

**WASHTENAW COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Minutes
June 11, 2020
Washtenaw County Emergency Operations Center

Present: Samantha Brandfon, Marc Breckenridge, Donald Dettling, Stephen Field, Russ Girbach, Pierre Gonyon, David Halteman, Cindra James, Joseph Jurasek, Kenneth Kelly, Darrell Kirby, Christy Maier, Rick Norman, Ben Pinette, Carrie Rheingans, Kathryn Wilhoff, Grace Hilborn.

Excused: Scott Robinson

Absent: Armando Falcon, Dylan Kilby, Katie Scott.

Call to Order/Roll Call

Joseph Jurasek called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Review and Approval of Agenda

David Halteman requested to have swearing in of new members added to the agenda.

A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by David Halteman, second by Carrie Rheingans. Approved unanimously.

Members were sworn in at this time by Edwin Peart. Those members included: Marc Breckenridge, Donald Dettling, David Halteman, Cindra James, Joseph Jurasek, Darrell Kirby, Kathryn Wilhoff, Pierre Gonyon, and Russell Girbach.

Review and Adopt the December 12, 2019 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2019 was made by Stephen Field, seconded by Donald Dettling. Approved unanimously.

Public Comment – None

Announcements – None

Old Business

A. Information Coordinator's Report

Ken Kelly distributed and reviewed his report as follows:

- As of June 10, 47 EHS sites have updated plans
- No new plans have been created since our last meeting.

Ken stated that he has been working with a few facilities on developing emergency response plans. It has proven to be difficult due to plant shutdowns. Caymen Chemicals in Pittsfield Township has quite a few chemicals at their facility and the only EHS is about 1100 pounds of Sulfuric Acid contained in various batteries throughout the facility.

Regarding Tier II reports, Ken stated that Crop Production Services in Saline has changed to Nutrien Ag Solutions. They have a lot of different chemicals on site, most notably around 100,000 pounds of Anhydrous Ammonia. Their plan will need to be tweaked slightly to reflect the new name and ownership.

Furthermore, Ken informed the committee that he received a call from a reporter from Michigan Radio on June 5, 2020 asking questions regarding access to Tier II reports. He wanted to know who could access the reports, how a citizen can get access to reports, what information is redacted, what sort of ID must be presented, if copies of the reports could be made, etc. The reporter stated that Lansing prompted him to contact local LEPCs with these types of specific access questions.

B. Emergency Coordinator's report – David Halteman stated that due to the Stay at Home Order there has been a lot less traffic on the roadways. That has resulted in less HazMat responses during this time. A few incidents included:

- December 11, 2019 – Ann Arbor Township Fire Department, Washtenaw County Water Resources, and HVA responded to a report of foam appearing on the surface of Swift Run Creek. After environmental investigations, it was determined that the foam was naturally occurring and posed no threat.

- May 12, 2020 – A contractor with Consumer’s Energy contacted the EOC stating that a contractor was hired at the Chrysler Proving Grounds in Chelsea to remove some trees. The company brought in a 30,000 pound front-end loader to navigate across the area in order to remove the trees. The front-end loader was driven adjacent to the easement of the 36 inch natural gas pipeline. Because the ground was saturated, the front-end loader sank right into the ground and became stuck. Because this had the potential of turning into a HazMat response, David Halteman contacted the HazMat Team, HVA, and Chelsea Fire Department so they were informed and ready to respond if needed. Two cranes were brought in the next day in order to lift the loader out of the mud and remove it from the area. Thankfully, the pipe was never damaged during this incident. It underwent a full inspection and is back in service.
- June 9, 2020 – In the area of Michigan Ave. and Holmes Rd. there was about 15-20 gallons of fuel in a ditch. The local fire department responded and consulted with the HazMat Team. Since the HazMat Team does not respond for that small of a quantity of fuel spills, it was mitigated at the scene by the local fire department.

C. HazMat Team Director’s report – Russ Girbach stated that due to the Stay at Home Order, the HazMat Team hasn’t had any callouts during this time. Other than being consulted regarding the incidents that David Halteman spoke about, things have been relatively quiet since the last meeting.

D. EB M14/Barton Dr. Actions – Joseph Jurasek stated that Scott Robinson sent a letter to MDOT showing the hazardous statistics, both physically and environmentally, of this location and inquiring what MDOT planned to do to resolve this problem. MDOT responded to Scott’s letter on January 11, 2020, stating they would be installing a detection warning system on EB M14 sometime this year. MDOT also discussed several options for their funding template in 2023, which included extending the EB on ramp from Barton, changing the lane assignments for EB roadway at tri-level interchange, and/or investigation options for merge/weave lanes for EB and WB lanes between Whitmore Lake and Barton Drive.

Scott has drafted a letter he wants to send to the Board of Commissioners, which includes a few more statistics involving accidents/incidents that have occurred at EB M14/Barton since 2019. Members were asked to review the draft and share any comments or concerns with the group.

New Business - None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Don Dettling, seconded by David Halteman at 3:32 p.m. Approved unanimously.

The next meeting of the LEPC will be held on **Thursday September 10, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.** via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Hilborn
Emergency Services Specialist