

CENTRAL FLORIDA REGION LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Polk Counties



CHAIRMAN: Todd Tanner
VICE-CHAIR: Dan Bartle

Quarterly Meeting Minutes May 27, 2021 | 9:30 a.m.

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/504317365>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (786) 535-3211 | Access Code: 504-317-365

1. Call to Order

A. Vice-Chairman Dan Bartle called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll was called with the following members in attendance:

Broadcast and Print Media

- None

Hospital

- None

Community Groups

- Mary Hartney, FL Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association

Interested Citizen

- Tim Bennett, RISC

Emergency Management

- Jeff Tambasco, DeSoto County EM
- Amalia Arista, Hardee County EM
- Laura Calvillo, Hardee County EM

Law Enforcement

- None

Facility Owners and Operators

- Keith Hazzard, Burris Logistics
- Joe Noel, Florikan ESA, LLC

Local Environmental

- Ben Skidmore, Hull's Environmental Services

Firefighting

- Joe Walker, Hardee County Fire Rescue
- Nancy Sneider, Hardee County Fire Rescue
- Andrew Marcy, Avon Park Fire Dept

Local Option

- None

Transportation

- None

Elected State and Local Officials

- None

Health

- None

First Aid

- None

Non-Elected Local Official

- None

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Water Management District

- None

Education

- Danial Bartle, Florida Polytechnic University

Staff

- Curtis Knowles, LEPC Staff
- Kathy Hall, LEPC Staff

General Public

- Jeanine Arthur, Givaudan Flavors Corp
- Burt McKee, Polk County BoCC
- Greg Hall, Publix Super Markets, Inc.
- Rick Christoff, DeSoto County EM

C. Announcements:

No Announcements were made.

2. Approval of the February 18, 2021 Central Florida LEPC Meeting Minutes

Curtis Knowles asked if there were any changes to the February 18, 2021 Central Florida LEPC Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

There being none, Mary Hartney moved to approve the February 18, 2021 LEPC Meeting Minutes as presented. Tim Bennett seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

No Old Business was discussed.

4. Subcommittee Reports

A. Membership

Curtis Knowles, CFRPC staff, stated that he had received two membership applications. Those applications were submitted to the State Emergency Response Commission and were approved.

B. State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) for Hazardous Materials

Curtis Knowles presented highlights of the LEPC Chairs and Coordinators Meeting held on May 13, 2021. The new Training Task Force Chair for the State is Chief Johnathan Lamb. He announced that the HazMat Symposium will be held in person in 2022 in Daytona Beach at the same conference center. If any member has information that would like to present, please

contact Michelle Cechowski with East Central Florida LEPC at the contact information that was provided to members via email.

Curtis announced the Hazardous Analysis Working Group is starting back up and is being led by Tyler Nolan from the Northeast Florida LEPC. The Group is working to create a Hazards Analysis How-To Guide that will explain how to perform an HA inspection, including what the state is looking for and what the LEPC is looking for. This guide will be distributed to all LEPCs in the state upon completion. Curtis reported the State is considering reducing funding for the LEPC and Hazard Analysis programs across the State by \$10,000 each as they are expecting a shortfall in funding. The State is considering eliminating the requirement to conduct HA inspections for facilities that only have batteries, and not filling some Florida Division of Emergency Management OPS positions that are currently open. Curtis also announced Kevin Guthrie is now the Florida Division of Emergency Management Director replacing Jared Moskowitz, and Steven Hynes is the Deputy Director.

Vice-Chair Dan Bartle reported that he attended the SERC meeting where all LEPC membership applications were approved. The Audit and special work plan for the Risk Management Planning Program for FY 2021-22 was approved. The new administration is considering reinstating the EPC SEP program and was discussed as a way for funding the shortfalls in the Technical Hazards Division. Kevin Guthrie will continue as Chair of the SERC, and the Deputy Director Steven Hynes will be the alternate Chair. Chair Guthrie suggested forming a new committee to work on the future funding of the EPCRA program, because they cannot lobby for increasing their own fees. The fees were established in 1986 and have not been increased since. Also, there is a new rule that HazMat releases must be reported to water treatment facilities now.

Burt McKee, Polk County, added that SERC discussed the effectiveness of the LEPCs, and that Florida has worked diligently to substitute less hazardous materials in facilities, therefore removing them from the 302 list. As LEPCs become more efficient in helping facilities come off the 302 list, that is part of the reason there is a funding shortfall. A large number of farmers have reduced their chemicals and substituted for less toxic materials.

Vice-Chair Bartle added that penalizing facilities that are not reporting their chemicals with fines will help bring up the trust fund.

The next SERC meeting will be held in person on July 23, 2021, with the location to be announced.

C. Training

Curtis Knowles provided a link to the Florida Division of Emergency Management's training calendar where they list their training events by region. www.trac.floridadisaster.org/trac/trainingcalendar.aspz He is working to schedule classes to utilize the remainder of the HMEP funds for the year and asked members to let him know if they need training in a specific area.

Vice-Chair Bartle stated that the next class in the region is a G300 at Polk EOC in July.

5. New Business

A. 2021-CF-LEPC Hazardous Materials Plan Update

Curtis Knowles stated the document has been edited with some minor updates and changes. The date on the Emergency Response Guidebook will be omitted as it is updated regularly. The Plan was distributed with the Agenda Package for reference.

B. Incident Report Discussion for the Region

Vice-Chair Bartle reminded members of the brushfire risk as the region has not had significant rain in a while.

C. Hurricane Season Starts June 1, 2021

Curtis Knowles urged members to prepare their work location and home for the hurricane season. He provided a link to the hurricane preparedness website.

www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness

Vice-Chair Bartle reminded members that the tax holiday is May 28 through June 5, 2021. Go to the Department of Revenue's website for a complete list.

6. Comments from Members/Public

No comments were made.

7. Next CF-LEPC Meeting: August 19, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. The location will be announced.

8. There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Bartle, LEPC Vice-Chairman

This meeting was duly advertised in the April 20, 2021 issue of the FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER, Issue: 47/84.