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**Washtenaw County LEPC  
Education/Outreach Subcommittee Meeting  
Thursday June 14, 2007  
MSU extension Classroom  
705 N Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor  
2:00 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Al Chambers, David McMahon, Leon Moore

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mary Kowalski, Ken Kelly, Greg Williams

**EXCUSED:** None

**I. Review purpose of subcommittee**

Leon Moore said that the LEPC has always had an outreach role, and that the outreach efforts had previously been limited to Earth Day, pamphlets, getting County employees more involved and the like. He raised a question as to in which efforts the LEPC should be involved as far as education. Legislatively, there is no education requirement for the LEPC. The LEPC is responsible for planning and Emergency Management takes care of the planning at the EHS facilities. The idea is to bring various departments together in order to plan for “big events.” There is now a great deal of interest in education and outreach, and therefore it should be decided just how much time the LEPC should be spending on education and outreach. L. Moore volunteered to assign some P&E staff members to those efforts if that is deemed desirable. He also asked for a recommendation that the subcommittee could give to the LEPC as far as efforts go.

David McMahon stated that past suggestions were to see both the citizens’ and professionals’ perspectives, and to attempt to increase the LEPC’s value to the community. He noted that the community has only an abridged knowledge of the planning that is in place for catastrophic events, and that the LEPC should serve as a “clearinghouse” for the public. We also need to increase public confidence that we are screening public commentary, using it and passing it along. He suggested using a variety of methods to show that the public can enhance their own environmental and personal safety level. He cited the idea that consumers can enhance a “greener” environment by using certain products instead of more destructive products. He also mentioned needing a simple list of contacts and “command control,” using resources wisely, ensuring valid information, and endorsing participatory efforts from the community.

Al Chambers stated that while he is not a “professional” representative of emergency management, he sees a couple of areas that the LEPC needs to examine:

1. Basic communication reality – it is better to establish communication before an emergency happens and
2. There are a number of organizations in the county that work well on their own, but he is not confident that they would work well together in an emergency.

He went on to say that it might be good for the county to combine committees and commissions to facilitate communication.

## DRAFT

Leon Moore responded that he agrees that a major value of the LEPC, is having emergency response “big players” at the same table, but wondered if the LEPC should have a further role in that.

### **II. Discuss future education and outreach efforts**

Leon Moore suggested some sort of “Emergency Response Summit” in which HazMat, State, and local response agencies could come together a have dialog on emergency response issues.

David McMahon mentioned that there needs to be some sort of test of communication and that specific concerns should be brought up with other members of the Committee.

David McMahon mentioned that due to downsizing in the business community, many people who were in charge of communication facilitation have left organizations. Al Chambers said that it seems that people may be afraid that raising these issues could embarrass members of the community who are delinquent, but if these issues are not addressed now we might not find out what problems exist until some emergency happens.

Leon Moore discussed the fact that Washtenaw County regulates hazardous materials at business locations, but the LEPC could do more to reach out to smaller businesses that may slip between the cracks normally. David McMahon suggested that small businesses, farmers and others need to be educated so that they can examine themselves, and Al Chambers said that these efforts could be campaigned to the public.

There was an idea for a workshop including response, LEPC and facilities representatives, which can be coordinated by the Environmental Health department. It would also be good to have a community debriefing on the exercise. Al Chambers suggested using such outlets as conventional media and schools.

### **III. Other items for discussion**

#### **IV. Set next meeting date**

It was agreed that there should be another subcommittee meeting before the end of the year.

#### **V. Adjourn**

At 3:05 pm