

INDIANA EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (IERC) MEETING
RETREAT

Indiana Government Center, Conference Room 1 & 2
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
March 9, 2009, at 9:00 A.M.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Mr. Ewusi welcomed commission members and introduced Roger Powers from Dekalb County as the new Local Government Representative to the IERC.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Garvey—Chair
Carol Shelby—Public
Bruce Palin—State Government
Brian Lott – Local Government

Jim Pridgen—Industry
Sherman Greer—Local Government
Thomas Melville—State Government
Roger Powers-Local Government

The following commission members were absent:

Joseph Wainscott — IDHS Chair
William Reed—Public
Dean Larson – Public

Michael Pace—Industry
Mike Bigler—State Government

The following staff members were present:

John Steel—IDHS
Ian Ewusi—IDEM/IDHS

Laura Stedham—IDEM

The following members of the audience were present:

Jeff Larmore – Marion County LEPC

TOPICS

Combining Policy and Technical Committee

It has been brought to the attention of the IERC that much of the business conducted by the Policy and Technical Committees overlaps, and combining the two committees would be worthwhile. This combined committee should be co-chaired and would like to bring to recommendation to the next IERC meeting.

It was determined that combining the Policy and Technical Committee that the IERC Legal Counsel should have a significant role in this.

Non-IERC Members serving on IERC Committees

Mr. Greer chairman for the Communications Committee spoke that he has not had with problem for non-IERC members serving on committees. Having outside experts participate on the communications committee has been beneficial. But has wondered about what is the commission policy is on this matter. He continued that he needed the outreach to have people help us out.

Ms. Shelby added that she has does not have the need for additional members on the Training Committee, but would not be opposed to this.

Mr. Ewusi added that historically it has been great to have non-commission members serve on the committees. But included that the committee chair should have the ability to select who could serve on their committee.

This would be addressed with the legal counsel for opinion to see if this could be done as well address voting privileges on the committees and if these committee members can be reimbursed for any costs such as travel.

There are times that the IERC Committees need to reach out to the expertise outside the IERC. These people could be chosen by the committee chair with approval of the commission chair.

Funding

Mr. Palin discussed a request to the Department of Revenue for a budget augmentation to request \$70,000 in order to pay for revisions that IDEM is making to our database and electronic reporting. Additional comments were made for funding an administrative position to support the IERC. Discussion continued on whether this would be a full time or temporary position.

Mr. Ewusi addressed on how other states such as Michigan and Ohio are funded through fees or HMEP, and how the IERC should take a close look at HMEP and how we should look how the LEPCs will be structured and how to push these Federal dollars to the LEPCs.

Record Keeping

Mr. Ewusi recommended that the IERC look at having a dedicated office in the state office building where to keep all IERC and LEPC records. This will be a way to keep all records at one central location. Discussion was made into possibility of scanning such as what IDEM has done on scanning all documents into virtual file cabinets.

Electronic reporting for Tier II reports has been in effect since January 1. Once a facility becomes registered they can submit all reports. A letter sent to the LEPCs indicated that the anticipation date that all reports submitted will be 2010, and they will not have an option to submit paper after that. It was recommended that updates to facilities keep being sent out on a regular basis.

Regional LEPCs

There was initial discussion on developing regional LEPCs that is concurrent with the 10 IDHS District Planning Councils (DPC). There has been ongoing discussion over the last few years on how the LEPCs can fit into the districts, if they can go regional; have the LEPCs remain independent; or have them part of regional planning efforts. This could be to make them more efficient and could help the weaker LEPCs is more effective.

This initiative is being sought through IDHS to streamline LEPCs into the DPCs. Concerns were brought up by Mr. Pridgen that if this happens there would not be enough emphasis placed on LEPC business, SARA Title III issues and finances may become distorted as who does the money belong to. Some of the oversight could fall to the IDHS field coordinators and concerned that they may not have the time to address LEPC business with their current workload.

Mr. Garvey said it makes sense to address some of the planning efforts into the district planning concept.

Mr. Greer discussed the recent District 10 which held a district hazardous materials exercise said it went well. But had challenges on bringing players to the table. Even bringing together elected officials would be difficult.

Inefficiencies, what is overlapping and work being done by the regional representatives would need to be addressed.

Mr. Larmore from the Marion County LEPC said they have addressed on bringing their LEPCS in to the DPC and do not believe this is viable. They like the concept where multiple disciplines are involved in the decision making. The DPC concept is not that way.

Mr. Ewusi said he put together a paper for a former director with different options, with the benefits and potential problems. This addressed disbanding the LEPCs and moving them to the district concept, the 10 regional coordinators are able to address LEPC issues, Mutual agreements between counties and districts would be formed. Issues were the losses of LEPCs extra funding through HMEP and loss of funding in emergency services if a DPC becomes inactive. An LEPC could become DPC members on a voluntary basis or non-compliant LEPCs could be forced to participate. Finally last option is leave everything the way it is.

Additional discussion about Mr. Ewusi and Mr. Steel dividing the counties and what responsibilities will be shared.

Other Discussion

A brief discussion on pending legislation regarding appointed local government officials serving on LEPCs could have designees serve as their proxy.

Ms. Shelby addressed the training committee updating language in the policy handbook regarding the qualifications for trainers to recognize adult learners. The trainers must be certified by the Board of Firefighter Personal Standards and Education. Current language states the instructor must be certified in the area for which they are teaching. OSHA states “Instructors must be certified as adult education or training providers”

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 12:23pm.

Signed copy on file

Joseph E. Wainscott, Jr., Chair