



INDIANA EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (IERC)

Fiscal Committee

Indiana Government Center South

302 West Washington St.

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

May 11, 2020 (Virtual/Teleconference)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ian Ewusi—IDHS
Madison Roe—IDHS
Amanda Horner—IDHS
Laura Steadham—IDEM
Bruce Palin—Public Representative
James Pridgen—Business/Industry Representative

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shawn French—Business/Industry Representative

The following Commissioners and staff were present:

Justin Guedel—IDHS
Elliot Anderson—IDHS
Jeff Larmore—Local Government Representative

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Ms. Steadham welcomed everyone to the Fiscal Committee meeting and requested a determination of a quorum. Meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

QUORUM

Ms. Steadham indicated a quorum was present after roll call, with six (6) of seven (7) members in attendance.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Ms. Steadham asked if there was any discussion for the meeting minutes from July 8, 2019. Mr. Ewusi made a motion to approve the July 8, 2019 meeting minutes and was seconded by Ms. Roe.

Roll Call Vote

Ms. Steadham—Yes
Mr. Ewusi—Yes
Mr. Palin—Yes

Mr. Pridgen—Yes
Ms. Roe—Yes
Ms. Horner—Yes

No further discussion occurred. All present were in favor.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Separate IERC Funds from IDSi Fees

Mr. Ewusi began the discussion by explaining the various expenditures coming out of the IERC budget. He noted the current appropriated IERC budget is roughly \$74,000 and \$53,000 is designated for the annual maintenance of the Tier II Manager system which leaves roughly \$21,000 for operations. Typically, he reported, the IERC spends \$10,000 for conferences which leaves \$11,000 for other projects. With this background information, Mr. Ewusi inquired if the \$53,000 annual Tier II Manager maintenance fee line item could be removed from the IERC budget and a different alternative/method employed to pay for this service.

Mr. Ewusi presented the following three options to help pay for the Tier II Manager system maintenance fee:

Option 1: Create/require a user fee for facilities using the Tier II Manager system to report their chemical inventories.

Option 2: Change the funding dispersed amongst the IERC and LEPC. He noted that currently 90% of funds are distributed to the LEPCs and 10% to the IERC. He suggested changing the formula 80% for the LEPCs, 10% to the IERC and 10% for program services support. He explained the services funds would pay for the various Tier II Manager system fees along with any other service fees incurred.

Option 3: Ask the LEPCs to help fund the Tier II Manager system since they are also beneficiaries of the system.

Mr. Ewusi also stated that the current budget does not include the cost and the annual fees for the proposed new LEPC plan module. He noted the yearly income (10% distribution) for the IERC is about \$60,000 which leaves about \$15,000 budget shortfall.

Mr. Pridgen and Mr. Palin agreed that option 3, asking LEPCs for funding, was not feasible for consideration. Mr. Palin stated the IERC legal fund balance is substantial, about \$665,000 and he would rather pull funding from the legal fund then reduce the amount given to LEPCs. He noted the legal fund can cover the \$15,000 budget shortfall for years without becoming a problem. Mr. Pridgen agreed with Mr. Palin about possibly using the legal fund balance to cover additional costs. Mr. Ewusi noted his concern about spending down the legal fund without a plan to recoup the money. Mr. Pridgen responded saying the IERC can pull from the legal fund for a few years and then revisit in the future to determine if this is something to be continued. Mr. Palin suggested adding a chemical fee or increasing the existing fees for facilities to help pay the cost of Tier II Manager. Ms. Steadham mentioned the IERC needs to verify that the legal fund is still in the account and is still accessible. She reported the State Budget Director is planning to look at every budget to help with COVID-19 expenditures. Mr. Ewusi indicated he will discuss with IDHS legal team about the possible options and will provide more information at the July meeting.

No further discussion occurred.

LEPC Plan Module

Ms. Roe began the discussion by explaining how adding a LEPC plan module into Tier II Manager system will be beneficial to LEPCs during the creation of their hazardous material response plan. She noted the module will require specific information be provided by the reporting facilities when filing their yearly report, thus taking some of the burden off the LEPC. She reported a GIS module will be included in the new plan module to allow LEPCs to develop/complete the required maps. Mr. Ewusi said that adding this module to Tier II Manager system will facilitate a systematic and consistent pathway for LEPCs to gather information in the development of their respective response plans. He noted having a systematic and consistent hazardous materials response plan throughout the state will also assist administrators and first responders.

Ms. Roe continued the discussion by providing the quote from IDSi, the company who will be adding this module into Tier II Manager system and noted the upfront cost of \$45,000. She reported the cost breakdown as follows: \$10,000 one-time cost for the generic module, \$25,000 cost to customize the module, and \$10,000 cost for adding GIS capabilities to the module. Following the one-time upfront cost of \$45,000, there will be a yearly fee of \$10,000 for general maintenance and upkeep.

Ms. Steadham asked if LEPCs will want to use the new planning module. Ms. Roe and Mr. Ewusi both responded saying most LEPCs are supportive of using this new module and an easier way to complete their yearly plans. Mr. Palin asked if all LEPCs will be required to use the plan module because there are some LEPCs who have a very well written and complete plan. Ms. Roe responded saying staff will be flexible during the transition and facilities will still be required to provide the information into the Tier II Manager system and first responders will be able to access the data when needed if their respective LEPC decides to not use the module.

Mr. Palin asked about the \$10,000 maintenance fee and why it was so high. Mr. Ewusi responded saying he is still in communication with IDSi on the fees. Mr. Palin referenced the discussion earlier about adding a fee for facilities to help cover the additional cost of the plan module. Ms. Roe suggested adding on a \$10 accessibility or chemical fee to the facilities.

Mr. Larmore joined the conversation saying from an LEPC perspective, a plan module will be beneficial, but he has concerns about what type of questions will be asked of the facilities. He noted some facilities have concerns with keeping the information current or providing the information in the first place. Mr. Larmore suggested gradually introducing the questions into the planning module to allow time for facilities to adjust.

Mr. Ewusi noted he will continue to have communications with IDSi about the LEPC plan module and will express the committees concerns with the \$10,000 annual fee with the hopes of having the fee reduced.

Please see the recording for further discussion.

Meeting Owl

Ms. Roe reported that the company who created the Meeting Owl, the device used during meetings for recording and speaker purposes, has an updated version which has better sound and video capabilities. She noted the IERC shares the Meeting Owl with the IDHS EMS section and EMS has

agreed to help pay for the upgrade. Ms. Roe reported the initial cost for the upgrade is \$1,000, however, if the older Meeting Owl is returned \$500 will be deducted from the price. The final price the IERC and EMS will each pay is \$250.

Mr. Pridgen said this upgrade is a no brainer and made a motion to go forward with the Meeting Owl upgrade with the assumption that EMS will pay for half. Mr. Palin seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Ms. Steadham—Yes	Mr. Pridgen—Yes
Mr. Ewusi—Yes	Ms. Roe—Yes
Mr. Palin—Yes	Ms. Horner—Yes

No further discussion occurred. All present were in favor.

Motion Carried

Americas Water Infrastructure Act

Ms. Roe stated staff is currently working with IDEM on this project and she suggested tabling the conversation until the July meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Steadham stated there is not any other business to discuss. Mr. Palin motioned for adjournment and was seconded by Mr. Pridgen.

Roll Call Vote

Ms. Steadham—Yes	Mr. Pridgen—Yes
Mr. Ewusi—Yes	Ms. Roe—Yes
Mr. Palin—Yes	Ms. Horner—Yes

No further discussion occurred. All present were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

NEXT MEETING

TBD

LLS 14 JUL 2020

Laura Steadham, Chair