

STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
MINUTES

October 21, 2016
Anchorage, Alaska

I. Call to order - Chairperson

Chair Hummel called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

A. Roll Call was taken.

Members Present:

Laurie Hummel (Co-Chair)	Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs
Graham Wood (Co-Chair)	Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Jay Butler	Dept. of Health & Social Services
Lt. Steve Adams	Dept. of Public Safety
Mike Coffey	Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities
Casey Cook	Local Government
Abner Hoage	Local Government
Clint Brooks	Urban LEPC
George Vakalis	Urban LEPC
Brian Templin	Rural LEPC
Tom Vaden	Rural LEPC
James Butler III	Public Member at Large

Members Absent:

Dept. of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development
Dept. of Fish & Game
Dept. of Natural Resources

Ex Officio Members Present:

Richard Koch	Alaska Command
Ramona Van Cleve	FEMA
Jo Dawson (Telephonic)	Department of Education & Early Dev.

Guests Present:

Zainab Cheema, DHS&EM, SERC Coordinator
Eric Bleakney, Alaska Command
Jack Maker, Kodiak Island LEPC
Kim Weibl, DHS&EM
Jamie Roberts, Wrangell LEPC
Sara G. Garcia, Petersburg Borough LEPC

Tony Stratton, Alaska National Guard
Gen. Brent Feick, Alaska National Guard
Jim Styers, City of Fairbanks
Sandy Dixon, Petersburg Borough, LEPC
Eric Bleskney
Jennifer Shockley, Aleutians/Pribilof Islands LEPC
Col. John C. James, Alaska State Defense Force
Ann Gravier, DHS&EM
Chris Noel, Denali Borough
Michelle Brown, CBJ
Heather Seemann, North Slope Borough
Linda Van Houten, Northern Southeast LEPC

- B. It was concluded that a quorum was present.
- C. Administrative Announcements – SERC Coordinator Cheema asked that anyone who speaks to turn their microphone and state their name. A sign-up sheet for public comment was available outside the room. She also gave a safety briefing. There were a revised agenda and meeting packet updates.

II. Welcome and Introductions.

- A. Opening Comments by Co-Chairpersons – Co-Chair Hummel thanked everyone for attending. She acknowledged her staff members from the Alaska National Guard who were present. She stated that, although the fire season was not as severe as previous years, over a million acres did burn. The McHugh Creek fire near Anchorage demonstrated the ability to work as one team to prevent a catastrophe within the Municipality. She congratulated the Department of Natural Resources for their hard work in responding to fires around the state.
Co-Chair Hummel stated that her vision for her department includes several lines of effort, notably to implement a viable Arctic strategy, to increase emergency management capacity all around the state, and to expand their engagement with Alaskan communities. She discussed the Arctic Chinook exercise conducted in the Bering Strait which involved an Adventure Class cruise ship experiencing a shipboard emergency requiring abandonment of the ship. In addition, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management took the earthquake simulator to 18 communities throughout Southeast Alaska and four in the Yukon Territory. She stated that individual and family preparedness is a key to a resilient Alaska and the simulator supported preparedness events, local emergency planning committees and schools throughout the area. Alaska is in the middle of the fall sea storm season and we must be vigilant in efforts to provide for the safety and wellbeing of all Alaskans threatened by sea storms.
Co-Chair Hummel thanked Commissioner Davidson, Department of Health and Social Services, and her team for allowing them to participate in the Hail Borealis conference.

- B. Member Introductions and Opening Comments

Co-Chair Hummel asked those at the table to introduce themselves.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes – April 29, 2016

Mr. George Vakalis MOVED to accept the minutes of April 29, 2016 as presented. Mr. Jay Butler seconded the motion. There were no corrections. MOTION passed unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

There was no one signed up for public comment.

V. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of and Changes to the Agenda –

Mr. George Vakalis MOVED approval of the agenda as amended by incorporating the change to Section 10 by adding G, Alaska State Defense Force, Col. John James, ASDF, 20 minutes. Mr. Tom Vaden seconded the motion. The MOTION passed unanimously.

B. LEPC Appointments –

Mr. George Vakalis MOVED to accept the LEPC appointments with the following additions: under Bristol Bay add Jody Jo Matson, David Scott, and Anthony Holmes; under North Slope Borough, add Dale DuFour; and under Sitka, add Lance Ewers, and Craig Warren. Mr. Tom Vaden seconded the motion. The MOTION passed unanimously.

C. Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 Meeting Dates (October 20, 2017/April 13, 2018)

VI. Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Report

A. DHS&EM Updates – Mr. Michael F. O'Hare, Director, stated that under disaster assistance they finalized all actions on three major Federal disasters. Under preparedness and outreach, training and exercise they conducted an extensive preparedness campaign on the Southeast tour of the earthquake simulator. With respect to planning they have assisted in the finalization of 20 emergency plans for communities within the state. They are focusing on rural planning with the small community emergency response plans (SCERP). Currently 64 communities currently have SCERPs. Training and exercise has also been busy. They conducted the statewide multi-community Alaska Shield 2016 exercise. They have decided to move the Alaska Shield exercise from every two years to every three years. They are working with many exercises including relating to Arctic domain awareness, Arctic response, cruise ship, search and rescue, maritime search and rescue, and others. The Division responded to eight declared disasters over the past 12 months. He stated they are focusing on finalizing their three-year Division strategy, to work the Division's goals and objectives to coincide with the Department's and the Governor's lines of effort, a viable and cohesive Arctic strategy, the rural engagement and focus with Alaska communities, and increasing the emergency management capacity by incorporating the capabilities of the National Guard and the Alaska State Defense Force. Mr. O'Hare discussed personnel changes in the Division. He stated that they now have the preparedness conference once a year instead of twice, and have moved the second conference towards multiple regional resiliency workshops. The first will be in Bethel in December and the second sometime in 2017 in Kotzebue. They have developed an all-hazards resiliency planning unit in the planning section. It will focus on disaster resiliency and bringing in the other partners to assist the community with resiliency as a

whole.

Mr. O'Hare reported that they are also refreshing their homeland security planning annex as part of the relook at their homeland security mission. Alaska Shield 2019 will be played along that line.

VII. Local Emergency Planning Committee Association

Mr. Brian Templin, LEPCA Chairperson, reported on the LEPCA meeting that morning. All LEPCs were represented. There is a lot of planning going on statewide as well as a lot of exercises. He announced that the new Co-Chair is Abner Hoage, taking Mr. Templin's seat. The meeting October 21, 2016 agenda as well as the minutes from the last meeting are at tab 7.

VIII. Local Emergency Planning Committee Status Reports –

(None)

IX. Old Business

- A. Finance Committee – Mr. George Vakalis, Chairperson, reported the committee met in May to discuss how to allocate funding to the LEPCs, establishing a new category for a developing or new LEPC that may be forming. The allocation of \$275,000 to the LEPCs was done in June by the committee. He reported they only had about \$1,000 of turn-back which was redistributed. The committee is revising the formula to bring it more current and make it more accurate. Mr. James Butler recommended the SERC go on record to ratify the acts of the finance committee.

Mr. James Butler MOVED to ratify the decisions and the changes that have been made by the Finance Committee, including the allocation of funds. Mr. Tom Vaden seconded the motion. The MOTION passed unanimously.

- B. Work Plan Committee, Mr. Andy Jones, Chief, Rural and Community Health Systems, Department of Health and Social Services, reported that they will be forming the committee back up to look at revising the work plan.
- C. Interoperable Communications Committee, - Mr. John Rockwell, Department of Public Safety, State 911 coordinator, acting statewide interoperable coordinator. He reported that they are moving forward with an administrative order from the Governor to authorize and focus on state interoperability and emergency communications. Alaska was selected by the National Governors Association (NGA) to participate in a policy academy. The academy was focused on interoperable communications governance. On July 11th they held a successful in-state meeting that brought together stakeholders throughout the state to focus on the administrative order they are requesting the Governor to sign, as well as an update to the state interoperability plan. The final meeting of the NGA policy academy is scheduled for November 2 in Minneapolis where they will work on the next steps for governance structure of interoperable communications for the state. Mr. Rockwell also discussed House Bill 256 which includes language requiring the Department of Administration to seek an alternative for the Alaska Land Mobile Radio System (ALMR). With respect to First Net, they put a request for proposal out to build a nationwide broadband network for public safety entities. In response to Mr. Vakalis, Mr. Rockwell stated that the purpose of looking for a new system is to justify the cost of the current Motorola P25 Alaska radio

network. The legislature's intent is that as technology moves forward, they want to be sure they are putting their money towards both current technology and technology they see in the future.

- D. Citizen Corps Committees – Mr. Casey Cook reported on the Citizen Corps committees around the state. Currently there are active programs in Willow, Cordova, Ketchikan, Juneau, and the Kenai Peninsula. The most common program is Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) which trains citizens on disaster preparedness, medical, search and rescue, fire prevention, as well as incident command and team organization. He added that Mat-Su Borough recently sent two new CERT leaders to Emergency Management Institute in outside Washington, DC. They are looking to re-implement the CERT program in the borough. In response to Co-Chair Hummel, Mr. Cook stated that there are five active Citizen Corps in Alaska. He did not know how many inactive Citizen Corps there were.
- E. All-Hazards Plan Review Committee – Ms. Ann Gravier reported the state emergency operations plan has been completed and distributed across the state. They have completed six new Small Community Emergency Response Plans (SCERP), and updated 10 in the last six months. There are now 64 communities with SCERPs with many more in development. Six communities are in the process of developing new SCERPs: Kivalina, Minto, Koyukuk, Naknek, South Naknek, and King Salmon. Ten are currently being updated: Skagway, White Mountain, Glennallen, Kluti-Kah, False Pass, Kasaan, Amber, Buckland, Deering, and Kotlik.
- F. Training Committee - Mr. Jeff Lafferty, Chairperson, stated that in the past six months with training within the Division and coordinating with the training committee they have trained over 200 people within the state. He reported they have seen the Alaska Railroad becoming more interest in the training being offered as well as training they can coordinate for the Railroad via national training partners as well as have other state agencies and private businesses throughout the state. Within the state they have offered over 18 courses, including several executive officials course. He reported they have another 18 courses scheduled over the next six months, including train the trainer. Every month the training section holds a training and exercise teleconference. They have had up to 25, 30 participants over the past year. They have seen more state agencies, private, non-profit, a local government entities contacting them for training. In response to Chair Hummel, Mr. Lafferty stated that while he cannot place a dollar amount on savings by having fewer face-to-face trainings and more video teleconferencing, but he felt there was a lot of room for it, and they are looking at it. They are looking at using the On-Line with Library System. The difficulty is many of the courses have hands on exercises, plus the length of the courses sometimes precludes the use of teleconference system. Mr. O'Hare stated they are trying to find the balance between a virtual discussions versus a hands on exercise workshop. He sees it as the evolution of the resiliency workshops.
- G. Disaster Search and Rescue Committee – Mr. Jeffrey Lafferty, Chairperson, reported that in the past six months there really has been no action within the disaster search and rescue task force or committee. They do have a complete plan awaiting grammatical revisions. After that it will be submitted for final review and signature.
- H. Statewide Mutual Aid Compact – Mr. Jim Butler, Chairperson, reported there has been staff transition at the Division that is helping. There has been work done through the summer on “reviewing the books”. A lot of draft documents have been put together to connect the system together, including the description of qualifications, the actual positions, and others. They are coming to a consensus on what the positions and

qualifications might look like. Working out the qualification system is a challenge. In addition to demonstrating book competency and knowledge competency there is an actual experience component. This has been recognized, and there is some creative thinking going on on how to look at other types of experiences that might be similar to or close enough to an actually incident experience that allows them to leverage that across to apply it to an all hazard. He stated that the whole concept is around a system approach. The system approach is a little bit different because it involves some new books, new pieces that come together. They are looking at a beta training approach. He stated that the outstanding issue is the administrative element to how the program might work. Mr. Butler has been introduced to the National Association of All Hazard Incident Management Teams. There might be an opportunity to leverage technology, sharing information, lessons learned, etc. Mr. Cook asked how to handle the reciprocity on requests from other jurisdictions if people are sent out on EMAC. Mr. Butler agreed that there needs to be a system that would allow this to happen. The EMAC process is FEMA-related. He added that by having an accepted all-hazard incident management program that they visualize would be consistent with what FEMA has, then they would be routed through that. Mr. Bryan Fisher stated his staff is working on the mutual aid system committee. He felt that at this point every state has taken it upon themselves to develop their own system. The Association has annual meetings on all-hazards type III incident management teams and is starting to look at just that. Currently they are all individual discreet state programs that do not have national coverage, and FEMA has no intent to mandate a type III all-hazards system. He stated they hope that through organizations such as the Association they will be able to talk through that with the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) who runs the emergency management assistance compact program for the states. Alaska statute AS 26.23.500, the intrastate mutual state mutual aid system committee, is compatible with statutes for the emergency management assistance compact, so they can send municipal or local government employees now. It would entail talking to the requesting state regarding qualifications.

X New Business

- A. Community Resiliency – Ms. Ann Gravier, DHS&EM, stated this is a team formed under the planning section. She discussed the two people who are on this team. They are looking for a lead person. The team taps the resources of the rest of the Division. They will look to break down any existing programmatic stove pipes. They will also look externally with partners as well. They will also look to leverage existing working and partnerships. She stated that the overall perspective is that overall community resiliency is key to preparedness and planning for emergency and disaster resiliency. That is where they see the link up in their mission and goals with other agencies. They look to leverage and synergize with the other agencies doing similar type work, and to help fill gaps. This will be done through formalizing relationships, enhancing them, and codifying those relationships. She felt the key is to document as well as to help make things happen.
- B. Dalton Highway/Matanuska Susitna Flood Mitigation – Mr. Mike Coffey, DOT, discussed the flooding on the Dalton Highway, its impacts, and what they did in response. He showed slides of the flood and the activities that took place. The road was closed for about a month with 24 miles of road impacted. There were two separate state disaster

declarations. DOT spent \$17 million on emergency repairs. The Dalton is considered a highway of national significance. They had great cooperation from the industry. The road was repaired and raised. They did an after-action review. With respect to the Mat-Su event, they were able to get it done within about two weeks. The river was threatening the Old Glenn Highway. He also showed slides of this. They ended up with about an 1100-foot trench of rock. The contract was just over \$1.3 million, DOT maintenance crews spent \$12,000 in hauling. After the emergency declaration he has worked closely with DMVA on funding, and he just learned that the funding will be coming.

- C. Glacier Bay Landslide – Gabriel Wolken, DNR, discussed the impacts of large rock and ice avalanches that have been occurring in Southeast Alaska, principally focused on those in the Glacier Bay National Park area as there have been several large world-class size rock avalanches there, although others have probably occurred elsewhere in the State. He felt this is something that should be thought about. He stated that the tectonic stresses offered by earthquakes are key to the large rock avalanches as is the history of glaciations in Alaska. Climate warming will also have an effect. He showed slides of several landslides in Glacier Bay and the damage they cause. He stated one danger is if these happen where there are people. One of the things that can be learned from these events is that they have to try to prepare for things like this in populated areas. In response to Co-Chair Hummel, Mr. Wolken stated that predicting the locations for these failures is very challenging and at this point they cannot pinpoint where something like this is going to occur or predict when. What they can do is take the information they have that basically satisfies the criteria for producing one of these events and locate those elsewhere in the State. They do have that ability. Other places that contain the same type of rock include near Yakutat, in the Chugach, and around Anchorage and the Kenai. Mr. Vaden stated there are several in the Wrangells.
- D. Alaska State Defense Force – Col. John James, ASDF, reported that working with their partners the Alaska State Defense Force is expanding emergency management capability, assisting in the strengthening of and building resilient communities. They are doing this by educating ASDF soldiers in the incident command system so they can speak the language of first responders. They are building increased capacity by designating liaison officers to local emergency planning committees (LEPC) that know the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs capability so they may assist local emergency planning committees in communicating resource requests from the LEPC to the State emergency operations center effectively. They are increasing communications capability by providing additional secondary and tertiary systems of communication, ensuring communities are always in communication with supportive agencies. He discussed further what they are providing. With their partners they will continue to strengthen the State's ability to safeguard its citizens, and more quickly return the State to normalcy post-event. Co-Chair Hummel explained the difference between the National Guard and the Alaska State Defense Force. She added that they are looking to open new detachments of the Alaska State Defense Force around the State. In response to Co-Chair Hummel, Col. James stated they currently have 76 active members across the State. In response to Ms. Van Cleeve, Col. James stated that their outreach has included meeting with the Alaska Native Veterans Council. There is currently a detachment currently in Bethel. They are working to establish detachments in other villages.

XI Other State Agency and Ex-officio Reports –

Department of Health and Social Services – Mr. Andy Jones stated their Hail Borealis conference was really successful with almost 400 attendees, the most they have ever seen. Within the Department they are expanding the emergency program section which is now the Section of Rural and Community Health Systems. The Department is gearing up to combat the opioid epidemic in the State.

Mr. Casey Cook, Local Government representative, stated that the number of CERT programs he had stated earlier are recognized community CERT programs, but that does not limit organizations from having a CERT program. He does not know how many of those there are.

Alaska Command – Col. Richard Koch, Alaska Command operations officer, reported that their two primary missions are homeland defense and support of civil authorities. They have a new commander, Lt. Gen. Ken Wilsbach. Alaska Command is transitioning to U.S. Northern Command from Headquarters Pacific Command. He discussed what they have done with respect to homeland defense and support of civil authorities, including the Arctic Chinook exercise. In November a staff member will travel to Yellow Knife, Northwest Territories to discuss homeland defense coordination with Canada.

FEMA – Ms. Ramona Van Cleeve reported on things FEMA is doing currently in Alaska, including participating in a scientific program called Coastal Resiliency and Climate Adaptation. They have been making presentations around the state with that program. She stated that they now have four people in the Alaska office. She also talked about the pilot guidance on the direct declarations which means a Federally-recognized tribe could if they so choose ask the President directly for a disaster declaration through FEMA and not necessarily go through the State. In her travels, not many Alaska tribes seem to want that option unless it is the only option.

XII Informational Items

A. SERC Policies and Procedures Manual 2014

XIII. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

XIV. Commission Member Closing Comments

Mr. Mike O'Hare recognized Mr. Brian Templin for his great work with the LEPCA and the SERC.

XVI. Adjournment

Mr. George Vakalis MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tom Vaden seconded the motion. MOTION passed unanimously. MOTION passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.