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Minutes of the
South Dakota Emergency Response Commission Meeting

Ramkota Hotel & Watertown Event Center
1901 9th Avenue SW
Watertown, SD

September 14, 2021
5:15 p.m. CDT

INTRODUCTIONS: Those in attendance introduced themselves.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: Chairman Dustin Willett called the meeting to order. The roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Chairman Willett announced that the meeting was streaming live on SD.net, a service of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Dustin Willett, Andrew Canham, Paul Merriman, Kim McIntosh, Becky Pitz, and Tina Titze participated in person. Jason Humphrey and Sean Kruger (sitting in for Patrick Snyder) participated remotely.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Aaron Leesch.

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached attendance sheet.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 29, 2021, MEETING MINUTES: Chairman Willett asked if anyone had corrections or additions to the minutes. Hearing none, Chairman Willett announced that the minutes from the June 29, 2021, meeting will stand as approved.

FEDERAL UPDATES: None.

LEPC ROSTER APPROVAL: Kelsey Newling reported that at the June 2021 meeting, the SERC appointed the emergency manager, sheriff, states attorney and county commission to serve as the LEPC for Union County. At that time, the county had a new emergency manager, and he was not able to complete the roster in a timely manner. Union County has now submitted an LEPC roster.

Ms. Newling noted that prior to the meeting, she sent a copy of the roster the SERC members. She requested approval of the Union County LEPC roster so the county can continue moving forward to be an active LEPC.

Motion by Pitz, seconded by McIntosh, to approve the Union County LEPC roster. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

LEPC GRANT APPLICATION PACKAGE: Ms. Newling reported that \$60,474.90 is available for LEPC grants this year. The SERC members were provided with a draft copy of the LEPC grant application package prior to the meeting. Copies of the draft grant package were also available at the meeting.

Ms. Newling pointed out minor wording changes that were made to the grant package since last year. She also noted that the copy of the grant package the SERC received does not include the Attestation Form. Staff is currently working with the Attorney General's Office to update the form.

The grant application that LEPCs will submit consists of five forms: Certification of Eligibility, State of SD Grant Recipient or Subrecipient Attestation, Activity and Expenditure Summary, Request for LEPC Grant Carryover, and LEPC Grant Application. The grant application must be submitted by November 30, 2021. Applications not submitted by the deadline will not be accepted.

Only active LEPCs are eligible to apply for grant funds. Ms. Newling stated that individual grant amounts are determined by a distribution formula, which is outline in the statute. The first \$16,500 is divided equally among the active LEPCs that qualify for and have applied for a grant. The remaining grant funds are divided among the qualifying LEPCs based on the number of facilities that paid Tier II fees for the reporting year from which the grant is funded.

Ms. Newling requested approval of the grant application package.

Motion by Titze, seconded by Merriman, to approve the grant application package, with the Attestation included after it is approved. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

REGIONAL HAZMAT TEAM UPDATE: Jon Groen, Office of Homeland Security, and the manager of Task Force 1, reported on the activities and training sessions that have recently taken place. He also reported that Cisco, South Dakota Task Force 1's first live find search canine was retired one year early due to health reasons. Cisco has been adopted by his handler. Task Force 1 acquired a new live find search canine, who is currently being trained.

STURGIS RALLY UPDATE: Tina Titze reported on the activities of this year's rally operations center. There were mainly law enforcement issues, which is typical of the motorcycle rally. In general, attendance was up from last year but down from the 75th motorcycle rally. No major storms occurred during the rally. Ms. Titze stated that there were 56 injury accidents, four fatality accidents and there were five fatalities. There were 150 to 250 drug and DUI-related arrests.

Chairman Willett asked if DANR still does water testing at campgrounds during the rally. Ms. McIntosh stated that DANR, in conjunction with the Department of Health, samples water

systems of a certain size to make sure the water is safe for human consumption, and if it is not, DANR works with those facilities to get them in compliance.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND EMERGENCY PLANNING (HMEP) GRANTS, TRAINING, AND PLANNING REPORT: Rhett Howard, Office of Emergency Management HMEP grant administrator, provided the quarterly review of training and planning grant activities.

For FFY 2019, the grant award amount was \$143,249, and \$12,957 remains to be allocated. Some of the FFY 2019 grant money previously allocated for training and planning was converted to PPE purchasing funds, Rapid City Fire Rescue and Watertown Fire Rescue have not yet depleted their funds.

For FFY 2020, the grant award amount was \$150,153, and approximately \$115,000 remains to be allocated. Aberdeen Fire Rescue will host a homemade explosives (HME-IQ) class for 30 first responders. They also depleted their remaining HMEP FFY 2019 grant money to help fund the class. Watertown Fire Rescue will use grant funds to send three people to Aberdeen for the Cargo Tank Emergency Response Specialist Workshop. PHMSA is continuing to allow PPE to be purchased in lieu of the missed training opportunities that continue to be experienced in 2021 due to the Covid-19 issues.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE: Ms. Titze reported that the National Advisory Council holds at least two telephone conference call meetings per month. There are three subcommittees working on recommendations for equity, vision, and expedite disaster assistance, which is public assistance focused. Ms. Titze is the chair for the expedite disaster assistance charge. The next in-person meeting will be in Washington, DC in November 2021. Previous recommendations issued last November can be found on the website for the National Advisory Council. FEMA's responses to those recommendations should be coming out soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None.

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Willett noted that there are some open positions on the SERC, and DANR staff is working in coordination with the Governor's Office on appointments to the SERC.

In response to a question from Ms. McIntosh, Ms. Newling stated that she believes the LEPC's are getting back to holding their quarterly meetings. Ms. Newling sent reminder emails to those LEPCs that were not meeting quarterly. She has not received any responses to those emails.

Chairman Willett stated that Pennington County LEPC has been holding quarterly in-person meetings and, depending on what happens, will offer virtual attendance at those meetings. The LEPC had a booth at the Rapid City/Pennington County Disaster Awareness Day. The LEPC has also been addressing disposal of household hazardous materials. The next Rapid City/Pennington County household hazardous waste disposal event is in October 2021.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Central Time.

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ADJOURN: Motion by Titze, seconded by Canham, to adjourn the meeting.

Chairman Willett declared the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Chairman

Date

Witness

Date

DRAFT