

Minutes: Alexandria Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Minutes for Local Emergency Planning Commission

Call to Order

A Commission Meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Commission was held on Wednesday, Nov. 9

Presided over by Michael Lee Pope

Attendees:

- Fred Millar - Former member of Washington DC LEPC
- Alyia Gaskins - City Council
- Bowman Olds - former chair of Fairfax County LEPC, currently chair of Prince William LEPC
- Gavin Pelliterri - Water quality compliance specialist in the Alexandria Stormwater Management Division
- Lorenzo Reed - Safety and Emergency Director for Inova Hospital
- Russell Furr - Fire Marshall's Office, Chief Deputy Fire Marshall
- Trice Burgess - Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, Joint Fairfax LEPC (Fairfax City, Herndon and Vienna)
- HILTZSK (caller unknown)
- Lucas Dushac - Former Plant Manager at Covanta plant on Eisenhower Avenue, now Plant Manager of Covanta Fairfax in Lorton
- Jasmine Johnson - Alexandria Health Department, Public Health Emergency Coordinator
- Elizabeth Chimento - Worked for 11 years with the city and the neighborhood to get the Murant Power Plant closed
- Curice Paulus - acting emergency manager
- Vernon Miles - yours truly

Motion: Approval of minutes from 4.18.22. Chimento moved to approve the minutes from April, seconded by Miles.

Item 1:

Chimento motioned that Vernon Miles serve as Secretary to the LEPC, seconded by Lucas Dushac. Approved unanimously.

Item 2:

Pope introduced by-laws to be reviewed and adopted in the Spring.

Pope said the annual report has not been filed. Suggested Miles compile brief report on April and November meetings.

Reports will be given quarterly henceforth. Gaskins said reports were already filed by Commissions, but a template exists already that can be filled out.

Pope described LEPC as being on city's "naughty list", a "name and shame", though Gaskins suggested the list be referred to as a "name and encourage" list.

Chimento discussed what should be discussed in upcoming report. Said the focus on the report should be on Murant Power plant, saying that much of the ground on the site has not

been tested. Oil cans broke open and spread oil on the site. DEQ put together plan to get rid of oil; that plan is still going on. Estimated it will take five years to complete, but plan only covers one area.

Pellitteri said he cannot speak specifically to ongoing issues at the power plant site, but that in development plans there are requirements to do environmental assessments. "My role is locating active sources of pollution that originate with stormwater outfalls," Pellitteri said.

Furr said there is an active case under Virginia DEQ on the site. There are known leaks on the site, Furr said.

Gaskins said Planning and Zoning is leading coordination and a plan was submitted for testing. Gaskins said she can go back to staff to get more information. Gaskins said relevant bodies — Hilco development team — could speak to the committee in the LEPC at the spring meeting.

Millar suggested: this is not an LEPC issue, this is a pollution issue. "This is mission creep."

Chimento said the District Department of Environment (DDOE) is in charge of water that flows from DC to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The DDOE has adjudicated fines from the power plant for water violations.

Chimento said issues of health impact from pollutants on property are still ongoing. Suggested starting at beginning and evaluating property.

Pope said he disagreed that power plant investigation is mission creep and said the LEPC could decide what fell within its purview.

Millar asked if there is a mission statement for the committee that includes pollutants. Suggested it would be "extraordinary" for LEPC to take on issue of oil. Asked if the Commission could view a mission statement, but it was unclear if one existed.

City Agency reports

Furr reported on the Hazmat and Environmental Investigations Unit:

Said most of what the city encounters is illegal dumping. Said in the recent quarter there has been minor illegal dumping activities. On a construction site, said there was a company washing out concrete into storm drains. Said an arrest was made on the case and charged general contractor for release.

Pellitteri said the incident took place at 1501 Hancock Avenue.

Furr said a month ago there was an incident of tires being illegally disposed of behind the Sheriff's Office. The individuals dumping tires were caught in-progress dumping the tires on the site of a law enforcement agency. Furr described the incident as "pretty brazen." The individual was given a notice and made to retrieve four dropped tires.

Furr said remote dumping are typically done in remote locations.

Furr said a joint inspection of Virginia Paving will be ongoing on Thursday, Nov. 10. The inspection will include looks at fire hazards and assessment of discharges and environmental issues.

Furr said Virginia Paving used to make regular appearances on committee but have not done so in a while.

Pellitteri from Transportation and Environmental Services

“Last may, there was a fish kill in Four Mile Run. It was a fish kill in Four Mile Run, a wastewater release from Arlington Water Treatment plant. Around 5,000 gallons of sodium hyperchlorite — basically bleach.”

At the time of the reporting, the source was not clear, but Pellitteri said later Arlington noticed malfunction lead to the release. First report of the incident was from May 16, 2022.

Health Department report from Johnson. Johnson reported that training to explain and do an overview on chempacks and how they are deployed. An FBI chemist came to OEM and did a seminar on category 4 agents.

Johnson said trainings are continuing. A series focused on EMS deployment in the city is scheduled for 2023. The Health Department is looking at ensuring standardization for training, practice and deploying.

Health Department is also responsible for anthrax response — monitoring release of mass profolaxes (sp?), could be vaccine or pills. Must be done every 4-5 years, but was delayed by covid.

Office of Emergency Management from Paulus. Paulus said tabletop training has been done involving first responders and various departments. Active violence incident series will be continued into next year, to include a functional and full-scale exercise based on a tornado touching down into the city.

Commonwealth of Virginia reports:

No one on call was present representing DEQ or Emergency Management.

Partner Agency Reports:

Reed updated LEPC from Inova. A patient surge due to routine flu season. Emergency was deactivated yesterday (Tuesday, Nov. 8). Seeing significant pediatric surge, but said there is no need for alarm or Code Red status. In regards to Covid: periodic increases on a seasonal basis. Flu vaccinations were mandated across the system, with the cut-off for that earlier this week.

Reed said there is remedial training ongoing for PPE. Reed said hospital staff are also being refreshed on training for outbreak of infectious diseases.

“We’re at a good point, which I’m happy about, so we can all stand down and breathe a little easier.”

Gaskins inquired about pediatric surge. Reed said it’s typical around flu season but there’s nothing “triggering” around RSV, but that he would inform the LEPC if there was any surge.

No representative from Red Cross, FEMA, or PTO was available for a report.

Dushac said there’s no immediate update from Covanta.

Miles asked if the city could get an update on fish kill events as a result of chemical releases.

Millar asked whether it was possible to see how recently local emergency plan was updated and amended, and whether those plans are available to the public in libraries. Paulus said a draft can be found online, but the full plan is not available to the public because of sensitive information.

Chimento motioned to close the meeting, with a second from Johnson.