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Minutes of the
South Dakota Emergency Response Commission Meeting
Conducted via Digital Dakota Network
Matthew Training Center, Joe Foss Building, Pierre, SD
June 24, 2025
2:30PM Central Time

The meeting was streaming live on SD.net, a service of South Dakota Public Broadcasting. Vice Chairman Dustin Willett called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves and the roll was called. A quorum was present.

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Members Present: David Ackerman, Jason Humphrey, Trish Kindt, Whitney Lutkemeier, Paul Merriman, Tina Titze, Janae Tostenson, Dustin Willett

SERC Members Absent: Andrew Canham, Sean Kruger

Others Present: Kelsey Newling, South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) Sara Title III Coordinator; Stephanie Silbernagel, DANR Administrative Staff; Scott Rechtenbaugh, Department of Public Safety (DPS), Criminal Justice Service Director; Rhett Howard, South Dakota Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

APPROVAL MINUTES:

Vice Chairman Dustin Willett asked for a motion to approve the March 18, 2025, minutes. Motion by Trish Kindt, seconded by Jason Humphrey to approve the minutes. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 8-0.

FEDERAL UPDATES

No federal partners were present at the meeting.

TRI REPORT SUBMITTALS – DANR

Kelsey Newling, DANR, reported on TRI report submittals. These are annual reports from facilities that manufacture, import, process, or otherwise use a EPCRA Section 313 chemical in quantities greater than the established threshold in the course of a calendar year. These facilities are required to submit their reports to the Federal EPA and to the SERC. The reports summarize emissions, discharges, waste sent to landfills, materials sent to the recycling or off-site treatment, etc. The reporting deadline is July 1st. Reports have been received from 73 facilities so far. Usually there are about 100 submitted each year.

Vice Chairman Dustin Willett opened the floor for questions on the TRI reporting. Trish Kindt asked if there were less reports than previous years. Kelsey Newling commented that last

year at this time 84 reports were received. She had received letters from some facilities stating that they were closing.

REGIONAL HAZ MAT TEAM UPDATES - HLS

Scott Rechtenbaugh reported on Regional HAZ MAT team updates. Scott was the former Homeland Security Director and is now the Director for Criminal Justice Service. Jason Ketterling will be the new Homeland Security Director starting in September. Recently Jon Groen retired from the Director position of Task Force 1. Once grant funding has been released for 2025 allocations will be made regarding Jon's old position.

South Dakota Task Force 1 and Sioux Falls Fire Department participated in a recent training at the Sioux Falls airport. The training was based on a building explosion with three different operations to test different skills. The primary goal was to serve as the Operational Readiness exercise.

Vice Chairman Dustin Willett reported that Task Force 1 usually comes out west river during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally for training. This year the training will be on the east side of the state. This will be the first year there will not be multiple Task Force teams for the Sturgis Rally.

LEPC ROSTER APPROVAL – DANR

Kelsey Newling, DANR, reported on the LEPC Rosters for four counties for which the SERC extended the roster submittal deadline to the June SERC meeting. The SERC received the rosters for Bon Homme County, Hughes/Stanley County, and Todd County. However, Butte County did not turn in a roster. Kelsey asked the SERC if they wish to appoint or wait until the September meeting to approve the roster for Butte County. The appointment would include the County Emergency Manager, Sheriff, State's Attorney, County Commission, and the Chair of the County Commission serving as Chair of the LEPC. Kelsey asked if Butte County cannot obtain a roster, can they still qualify for a grant if they appoint? Dustin Willett further explained that as long as they meet the meeting frequency, they will be eligible for the grant, regardless if the roster is appointed or not. Vice Chairman Dustin Willett asked for a motion to appoint Butte County roster. Motion by Trish Kindt to appoint the Butte County LEPC, seconded by Whitney Lutkemeier. Vice Chairman Dustin Willett opened the floor for questions. Jason Humphrey asked if Butte County submits a roster, will the roster get approved by the SERC or stay an appointed committee? Dustin Willett explained if this is brought up it can be voted on a later meeting. David Ackerman asked Kelsey why the LEPC has not been as active as before. Kelsey Newling could not provide any information about why that is. Dustin Willett will reach out to Butte County Emergency Manager to find out more information on the roster. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 8-0.

Vice Chairman Dustin Willett asked for a motion to approve the LEPC Roster for Bon Homme County, Hughes/Stanley County, and Todd County. Motion by David Ackerman, seconded by Jason Humphrey. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 8-0.

HMEP GRANTS, TRAINING, AND PLANNING REPORT – OEM

Rhett Howard, South Dakota Office of Emergency Management (OEM), reported on HMEP Grants, training, and planning reports. One payment of \$3,585.00 was made from the 2022 HMEP Grant for the Sioux Falls Fire Rescue training. There was nothing new to report for HMEP Grant 2023, money remaining is \$9,052.00. HMEP Grant 2024 spent \$30,133.57 and that leaves \$60,553.00 remaining, with events still coming up. There are six applications for HMEP 2025 and those were submitted to Grants.Gov. This will include eleven applicants Aberdeen Fire Rescue, Rapid City Fire Rescue, Sioux Falls Rescue, Watertown Fire Rescue, Bennett County, Codington County, Custer County, Hughes/Stanley County, Hyde County, Lawrence County, and Yankton County. The tentative amount for the HMEP grant submitted is \$145,506.00 of contractual money, with all but \$15,000.00 applied. This is about \$50,000 more than what is typically allocated to the state.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments were made.

OTHER BUSINESS

Kelsey Newling reported the next SERC meeting is in September at the South Dakota Emergency Management Association Conference in Sioux Falls. The SERC meeting is tentatively set for September 9 in the evening.

Kelsey Newling reported that elections will be held at the next SERC meeting. Vice Chairman Dustin Willett will be absent at the September meeting but will appoint a chair for the meeting. There will be an election for the new chair for the SERC.

ADJOURN

Vice Chairman Dustin Willett entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Tina Titze, seconded by Trish Kindt.