city frequencies that were being utilized for the floods. The Sheriff's Department therefore started reprogramming all of its radios to contain additional Local Government channels. Ray stated that all of the department's hand-helds have now been

programmed, and although many mobiles have also been, these will not be going into the vehicles for another couple of months.

Ray also mentioned that when Lyon County's 9-1-1 system went down last week, those calls were routed to Carson City (as part of the Public Safety Answering Point group, Lyon and Storey Counties' calls roll to Carson City and Carson City's calls roll to Reno), and in about a three-hour time period, four 9-1-1 calls were received. Carson City was able to communicate with Lyon County directly via radio (rather than having to deal with any of their phone system issues) because it has Lyon County's Sheriff's Office frequencies, so those 9-1-1 calls were able to be dispatched to Lyon County Fire via those Sheriff radio communications. He said that this shows the importance of going to a regional communications system—which will allow for more seamless assistance among the surrounding agencies.

- Hank Lucas said that as Linda Hurst was now the Nurse Manager for the Carson-Tahoe Regional Medical Center, she will be replacing Kelly Dawson on the committee. This item will be placed on the agenda of the next committee meeting in June.

When Hank asked whether any exercises were planned for the next year, Stacey responded that only some haz-mat exercises were. He said that a tabletop exercise had recently been conducted on the City's new Emergency Operations Plan on January 24, and as they were required to do at least one emergency management exercise per year, another exercise would be planned for the next fiscal year. He said that possibly this exercise could be a full-scale one planned in conjunction with the hospital (cost permitting). He also said that Judy will e-mail the committee with the dates of this year's Quad-County Haz Mat Drills, which are essentially multi-functional exercises, and that any committee member was welcome to attend and observe how the team performs. He asked, however, that anyone wishing to attend one of the drills let him know so that arrangements could be made, and that if someone needed to participate in the exercise itself, they could be placed into the command structure.

- Phillip Harrison asked about the status of communications (or non-communications) between the Nevada Highway Patrol and the State as a whole—the communications ability between agencies. As background, Stacey said the State had developed two radio systems—one for the Department of Transportation (800 MHz system used statewide and by Washoe County) and one for the Highway Patrol (trunked VHF system), but that it plans to go totally to the 800 within the next few years. Stacey then said that if Carson City went with the VHF trunked system, it would have to provide some kind of a gateway into the state system in order to communicate with it. Ray mentioned that the Sheriff's command vehicle and one Sheriff's vehicle each has an 800 MHz radio, which has the capacity of talking with NDOT, NHP, and Washoe County. So, Stacey said that once they have a system that's built out, they'll have a gateway to allow them into that 800 system in order to all talk together.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 6, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Fire Station No. 1.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Recorder: Judy Dietrich