

Niagara County LEPC Minutes

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Niagara Falls Water Board- Niagara Falls, NY

Call to Order

Tim Balunis began the meeting at 9:10am by reading the mission statement, followed by introductions around the room and those joining remotely and a thank you to Sean Costello for the use of the NFWB Conference room for the meeting. A motion was made from Walt Garrow to accept the October 11th, 2023 meeting minutes, motion was seconded by Mike Seibel. All present approved, motion carried.

Presentation

None

Notifications and Updates

Kevin Hodgson- NC Haz-Mat. Asks 107th Emergency Management about lead time to have emergency management related equipment funded to help Niagara County brought to a meeting for a demonstration. Sgt. Catrina Gray responded that it depends on when, where, and what equipment but it could be done. Francisco Mezo-Aguero offers help from the Health Department to move equipment if needed. Secondly, brought Monroe County's LEPC bylaws and asked for volunteers to review Monroe County's and Niagara County's bylaws to see if there is anything in ours that could be updated, added or removed to ensure that it is up to date. Sandra Miller, Sgt. Catrina Gray, and Walt Garrow volunteered to review bylaws. Tim Balunis recommended having this completed before the solar eclipse on April 8th, 2024.

William Perry- NCES. Will be moving to work with the EMS division in the NC Emergency Services office. Chelsea Collett will be taking over for his work on taking meeting minutes.

Sean Costello- NFWB. Reminder about the tour offered of the Water Board, including the gaseous Chlorine cylinders that in a worst case scenario impacts surrounding neighborhoods. A number of water Board employees participated in Olin's Chemical Handling Seminar, which was excellent and they picked up a number of helpful resources. NFWB also had Active Shooter training with Captain Huff and the NCSO. Niagara Falls Fire Department also gave CPR, AED and fire extinguisher training to the Waste Water plant.

Sal D'Angelo- NIACET. 2024 is the Centennial year for NIACET. Kerry Company bought NIACET two years ago and they are transitioning from a 200 person company to a 26,000 person company.

Mark Banks- Tonawanda Fire Dept.- Thanks 107th for loan of LRAD last year when the weather turned bad and they had to clear a school campus in an hour.

Sandra Miller- Avantor. Had Haz-Mat drill with NC Haz-Mat, Air Base Haz-Mat and Berholz Fire Dept. in October. Training went well with a round table after to identify gaps. Also had Active Shooter training with Captain Huff and NCSO.

Robert Meyer- Olin Corp. Olin is having final CAP meeting of 2023 tonight, Wednesday, December 13th.

Mike Emery- DEC. DEC and EPA have completed about 25% of flights for radiation between Niagara and Erie Counties, due to weather conditions impacting results. Project will continue in 2024 when weather conditions improve.

Robert Poczalski-DEC. Deputy for Mike Emery, may fill in for him as needed at meetings.

Francisco Meza Aguero- NC Dept. of Health. The department completed their public health emergency development exercise at the Doris Jones Family Center in Niagara Falls at the end of November. The objective of the exercise is to prepare Health Department workers to be able to take care of all of those who may need additional accommodations, ie. Vision, hearing, mobility issues, when they do their Mass Vaccination Pods. Also to be able to help those who do not speak English as a native language. The NC Health Dept. submitted an application to National Association of County and City Health Officials on behalf of the Medical Reserve Corp, a group of volunteers who help the Health Department with their vaccination pods, to promote training classes to the county. These trainings are posted on the Niagara County Health Department website.

Mike Serach- 914th Emergency Management. Will be having their second active shooter exercise at the base on December 20th around 9:00am and to be aware if you are in the area or monitoring radio that it is only a drill.

Bridgette Baldwin- USCG. Updates on the upcoming solar eclipse. There will be an influx of visitors to the area, and if the weather is nice there could be a lot of people on the water. The Coast Guard Emergency Management is pushing fliers about boater and maritime safety. Brian Roche says that people coming into the county/area to watch could be stopping wherever they are driving to watch, possible reports of people timing the eclipse so they can stop at the top of the bridges to watch it. Then a mass exodus of people following the trail to the next place of totality. Sector Buffalo has been renamed to Sector Eastern Great Lakes

Mark Banks-Tonawanda Fire Dept.- In regards to the eclipse, having employers have as many employees as possible work from home because of possible traffic issues. Rob Meyer mentions about possible changing shift start/end times because of possible traffic. Mike continues with possible pre placement of emergency services vehicles to reduce driving in the traffic resulting from the eclipse. Williams Perry mentions that at a previous meeting Jonathan Schultz found that during a previous total solar eclipse that traffic has been gridlocked for up to 18 hours after the eclipse is over.

Marc Gschwend-National Grid. Offered use of Live Line Demo Trailer for training/safety demonstrations. It shows how a grid works and how it could be affected in certain situations, such as a motor vehicle accident.

Kathy Moguel- Durez. Durez has put in a shelter in place program for employees and communicated this with their neighbors and updated their PA system.

Report of the Chairperson

None

Report of the Emergency Manager

None

Report of the Vice Chair

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Good of the Order

None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:14am. Next meeting will be on February 14, 2024. Location will be at Niagara County PSTF, 5574 Niagara Street Ext. Lockport, NY.

Attendance:

Bridgette Baldwin	Tim Balunis
Mark Banks	Tim Bathory
Chelsea Collett	Vincenza Costanzo
Sean Costello	Sal D’Angelo
Clayton Dimmick	Mike Emery
Walt Garrow	Katie Godlove
Catrina Gray	Marc Gschwend
Jill Himes-ZOOM	Kevin Hodgson
Emily Hughlett	Gregory Kulka-ZOOM
Tom Liptak	Matt Martin-ZOOM
Rob Meyer	Francisco Meza Aguero
Sandra Miller	Kathy Moguel
Brian Roche	William Perry
Robert Poczalski	Leslie Schweiger
Mike Seibel-ZOOM	Mark Serach
Lauren Serencsics	
David Godfrey-Excused	Peter Maybee-Excused
Harry Meyer-Excused	Joseph Sikora-Excused
Bob Wojcik-Excused	