
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Regular Committee Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2021
via Zoom and in person, Harrigan Centennial Hall

A. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Warren called to order the April 8, 2021 meeting at 12:00 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 (LEPC PIO, KCAW)

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

Category 5: Trish White, LEPC Vice-Chair (White's Pharmacy)

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

Category 7: Jennifer Klejka, LEPC Coordinator (SFD)

Absent:

Category 2: George Bennett Jr (SEARHC); Shannon Freitas (SEARHC); Lance Ewers, (SPD);
Robert Baty (SPD Chief); Geraldine Laux (TSA)

Category 3: vacancy

Category 4: Justin Mullenix

Category 5: Scott Wagner (NSRAA)

Others Present: Brenda Thayer (Sitka Red Cross).

C. Welcome & Introductions:

Chief Warren introduced recently appointed LEPC member David Miller, appointed under Category 6. Dave provided some background information on his experience – as the former Sitka Fire Chief, he has previously presided over Sitka's LEPC & served on the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). Dave has recently volunteered and been appointed to serve as a member of the public on both Sitka's LEPC and SERC. LEPC members expressed how pleased they are to welcome Dave Miller back to LEPC in his new member category.

D. APPROVAL of AGENDA: April 8, 2021

There were no additions, deletions or objections to the agenda.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting of March 11, 2021.

M – McConnell /S – multiple members to approve the minutes of March 11, 2021.

Motion carried.

F. COMMUNICATIONS

1. **SHARK/ARES Report:** SHARK member Becky Meiers provided the report: The ham radio club has applied for and been approved to install a marine traffic AIS receiver at the Cable House. The club also applied for a flight radar 24 ADSB receiver, however, needs a ten line to install that. The AIS is the marine traffic vhf and is a freely accessible resource for mariners to assist in identifying vessels, simplify information exchange and improve situational awareness in the water, freely accessible to the public. This is a duplicative service to some satellite services that provide this information for those whom have satellite access. Since there is not currently an AIS receiver in Sitka, placing one at the Cable House will be a big benefit to the ocean-going community; it is expected to be installed in May.

2. **Broadcast Communications Update:** Meiers reported the radio-to-go rebuild project will continue when the engineer is able to work on the project; it was put on hold for the engineer to travel and respond to an emergency situation in Unalaska. This summer the signal strength for KCAW in Port Alexander will be improved.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. HazMat Report – Jenny Klejka, SFD LEPC Coordinator announced all Tier II reports have been submitted from Sitka entities mandated to report the on-hand quantities of various hazardous substances and materials. While Tier II information is available to Sitka Fire Department, LEPC and SERC, the information cannot be printed. LEPC members and the public are able to obtain reports through an official process outlined in the community right to know (CRTK) procedures. Jenny Klejka is the contact for additional information and confirmed there was nothing out of the ordinary reported this year, everything was standard in the Tier II reports for Sitka.
2. LEPC Public Information Officer (PIO) – Becky Meiers, PIO for LEPC, spoke recently with Chief Warren about LEPC post-covid communications work around Tsunami inundation. She will begin the process to draft messages and develop a process for public feedback on the messaging process. In May 2021 Meiers will begin research on tsunami and inundation messaging used by other municipalities, and welcomed members’ recommendations. Chief Warren recommended Crescent City, California and Connie, Oregon. Retired Chief Miller recommended Kodiak and Unalaska.
3. Sitka Red Cross – Brenda Thayer reported there have been no recent incidents in Sitka, so there is nothing further to report this month.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Coronavirus EOC updates

Chief Warren, Incident Commander (IC) for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), gave huge kudos to Harry Race/Whites Pharmacies, SEARHC Hospital and the public health nurse for making certain accurate information is provided to the public. There is a lag in the data reported on the State website, which is used to provide data on Sitka’s website. From the State’s Public Health website data as of April 7, 65.55% of Sitkans over the age of 16 have chosen to receive vaccinations. It was reported yesterday by Trish White that over 1400 people received vaccinations from White’s/Harry Race Pharmacies at the Fire Hall; and the bulk of immunizations in Sitka have been provided by SEARHC. Again, Chief Warren recognized both White’s/Harry Race Pharmacies and SEARHC in their efforts to inform the community with effective messaging on the vaccination options available and to provide access to vaccines.

A new color has been added to the code system: a green (chartreuse) will indicate a case rate of .21 or lower and will indicate a “back to normal” community status.

I. NEW BUSINESS: None

J. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

1. **Food Security** – Joel Hanson mentioned various City committees and groups that are tackling issues of food security in Sitka. The Health Needs and Human Services Commission passed a 2021 goal: “to research, assess and provide written recommendations to the Assembly around large-scale composting, community gardens and food security issues on an ongoing basis and provide a written report with recommendations by December 31 2021 to the Assembly.” The Planning Commission also identified 2021 Comprehensive Plan objectives, with two actions prioritized in the categories of Parks, Trails and Recreation and Land Use: Parks, Trails and

Recreation 2.1 G: allows Community gardens in underdeveloped municipal park space and in the Land Use category 7.8: to review zoning code and explore changes to allow urban horticultural and agricultural uses more broadly in existing zoning districts. While these are long term planning goals around food security, LEPC and Red Cross might be viewed as entities to address short term food security. He proposed LEPC revisit the benefits of having a Food Security Committee. It could be helpful in the event of a short-term food emergency to have a plan that addresses food distribution and food requisition. Member Hanson stated he is not familiar with the history of the LEPC food committee, however, he recommended LEPC coordinate with Red Cross and possibly incorporate Red Cross food security plans into LEPC's food emergency plan. Brenda Thayer will report these comments to the Sitka Red Cross at their next meeting. Member Trish White recognized various non-profit community groups and public/private partnerships also addressing Sitka's food security and providing access to food and local fish resources.

2. Member Mary Ann Hall asked what the amateur radio club does for LEPC. Chief Warren reviewed how the amateur radio club is prepared and practices to provide emergency communications in the event all communication systems for the municipality went down. ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) is the statewide network of amateur radio operators poised to assist municipalities and the state in emergency communications.

K. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA/DATE(S)

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

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **May 13, 2021** at noon.
Attendance in-person at Harrigan Centennial Hall or via zoom link.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

M/S to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.