

# **MINUTES OF THE LAKE COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE, February 28, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05

**Members in attendance:** Robert Walker, Paul Petrie (virtually), Bill Missal, Rose Ristovski, John Huppert, Kevin Nowaczyk, Daniel Sullivan, David Pastrick, Rachel Wilkinson (virtually), Rachel Greenwood

**Guests in attendance:** Jerry Montgomery, Chris Meyer, Brent Smart, Peggy Grant, David Weisz

Pledge was recited.

Introductions were made.

Minutes were reviewed, and Bill Missal made a motion to accept, seconded by John Huppert, with no discussion; the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

## **Treasurer's Report –**

No receipts or expenditures for the month of January. The account balance remains at \$51,188.

Robert Walker made the motion to accept, seconded by Bill Missal, with no discussion, the vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

John Huppert shared the financial report for 2022.

## **Bylaw review –**

Policy Number 2 – “All news releases shall be disseminated by the Chair”. It has been recommended to assign a PIO and turn over all news releases to the PIO; if the PIO is unavailable, the responsibility will fall back on the Chairman, followed by the Vice-Chair.

Policy Number 11 – the LEPC excellence Award – Niemeyer-Quinn Award. It has been recommended that policy number 11 be rescinded due to the award not being given for several years. Bill Missal motioned to rescind the LEPC Excellence award, seconded by Mr. Pastrick. After discussion, it was decided to amend the motion to include forming a committee to review the award's criteria and reinstate it later. A vote was called for and was unanimous, and the motion passed.

## **Correspondence –**

Several Tier II reports and contingency plans were received. Rachel Wilkinson has resigned as the Treasurer of the LEPC effective February 28, 2023, due to moving to Florida. Accolades were voiced by everyone thanking Rachel for her contributions to the Lake County LEPC as well as EMA and the Lake County Fire Chief's Association. Kevin Nowaczyk accepted her resignation.

**HEPC** – Hospital numbers drop both in COVID and Flu. The District 1 Healthcare Coalition is planning a full-scale exercise for all the hospitals and other stakeholders in June; the exact date has not been set. This exercise will be a radiological event involving a patient surge.

**HazMat** – Responded to a fire in Lowell and deployed containment and absorbent boom to mitigate any contaminants from entering the creek. Bill will attend the March 2 planning meeting at the Indiana Welcome Center for Leons’ Triathlon. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the team and the CERT team at Crown Point High School will attend the volunteer fair. The team has picked up three more Technicians so far. Bill attended a flammable liquids class held by Mark Allen. Bill is working throughout the County to touch every fire department with HazMat training. The Region 5 tabletop will be held at the Indiana Welcome Center; the next planning meeting is on April 11<sup>th</sup> at the EMA office. Bill and John are working on a plan to address railroad incidents in the County. There have been 3 HazMat responses since January 1.

**HEALTH** – No report

**CORONER** – No formal report, the reports for 2022 are not entirely compiled; it will probably be another week. When completed, Mr. Pastrick will be personally sharing the stats with first responders.

**ARC** – February ARC had ten cases with eight responses to assist families providing financial assistance and some case recovery work. As of March 1, the immediate assistance amount will be going up. The ARC partners with the Gary and Hobart Fire Departments for smoke alarm installations. They also have partnered with Lake County EMA to assist in this program. The ARC has installed over 2.5 million smoke alarms since 2014. The organization has trained five individuals here in Lake County on hands-only CPR

**INDOT** – There will be a Northwest Indiana Traffic Incident Management coalition meeting at the Borman TMC on Thursday and, on March 7<sup>th</sup>, the four-hour TIM class at the Borman. There are four seats available.

**New Business** – With Rachel resigning, we will do an election for Treasurer next month. BP’s triannual drill will be conducted on Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Rachel Greenwood motioned to adjourn, seconded by John Huppert, with no discussion; the vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned 9:52

---

Kevin Nowaczyk, Chair

---

Paul Petrie, Secretary