

## Niagara County LEPC Minutes

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Public Safety Training Facility – Lockport, NY

### **Call to Order**

Tim Balunis began the meeting by leading the pledge to the flag at 9:01 am, followed with reading of the mission statement. A motion was made from Richard Kennerson to accept the February 8, 2023 meeting minutes and second by Mike Emery. All present approved, motion carried.

### **Presentation**

None

### **Notifications and Updates**

Sandra Miller – Avantor. Recently had their walk through with fire dept. and Haz-Mat team for safety preparations. Planning a drill for this fall.

Sal D'Angelo – Niacet. Recently redid site security plan with CFATS and anticipate a site visit next spring.

Catrina Gray – 107th. Provided brochure of 107<sup>th</sup> capabilities. If support is needed, contact Niagara County Emergency Manager Jonathan Schultz to coordinate support. Can also provide manpower if requested.

Richard Kennerson – NFARS fire dept. Currently updating Mutual Aid agreements. If requesting mutual aid for foam, Aid agreement must have very clear definition of why foam is needed. Rumor is there are some conversations about possible airshow in 2024.

Mike Serach – NFARS 914th. On April 18<sup>th</sup> base will be doing an active shooter exercise.

Michael Emery – DEC. NYS has a burn ban in effect until May 14<sup>th</sup> to minimize risk of grass and forest fires.

Rick Ziff – Goodyear. Currently doing an internal safety audit with the beginning of June to be certified.

Maralyn Militello – Eastern Niagara Hospital. Hospital will be closing on June 17<sup>th</sup>. ENH will not be taking any inpatients starting June 10th and the ER closes at 9am on 6/17.

Katherine Peet – Coast Guard. Port Security Grant Program is live on grants.gov. Top 2 priorities are enhancing cyber security and enhancing the protection of soft targets or crowded places.

For the 2024 eclipse, not actively planning yet. Currently seeing what local planning efforts as well as other counties and states.

Marc Gschwend – National Grid. During winter storms, customers were left without power due to some substations icing over. National Grid performed an After Action Review and found one item was having trouble even getting to the substations to deice the transformers. Will be coordinating with Jon Schultz and Niagara County for a plan going forward for snow removal.

Dylan Delgado – NCDOH. He is the new disability specialist at NCDOH. He is reviewing disaster plans to make sure they are inclusive to people with disabilities.

Tracy Fricano Chalmers – NCDOH. COVID is not over, funding is still focused on COVID activities. Providing air purifier units and PPE to private and charter schools. Daycare agencies or any agency that serves children up through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible. Mobile RV unit production is done. 38 foot mobile unit that has 2 exam rooms and education area. Already receiving requests for mobile unit. Will be at fairs and festivals throughout the county.

Tim Kornacki – Kaleida Health. Degraff Medical Park will be hosting the NHL scouting combine on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Also planning a mass casualty tabletop at Buffalo General, date TBD.

Rob Meyer – Olin Corp. On October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, Olin will be holding a product safety handling seminar at their Niagara Falls plants, covering chemical properties, safety handling, transportation and equipment of commodities they manufacture. Day 1 will cover liquid products, day 2 will focus on chlorine. Will be open to customers and first responders. More info to come.

Megan Peine – NYS DHSES OEM. Solar Eclipse task force currently centered in Albany. 6 sub-committees under 2 sides, public safety and education. Will break out to regional committees to support task force. Estimating up to 1 million people to see the eclipse in WNY. Working with states of Ohio and Pennsylvania as well as fellow states who had the eclipse in 2017. Working with school districts to ask if they will close due to eclipse occurring between 2:50pm and 4:50pm in NYS. Their office has been working in support of Niagara County Emergency Services and Customs and Border Protection with tabletops in the fall, focusing on Haz-Mat incidents at the Rainbow and the Queenston/Lewiston bridges. Planning recovery tabletops for this fall.

David Godfrey – Niagara County Legislature. Would like to thank everyone, on behalf of the county, for the work they do for the community by participating on this committee.

Mark Banks – Tonawanda Fire Dept. City had a 2 alarm fire that had Halloween costumes. Took many calls asking if there was conspiracy against costumes due to recent fire in Buffalo.

Mike Seibel – RACES. They have been unable to meet due to COVID. Still active on radio every Sunday, running repeater tests. Hoping to meet in person in a month or 2.

### **Report of the Chairperson**

None

### **Report of the Emergency Manager** Jonathan Schultz

The county Hazard Mitigation Plan has been accepted by FEMA and the state. Every 6 months, will be meeting with the key stakeholders with updates. Plan is now all digital, no longer need to print for FEMA and state. Utilized UB to review plan in depth and help update the plan.

On 3/31, Haz-Mat responded to an organic peroxide incident at Nouryon. Local fire departments responding did an amazing job. Agencies involved were EPA, DEC, Coast Guard, OSHA. Can't say much more at this time due ongoing investigation. Would like to do a presentation in the future once investigation is complete.

Just completed GRP update with the DEC. This follows train lines across county, ½ mile on each side of tracks and what type of effects can occur if the trains go down. GRP is in final printing, hope to be able to share at next meeting. State is looking to complete across the entire state.

Have a lot of Active Shooter planning occurring. Working with NU to set up a large scale event either in fall or next spring for leadership and possibly students. Working with the schools with their plans and first responders for training and response.

Starting in June, the plan is for our office will be operating 2 ambulances, 12 hours a day, 7 days a week at the paramedic level. This service is not replacing anybody, main focus is to supplement rural areas.

### **Report of the Vice Chair**

None

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

None

### **Good of the Order**

None

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 am. Next meeting will be on June 14, 2023.

**Attendance:**

Tim Balunis	Mark Banks
Jillian Brown	Sal D'Angelo
Dylan Delgado	Michael Emery
Tracy Fricano Chalmers	David Godfrey
Katie Godlove	Catrina Gray
Marc Gschwend	Jodi Hamernik
Ryan Hejmanowski	Kevin Hodgson
Zach Housmann	Richard Kennerson
Tim Kornacki	Tom Liptak
Peter Maybee	Rob Meyer
Maralyn Militello	Sandra Miller
Laura Ortiz	Katherine Peet
Megan Peine	William Perry
Jonathan Schultz	Michael Seibel
Mike Serach	Christina Shotell
James Sutor	Jason Tolsma
Bob Wojcik	Rick Ziff
Chris Banach - Excused	Laura Dewey – Excused
Walt Garrow - Excused	Brian Law – Excused
Harry Meyer - Excused	Kathy Moguel – Excused
Greg Moslow - Excused	Joe Pedulla – Excused
Lynn Sigeti - Excused	Joseph Sikora - Excused
Dan Skelly - Excused	