



Missouri Emergency Response Commission

2302 Militia Drive PO Box 3133

Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

573-526-9113

Date and Time: January 11, 2024 10:00 am

Location:

State Emergency Management Agency

Governor's Conference Room

2302 Militia Dr.

Jefferson City, MO 65102

WebEx Call In: (650) 479-3207 Meeting #: 2632 579 3972 Password: MWryCmRP533

Attendees:

Karen Eagleson, LeAnn Hoelscher, Lisa Jobe, Stephen McLane, Lana Nelson, Sara Allen, Cory Jorgensen, Chris Berndt, Pete Martin, Sean Counihan, Valerie Wilder, Brandon Jensen, Lisa Cardone, Cody Garner, Representative Tim Taylor

Online:

Patrick Seamands, George DeLisle III, Sam Herndon, William Johnson, Bruce Dewsberry, Stephanie Norton, Larry Woods, Ted Martin, Larry Lehman, Tammy Snodgrass, Valerie Wilder, Darren Tobias, Lesli Mattingly, Shelby Crease, Andrea Farr, Rose College, Christopher Ross.

Welcome/Introductions

Minutes

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Cory Jorgensen

Second: Lisa Cardone

Old Business:

MERC Budget & Staffing-

We are fully staffed on CEPF side of the house and they are diligently working on collecting Tier II's and funds.

HMEP has 2 part time openings- one part time planner assisting Sara and one part time training coordinator assisting Lisa with training.

Tier II System-

There were 23 updates that have been completed. Since the first of the year, we have had two and they are in the works as of right now.

We have fixed our alphabetical order problem. It's now much easier to find filers. We have cleared out GPS data since the old data was mostly plotting in China. The location data is being redone. Location data should be better data and we should be able to do some plotting and sharing of location of data to share with the locals. We are hoping to plot at least where the EHS facilities are. We have a couple of things we want to update after season is over.

All in all it seems to be working well. Karen and Lana haven't had major issues other than the NAICS codes and latitude/longitude locations are being updated.

We did a lot of "grant access" opportunities during off season. We ask that Fire Department's and LEPC's stay out of it until season is over on March 2, 2024.

The system slows down and gets bogged down with all of the data that's going in it. We are going to reset that about once a week. If the LEPC's and Fire Departments can wait until after March 1st, that would be helpful.

Update on CEPF fund distribution to Counties-

We are about 10 weeks behind on this due to staffing issues but we have begun to get caught up.

We should start getting CEPF funding out the middle of next month. We are behind on that, but circumstances are beyond our control.

Discussion of LEPC/LEPD Grant-

We will be awarding over \$800,000 of funding. We got \$1.5 million in requests but some of the requests were for things that aren't allowed in the grant. One community asked for a salamander printer & SEMA has another program where salamander printers are given away. Some of the requests were for high dollar items that have nobody in the community who can use the equipment. We would like to get them the training and then let them request the training in the future.

Every time we put out this grant, we are getting more and more requests for hazmat items.

FY 2024 Sunset of Fee Structure-

House bill 1870 has been filed & read for 1st and 2nd reading. As of last night 5:00 pm, this hasn't been assigned to a committee.

I would encourage everyone to reach out to their senators/representative's and ask them to support this. The only thing on the bill is to change the sunset date.

What happens if this doesn't pass? The MERC goes away. The state would have to decide if they are going to apply for HMEP and the rest of it goes away.

Everyone also needs to understand that on the federal side the Tier II is still required. The LEPC's are still a requirement but there will not be any funding. MERC has a one-page handout, he will send that out.

Financials from LEPC/D and/or County Treasurer from LEPC/D's that do not submit an annual compliance application-

The law says that we MERC Commission (our office) is supposed to review that all funds are spent correctly. The current process is for the next year's funds. The question was what do we do with communities that don't have an LEPC/D to verify that financials are in compliance with the law. At a previous meeting, it was suggested that we seek legal counsel on this. Stephen said this hasn't been done yet and he would prefer not to pursue that at this point. We need to focus efforts on getting funding out. Once we get caught up, we will pursue this.

Buchanan County LEPC is an active LEPC on the table, they are active and have meetings and do not apply for CEPF funds.

We don't have the man hours to look back over several years at this point in time.

LEPC/D Expense Guidelines-

Placed on hold due to staffing issues. We will reengage this process once the CEPF's are processed and the money goes out. Getting funds out is our biggest priority at this point.

LEPD Funds Transfer Deadlines-

Moot point now. The deadline has come and gone now. We have some that haven't moved the money at this point. We were going to give them to December 23, 2024.

Million Dollar Cap (Last year \$944, 514.54)-

For awareness, we hit this dollar amount last year. Based on info we have, we have complete confidence we are going over the million-dollar cap at this point. It will be horrible for us, the regulated community because you will never know how much you are going to collect. Right now this is stable but once we start giving rebates, it will complicate this immensely. We will see what happens come March 2, 2024 when we run the report.

New Business:

Saline County wishes to join Lafayette Carroll LEPD-

They did not submit any paperwork so this is on hold until we have their paperwork.

Non-Filers Project 238 Late Filers have Filed Since 7/1-

Karen discovered that a lot of the marinas have not been filing. She went on a mission to find non-filers.

We also went through the tanks database and found around 238 who have not filed. They either went back and started to file for previous years, or they are starting with this season to catch up on old fees. This is why we feel we will go over the million dollar cap this year.

We are very proud of staff finding all of the nonfilers.

Our 2024 project is to cross reference with the Department of Ag database to see if all of their filers are filing with us.

Also have a new relationship with the Ag pesticide folks. We are finding more non-filers there too.

Also finding non-filers with the EER report. We check all of those.

ByLaw Update-

Bylaw's had a previous chairman's signature on it. Do you all want to look through those before the April meeting or do you just want to reissue with Chris' signature? Please get Stephen your changes and we can read and review at the April meeting.

In the packet you have, please look over the contact info and make sure the info is updated.

Updated Informational Brochures-

Kelby is a graphic designer. We are working with him to update those and make them look better. We are going to send out & get professionally printed so they look better. The cost is actually a little cheaper to send them out.

HMEP Training & Grant Update-

After a review of the Missouri Department of Public Safety's MERC Training Program, the Missouri Department of Public Safety finds that it is in the customer's and the agency's best interest to cease its current practice of entering into fifteen separate contracts to provide its training opportunities.

Instead, the Missouri Department of Public Safety will provide training through an existing training vendor that has a current contract procured by the Missouri Department of Public Safety's Division of Fire Safety. By adding MERC Training Program training opportunities to an existing contract, the need to enter into fifteen separate contracts, communicate with each individual contractor, and to issue payment to each individual contractor will be eliminated. This change will provide for greater efficiency by eliminating the need to manage those fifteen separate contracts, the increased efficiency through the elimination of superfluous work will allow for more time to be devoted to customer service and for more time to be devoted to the MERC's many other duties and obligations.

Lastly, the Missouri Department of Public Safety anticipates that local emergency planning committees (LEPC) will be able to take advantage of a current Office of Administration contract and local trainings could increase because our customers may also utilize the contract to schedule additional trainings.

Ultimately, the Missouri Department of Public Safety anticipates that it will be able to expand upon the list of training classes currently offered. This change in practice is a net positive for all parties involved.

Next meeting:

April 12, 2024

10:00 am

Governor's Conference Room or on the SEOC floor

Adjourn:

Motion: Brandon Jenson

Second: Cory Jorgensen