

Gordon County Local Emergency Planning Committee

Minutes for February 7, 2007 Meeting

Welcome by - Ms. Kristen Bartlett, OMNOVA Solutions, Inc.
Chairperson

Members present:

Courtney Taylor	----- Gordon Co. EMA/E911
Richard Cooper	----- Gordon Co. EMA/E911
Chief David Hawkins	----- Gordon County Fire Dept.
Chief Lenny Nesbitt	----- City of Calhoun Fire Dept.
Deputy Chief Terry Mills	----- City of Calhoun Fire Dept.
David Konter	----- Waste Services
Christy Blair	----- Gordon County Health Department
Tim Dorsey	----- Mannington Corporation
Derek McMillan	----- LG CIM
Bill Miller	----- Henkel Corporation
Bruce Bowman	----- Fox Systems, Inc.
Michael McDougale	----- Kerry Inc.
Steve Moraitakis	----- UGA/Gordon County Coop. Extension
Tom Karres	----- J.M. Huber Corp.

Ms. Kristen Bartlett called the meeting to order.

Bruce Bowman recorded the minutes for this meeting.

Minutes from the January 10, 2007 meeting approved. Bruce Bowman made the motion to approve and Richard Cooper seconded the motion.

Chief Lenny Nesbitt reported that in the past month they have received three reportable quantity notifications.

Ms. Bartlett handed out the mission statement and 2007 goals to the members present.

The website is still a work in progress; however it is being populated with more information and will hopefully "go live" soon.

Ms. Bartlett restated at this meeting that the Gordon County LEPC has reached "recognition" status with the State and is now eligible to start receiving funding.

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners has the LEPC ordinance on their meeting agenda for the February 20. Once the County ratifies, the City should follow suit.

Given the light attendance at this meeting, it was decided to table the RQ Presentation until the March meeting.

Ms. Bartlett then went around the room and inquired from everyone about their “homework” assignment. The assignment was for everyone to prepare a list of tasks/projects for their respective committees. Many good ideas were brought up. These ideas included:

- Submitting Tier II reports to the EMA/Fire Dept electronically, and can they send an auto-response back indicating that the report has been received. This was discussed and it seems that the agencies involved can receive the Tier II report electronically; however, there seems to be some trouble with opening the reports. Kristen Bartlett volunteered to work with EMA and the Fire Depts. on electronic submission, and getting the software (Tier2Submit) that they need to open the reports. She also offered to send her facility’s Tier II report as a test when everything is set up.
- Another suggestion is to get a copy of all of the 2006 Tier II reports that are submitted to EPD around the beginning of the summer. This to compare against EPD with what has been received by the Fire Depts. and EMA. This task was given the Hazardous Materials/Title III committee.
- Another committee task involves funding for the LEPC and how to apply for it. Richard Cooper stated that he would call Randy Howard of GEMA and inquire about proper forms, etc. to apply for funding.
- Concerning public awareness, it was mentioned that the pandemic flu webcast that was shown last month has been obtained by Gordon County Public Health Dept. and that copies of this webcast presentation can be made available for no cost. The Public Awareness Committee wants to review it first and if approved, it was suggested that when the website goes live, that a notice be put on website concerning the availability of this webcast.
- From the Biohazards Committee, Steve Moriatakis reported that biohazards such as Foot&Mouth disease among agricultural animals might need more attention and training given to the farmers in the county. He explained that from a terrorist perspective, it would be very easy to contaminate livestock with this disease. This could be done through the LEPC.

- Derek McMillan mentioned that he had inquired with his boss and president of his company, LG CIM, about their sponsoring lunches for LEPC meetings. He said, though, that it is tabled for now due to a re-organization in his company. He will bring this up again to the new president in a few weeks.

Concerning drills and training exercises, Richard Cooper reported that the HazMat Steering Committee had met and discussed the drills/exercises for 2007. One of the responsibilities and goals of the LEPC is to participate in at least one drill per year. Richard stated that there will be two tabletop exercises and 2 full scale exercises in 2007. Courtney Taylor added that there will be one massive drill that will involve all local response agencies, media, the Civil Support Team out of Dobbins and others. The dates and times have not yet been established for these drills. Richard stated that when a schedule is developed, he will send it to Kristen who will then broadcast out to the membership. Richard also stated that the State will fund drills/exercises that are conducted through the LEPC.

Chief Nesbitt mentioned that for the Training Committee, both fire departments have an opportunity to send hazmat personnel to the National Response tunnels in West Virginia. He stated that this is the “most realistic fake training” you can get. This facility has realistic scenarios and they run these drills at all hours of the night and day. The training event will last six days and members of the GSARS team will be attending. This will occur in May. Chief Hawkins added that during this training, they ran a 24-hour scenario that began at midnight on the day that the attendees arrived. They added that if anyone is interested in learning more about this facility and their training they can go their website at www.centerforinternationalresponse.com.

Chief Nesbitt brought up that the Oak Ridge facility will be bringing another nuclear reactor online. This will generate more mixed hazardous waste (radioactive). The reason that Chief Nesbitt mentioned this is that these increased numbers of radioactive hazardous wastes will be transported through Gordon County on their way to a nuclear waste facility. The fire department personnel will be receiving more training on these types of hazardous materials in case there is an incident involving one of these trucks.

Chief Hawkins reported that he has been appointed the head the operations of Area 6 (which Gordon County is a part of) for GMAG (Georgia Mutual Aid Group).

It was mentioned that in order to get the committee meetings going, that breakout sessions during the general LEPC meeting could be done. It was suggested that this start in April.

In regard to Title III and Tier II reporting, the group discussed the receiving and storing of the information. It was determined that the Gordon County EMA will be the repository for the Tier II reports for both the EMA’s use and the LEPC’s use.

The members asked Ms. Bartlett to send out copies of her attendance sheets and committee rosters. Ms. Bartlett agreed to send out with this month's meeting minutes.

Ms. Bartlett asked the Hazardous Materials/Title III/Reporting Committee to develop instructions and explanation of the applicability and reporting requirements under the EPCRA Title III provisions. This will be for publication the LEPC's website. She asked that the drafts be emailed directly to her at Kristen.bartlett@omnova.com.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next LEPC meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2007 from 10:00am – 12:00pm at the Gordon County Fire Department (across from the outlet mall).

Post Script:

Since the meeting, Richard Cooper has been working with Gordon County IT Department on an email address for the LEPC. An email address has been set up for the LEPC to receive correspondence, including Tier II reports. The auto-response has not yet been set up; but, Richard would for anyone who would like to participate in a test of this address to go ahead and send their facility's Tier II report to this email address. This will determine whether or not the email address will receive the emails from different company IT systems. Until the auto-response capability is functional, Richard has said that he will manually respond back to those facilities from whom he receives the Tier II report.

The email address is: gclepc@gordoncounty.org.