

# **DeKalb County Illinois, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Minutes of General Meeting 2005-01-17**

## **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 18:42 CST by Frank Beierlotzer, LEPC Chair, in the conference room of the DeKalb County Highway Department, 1826 Barber Greene Road, DeKalb IL.

## **Roll Call:**

Five members were present at the start of the meeting:

Frank Beierlotzer	Law Enforcement, LEPC Chair
Don Englum	Regulated Facility
George Greene	Community: Red Cross, LEPC Secretary/Treasurer
Barry Leonard	Local Government: ESDA, LEPC Information Coordinator
Jim Quinn	Transportation

In addition, Captain Joe Jones of the DeKalb Fire Department was present in lieu of member Scott Love of that agency; and a guest, Scott Mooberry of Northern Illinois University's Environmental Health and Safety Department, also attended.

Since six of the eleven groups were not represented in attendance, the meeting did not have a quorum.

## **Secretary/Treasurer Report**

Greene, Secretary/Treasurer, reported that no funds were received or spent since the last meeting. The LEPC treasury balance remains at \$0.

The minutes of the 2004-10-18 meeting were distributed. The consensus of the members present was that they correctly reflected the business of that meeting, and no amendments thereto were proposed.

Greene proposed that all minutes of the LEPC's plenary meetings be posted as PDF files on the LEPC website. They will be available as hyperlinks from the corresponding dates in the meeting calendar on that site. Those that have not been approved will be indicated as such in the document header. The members present approved that plan without dissent.

## **Chair Report**

On 2005-01-14, Beierlotzer sent an e-mail message to Paul Rasch, our representative in IEMA. This message detailed Beierlotzer's goals for the LEPC in 2005. His higher priority goals include:

- Encouraging all current reporting facilities to report electronically
- Getting local fire departments to desire electronic reporting
- Getting local fire departments interested in use of CAMEO
- Stock the LEPC office with office supplies and equipment
- Obtain a laptop computer for the LEPC for training, emergency response, and exercises

Beierlotzer also listed a number of specific questions, especially related to obtaining state and federal funds. We need to invest in supplies and equipment to do our job. At the moment, we have no way for him even to get reimbursement for stamps he used to send out notices.

Discussion of the message included the comment from Leonard that though the LEPC has been pushing CAMEO and electronic reporting, few of the LEPC members are familiar with either. We need to get more of our people training in the use of CAMEO, especially. In case of an emergency, he may be too occupied with ESDA business to assist in its use.

Beierlotzer indicated that the list he provided was only intended to represent his personal goals for the LEPC, and that the organization should expand on what he wrote to represent other members' concerns and interests.

Jones added that not all firefighters in the county, and in particular few of the volunteers, have had Hazmat awareness training. Since that training is a prerequisite for using CAMEO, a first goal should be to get more firefighters to take that training (an eight-hour course).

### **Conferences and Training**

There was some discussion of the training session as an introduction to LEPC activities, which we held on 2005-01-12. Our guest, Mooberry, was present at that session; he has requested of his supervisors at NIU that he become an LEPC member as a result of this exposure to us. That request is pending. It was considered a successful session, and those at this meeting who attended the training considered it well planned and informative. Scott felt the introductory videotape was a good introduction for him to the work of an LEPC. Attendance was not as large as was hoped, however.

We will be looking at the program for Winnebago County's annual conference in Rockford to see if, unlike last year, there is sufficient LEPC-related material to warrant our attending it.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Roundtable**

Greene stated that because of the lead times required for training, we need to get notices out to members between our quarterly meetings. This information can be sent to members via e-mail, and where feasible, included on our website.

Scott asked if there are any statewide LEPC conferences. Leonard replied that a few years ago there were such conferences, but not recently. Part of the reason for this is that IEMA no longer has staff devoted to supporting LEPCs.

Jones raised the question of whether the LEPC should promote a Spiller-Pay plan for the county similar to that in effect in DeKalb City. Under that plan, a carrier would be financially responsible for the cost incurred by local agencies in cleaning up a chemical spill from transient vehicles (road and rail). Beierlotzer thought there was a state law to that effect, but doesn't know details. Reimbursement is possible when the spill results in state activation, but the issue here is with local events. As Leonard pointed out, since the DeKalb City Fire Department is often involved throughout the country because it has training and equipment, the result is higher taxes or reduction of services for citizens of the City. Nevertheless, as Jones pointed out, many carriers have reclamation teams on call to do that work.

Scott asked if we have applied for state or federal funds. Leonard replies that we have, but this is tied up with the issue of not-for-profit status for the LEPC. Beierlotzer indicated that he has held off on applying for such status, pending a reading from state officials on how we should proceed; he had intended to survey LEPCs at the CEPP conference on that question, but he could not attend.

The next regular LEPC meeting will be held 2005-04-18 at 18:30 in the usual conference room. Meeting was adjourned at 20:07 CST.

**Respectfully submitted,**

(signed)

**George Greene,**

**LEPC Secretary/Treasurer**