

Niagara County LEPC Minutes

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Public Safety Training Facility – Lockport, NY

Call to Order

Tim Balunis began the meeting by leading the pledge to the flag at 9:09 am, followed with reading of the mission statement. A motion was made from David Godfrey to accept the June 14, 2023 meeting minute. All present approved, motion carried.

Presentation

None

Notifications and Updates

Sal D'Angelo – Niacet. Concern that Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) was not reauthorized by Congress and ended approx. July 28th. The CFATS site is down with no inspections and no mention in the news about this. Asked if LEPC may want to contact a congressman to see why ended. Concern for all the chemical facilities in Niagara County that are impacted. It was noted that there is anticipation that Congress will reauthorize the program once they reconvene on the 5th. Program was caught up in politics. Further discussion among group states companies to keep protocols in place, maintain what you are doing. New hires will still need to be vetted once program is up and running again.

Walt Garrow – CHMM. Lake Ontario Ordinance Works approved for \$40 million for 1st phase of cleanup. Phase 1 is to remediate ground contamination and surface water contamination on site. There will be a public information session in February 2024. Summer of 2024 will begin cleanup and to be completed by Fall 2024. Total program was originally believed to cost \$200 million but has ballooned to \$500 million. End goal is for site to be ready for industrial use. May want to plan and be ready for the shipment of radioactive materials.

David Godfrey – Niagara County Legislator. Recently attended Senator Gillibrand's First Responders Summit in Washington. Will send info to Bill Perry to be forwarded to the LEPC group.

Dave Mack – Airbase is planning an on-base aircraft accident exercise, hopefully in the next month or 2.

Mike Spencer – DHS. For facilities lacking drills or exercises, strongly suggest participating in annual drills and exercises. DC is pushing hard to ensure that with your Emergency Action Plan or Emergency First Response Plan, facilities participate in the free activities that are available to show that you are putting in the effort in knowing what to do in case of an emergency.

Mark Banks – Tonawanda Fire Dept. Public thanks to the Air Reserve Fire Dept. for assistance during canalfest and use of LRAD system. Was used to clear area within a half hour on Thursday night when storms arrived. City is still working on completing FEMA's request for storm damage from the blizzard.

Ken Moore – NYPA. Hosted active shooter drill last Wednesday, August 2nd. Ran 2 different scenarios, 1 in the public area of the power vista, other in an employee only building. Multiple agencies involved, including NCSO, Lewiston PD, Town of Niagara PD, Niagara Falls PD, Boarder Patrol, and Coast Guard as an observer. After shooter drill, did role playing of victims as well as multiple EMS agencies. Question was asked how often drill is done, response was every 2 years.

Harry Meyer – retired. In the past, the Health Dept would be at these meetings and would be nice to have them so LEPC can ask questions if they have any. Tis a new tick born disease that may be making its way north. Concern that there are more instances that bugs are creating a bigger problem in communities. Harry will send Bill Perry a National Geographic article to share with LEPC regarding the Lone Star tick. Causes people to have a reaction with eating meat.

Mike Emery – DEC. As part of the NYS Climate Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the state hired a contractor to drive to certain dis-advantage areas in NYS (Niagara Falls, City of Buffalo, Tonawanda) to collect data on air pollutants. The monitoring has been completed but still processing all the data collected. Tonight at 5:30pm, there is a public presentation of the findings.

Report of the Chairperson

None

Report of the Emergency Manager

None

Report of the Vice Chair

None

Old Business

Walt Garrow – Rail safety, look into for a tabletop or presentation from CXS on the new safety features in the future.

New Business

Walt Garrow – Lions Club in Wheatfield, 6535 Ward Road can be made available if a backup/offsite location is needed. Tim Balunis suggested possibly holding next meeting at Lions Club to get familiar with alternate site. Question was asked if there is a backup EOC. Airbase does have an EOC and the Sheriff's Office does have a mobile command unit. Tim Baluis will follow up with Jonathan Schultz on county plan for backup.

Good of the Order

None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 am. Next meeting will be on October 11, 2023.

Attendance:

Tim Balunis	Chris Banach
Mark Banks	Sean Costello
Sal D'Angelo	Michael Emery
Jacqueline Gambale	Walt Garrow
David Godfrey	Emily Hughlett
Tom Liptak	Dave Mack
Harry Meyer	Rob Meyer
Kenneth Moore	Sandra Miller
Joe Pedulla	William Perry
Mike Seibel	Lauren Serencsics
Joseph Sikora	Ryan Sinatra
Michael Spencer	Bob Wojcik
Clayton Dimmick - Excused	Kevin Hodgson – Excused
Gregory Kulka - Excused	Brian Law – Excused
Kathy Moguel – Excused	