MINUTES OF LEPC MEETING – February 14, 2023

LOCATION:
PSTC & Virtual

ATTENDANCE:

LEPC Members:
Jim Fry, Benjamin Russell, Willard Troxel, Jim Weller, George Dula, Armand Alessi, Mike Jones

OEP Staff:
Beverlee Stemple, Todd Stieritz, Elijah Anselm, Jason Wilson, Brandon Pursell, Edward O’Hanlon, John Weed

Guests:
Patrick Till of Electronic Fluorocarbons
Chris Anderson of Electronic Fluorocarbons
Robert Bailey of Dow Chemical
Patrick Cornell of Arkema
Steve Long of CISA Region 3

CALL TO ORDER:
Mr. Fry called the meeting to order at 1300 hrs. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance. A motion was made by Brandon Pursell to approve November meeting minutes which was seconded by Mr. Troxel.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
No unfinished business was reported.
COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SARA Report:
Ms. Stemple reported that 276 plans were reviewed for RY2021 which was 100% compliant. A total of 1.5 million pounds of EHS was reported which is about an 8,000 pound increase from RY 2020. Ms. Stemple asked the LEPC to vote on adding the PA ID number into the plans as well as adding documents which have been in facility files but not into the plans. The added document would only go into the confidential plans. A motion was made to accept these requests by Mr. Pursell and seconded by Willard Troxel and voted on and passed.

Mr. Anselm reported that for RY2021 a total of $125,886.89 was deposited into the Hazardous Materials Fund account. A busy start to the year so far, we have already collected $9,850 which is $4,275 more than last year at our February LEPC meeting. Additionally, as notice, the account is changing banking institutions. This shouldn’t change anything for LEPC purposes.

Mr. Anselm also announced his departure from Montgomery County. He will be starting a position with FEMA Region 3 and his last day will be March 3rd. He thanked the County and LEPC for the last two years.

Hazardous Materials:
Mr. Pursell reported on the Hazardous Materials Response Team. There were 8 calls since the November LEPC Meeting. Most notable calls were the following:

- December 13th – Upper Merion Township – Overturned fuel truck on the ramp from 202 Northbound to 422 Westbound. Approximately 2,200 gallons of fuel out was spilled onto the roadway and grass retention area on the inside of the ramp. DEP was on location and clean up is still ongoing.
- January 12th – Upper Gwynedd Township – Suspicious white powders were mailed to a resident who subsequently brought them to the township police station. HMRT tested the products and determined them to be Manganese Sulfate and Silica Powder. FBI field office was notified due to the package be shipped via USPS.
- February 8th – Lower Merion Township – Leaking 100 lb propane cylinder at Brynn Mawr College. Station 81 was recalled with the exception of SS81-1 with three technicians and an officer which was already on location. The cylinder was pulled out of the building by college staff but was still leaking. Technicians assisted with tightening the packing nut and restored the cap to the cylinder to contain the leak.

Additionally, there were 11 trainings since November:

- Saturday November 19th – Mike Minella from NFA
- Sunday November 20th – Mike Minella from NFA
- Saturday December 17th – Bobby Salvesen Chemistry Class
- Tuesday January 10th – Hazard Recognition
- Saturday January 21st – Ethylene Oxide Hospital Drill
- Saturday January 28th - Chief Officer Seminar
- Monday January 30th – Applying Raman Spectroscopy in Hazmat CBRN
• Monday January 30th – CPR, AED and First Aid Refresher
• Tuesday January 31st – Hazmat 2022 Year in Review
• Tuesday February 7th – Big Box Store Fire Case Study
• Wednesday February 8th – Conshohocken FD Hazmat ops Refresher Demo

Mr. Pursell also noted that February 15th is the first foam Task Force meeting of the year. Additionally, HMRT was approved for the build of a Foam Tender. This tender will haul and additional 1,320 gallons of Class B firefighting foam and capable of carrying a crew of 4 with additional firefighting and hazmat equipment.

HM81 is scheduled to be completed around May. Truck is out of paint and is currently being wired and outfitted.

SS81 and Foam 81-1 was moved from its old quarters at the Abington Township Public Safety Training Campus to the new Montgomery County Special Operations Station in Fort Washington. We will share this quarters with Montgomery County USAR.

The Hazmat Team will be receiving 5 new Lion MT94 Multi Threat Suits and well as a new Hazcat kit purchased through the SEPA Task Force.

**Emergency Management**

Mr. Wilson reported on the Division of Emergency Management. Notable developments are as follows:

The County EOP Update is ongoing. This is occurring in coordination with the Ida AAR.

Additionally, the Fire Department Supplemental Revenue Replacement Project will be announced in March.

Hurricane Ida After Action Report complete. This document is guiding Emergency Management goals and improvements for 2023.

Mr. Wilson reported on the warehouse facility locations. He noted that Upper Dublin Warehouse is operational and staff is determining what inventory will stay and which will come to the EOC Warehouse. A change order process is underway to address the water supply issues for the Eagleville Warehouse.

Additionally, Bill Messerschmidt resigned from Montgomery County and took a role as Director of Public Safety for Chester County. Additionally, Mr. Anselm’s role, a logistics manger position, a logistics specialist position, and LGS Planner-parttime are open. Applications review are undergoing for many of these. Additionally, Emergency Management is currently undergoing restructuring which may shift general organization of the division and possibly include several other positions to fill current gaps.
Mr. Wilson also presented on emergency management goals for the division and spoke on how these have been informed through the AAR.

Mr. Jones inquired about the Physicians Response team. Mr. Wilson stated that they were still functional but were under the EMS division and Dr. Wang, not Emergency Management and Special Operations.

**Fire and Rescue Services**

Mr. O’Hanlon reported on the Fire Academy administration. Notable update are as follows:

- The Intro to Fire class in February started with 53 students. 44 of those students are taking the HMA certification test. The next Intro class is in April 2023.
- The Chief Officers seminars was January 28, 2023, and it was well attended., and has received positive reviews.
- The Fire Academy added Fire Officer 1 to our schedule which begins in March 2023.
- The burn building is schedule to open April 1, 2023. The repairs to the burn building have been completed.
- Repairs to the fence securing the Fire Academy property has been completed.
- The Fire Academy will be publishing our updated catalogue in the next few weeks.

Additionally, Mr. O’Hanlon welcomed Mr. Weed as the First Deputy of Public Safety.

**Public Health**

In Ms. Young’s absence, Mr. Anselm reported on Public Health which was provided to him prior to the meeting.

Mr. Anselm reported that OPH continues to run 4 COVID testing sites throughout the county. The Lansdale location closed at the end of January and the Ardmore location will close on 2/17. Baring a major surge, the plan is to close county COVID testing on March 31st.

OPH provided 1,528 seasonal influenza and COVID bivalent boosters through our community vaccination campaign. Flu shots and covid boosters remain available through OPH vaccination clinics and appointments are available on our website.

OPH is finalizing a proposal to bring a contractor in to review the current POD program and recommend improvements for future events and responses. This will be a joint project with DPS, and I hope to have more information at the next meeting.

**Additional Reports**

Mr. Jones announced that the Municipal Fire Officer’s Association and the Montgomery County Fire Chief’s Association as merged under Montgomery County Fire Chief’s Association.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Alessi thanked Chief Pursell and the HMRT for the drill which took place at Main Line Health.
Mr. Fry asked if there was any update to the meeting formats. Mr. Anselm stated that at this time the hybrid format will continue.

VISITOR COMMENTS:
None

NEXT MEETING DATE:
May 9th, 2023, at 1300 hrs

ADJOURNMENT:
A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Dula. Meeting Adjourned at 1331.