
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Regular Committee Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2021
via Zoom

A. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Warren called to order the February 11, 2021 meeting at 12:06 pm.

B. ROLL CALL – (Quorum established by at least one member present from four different categories.)

Present:

Category 1: Valerie Nelson, Assembly Liaison

Category 2: Fire Chief Craig Warren, LEPC Chair (SFD);

Category 3: Becky Meiers (KCAW)

Category 4: Mim McConnell; Amy Zanuzoski (Sitka Counseling)

Category 5: Scott Wagner (NSRAA); Trish White, LEPC Vice-Chair (White's Pharmacy)

Category 6: Mary Ann Hall (Retired Medical Technologist); Joel Hanson; Robert Hattle

Absent:

Category 2: George Bennett Jr (SEARHC); Robert Baty (SPD Chief); Shannon Freitas (SEARHC);
Al Stevens (Silver Bay Seafoods); vacancy; Lance Ewers, (SPD)

Category 3: vacancy, vacancy

Category 4: Justin Mullenix

Category 7: Jennifer Klejka, LEPC Coordinator (SFD)

Others Present: Paul Schmaus and Brenda Thayer, Sitka Red Cross.

C. APPROVAL of AGENDA: February 11, 2021

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting of October 8, 2020.

M-McConnell/S-Hall to approve the minutes of October 8, 2020.

Motion carried.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. **SHARK/ARES Report:** SHARK continues weekly exercises of their net. Work on building the mobile command post continues.
2. **Broadcast Communications Update:** The radio-to-go rebuild project continues with Coast Alaska. PSA's to inform the community about preparedness can be updated.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Pandemic Committee – none (COVID updates will be provided under Unfinished Business).
2. HazMat Report – none.
3. Public Information Officer (PIO) – none. Becky Meiers volunteered to serve as PIO.
4. Sitka Red Cross – Paul Schmaus introduced Brenda Thayer, a new volunteer with Sitka Red Cross. Her contact information was requested to be provided to the Fire Hall to provide to victims of fire or disaster if the need arises. Another new volunteer will also be joining the Sitka Red Cross. Schmaus reported there are new client assistance cards available to provide to victims. The Sitka Red Cross equipment is stored in a storage area at St Peter's By the Sea Episcopal Church.
5. Food Committee – none.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Coronavirus EOC updates

Chief Warren reported the Governor will not continue the declaration of emergency for the State, There have been discussions at the State level as to who has authority to declare emergency when the Legislature is in session. At the local level, the impact of State and Federal declarations on Sitka's Emergency Declaration are under review. The census at hospitals is declining. The statistics and logistics to date on local vaccinations were provided. The most current recommendations from CDC were reviewed.

Chief Warren requires all EMT's to wear N95 masks when dispatched to respond to calls. The current guidance for vaccinated individuals who come in contact with covid positive individuals was reviewed. Chief Warren explained differences between distribution of vaccination guidelines via the local pharmacy (must follow State allocation guidelines) and SEARHC (has ability to determine their own guidelines as an IHS facility).

Member Scott Wagner noted the importance of this information for local employers. He commended the work of the EOC and the assistance to local employers. He recently learned the local public health nurse is able to assist with vaccinations to residents and employees in remote locations.

Member Wagner emphasized the importance to local industries and employers of continuing to have LEPC meetings, even during the pandemic, as a way to share the most current information.

The current availability of testing for covid and efficacies of various tests were reviewed. The ability to report data on vaccinations is under development.

H. NEW BUSINESS: None.

I. COMMITTEE COMMENTS: Chief Warren anticipates the community will enter into Low Covid Risk and hopes with the expansion of vaccinations, the community will remain in that status. He would like to continue meeting monthly, and next month will plan to meet via zoom.

J. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA/DATE(S)

Regular Meeting Date: monthly on the 2nd Thursday at noon.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **March 11, 2021** at noon.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

M/S to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 12:55pm.