

MINUTES
HARVEY COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)
McKinley Administrative Center
308 E. 1st, Newton, KS
December 8, 2021 @ 9:00 am

Present: Karen Rothe, Skip Cowan, Ashlie Worden, Jim Van Schaick, Chip Westfall, Gary Denny, Jeremy Ashby, Daniel Keane, Brian Palmer, Susan Lamb, Russel Buller, Josh Millspaugh, Brody Flavin, Paul Jones, Sergio Andrade, Dan Bronson, Kyle McCaskey, Diana Waddell-Gilbert, Lora Kelly.

1. Jeremy Ashby called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. Jeremy Ashby asked for a motion to approve December 8, 2021 agenda, Brian Palmer made the motion seconded by Russ Buller **agenda approved**. Jeremy Ashby asked for a motion to approve the October 6th, 2021 minutes. Jim Van Schaick made the motion and was seconded by Brody Flavin, **minutes approved**.
3. Old Business

Speaker: Gary Denny began the meeting by updating the committee on our LEPC's Compliance status. Denny explained the process of maintaining compliance for our committee and advised that our status is "submitted and awaiting approval from the state".

Speaker: Skip Cowan began a brief overview of the current state of affairs of the virus in our community. Skip explained that numbers had begun to rise, as was expected, after the Thanksgiving holiday. Skip then spoke about changes occurring with Well Health hours out at the outlet mall.

Speaker: Brian Ellis went over our communities IPPW (Integrated Preparedness Plan Workshop). Brian explained all the projects that we are hoping to participate in during the first and second quarters of the new year. Brian reiterated that the Emergency Management department is ready to get back into training exercises.

Speaker: Gary Denny then switched the conversation to the status of LEPC meetings with his upcoming retirement. Gary stated that Brian Ellis will be the interim Emergency Management Director as of December 17th until the hiring of another director. As such Brian will be in charge of the planning of upcoming meetings, Gary encouraged those from the committee to give any input for further meetings to Brian.

4. New Business

Review of Tier II facilities within Harvey County

Speaker: Gary Denny began a presentation on Tier II Reporting. Gary first educated the committee on EPCRA the (Emergency Planning & Community Right to Know Act). EPCRA was established in response to the disaster in Bhopal, India where a massive release of methyl isocyanide gas was released from a pesticide plant killing thousands and leaving lasting effects on the community. This began to raise questions about public safety globally, thus EPCRA was established to increase public knowledge of the presence of chemicals used in communities, as well as what chemicals are released into the environment.

EPCRA states that each year the Local Emergency Planning Committee must:

- Review the local LEOP at least once a year
- Make available Safety Data Sheets and Tier II reports, chemical lists, inventory forms, as well as release and follow up emergency notice to the general public
- Establish procedures for receiving and processing requests from the public for information under Community-Right-To-Know
- Receive from each facility the name of a representative who will participate in the Local Emergency Planning process

Gary then transitioned into explaining to the committee what types of facilities are located in Harvey County. We are home to 51 facilities that are considered to be Section 311, and 312. This means that industry partners must report their chemical inventory to the Local Emergency Planning Committee, CEPR, and local Fire Department via a Tier II report. While also, maintaining a MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) for any potentially hazardous chemical stored and/or used in the workplace. MSDS's must also be made available to the LEPC CEPR, and Fire Department upon request. Gary ended his presentation by reviewing the chemicals used by our industry partners.

5. Miscellaneous

a. 2021 Elections

Speaker: Gary Denny advised the group that elections for Chair and Vice Chair of the committee are scheduled for the upcoming meeting in February 2022.

6. Jeremy Ashby asked for a motion to adjourn the Dec. 8, 2021 meeting, Dan Bronson made the motion seconded by Brian Palmer. Next Meeting date Feb. 9, 2022. Location will remain the same.

Meeting adjourned.