
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Regular Committee Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2006
Harrigan Centennial Hall

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Scott Elmer called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

B. ROLL CALL

Present:	Fire Chief Scott Elmer	Dr. J. Russell Bowman
	Ms. Kathy Ingallinera	Lt. Barry Allen
	Mr. Cle Wade	Dr. Myron Fribush
	Dr. Elliot Bruhl	Mr. Ken Coffin
	Ms. Penny Lehmann	Ms. Julianne McGuinness
	Ms. Trish White	Dr. Leslie Wood

Others Present:	Mr. Frank Sutton	-	SEARHC Vice President for hospital services
	Mr. Rob Janik	-	EMS Captain
	Lt. DeGroot	-	Salvation Army

Absent:	Mr. Al Duncan Sr.	Mr. Nathan Young
	Ms. Trisha Miles-Diehl	Mr. Jay Badagliacca

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 9th, 2006 MEETING

MOTION: M/S Bowman/Bruhl moved to approve the minutes from the February 9th, 2006 meeting.

ACTION: Motion **PASSED** on a voice vote.

D. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Lt. Allen requested adding a discussion on emergency operations center management and operations plan.

Mr. Janik requested an opportunity to brief the Committee about the forthcoming Sitka Pandemic Flu Seminar.

Dr. Bruhl requested adding a discussion on the Emergency Operations Plan in case of a breach of the Blue Lake dam.

All three items were added under New Business

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA - None

F. COMMUNICATIONS - None

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Strategic National Stockpile

Dr. Bowman said that he sent a letter to Schools Superintendent Steve Bradshaw and received a positive response regarding storage of Strategic National Stockpile medicine and medical supplies when needed.

By unanimous consent, this item was pulled off from future agenda.

2. Japonski Island Transportation Annex Committee

The Chair said that he and Mr. Young are addressing this matter. By unanimous consent, this item was pulled off from future agenda.

3. Tsunami Evacuation Procedures Update – Public Information

The Chair told the members that they continue to pursue the State in coming up with new information for Sitka. He said that there are various online sources which provide tsunami-readiness information such as the State EMS, NOAA, National Weather Services, USGS, etc. He also stated that the State Department of Homeland Security and NOAA have started a bathymetric study of the Sitka area.

Dr. Bowman reported that he has contacted Sitka High School but didn't get any response from them. He added that they should get the City Administration involved in the project and should come up with a comprehensive design for a flyer with Sitka-specific information.

Ms. Ingallinera pointed out the need to have an emergency response plan for ferry and cruise ship passengers in the face of a tsunami-threat and other emergencies. She distributed to the members handouts that outline ferry or cruise ship emergency response overview for Juneau and vicinity.

Dr. Bruhl offered to check with cruise ship companies their emergency response and evacuation procedures.

4. Website for Emergency Management

The Chair said that developing the website is still in the works. Ms. McGuinness offered to get more information to be included in the website.

5. Mass Vaccination Plan

Ms. Lehmann stated that she has prepared the mass vaccination plan that includes job action sheets and maps, and templates that address specific questions. They are looking at other areas in case Blatchley Middle School is not available or not enough to accommodate everyone. She added that she needs help in proofreading the document for the next meeting.

Dr. Bruhl remarked that there is value in having in the plan a list of outreach groups who can help and go out to vulnerable groups.

6. Homeland Security Grant Program Report

Lt. Allen reported that they are now working on the upgrade of the dispatch system. He said that Sitka is slated by the State to be the alternate emergency center in case Juneau becomes inaccessible or non-operational.

7. Childcare Plan for Emergency Personnel

The Chair said that Police, Fire and EMS personnel have a plan in place to take care of their families in case of emergency. Dr. Bowman stressed the need for all emergency personnel to be aware of the procedure. Lt. Allen remarked that there could be no time to get the emergency personnel in place before the alarm goes off. He suggested a review of the emergency procedure.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Pandemic Flu Seminar

EMS Captain Janik briefed the Committee on the forthcoming Community Pandemic Flu Seminar scheduled on May 15-16, 2006 at the Harrigan Centennial Hall. He said the seminar is designed to inform emergency management, local businesses, non-profit organizations, community and tribal officials and other community members about the details of the pandemic flu threat and to share planning efforts at the State level. He distributed flyers and schedule of the seminar.

2. Emergency Operations Center Operations Plan

Lt. Allen explained the problems with the current site and need to review the Emergency Operations Center operations plan and to identify alternate sites.

By unanimous consent, this item will be included in the next meeting's agenda.

3. Blue Lake Dam Breach Emergency Plan

Dr. Bruhl raised his concern regarding the possibility of a breach of the Blue Lake Dam which he said is at the bottom of the hazards list in the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). He explained that there is no notification system in place, saying that the current procedure is the same procedure that was drawn after the pulp mill was shut down. The assumption is that no one is out there. But with the new development in the area, he pointed out the need to review the EOP to reflect what's going on.

Dr. Bowman remarked that they should look what other communities have done. He added that they can revisit the procedures again when the millsite is fully developed.

The Chair said that if indeed the number of people to be affected has changed, they may have to review the plan. However, a siren system for a dam breach is not yet a priority for the Fire Department's. Their funding priority is focused on improving the siren system in town where the population is concentrated.

By unanimous consent, this item will be included in the next meeting's agenda.

I. COMMISSION COMMENTS

The Chair informed the members about the success of the full-scale airport disaster drill initiated by the State DOT and participated in by the Fire Department, Police Department, SEARHC, Sitka Community Hospital, and some 60 volunteer students from Mt. Edgecumbe High School. He also briefly spoke about the conference on emergency operations procedure and financial management held in Ketchikan which was attended by Harbormaster Ray Majeski, Finance Director Dave Wolff, Police Chief Sheldon Schmitt, and himself.

Lt. Allen told the members that the United Methodist Church pastor wants to attend the LEPC meetings considering that their Church has been identified as an evacuation center. The Chair directed the

Secretary to invite the pastor for the next meeting.

J. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

Next meeting: August 10th, 2006, 12 Noon

Agenda items: Old Business –
1. Tsunami Evacuation Procedures Update – Public Information
2. Website for Emergency Management
3. Homeland Security Grant Program Report
4. Childcare Plan for Emergency Personnel
5. Emergency Operations Center
6. Blue Lake Dam Breach Emergency Plan

K. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

PREPARED BY:
Maria Finkenbinder
Contract Secretary