MINUTES OF LEPC MEETING – May 9th, 2023

LOCATION:
PSTC & Virtual

ATTENDANCE:
LEPC Members:
Steve Wittmer, Armand Alessi, Benjamin Russell, George Dula, Willard Troxel, Rex Miller, John Weed

OEP Staff:
Beverlee Stemple, Jason Wilson, Brandon Pursell

Guests:
Patrick Till of Electronic Fluorocarbons
Chris Anderson of Electronic Fluorocarbons
Rich Turzanski of US. DHS
Scott Clark of Hepaco
Mike Stalnecker of PEMA
Pat Cornell
Bob Bailey

CALL TO ORDER:
Chairman Wittmer called the meeting to order at 1300 hrs. The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Wittmer asked for a motion to accept the 2/14/23 meeting minutes. Mr. Troxel made a motion to accept 02/14/2023 meeting minutes, motion seconded by Mr. Alessi. All members voted and the minutes were approved.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
No unfinished business was reported.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SARA Report:
Ms. Stemple acknowledged and thanked Mr. Stalnecker for suggesting that she reach out to Monroe County to assist them with developing their Offsite Emergency Response Planning.

Ms. Stemple gave her Tier 2 report. She stated that she has reviewed 70 plans this year, the EHS level is 5.4 million pounds within Montgomery County, the update for the plans that was approved last meeting was initiated and is working well, and Mr. Wilson has been receiving copies of the plans. This ended her report.

Mr. Pursell reported as of 5/8/23, there is a total of $117,150.00 collected this year. Of the total collected, $83,625 were from reporting chemical fees. The other $13,600 is from planning fees. 49 facilities have utilized the credit card online payment option which reduces the labor involved in processing hard copy checks. Another round of invoices will be going out in the next week or so for the facilities that missed the March 1st deadline. At that time, payment reminders will also be sent out to delinquent facilities. To date, payments have been processed for 281 facilities. This ended his report.

Hazardous Materials:
Mr. Pursell reported on the Hazardous Materials Response Team. There were 12 calls since the February 14th LEPC Meeting. Most notable calls were the following:

- March 3rd – Lower Providence Township – Overturned propane truck on Evansburg Road. DC81 arrived on location and helped with hazard and risk assessment and began establishing a plan to upright the vehicle before incoming weather made the situation worse. The Hazmat team determined that no piping was leaking from the vehicle and the time. Local businesses and daycares were evacuated for the up-righting process. The vehicle was up-righted by two heavy wreckers utilizing slings under the vehicle with no issues. The vehicle was towed to an impound lot where it was offload to another truck.
- March 14th – Douglass Township – Fire at a SARA Facility (Global Advanced Metals). The chemical involved was tantalum powder in a vent duct that ignited. A water main broke and temporarily put out the fire but the water mixed with the tantalum powder. Other Hazardous materials were stored in the same building and there was a concern that they were compromised. A Level 2 Hazmat was dispatched, and crews took air monitoring readings and tested the pH level of the runoff water inside of the building. It was determined that the water run off was neutral and there were no other chemicals mixed in. The Tier 2 report was pulled for the affected facility and the chemicals were checked for fire and water related considerations. The fire was ultimately suppressed by combustible metal extinguishers.
- March 25th – Whitemarsh Township – Fire department responded to a reported explosion at a processing plant. Spring Mill Fire Department arrived and initially observed a small vapor leak in a cryogenic nitrogen dewar. Further investigation led to the discovery of a leaking argon tank inside of the building. A Level 2 Hazmat was dispatched. Crews investigated, took readings inside, and discovered faulty relief valves.
The company that owned the tank was called to the scene for the removal of the tank or replacement of relief valve. The facility was aware of the faulty relief valve prior to the incident.

Additionally, there were 11 trainings since February 14th:
- Thursday February 16th – Lower Salford Hazmat Demo
- Sunday February 18th – Station and Equipment Maintenance
- Tuesday February 28th to March 3rd – Hazmat Safety Officer Course
- Tuesday March 7th – Dome Clamping
- Saturday March 18th – Pipe Tree and Pipe Clamping
- Thursday March 23rd – Progengin Academy Detect, Decon, Verify
- Monday January 30th – Applying Raman Spectroscopy in Hazmat CBRN
- Thursday March 30th – DCFD Li-Ion Battery Virtual Seminar
- Tuesday April 4th – Decontamination
- Saturday April 15th – C Kit on a Rail Car
- Tuesday May 2nd – MAYDAY/FAST Board/RIT

Mr. Pursell also reported the following:
- The second Foam Task Force meeting of the year is scheduled for May 24th.
- Saturday May 20th the team will be reviewing RIT on a Rail Car with USAR. This drill is simulated from a near miss incident in Phoenix Arizona.
- The Hazmat team is going through the approval process of the new Foam Tender.
- Five members from Montgomery County Hazmat and EM will be down at EVI Fire Apparatus in Lake Park Florida from May 31 – June 2 to complete the final inspection of Hazmat 81. The new truck is expected to be delivered in July and will be outfitted with equipment after delivery. This ended his report.

Mr. Willson added a comment about the Foam Tender mentioned by Mr. Pursell. It was originally included in the county capitol budget and is ultimately expected to be purchased approximately 2 years from now. The county purchasing department recommended the use of HMRF funding to purchase the truck. It would be approximately $300,000. Mr. Willson asked the LEPC committee to approve the expense not to exceed the $300,000. Mr. Willson gave background information on the truck stating the need for the Foam Tender and fielding questions from the committee. Mr. Pursell explained the current capabilities of the Montco Foam task force and expressed the importance of adding the Foam Tender to the assets at the EOC. Chairman Wittmer believed it was a good idea and asked for a motion to make a vote to approve the purchase of the vehicle with the HMRF. Mr. Troxel made the motion. Mr. Alessi seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously in favor and the purchase was approved.

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

The County EOP Update is underway. The EOP Annex review is still ongoing.

Hurricane Ida After Action Report is still ongoing. The team is working on a document to guide operations in the EOC. The document was approved by Brian McKown and will be going to Mike
Vest next for review. This document will provide standard guidelines to assist in operations. The EOC reconfiguration is set to begin May 17th if approved.

Mr. Wilson reported on the warehouse facility locations. The EOC Garage & Warehouse is working to get the fire pump project started to address the water pressure issue for the sprinkler system. The project will be out for advertisement for bidding this week if it is not already. This pushes the anticipated opening to October. In the meantime, EM is preparing to occupy the building immediately after it opens.

Emergency Management position updates were given by Mr. Wilson. A logistics program manager has been hired. Her name is Jamie Kreidler and she comes from Boing Fire Department. A Logistics Program Specialist was hired. His name is Brian Sarver and he previously worked in West Whitland Township and East Norriton Township. The two have already done great work in making sure County assets are ready to move. Additionally, they are interviewing to fill the Chemical Safety Specialist position and hope to have that process wrapped up in 2 weeks. There is also an opening for a part-time LGS Planner. Proposed positions are on hold until Emergency Management is restructured. These positions will be a USAR Program Coordinator, an Assistant Director of Planning, and an Emergency Planning Coordinator.

Mr. Wittmer asked about the water supply issue in the Eagleville warehouse and asked Mr. Wilson to explain that issue. Mr. Wilson recapped the issues with the potable water pump and a water pump to supply the fire sprinklers.

Physicians Response Team

No representative was present. Mr. Pursell stated that he was not given a report from Dave Brown or Dr. Alvin Wang.

Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Weed reported on the Fire Academy administration. Notable update are as follows:

- 12 HazMat Awareness classes ran with 183 enrolments for 732 total training hours
- 6 HazMat Operations classes ran with 88 enrolled for 2112 total training hours
- 23 HazMat Operations refreshers ran with 523 enrolled for 3136 total training hours
- 3 HazMat Tech Refreshers ran with 21 enrolled for 168 total training hours
- 2 Hazmat Awareness Certification classes ran with 92 enrolled for 168 total training hours
- Fall Semester schedule is posted and is in full swing
- The first Firefighter 1 class is set to graduate 5/25/23.

Mr. Wittmer asked about the burn building being scheduled to open on April first after repairs were made. Mr. Weed confirmed that the building is open and all repairs were successfully made.

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

Mr. Wilson reported that all county COVID testing sites closed in March. OPH continues to offer all COVID primary vaccines and boosters. Appointments and information are available on the OPH website for anyone that is interested.

OPH is awarding a contract for medical countermeasures enhancement project which will update the county’s point dispensing program as well as warehousing plans and will develop an enhanced emerging and high consequence disease plan which will allow for better future responses to large disease threats. This will hopefully begin in July. This ended his report.

Additional Reports
No report given.

NEW BUSINESS:
No report given.

VISITOR COMMENTS:
Mr. Pursell introduced two guests, Rich Turzanski from the Department of Homeland Security and Scott Clark.

Mr. Turzanski spoke on cyber security. They had a meeting on April 25th for the regional events in 2026. The most notable event is the FIFA World Cup in Philadelphia in June 2026. FIFA provided them with information about the event.

- 7-9 matches within 21 days at Lincoln Financial Field
- A fan fest within 5 kilometers of the stadium
- The first match is expected to be around June 11 and the last match around July 19th
- Possibly a game on the Fourth of July
- Teams in the cup pick “Team Camps” within the US.
- FEMA alerted Philadelphia that they plan on using 10,000 hotel rooms for 38 days.
- Multiple events will be going on at the same time (Philadelphia 250, Welcome America, July 4th, Major League Allstar Game)
- They are in the early stages of planning and creating subgroups. The subgroups are the Federal Law Enforcement Subgroup, the Local and State Law Enforcement Subgroup, a Fire Department Subgroup, and an Emergency Management Subgroup
- A Federal Coordinating official will most likely be assigned to this event as it gets closer.

Mr. Alessi added that May 2026 is also the PGA championship at Aronimink.

Mr. Turzanski highlighted another event in 2025 that may affect Montgomery County is Homecoming 250. This event is the 250th anniversary of the Navy and Marine Corp which will bring ships into NJ Ports. This ended his report.
Mr. Clark introduced himself. He is with Hepaco which is a full-service environmental contract company that specializes in emergency response industrial services. They have 43 locations across the county. Locally they are in Philadelphia and Allentown. They responded to East Palestine and work with various rail companies. They offered their assistance with clean up for emergency response.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**
August 8th, 2023, at 1300 hrs. This will be a hybrid meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**
A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pursell and seconded by Mr. Troxel. Meeting Adjourned at 1400.