
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Regular Committee Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2022
via Zoom and in person at Harrigan Centennial Hall

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Warren called to order the meeting of April 14, 2022 at 12:00pm.

B. ROLL CALL

(Quorum established by at least one member present from four different categories.)

Present:

Category 1: Dave Miller, Assembly Liaison

Category 2: Fire Chief Craig Warren, LEPC Chair (SFD); George Bennett Jr (SEARHC); Shannon Freitas (SEARHC); Robert Baty (SPD)

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

Category 6: Joel Hanson; Robert Hattle

Category 7: Jennifer Klejka, LEPC Coordinator (SFD)

Absent:

Category 2: Lance Ewers (SPD); Geraldine Laux (TSA)

Category 3: Becky Meiers (LEPC PIO, KCAW); vacancy(ies)

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

Category 6: Mary Ann Hall (Retired Medical Technologist; excused)

Others Present: None.

C. APPROVAL of AGENDA: April 14, 2022

Chief Warren will provide a report on the recent earthquake activity of Mt. Edgecumbe volcano.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting of March 10, 2022.

M/S –to approve the minutes of March 10, 2022.

Motion carried.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. **SHARK/ARES Report:** none.
2. **Broadcast Communications Update:** none.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. HazMat Report – Jenny Klejka had no hazardous material incidents to report. LEPC was not involved in the spill from the tug boat that ran aground.
2. LEPC Public Information Officer (PIO) – none.
3. Sitka Red Cross – Chief Warren reported recent contact with the Red Cross was through Juneau.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Coronavirus EOC updates**

The EOC is closed and this item will be pulled from the agenda for the next meeting. Chief Warren noted this does not mean the pandemic is over, just that there is no need for an active role of the Emergency Operations Center for the pandemic.

2. **Tsunami Inundation Mapping** – Chief Warren will have a report on this at next month's meeting. Chief Warren will meet on May 6 with scientists from University of Alaska Fairbanks.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mt. Edgecumbe Volcanic Activity Report from Alaska Volcanic Observatory (AVO)

Chief Warren spoke with the AVO regarding recent earthquake activity in the area of Mt. Edgecumbe Volcano April 10 and 11, 2022. AVO has no concern at this time. Chief Warren confirmed Sitka has an Emergency Operations Plan for Earthquake and the risk level is low. The only nearby data sensors are at Sitka's USGS, Sitka Fire Department and the bridge. Sensors would be needed at the top of Mt. Edgecumbe to provide more informative data. Mt. Edgecumbe is considered dormant, an "old and cold volcano", which means it has had lots of time for all of the lava tubes and flows to cool completely off and seal. Tlinget stories reflect an event of ash dispersion eight to nine hundred years ago. A geologic analysis estimated the last eruption to be 4500 years ago. It would take hundreds of earthquakes above 3 – 4 magnitudes over three to four months to break up the magma to allow lava to flow. Chief Warren reiterated AVO has no concern at this time and the risk level is low.

Member Wagner mentioned a recent Marine geologist presentation sponsored by Sitka Sound Science Center on the fault off Cape Edgecumbe. Great information was provided and the pdf might be accessed at the Sitka Sound Science Center web site.

I. COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

There was discussion about the regular schedule of LEPC meetings. The City Clerk confirmed Sitka's LEPC is set up to meet monthly. LEPC does have latitude to recess in the summer months when necessary. Chair Warren would like LEPC to meet for its May 2022 regular meeting to provide information from his meeting with the Tsunami Inundation scientists. Chief Warren will have had the opportunity to meet with the scientists the week prior in May in Anchorage, where he will attend the Alaska Emergency Manager's Conference, followed by the Local Emergency Planning Commission Association meeting and the State Emergency Response Commission meeting. Chair Warren noted Dave Miller serves as the Rural Communities' representative.

George Bennet reminded members Mt Edgecumbe Medical Center (MEMC) will stage a mass casualty drill on April 26, 2022.

Chair Warren confirmed this April 2022 meeting is the final opportunity to attend via ZOOM. Due to City ordinance, zoom attendance will no longer be authorized in the current status of the pandemic.

Dave Miller observed DEC issued a one-line press release to report no finding of any significant oil spill on the former Sheldon Jackson College Campus near the hatchery. Prior to that, DEC issued numerous press releases speculating a possible larger oil contamination and pointed the finger at various former and current entities. Miller said it would be better of DEC to release information about investigations in a manner that does not harm the reputation of property owners.

J. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA/DATE(S)

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

The City Clerk affirmed LEPC is set up to meet monthly, LEPC is authorized to recess from monthly meetings when necessary. Chair Warren would like to meet in May to report on his meeting with the Tsunami Inundation researchers. Chair Warren recommended LEPC recess during the months of June, July and August, and noted if there was a need for LEPC to meet during the recess, a special meeting(s) would be called.

M/S to recess during June, July and August 2022. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be **September 8, 2022, at noon.**

K. ADJOURNMENT:

M/S to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Chair Warren adjourned the meeting at 12:29pm.