

Storey County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 14, 2010- 10:00 A.M.
Storey County Emergency Operations Center
141 North C Street
Virginia City, NV 89440

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Chairman Curtis at 10:05 a.m.

INDIVIDUALS PRESENT

Karen Pabon- SERC; Tom Taormina- HAM Radio; Angela Mann- Comstock Chronicle; Connie Butts- Canyon GID; Austin Osborne- Storey County Planning; Pat Whitten- Storey County Manager; Gary Hames- Storey County Fire; Cherie Nevin- Storey County LEPC; Joe Curtis- Storey County LEPC; Dore Nevin- Storey County Recorder; Hugh Gallagher- Storey County Comptroller

INTRODUCTIONS

Roundtable introductions of all present at the meeting. Welcomed Karen Pabon from the State Emergency Response Commission.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2010 MEETING AGENDA

Motion was made to approve the April 14, 2010 LEPC Meeting Agenda by Tom Taormina. This motion was seconded by Gary Hames. All present in favor. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 10, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made to approve the February 10, 2010 LEPC Meeting Minutes by Connie Butts. This motion was seconded by Tom Taormina. All present in favor. Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Meeting Schedule Change for future LEPC Meetings.

Chairman Curtis proposed moving the meeting date to the second Wednesday of the quarter of the month in which the meeting is held (January, April, July, and October). He explained that this change stems from scheduling conflicts with various key individuals that need to attend these meetings. Gary Hames said that this date would work well and allow for him to attend the meetings.

A motion was made to change the date of the Storey County LEPC Quarterly Meetings to second Wednesday of the month of the quarter by Pat Whitten. This motion was seconded by Gary Hames. All present in favor. Motion carries.

Chairman Curtis spoke about the new radio communication tower behind the Emergency Operations Center building. This will allow for Communication between county buildings. Pat Whitten stated that the next phase of this could be to look at emergency radio at the Communications facility and possible grant funding to get this project through. Chairman Curtis stated that this project could be an applicable use of United We Stand grant funds. He further stated that we might want to look at these funds to be a possible match for the Four County Microwave Project grant.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Curtis reported that Storey County has received our Storm Ready designation from the National Weather Service. This designation was presented at the county commission meeting in February. Chairman Curtis stated that the signs will be put up in all areas of the county. He further stated that Weather Radios were purchased and placed in county offices and schools. These radios provide general emergency notification as well as weather alerts.

Tom Taormina advised that the Western Emergency Conference of HAM Radio Operators will be held on May 1-2, 2010 in Reno, NV. Mr. Taormina advised that he will be meeting with the Washoe County group on resource sharing.

GRANTS

Chairman Curtis advised that the SERC Equipment & Operations Grant was approved as submitted for \$30,000. This grant will open on July 1, 2010.

State Grant and Programs- Chairman Curtis stated that Mass Sheltering and Mass Fatality Trailers (has cases of body bags and protective clothing, designed to be a setup for external morgue, mobile MEDICAL EXAMINERS RESPONSE UNIT have been received by Storey County. We also received our copies of the Mass Fatality Plan.

Chairman Curtis advised that the United We Stand (UWS) Grant Application is due the first part of June 2010. He advised that requests for equipment under these grant was solicited from the various county departments with little response coming back. Chairman Curtis stated that we are looking to add to our radio cache upgrade with P25 compliant portable radios. We received a quote for these radios which come to approximately \$2,000.00 each.

Gary Hames stated that he thinks that the communications needs to be a priority for the UWS grant cycle. He further stated that the current radio antenna system on the roof top at the Communications Center needs to be improved because of serious issues and cross over. Chairman Curtis also stated that there are problems with stability of what is on the roof now due to weather issues. Pat Whitten would support this request and focus on improving our radio communications. Mr. Whitten stated that enhancing our radio backbone will have regional impact for the Microwave Interconnect Project. Karen Pabon stated that funding has been awarded in past for this exact type of thing as long as we can justify in combating terrorism.

Tom Taormina stated that our frequencies are too close and need to make modifications for vertical separation and a 2meter 440 antenna for HAM Radio operations.

Gary Hames stated that although handheld and mobile radios upgrades are a priority, he feels as though the Communications Tower is a higher priority. Mr. Hames further stated that Lyon County and Storey County are looking to apply for a multiple county Fire Assistance Grant for common communication devices.

Pat Whitten said that the Communication Tower may be a two-fold project depending on the cost and the amount of funding available through grant funds. Mr. Whitten further stated that we need a competitive bid for tower.

Chairman Curtis started discussion on SERC Funds and setting priorities as funding for these programs may decrease in the future. Karen Pabon stated that she is not sure that the \$30,000 cap will go away and SERC will work to fund this year but this may change in the future.

Pat Whitten stated that depending on the cost of this project, the tower should be the first priority and then establish steps to the project. Mr. Whitten stated that we should form a small committee to look at this project and include Tom Taormina. He further stated that we should consult with Miles Construction regarding the placement of the tower due to Jail expansion.

A motion was made by Pat Whitten that Communication Tower will be the number one priority for the United We Stand Grant Application, if the Communication Tower falls through, the second option would be Quantar Repeater replacement on Pond Peak and the third priority would be P25 Compliant Handheld Radios. This motion was seconded by Tom Taormina. All present in favor. Motion carries.

Chairman Curtis stated that there is a possibility that we will look to HMEP grant funding to complete a Vulnerability Study for Water and Sewer and other county critical infrastructure. He further stated that we will pursue grant funding to update our Emergency Operations and Hazardous Materials Response Plans.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS REPORT- Chairman Curtis

Chairman Curtis reported that Storey County Emergency Management is actively involved in the Schools Prepared and Ready Together across Nevada (SPARTAN) Program which is funded through a Homeland Security grant. He further advised that we need to get better representation from Storey County School District.

Chairman Curtis reported that the exercises that we had planned for this summer will be put on hold due to lack of grant funds. We will look to get these funded in the through the Fall HMEP grant program.

Chairman Curtis reported that the Comstock Seismic Summit was held on March 25, 2010 in Carson City. This meeting was a collaborative effort between Storey County, Nevada Division of Emergency Management, University of Nevada Reno and the Nevada Bureau of Mines. The meeting produced great dialog and we will continue to move forward with placing monitoring equipment in Virginia City. Pat Whitten advised that it was a huge asset to have local mine owner Chris Kiechler present at the Summit as he had a vast amount of knowledge on the underground workings. Go sign and send letter to Chris and acknowledge and thank him.

Angela Mann advised that she would like to put something together for the Comstock Chronicle.

Chairman Curtis reported that the FEMA Mitigation Assistance Grant did not fund the requested funds for flood control measures in Six Mile Canyon. We will re-submit the request for the 2010 cycle.

COOPERATING LEPC MEMBERS REPORTS

Connie Butts from the Canyon GID reported that they are building an affluent line up to Waste Management

Austin Osborne from Storey County Planning reported that Advanced Refining Concepts is scheduled to build on Peru. They take natural gas and diesel and mix and create diesel 1. Most of their product is sold to the mining industry and they plan on producing 100,000 gallons of fuel per week. Chairman Curtis advised Austin to make sure that this company knows of state data reporting requirements.

Chairman Curtis reported that no exercises were held during this quarter. He further reported that there was a 150 gallon diesel spill near Wal-Mart. EPA responded as well as H2O Environmental. Exercise report will be submitted to SERC for this incident.

Gary Hames spoke about the online Hazmat Reporting Database and working through to make sure that all are in compliance and reporting. The State Fire Marshal provided him with a report indicating that several facilities located in Storey County are out of compliance. It was noted that several of these are out of business.

Chairman Curtis reported that Chart Industries is now open in TRI. They are a Cryogenic Plant. We are working to involve them in our LEPC.

DETERMINATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on July 14, 2010 in TRI

PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made for adjournment at 11:25 a.m. by Tom Taormina. This motion was seconded by Gary Hames. All present in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted by: Cherie Nevin

Please note that these minutes are in draft format and are scheduled for approval at the next LEPC. These minutes are presented in a summary format and are not verbatim.