



MICHAEL R. PENCE, Governor  
STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
302 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**INDIANA EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (IERC)**

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Indiana Government Center South**

**Conference Room A**

**Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

**November 9, 2015**

**10:30 AM (start time was 11:12 AM)**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dean Larson—Public Representative, Acting Chair  
James Pridgen—Business and Industry Representative  
Matt Bilkey—Designee for Superintendent of ISP

Shawn French—Business and Industry Representative  
Becky Waymire—Morgan County LEPC  
Sherman Greer—Public Representative  
Ian Ewusi—IDHS

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jeff Larmore—Marion County LEPC

**The following Commissioners, staff and audience members were present:**

Allison Moore—IDHS  
Bernie Beier—Local Government Representative  
Brad Gavin—IDHS  
Catherine Dutton—IDHS  
Charlie Heflin—IDHS

Joe Whitaker—Fountain County EMA/LEPC  
Larry Butcher—LaPorte County EMA  
Madison Roe—IDHS  
Stephanie McKinney—Gibson County EMA/LEPC

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Dean Larson, Committee Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested determination of a quorum. Ms. Waymire congratulated Mr. Larson for the work he did in helping put together a superb EMAI/IERC conference.

**QUORUM**

Mr. Heflin indicated a quorum was present.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the September 14, 2015, meeting minutes was made by Mr. Greer and seconded by Mr. Bilkey.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mr. Ewusi noted that at the last meeting there were some unanticipated difficulties for attendees as a result of facility entry access protocols and security restrictions. He noted that IERC and LEPC meetings

are public meetings and therefore should be readily accessible to the public. He noted that staff will ensure future meeting venues facilitate public access.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Larson began the meeting by stating that he had resigned his position as Chair of the Communications Committee and that Mr. Greeson, IERC Chairman, had accepted his resignation. Mr. Larson stated he was chairing the meeting at the request of Mr. Palin, the Acting IERC Chair.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **EMAI/IERC Conference**

Mr. Larson requested to add a subset item to the agenda for discussion of bringing the EMAI, IERC and Fire Conference all together as one later in the meeting. He noted that this was requested by Mr. Greeson.

Mr. Larson solicited comments/feedback from members present on the 2015 EMAI/IERC conference. Ms. Waymire, Mr. Greer, Mr. Whitaker, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Pridgen and Mr. Ewusi each provided feedback and discussed changes they would like to see for 2016. They also reviewed some of the pros and cons associated with various classes that were presented during the conference. Ms. McKinney stated that she will be the committee chair for the 2016 conference and she is aware of the suggestions that have been made for the 2016 conference and her committee will be addressing those comments and suggestions.

Mr. Larson turned the discussion over to Ms. McKinney to discuss combining the IERC, EMAI and Emergency Responders Conference (Fire Conference). Mr. Larson noted that he wanted the comments of EMAI Board be heard by the IERC Committee and Commission members. Ms. McKinney read an email from Jennifer Tobey, former EMAI Committee Chair, which explained reasons why EMAI would not be interested in combining with the fire conference but still wants to continue its relationship with IERC. Representatives of EMAI and the Emergency Responders Conference did meet to discuss combining the conferences, but no IERC representatives had been invited to participate in the meeting. Mr. Larson included his personal thoughts and disapproval in the attempts to combine the conferences in the past.

There was a question about whether EMAI had received their portion of the payment for the 2015 conference. Mr. Gavin advised the payment approval process was still in the works but would be addressed.

Ms. Roe advised the committee that HMEP funds could be used to assist in funding these conference. Ms. Dutton volunteered her staff to be part of the planning team for the 2016 conference so they can assist with technical and financial support.

Ms. McKinney discussed her thoughts about the proposed 2016 schedule which proposed included topics and presentations. She also noted that the committee anticipates additional topics when the 2016 "Call for Presentations" go out.

Mr. Greer expressed his concern about the last day of the conference only being a half day. Mr. Larson explained the reasoning behind the final day only being a half day.

Ms. Dutton proposed the IERC reach out to the Indiana Alliance of Hazardous Materials Responders (IAHMR) in an effort to discuss combining their conferences or helping support their annual Hazardous Materials conference.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was brought before the committee.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

No general discussion topics were brought before the committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Pridgen and was seconded by Ms. Dutton.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm**

**NEXT MEETING**

January 11, 2016

Indiana Government Center South



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Dean Larson, Acting Chair

