

Minutes
Washtenaw County LEPC Meeting
Thursday, June 14, 2007
705 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, Michigan
3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Walter Bieszke, Marc Breckenridge, Pam Byrnes, Tom Carmichael, Al Chambers, Vic Chevrette, Donald Dettling, Cindra James, Joseph Jurasek, David McMahon, Leon Moore, Daniel Onyskin, Scott Robinson

Staff Present: Mary Kowalski, Greg Williams, Ken Kelly

Guests Present: Melvin A. Barber, Kevin M. Chapman, Garth Burnside

- I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Onyskin. All attendees then introduced themselves.
- II. Review and Approval of Agenda
Changed the name of the State Police presenter to Garth Burnside, and with that amendment Don Dettling moved to approve the agenda, Tom Carmichael seconded and the motion carried.
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes
Marc Breckenridge moved to approve the minutes with two changes on page two. Don Dettling seconded, and the motion carried – minutes approved as amended.
- IV. Public Comment: There was no public comment
- V. Announcements
Marc Breckenridge introduced Ken Kelly, the new Emergency Management Assistant. He will be working with Greg Williams on items for the LEPC, as Greg has been promoted to Senior Homeland Security Planner. He will be working with other local units of government and nearby counties.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. EHS facility planning update
 - Ken Kelly stated that they have updated the information on 48 of 60 EHS sites, and that the 12 that have not been updated are farms that are in the process of updating. Three facilities are coming off of the list (NSK Corporation in Pittsfield Twp, Colorbook in Dexter, and Sam Elliot Farms in Ypsilanti). They are working on adding American Soy Products in Saline, Sheridan Books in Scio Twp and Loch Alpine Sanitary Authority as new facilities.
 - Leon Moore mentioned that the County has approved the Colorbook site as a brownfield re-development site.

B. Information Coordinator's Report

- Leon Moore stated that the Pollution Prevention staff has inspected 335 facilities with hazardous materials so far this year, 83% were found in compliance and qualified for reduced inspection frequency.
- This year, of approximately 1000 facilities, only around 140 have not reported under the County Pollution Prevention Regulation. The department is hoping to see at least 90% reporting by the end of the year.

C. Emergency Coordinator's report:

- Marc Breckenridge said that there had been two hazardous material incidents, and no Environmental Health releases.
- On June 2 there was a trimethylene phenol spill
- On June 13 there was an oily sheen or solvent released, from a source unknown, going into the Huron River and toward Ford Lake.

D. HazMat Team Director's report

- Vic Chevrette discussed the following incidents (3 team responses and 3 direct/consultation responses):
- On February 5, packaged methylene disks were spilled from a rollover semi truck accident, but there were no leaks
- On April 2 a strange odor was reported at Ypsilanti High School, which turned out to be coming from rotten worms in a student's locker
- On May 2, in Augusta Township, two barrels were found in a ditch with water. DEQ /EQ took the barrels and reported that they contained waste toluene.
- On May 26, at 4500 Loch Alpine in Dexter, a Chem Lawn fertilizer truck had a faulty valve which led to a 300 gallon spill within the truck, it was taken care of by Chem Lawn.
- On June 2, a semi truck carrying 350 gallons of trimethylene phenol (a #3 on the health hazard list which produces formaldehyde when it burns), 32 barrels of oxy saline, which is a #3 flammable, and 36 drums of a silicone resin, dimethylene phenol, caught fire in Ann Arbor Township. The HazMat team did an analysis because shipping papers were burnt. The fire was extinguished and investigated, and the Dow response team also came out for the cleanup.
- On June 13, an unknown type of product was found leaking from an 8 foot culvert, which goes into the Huron River, behind 4 W. Forest St. in Ypsilanti. The HazMat team came in and put booms out to stop the substance from getting into Ford Lake. The EPA has now taken over the project. A sample has

been sent to the US Coast Guard in Detroit to be fingerprinted, these results can be used to help track a responsible party in the future. It was noted that there has been a great deal of construction lately between Eastern Michigan University's campus and the Huron River. The EPA declared it a non-hazard, as most of the material was caught in the booms. Leon Moore noted that he was pleased with the way HazMat handled the situation and the great response by the USEPA. Marc Breckenridge noted that Marine Division boats were on duty and did well.

E. Reports from standing committees

- Cindra James discussed the May 16 Local Public Health exercise, which tested the Modular Emergency Medical System. The idea was to test whether we could transport patients in an emergency situation. The demonstration went well for the most part, but there were communication issues. Due to the location of the demonstration, HAM radio operators could not consistently send or receive information. Other facilities will also be tested to see if this problem is consistent across the county.
- Leon Moore reported that the education/outreach subcommittee took place immediately before this meeting. The purpose of the LEPC was discussed at length, and the subcommittee also discussed various activities in which the LEPC could get involved. Al Chambers noted that it is valuable to have various stakeholders together in order to open the lines of communication. This should also increase familiarity before a catastrophic event takes place. The LEPC should also be communicating a sense of safety, which is key for responders, and show that plans are in place for any event. The subcommittee will meet again, and take action at that time.
- Marc Breckenridge asked whether the website will be updated, and Leon Moore indicated that the Environmental Health page through the County website was updated after the last meeting and includes information on the LEPC and HazMat. Breckenridge suggested shortening the web address to "lepc.ewashtenaw.org," and Leon Moore said that he would talk to Angie Parsons about getting that done. Marc Breckenridge also stated that the pamphlet that had been on the website was replaced by the new emergency preparedness document, and Leon Moore stated that paper copies are available for interested parties through Marc Breckenridge and Greg Williams.

VII. New Business

A. Hazardous Materials/Meth Presentation – Garth Burnside

- Garth Burnside, of the Michigan State Police, gave a presentation that highlighted environmental, social, physical and financial effects of the methamphetamine infiltration. He discussed the ingredients used, Michigan’s laws, the environmental hazards of producing it, and the dangerously addictive nature of the drug. He said that “clan labs” do not need to be big, but areas in which these labs exist need to be cleaned up in order to be habitable. Only a few people in this state have been trained to do walkthroughs. Greg Williams mentioned that a substance exists which can be added to anhydrous ammonia in order to make it ineffective for use in methamphetamine production.
- Burnside noted that for every pound of methamphetamine, six pounds of waste are created, and therefore it is a definite Environmental Health concern. He also said that several laws have been passed to contain methamphetamine production, including placing products that contain pseudoephedrine behind the pharmacy counter in stores, increasing maximum sentences for methamphetamine production, and legislating that chemicals such as anhydrous ammonia cannot be transported except in approved containers. These laws have proven to be effective, but the problem still exists and criminals are seeking ways around them. These laws displace the criminals more than preventing them from “cooking,” and the state needs to continue to stay ahead of the problem in order to avoid some of the more devastating effects seen in other states. He noted that there had been a few cases of labs in Washtenaw County, including in Chelsea and in Scio Township.

B. State Changes’ Effects on the LEPC – Rep. Pam Byrnes

- Rep Pam Byrnes stated that she had just come from Lansing, where the House of Representatives has been working on budget issues. They have settled the 2007 budget and are discussing a new House Bill, 4852, that would create a \$1.35 charge for 911 services, to be charged to each land and cell phone line. This would create \$100-\$250 million in revenue. She also mentioned that a tax increase may be coming, which would add about \$1.5 billion. The state is having a great deal of financial difficulty, due in large part to auto company contracting. She did say, though, that Washtenaw County is one of the most likely places in the state to generate new businesses, through education, healthcare and tourism.
- David McMahan asked whether Government Executive Order 18 would affect this LEPC at the county level, as the order

combines several existing commissions. Pam Byrnes said she would look into it, and Don Dettling said that the LEPC is under control of the State Police.

- Pam Byrnes said that she would send information on how the governor-signed order will affect the LEPC to Leon Moore.

VIII. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn made by Marc Breckenridge at 4:43pm, seconded by Leon Moore. The motion carried.