

MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 22, 2022

Called to order at 9:08

Members in attendance:

Kevin Nowaczyk, Robert Walker, Paul Petrie, William Missal, John Huppert, David Pastrick, Martin Stevens for Jerry Tippy, Mark Allen (8/13 quorum achieved)

Guests in attendance:

Rachel Greenwood (INDOT), Rachel Wilkinson (LCHSEMA), Richard Taylor (Ivy Tech)

Pledge was recited

Minutes from November meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept as written was made by Bill Missal seconded by Mark Allen all voted in favor; Motion passed.

Financial report was given by Martin Stevens for January and February, A motion to accept was made by Bob Walker seconded by John Huppert all voted in favor; Motion passed

The only correspondence received since the November meeting are Tier II reports.

D1 Healthcare Coalition report was given by John Huppert: COVID numbers throughout the District are dropping dramatically in the hospitals. There are fewer ICU patients with COVID, and emergency room visits have dropped within normal range.

Bob Walker asked if the mask mandate was still in effect in healthcare settings, and it was confirmed that hospitals will maintain masks. Most schools in the County have been mask optional since the beginning of this week.

HazMat report was given by Bill Missal. A new response truck is being purchased for the HAZMat team from Merrillville by the Board of Commissioners. At the last HazMat meeting, the team stocked and re-configured the truck.

March 5th, Members of the HazMat team will be attending an event at Crown Point High School organizations. The LC Fire Chiefs will have a table and pamphlets to pass out. Mannequins were ordered to display a level "A" suit, the identifier and a four gas detector will be there as well.

7 members were vetted and added to the HazMat team; all were given jump bags.

The balcony in the barn was cleaned and prepared and is now available to be used as a meeting space for the team.

The joint Lake/Newton tabletop exercise in December had 33 attendees. Bill is working with a SAR dog, test is this Sunday. If he goes further with the dog, he will have to find funding.

RAVE report was given by Martin Stevens, Mr. Stevens advised the next quarterly bill for RAVE should arrive in advance of the next LEPC meeting and requested approval from the body to pay the bill upon receipt. John Huppert moved to pay the third quarter RAVE bill upon receipt, Dave Pastrick seconded, all voted in favor; motion passed. It was brought up by the body that continued support of the RAVE system by the LEPC is unsustainable without support from business stakeholders.

***** Action Item*****Paul to make contacts to large industrial companies to reach out for donations

Bylaw discussion – After a brief review, some of the changes agreed upon were changing names to positions in order to curtail future updates, and changing the roster to an appendix for the same reason, and adding page numbers for easier review in the future. In the interest of maximizing the use of everyone’s time, ***** Action Item*****the current bylaws will be sent to each member electronically and ***** Action Item*****each member will respond with any changes they recommend. ***** Action Item*****The committee will then review and vote on the updates at the next meeting.

Dave Pastrick made a motion to add Rachel Greenwood as an active member in the transportation role of the LEPC, Bob Walker seconded, all in favor; motion passed.

INDOT report was given by Rachel Greenwood. I-94 (Borman) rolling shoulder discussions still going on. Dave Pastrick suggested a High Occupancy Vehicle lane for left lane and leave the Right lane for emergency vehicles.

There are discussions about turning US 30 into an interstate.

A suggestion was made LEPC should have a better communication ability during events. Discussion continued about the best way to get notified and keep in contact with each other

BP planning a drill for November 3rd, planning is currently in concept phase – 2023 will be the triannual oil spill response.

Porter County EMA doing 300/400 still looking for bodies. IMT training is still needed as well.

A motion was made by John Huppert to adjourn, Bill Missal seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 10:02 AM