



**HAMILTON COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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MEETING MINUTES

LEPC Meeting Minutes, September 9, 2009

A meeting of the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held on September 9, 2009 at Wally's Restaurant, 6521 Ringgold Rd., East Ridge, TN. The following constitutes the minutes of that meeting.

Those in attendance were:

Bruce Garner, CFD, **Chairman**
Wayne Stuntz, HCES, **Secretary**
John Piotter, Environ. Waste Svcs (**V/Chair**)
Larry Martin, McKee Foods (**V/Chair**)
Ray Burden, Univ. of TN Extension
John Moorshead, DPC Enterprises
Robert McCain, Chatt. Gas
Connie Morin, SEI, Inc.
Roger Redmond, SEI, Inc.
Charles Burton, Grace Engineering
Jason Malone, Nu Foam Products
Chris McCormack, SRT Safety
Michael Poe, SOFIX Corp.

David Gilbert, Clean Harbors
Mike Flynn, East Ridge Fire
Bob Watson, ADM
Paul Pilgrim, Clean Harbors
Nathan Warren, Highway Trans. Chem.
Tim Hoback, NA Industries
Mike James, MEI
Nathan Hollingsworth, NA Industries
Indu Thaker, Hamilton Co.
Don Green, City Water Quality
Susan Holmes, TN Amer. Water
Mark Zinnanti, TN Amer. Water
Dusty Rominger, W.R. Grace

Introductory Remarks: Chairman Garner began by welcoming all in attendance and asked for personal introductions. Chairman Garner then asked if there was anyone in attendance who wished to become an LEPC member. There were none.

Old Business

Approval of Minutes for Last Meeting

Chairman Garner asked for a motion to approve the LEPC Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2009. Motion to approve made by Chief, Bill Tittle, seconded by. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Financial Report:

Secretary Wayne Stuntz read the LEPC Financial Report, covering the period July 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009. The current balance is: \$13,057.07. Mr. Stuntz said the LEPCs \$15,000 Bank of America CD has accumulated \$534.54 interest. Chairman Garner asked for a motion to approve the financial report as read. Motion made by Mr. Indu Thaker, seconded by Mr. Mike Poe. Motion carried.

New Business:

Unscheduled: Update on the H1N1 Flu Virus – Ms. Dawn Ford

Chairman Garner introduced Ms. Dawn Ford, with the Chattanooga-Hamilton Health Department who gave a very informative update on the Swine Flu (H1N1) virus. Dawn also passed out two handouts: “Novel H1N1 Flu Fact Sheet” and “Tennessee Web Immunization System” Salient points of Ms. Ford’s update were:

- Swine Flu prevalent but cases seem mild—press release in Times Free Press.
- Swine flu is a combination of bird flu, swine flu, and human influenza viruses
- It continued to circulate through the summer which is unusual.
- Virus was determined to be a pandemic in June of this year.
- Symptoms similar to regular flu—difference is some gastrointestinal symptoms.
- There is a separate seasonal flu vaccine and they will be a separate H1N1 flu vaccine—most likely to be administered in two doses.
- Seasonal flu vaccine is currently on going
- There is an nasal version and an injection version of the H1N1. After first dose, must get the second dose in three weeks—that it is imperative that you follow up with the second dose, otherwise you will not be protected.
- Health Department is recommending that people to get their seasonal flu vaccines now. Vaccine for H1N1 is expected around mid-October and will be dedicated to “priority” groups which are different from seasonal flu priority groups—because it is affecting different groups of people.
- With seasonal flu, typically infants can get ill from it and those over 65 years of age—therefore those groups are encouraged to get a seasonal flu vaccine. With H1N1 there is a high attack rate with children. Absenteeism in some Hamilton County schools is upwards of 35%, although no schools have closed yet.
- Priority groups for H1N1 are: Pregnant women, children, and those with chronic, underlying medical conditions (like diabetes and asthma).
- Persons 65 years and older are not in the first target groups—partly because some over 65 have built up an immunity to it. Therefore, it is important to target those groups that get sick more than other groups.

- Prevention is the key: washing hands, covering coughs, staying home if you exhibit flu like symptoms—Health Care providers, from the onset of symptoms must stay home seven (7) days. For others, it is 24 hours after the fever goes away (w/o fever reducing medication).
- Even though the swine flu is mild, it is very wide spread. Advise; have back up plans for your organization/workforce, etc.
- Referencing a handout, Ms. Ford said that any Tennessee provider can sign up to receive the H1N1 vaccine—which includes retail pharmacies, your Doctor’s office and business that have clinics. Since the vaccine has been Federalized, the only way a
- Provider can get the vaccine is to sign up on the “Tennessee Web Immunization System (TWIS) website and complete the On-line Registration Request.
- Dawn also said that more information can be learned by calling the Flu Hot Line at (423) 209-8393.

Following Ms. Ford’s update on the Swine Flu (H1N1) virus, a very pertinent “question and answer” period followed. Chief Tittle added his comments saying:

- Hamilton County has had a Bio-Terrorism Committee since prior to 911—driven by the Health Department, three major hospital groups, and other health providers that have been meeting routinely since prior to 911 attack.
- The focus is now on the Flu issue with a lot of behind-the-scenes work being done to be prepared for it.
- He said that mass care clinics could happen as the information pertaining to H1N1 is constantly changing.
That there also an effort on-going to manage the local news—where doctors, hospitals and the health department all speak with one voice—the same message.

Chairman Garner, before introducing our guest speaker, provided the committee with a quick recap of events that led up to the partnership with the LEPC and the 911 Board.

- He said it started with the LEPC exercise in April 2008 that tested public notification procedures.
- This test identified potential weaknesses in the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and the Rapid Public Notification System (RPNS), commonly referred to as “Reverse 911”.
- As a result, a decision was made to upgrade the existing RPNS system by not relying solely on land lines—indicating the trend now is to disconnect landlines and switch to cell phones, blackberries, and I-phone, usage only.
- He said the end result was a web-based system, operated by a vendor that would set up a website which would be highly publicized, and urge the public to: on a voluntary basis, access the website and comply by filling in

the required information, including their cell phone, blackberries numbers, etc. to be notified in case of an emergency.

- Bruce said that in this partnership, the LEPC agreed to put up about \$7,500 (voted on during the March 11, 2009 LEPC meeting) for the initial contract with 21st Century and the County agreed to support the annual maintenance fee.

PROGRAM:

Update of the LEPC/911 Board project to upgrade the Rapid Public Notification System –Chief Bill Tittle

Bruce then introduced Chief Bill Tittle with Hamilton County Emergency Services, who then gave an update on the LEPC/911 Board Rapid Public Notification System (RPNS) partnership.

Chief Tittle began by saying that the original company Hamilton County contracted with (21st Century Communication) is the same company that will be used to upgrade the Hamilton County 911 RPNS system—which will include cell phone notification. Chief Tittle went on to say:

- 21st Century Communications can deliver hundreds of thousands of calls in a hurry with their 2000 phone lines. He said that system can be accessed quickly to deliver emergency messages to a disaster/potential disaster area in a hurry—about 6,000 calls per minute.
- When the system was bought about 5-6 years ago, it was strictly for land line usage. He said with landline phone usage declining and cell phones usage on the increase—upgrading the system to include cell phones was a good idea and something that needed to be done.
- Chief Tittle said the existing Hamilton County website is already up and running to record cell phone numbers—you can register by accessing the web site at: hamiltontn.gov/911Reversecall/ (later revised to be: <http://www.hamiltontn.gov/AlertHamiltonCounty>)
- Chief Tittle said that the County Mayor, Police Chief, Fire Chief and others will be making public service announcements and there will be a media blitz to encourage the public to register their cell phones blackberries, etc.
- A question and answer period ensued.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman Positions:

September being LEPC Officer Election month, a poll was taken to determine if a quorum existed to conduct the voting process. Having met the quota, Mr. Dusty Rominger of the Nominating Committee informed voting members that only one person from a member organization/company would be allowed to cast a vote.

Before the voting process began, Dusty told members that Chief Tittle (V/Chair nominee) was stepping down and voting members were asked to replace Chief Tittle's name with Mr. Mike Poe with Sofix Corporation.

Dusty handed out the ballots to those in attendance that were eligible to vote. The ballots were then collected and the results were as follows:

- Chairperson – Larry Martin, McKee Foods
- Vice Chair – Bruce Garner, Chattanooga Fire Dept.
- Vice Chair – Nathan Hollingsworth, NA Industries
- Vice Chair – John Leach, Hepaco
- Vice Chair – Chris McCormack, SRT Safety
- Vice Chair – Girish Patel, Akzonobel Chemical
- Vice Chair – John Bennett, JIT Terminal Inc.
- Vice Chair – Michael Poe, Sofix Corporation.

Other Business:

Ms. Dawn Ford said she was asked by the InfraGard President to pass on a handout to members that further define the FBI program. Handout was passed to attending members.

Newly elected LEPC Chairman, Mr. Larry Martin, offered the following closing remarks: He said that outgoing Chairman Bruce Garner has done a great job for the Committee, is very knowledgeable, has a lot of contacts and he hoped to use his expertise in the coming year.

Date and Location of Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2009, 10:30 a.m. at Wally's Restaurant, 6521 Ringgold Rd, East Ridge, Tennessee.

Meeting Adjourned

S/s
Respectfully Submitted,
LEPC Secretary, Wayne Stuntz