

ALASKA LEPC ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

Anchorage, Alaska

Friday, March, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jamie Sunderland, Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LEPC
Brian Long, Aleutian/Pribilof LEPC
George Vakalis, Anchorage LEPC
Kevin Spillers, Anchorage
John Downes, Copper River LEPC
Mike Paschall, Delta-Greely LEPC
Rusty Lasell, Denali LEPC
James K. Maltby, Fairbanks LEPC
Daniel J. Garcia, Capital City-Juneau LEPC
Mark Jaqua, Greater Ketchikan LEPC
Patricia Little, Kenai Peninsula LEPC
Duane Dvorak, Kodiak Island LEPC
Sarah Sanderlin, Mat-Su LEPC
Thomas Vaden, Nome LEPC
Frederick Brower, North Slope Borough LEPC
Sara Kinjo-Hischer, Northern Southeast LEPC
Wendie Schaeffer, Northwest Arctic LEPC
Dorthea Rooney, Petersburg/Wrangell LEPC
David E. Miller, Sitka LEPC
Brian Templin, Southern Southeast LEPC
George Keeney, PWS (Valdez) LEPC

GUESTS:

Flower C. Cole, Delta-Greely LEPC
Warren B. Cummings, Fairbanks LEPC
Russ Ackerman, Fairbanks LEPC
David Gibbs, Fairbanks North Star Borough
Michelle Brown, City/Borough of Juneau LEPC
Tom Mattice, City/Borough of Juneau LEPC
Beatrice Adler, Mat-Su LEPC
Rodney Jensen, City of Nenana
Vickie Erickson, Nome LEPC
Alaine Tate, Nome LEPC
Raymond Atos, North Slope Borough LEPC
Billy A. Lee, Northwest Arctic LEPC
Sandra Dixson, Petersburg
Joe Shoemaker, Sand Point
Al Stevens, Sitka
Alan Wien, DEC

Mark Hill, 176th Wing
 Danny Devereaux, DCE Region X
 Michelle Sherwood, EPA
 Robert Forgit, FEMA
 John Madden, DHS&EM
 Roberta Carney, DHS&EM
 Bryan Fisher, DHS&EM
 Merry Carlson, DHS&EM
 Dale Crum, DHS&EM
 Jim King, DHS&EM
 Michelle Heun, DHS&EM
 Doug Schoenwald, DHS&EM
 Brian Fisher, DHS&EM
 Andy Jones, DHS&EM
 Adrian Avey, DHS&EM
 Anita Sperling, DHS&EM
 Jackie Watson, DHS&EM
 Sarah Puerner, DHS&EM
 Leon Morgan, DHS&EM
 Robert Tanner, DHS&EM
 Wanice Cowles, DHS&EM

I. **CALL TO ORDER - Co-Chairs Mr. George Vakalis and Mr. Jamie Sunderland**

Co-Chair Vakalis called the LEPC Association Meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The LEPC Association members said the pledge of allegiance.

B. Welcome and Introductions

The following LEPC Association members introduced themselves: Sarah Sanderlin (Mat-Su LEPC); Tom Vaden (Nome LEPC); Frederick Brower (North Slope Borough LEPC); Duane Dvorak (Kodiak Island Borough LEPC); Wendie Schaeffer (Northwest Arctic LEPC); Mark Jaqua (Ketchikan Gateway LEPC); Dorthea Rooney (Petersburg/Wrangell LEPC); Jim Maltby (Fairbanks LEPC); Rusty Lasell (Denali Borough LEPC); Dave Miller (Sitka LEPC); Brian Long (Aleutian/Pribilof LEPC); Kevin Spillers (Anchorage LEPC); John Downes (Copper River LEPC); Dan Garcia (Juneau LEPC); Mike Paschall (Delta-Greely LEPC); George Keeney (Valdez LEPC); Brian Templin (Southern Southeast LEPC); Sara Kinjo-Hischer (Northern Southeast LEPC).

C. Administrative Announcements from Co-Chairs

Co-Chair Vakalis requested that whenever a member speaks that they turn on their microphone and state their name. There is a sign-up sheet for public comments. He gave a

safety briefing.

II. APPROVAL OF October 1, 2009 MINUTES

Co-Chair Vakalis reminded attendees that the minutes are posted on the website.

John Downes, Copper River LEPC, MOVED to approve the minutes of October 1, 2009 as presented. James Maltby, Fairbanks LEPC, seconded the motion. MOTION passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Co-Chair Jamie Sunderland MOVED to add a resolution as item D under new business. James Maltby, Fairbanks LEPC seconded the motion.

Mike Paschall, Delta-Greely LEPC, MOVED to add the internal LEPCA funds and how to utilize them as item E under new business. James Maltby, Fairbanks LEPC, seconded the motion.

The Agenda as amended was adopted without objection.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments at this time.

B. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Dvorak stated that the balance in the account is \$1,300. They recently got new signature cards signed and will be getting debit cards for the officers.

C. SERC Finance Committee update – Mr. George Vakalis, Chair, reported that the State budget has not been set yet. Once it is set then the Finance Committee will know what is available for distribution to the LEPCs using the baseline formula. If there are any funds left over after that, everyone will be notified. The LEPCs can then compete for any extra monies for special projects or other things that are in line with the guidelines for use of the funds.

D. Homeland Security & Emergency Management

- i. Strategic Plans & Leadership – Mr. John Madden, Director, DHS&EM, reported on accomplishments, activities and future plans. Since the last meeting Alaska was the test bed for a first ever test of the emergency alert system with a signal that originated in the White House.

There was a state-declared disaster in Seward, and a state and federal-declared disaster in Kodiak. Both were for public assistance. Over the winter they have written the

project worksheets, done all the alignments, etc so that when summer comes they will be able to proceed rather quickly on them.

They have tested the mobile command vehicle. It was used to support the mountain rescue training at Hatcher Pass as well to support the Alaska State Troopers for the recovery effort near Portage. It will also be used to support the State Troopers during the Arctic Man in the spring.

There was a decision made by the Administration to convert some long-standing temporary positions into permanent positions. This is in acknowledgement that there will always be some work to do for disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

They are preparing for Alaska Shield Exercise. It is three exercises using one command structure & one planning structure: Alaska Shield (state agencies and local communities) supported by Vigilant Guard (National Guard exercise program), and Arctic Edge (U.S. Department of Defense and federal agencies). More than 5,000 people will be involved with assets from eight states and eight or nine Alaska communities. The premise is a Southcentral earthquake with the effects felt throughout the state (i.e. supply chain, etc.).

The River Watch Program has started for this year. They will be working with the National Weather Service as well as the Canadian equivalent.

Mr. Madden stated that current activities also include making the best possible use of other people's tragedies: studying, analyzing, understanding and taking corrective action for Alaska based upon the earthquake in Haiti and the earthquake and tsunami in Chile. From Haiti they have learned that first steps include arranging how to receive help; to prepare to receive help is as important as asking for the help itself. While Chile was better prepared, they were not as ready with broken supply chains. He stated they are now examining Alaska's plans, procedures and policies to make sure they learn as much as they can from those two instances.

There has been a week long preparedness conference prior to this meeting. The theme was bridging communities. It is about taking experience, innovation and creativity from every community and sharing it with other communities. They will build on this conference for the next preparedness conference.

Future plans include continuing work to build and sustain a response corps, the ability of taking skilled people from one part of the state to help out with a disaster in another part.

There are new approaches towards distance learning and collaboration. This will allow them to have meetings, conferences, and training opportunities across the web under reliable communications lines that will save money but at the same time give them more contact, more delivery and more coordination.

They are also looking at more integration of the activities that the Division of

Homeland Security and Emergency Management deals with so there is a unified approach to looking at and solving the problems that are faced with the natural disasters and man-made disasters. This includes supporting the LEPC, the SERC and other organizations. A major effort in the next few months will be to align these efforts and use all of these bodies collaboratively so they can discuss the challenges, discuss the problems and also solve and resolve them.

With respect to outreach they plan to have more one-on-one meetings with Division leadership and the LEPCs, city councils, elected community officials, private sector, etc. in order to better understand the community and LEPC direction and needs and for the Division to better explain what the Division's capabilities are and what their support is.

Mr. Madden reiterated that the emphasis has always been to build up capabilities. He stated that historically Alaska has a declared disaster somewhere in the state about every 90 days. Most are small, some are intermediate, and rarely are there ones that are truly statewide or across a broad area; however, that does not mean the latter ones do not happen. They will be focusing more on the catastrophic disaster and what they can learn from the small and medium disasters, what they can learn from collaboration with other organizations, including LEPCs, as well as how they can the capabilities that will serve the state and the communities when the big event happens. The two elements of this are (1) everything it takes to stabilize the disaster so that people are rescued, sheltered, and have the basics, and (2) to be able to receive the aid asked for. This means exercising and ensuring that the reach-back to the rest of the Nation works and that the systems are in place. That they know what our potential needs would be, and that they have plans adequate to meet the State's needs to support the locals. The catastrophic planning, preparedness and exercise will be a continuing major theme for the Division.

Mr. Madden reported that there is a bill working its way through the Legislature to update the Individual Assistance Program for the State. It would index the individual assistance for a state disaster to 50 percent of what the federal level is which is indexed each year to the Consumer Price Index. Should it become law, it would change the Individual Assistance Program maximum amount for the state to around \$15,000. It does not change the eligibility, the auditing, or other requirements.

1. Operations – Mr. Bryan Fisher, Operations Chief, reported that since the last meeting there has been a Presidential disaster declaration for a series of storms that hit Kodiak Island. He stated that when they sent people down to Kodiak, the

Borough was prepared with all the information they needed. There was some damage to the hydroelectric facility that they have not been able to see yet. FEMA and the state will be looking at this in the summer. He stated that the more work that is done at the local level to provide the needed information to the state, the better and easier it is to get the process moving. The state declared disaster was in a sea storm in Seward. It damaged Lowell Point Road as well as the seawall by the Sea Life Center. He reported they have just wrapped up the processes for writing up the project worksheets for both disasters.

Mr. Fisher reported they completed the annual live tsunami warning test this week.

There has been talk about changing the emergency alert system. New programs and technology will be coming out in the next couple years. The next test of the statewide emergency alert system will be around September 11th.

The mobile emergency operations center will be pre-staged in Fairbanks prior to the flooding season. They plan to send it to Circle Hot Springs during the River Watch Program.

With respect to the River Watch Program, they are completing the annual breakup guide. It is proposed to be published by email the week of March 30th. Hard copies will be distributed to the communities that need them.

With respect to communications, some of the non-permanent positions have been converted to full-time positions. One is the statewide Interoperability Coordinator. This position has now been filled by Leon Morgan. Mr. Fisher also introduced Doug Schoenwald who will be working on the specifics of what equipment and capabilities/technology are going to be needed. They are estimating between \$1.5 million and \$2 million worth of grant money becoming available soon for communications projects.

In response to Mr. Sunderland, Mr. Fisher stated that the call-down procedure this year was probably the most successful he can remember. They were able to contact every community on the list with the exception of Halibut Cove.

With respect to the River Watch Program, Ms. Schaeffer stated that Buckland has a new washeteria and they are concerned about the flow of water within their community. They requested the Borough to come out next week. They would like to invite Division staff to come with them. Mr. Fisher stated they were working on it now.

2. Preparedness – Ms. Merry Carlson reported that since the last meeting they held a Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) workshop in Fairbanks as a follow on to the spring floods of last year. She expects they will be doing additional follow-on activities to this. They have a new Voluntary Agency Liaison in the Disaster Assistance Section, Debbie Reed, who will take this on.

With respect to the Alaska Shield exercise Ms. Carlson stated that following the full-scale exercise they will be doing regional follow-on tabletop exercises in the fall focused on recovery.

She reported they have a shelf-ready Executive Leadership Tabletop Exercise they can roll out for the executive leadership of a community. She reported that Exercise also has developed a number of community-ready tabletop exercises that are also at the disposal of the LEPCs and communities. They are also now able to develop webinars. She encouraged the attendees to consider creative ways they can use that capacity. Through HSIN, Homeland Security Information Network, they can provide the

capacity to operate webinars independently or in conjunction with Division staff.

Ms. Carlson stated there is a Training and Exercise Plan Workshop that will be held late June. They will develop the next multi-year training and exercise plan at that workshop. They will be reaching out to the LEPCs to make sure that the exercises and training the LEPCs and communities have planned for the upcoming years will be incorporated into the statewide strategy.

A major activity they have been working on is the LEPC Training Matrix. It has not been updated since 1994. A draft product has been developed. It lists out all of the training requirements for state planning not only for the LEPCs, but for the public at large, public works, schools, etc. It will be a web-based product so it can be updated easily.

With respect to the ICS instructor certification process, September 30th, 2010 is a deadline to historically recognize individuals who have expertise in position specific expertise when it comes to their EOC positions. She stated they wanted this to last not just through that process, but also as a state they want to say these are the entities recognized in Alaska who have the competencies to train others on positions they hold in the EOC as well as it being the pilot and model for any other kinds of certification and for eventual credentialing processes throughout the state.

3. Planning – Mr. Andy Jones, lead planner, gave an overview of what they have done and what they are planning to do within the Planning, Analysis and Mitigation Section. He introduced Andrew Stevens, the new community planner. The new state hazard mitigation planner is Jennifer Adelman. Within Security, Vulnerability Analysis the team has made a visit to Wrangell and worked with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. In the next year they plan to go to Kodiak, North Slope Borough, Bethel, Fairbanks, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, and possibly Haines. Two members of the team have also been working with DHSS CDC at the warehouse for the H1N1 and distributing the shipments of the vaccine.

With respect to Alaska Shield they have the Homeland Security Information Network. Anyone involved in Alaska Shield has to have access to it.

With respect to mitigation planning they are involved in the update of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. They will be looking to the communities to look over the state strategy.

The Planning Section is in the process of rewriting the 2004 Emergency Response Plan and converting it to the 2010 Emergency Operations Plan. They have decided to go to more of a traditional format which will help intertwine the state EOP with the community EOPs.

They held a Continuity of Operations meeting three weeks ago with DHSS Office of Children's Services. They hosted three days of actually writing the plan. He would like to bring this to the communities and help the communities actually write their

plans.

They have the small community rural template for emergency operations plans on their website. It has been updated and there are three new templates. These are a new continuity of operations template, a new emergency operations template and a new emergency evacuation template. They will be on the website soon.

In response to Mr. Sunderland, with respect to the COOP planning in the communities, Mr. Jones stated he has worked with the six communities in peril and it is always a variety as to who is involved. He likes to see the people who are going to be there for a while, such as a city clerk, a fire chief, etc. They want to form an incident management team within the community. The community will identify who will be involved. In response to Mr. Sunderland, Mr. Jones stated that it can be up to a week depending on how involved and how much buy-in they get from the community. The over-all plan writing process will take longer.

In response to Mr. Downes regarding the changes in the EOP plan in a can, Mr. Jones stated that the old plan was more of an emergency response plan. The new plan is more of a direction and control plan with an element of emergency response in it. He will send a copy to Mr. Downes. Mr. Downes stated he has been working with his 22 communities. He's been writing EOPs under the old plan for some of them and then meets with the community and the community leaders will work out the names, addresses and phone numbers of contacts. He does not want to have to do it again. Mr. Brower also asked for a copy of the plan. Mr. Jones stated they would also be willing to help Mr. Brower with assisting the outlying communities. Ms. Schaeffer also requested a copy of the plan.

VI. LEPC VERBAL STATUS REPORTS

Mat-Su LEPC: Ms. Sarah Sanderlin reported the LEPC has been assisting in the update of the Borough's Emergency Operations Plan. They have also been asked by some agencies within the community to review their plans, including a 330 community health clinic. Mat-Su Regional Hospital submitted their annual vulnerability assessment for review. They designed a logo for their local LEPC. Their largest upcoming outreach is the State Fair and they are working with DHSS and will

partner with them again this year.

Bering Straits LEPC (Nome LEPC): Mr. Tom Vaden reported that they are having a major shift in their responsibilities. They discovered they are an LEPC and not a City of Nome entity. There are 19 communities, 4 of which are temporary, and two of the communities are in peril, two military bases. They have found pretty much no one has heard of Tier II or SARA Title III. They will be focusing on outreach, community education and people's right to know, etc. as well as planning. Next week will be the first exercise in an outlying community. The City of Nome will be doing an exercise as part of Alaska Shield. They also have an exercise planned for May. He discussed the incident with H1N1 in Little Diomed. It took a major amount of effort from several entities to respond. Recently they developed a list of contacts for the major communities in the LEPC. He encouraged other LAPDs and LEPCs to consider doing that. He thanked Pete Petram for his outreach in the area working on emergency plans, etc. He also thanked DHS&ES for putting on the conference.

North Slope Borough: Mr. Frederick Brower reported on their LEPC meetings since the last LEPCA meeting. In November they approved their bylaws. They began their notification process on the annual review of their emergency operation plan. He attended the SHSP 09 grants kick-off meeting in Anchorage. In December they began their annual review of the schedule of meetings for 2010. In February they did not have a quorum, although they did have discussions. April 14-16 they will hold their first annual North Slope Borough LEPC meeting including the outlying communities coming in for a face-to-face meeting. There will also be some training at that time. American Red Cross of Alaska has asked to come up to do some disaster relief training. March 16-17, Mr. Brower attended the CAN-US North tabletop exercise. They have been holding H1N1 meetings monthly since May 2009. They determined they are as prepared as they can be for a worse-case scenario and have now begun the planning process for long-term of how to rotate medical, as well as preparing for the next flu season. Mr. Brower announced that this is his last meeting as he was recently promoted to risk manager. The disaster coordinator position (by their bylaws) is the LEPC chairman. The position is currently being filled.

Kodiak Island Borough LEPC: Duane Dvorak reported that this past year has been largely a rebuilding year for community preparedness infrastructure. The city manager/emergency services director has been rebuilding her relationships with employees and reorienting some of their priorities. They had their H1N1 mobilization. He stated that the local health service providers stepped up and led the charge on that. They are looking at reshuffling their incident management team plus there have been other staff changes. They also had the fall storm disaster. They have been reviewing their bylaws. After some search they found 1995 bylaws. They have adopted new bylaws and elected new officers. In rewriting their bylaws in addition to bringing on the all-hazards approach to things, they balanced it with community right-to-know. They are looking to do some self-promotion of the LEPC. He thanked Adrian Avey and Andrew Stevens for coming to Kodiak. They are looking at grant opportunities and other avenues for funds to do a major plan update. They need a COOP plan. The emergency operations plan needs to be updated. They have adopted a new incident management team structure. There is a lot more that needs to be done. There have been a lot of lessons learned with the fall storms and the H1N1. He reported that this year they got more timely Tier II filings. They hope to recognize those firms who did file timely so that perhaps others who are not filing, but should, will take notice.

Northwest Arctic Borough LEPC: Ms. Wendie Schaeffer introduced Mr. Billy Lee, their LEPC

chairman. She reported they worked with Respond to deliver the basic ICS 100, 200 and 700 courses in Kotzebue. Approximately 60 people completed the training. She attended grants training in Phoenix in December. They teach you how to apply for Homeland Security grants. She recommended the training. They continue to work on revision of their borough-wide EOP. They have one of the communities in peril, Kivalina. They have recently approved their EOP, COOP and their evacuation plan. They are now working with Selawik, Ambler and Shungnak to revise their local EOPs. They participated in the IPAWS inventory survey for communications. They held an LEPC meeting February 11th. They air their entire meeting on the region-wide radio station. They partnered with Fish and Wildlife Service to get actual GPS mapping completed on winter trails. So far this year there have been about six search and rescue missions in the region so far with one fatality. They built an ice road between Kotzebue, Norvik and Kiana. They received an R grant from BLM to perform winter trail staking activities. They held a regional search and rescue meeting in December. Members of the search and rescue groups reported it was very important to them that additional funds be raised to support the local community search and rescue groups to purchase food during extended search times. She reported they held a 13-

hour fund drive on the regional radio station and they raised just over \$31,000. They will be traveling to

Buckland to do some preplanning for the spring flood season.

Ketchikan Gateway Borough LEPC: Mark Jaqua reported they are on track for approving the annexes to their EOP for special needs, cruise ship evaluation and pandemic response. They hope to finish their all-hazards plan, including mitigation actions and have it approved by the three governments in their area. He thanked Bryan Fisher and his staff for the call-out. As a result a number of people are asking for copies of the plan. He stated that the local communications in Ketchikan is the City of Ketchikan, Ketchikan Public Utilities. They are looking at an initiative next week to sell it to a private entity. The effects it will have on emergency planning and coordination are yet to be determined.

Petersburg/Wrangell LEPC: Ms. Dorteia Rooney reported that Petersburg held their annual meeting with Wrangell. The chair participated in several Petersburg Medical Center disaster preparedness meetings. They gathered all their Tier II forms. They are preparing for the Petersburg Health Fair. Wrangell worked with the public health nurse regarding H1N1. They vaccinated over 600 people. Wrangell is working on getting current Tier II forms. They are trying to incorporate area photos of the new extended borough for the EOP. They are also preparing for their health fair.

Fairbanks LEPC: Mr. James Maltby reported their hazard mitigation plan has been submitted to the state for review and feedback. The EOPs are being reviewed and updated. Tier IIs are being received. They've been busy with Alaska Shield coming up and planning for those exercises. He reported that this week the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and Clinic received the Governor's Safety in Excellence Award.

Denali Borough LEPC: Rusty Lasell reported they are trying to finish the review their emergency operations plan. They just received the final draft of their hazard mitigation plan and the borough assembly is taking that up for adoption in April. They are hosting a tabletop exercise April 24th. The exercise will isolate the communities within the borough from both the north and the south with the objective of seeing how they can sustain themselves if they cannot get resources into the borough and how they would deal with injuries of any significance without Medevac-AK service and

transportation outside the borough. They received a resolution from the borough assembly in support of a CERT program. A 30-member group of people at McKinley Village have been working together for about a year doing some ICS training. The Park has held a 3-day avalanche training school. He stated they will start formalizing the CERT program and are hoping they can pull a lot of volunteers for their fire departments through that group. They held fundraisers and had donations made to provide them some safety gear. Through the communications grant they were able to get Cantwell on full 911 paging for all of their responders. The last portion of the project is to get the City of Anderson on 911 paging. After that the entire borough will be on 911 paging. They are almost finished a flood control project with Dry Creek. They are working with the school district IT people to see if they can develop a transportable emergency operations center. He announced he will be leaving the Borough in November.

Sitka LEPC: Mr. David Miller stated in the past year they have worked on H1N1. He introduced Al Stevens who was a great help for him. They brought into the group two hospitals that really do not talk to each other very much along with the clinics and had a great turnout of people on the H1N1 planning project. They held two mass vaccination clinics and had good turnout at both. The LEPC meets every month and has three or four work groups per month working on the EOPs. They are bringing in the whole community to make these things happen. They are working on the all-hazards plan. They are putting up new tsunami sirens. Eight people from Sitka went to EMI for a school disaster planning class. He highly recommended the class. He reported they have assigned one of the LEPC members to a

PIO information position. Mr. Stevens is now teaching ICS 100 and 200 to the LEPC members so they can get on line and take the class. He thanked Adrian Avey for coming to Sitka. He stated that having someone from the State coming to their meeting shows the local people that the State does care about what is going on. He added that Ms. Avey and Michelle are awesome to work with.

Aleutian/Pribilof Islands LEPC: Mr. Brian Long reported they have been working on membership updates as well as finishing their tsunami ready project. They are heavily involved in community events. They will have a booth at this Memorial Day event where they get to push the concept of preparedness for individuals and households. They will have a drill the end of April which includes running a shelter overnight and setting up their EOC. They held an active shooter drill in their city hall.

Anchorage LEPC: Mr. Kevin Spillers reported on the energy exercise the held, the EOP they are working on, emergency operations center, and A1 training. The energy exercise was a success and the awareness program was very effective. A comprehensive energy emergency action plan came out of it. It has been sent to the State, the Mat-Su and Kenai Boroughs. With respect to the EOP, one of the lessons learned is the durability of the plan and how effective is it going to be two to three years from now. They have found they did not have sufficient detail previously in the plan. Things evolve over time as conditions change. They also found that the ability of certain key agencies or partners that they were relying on to support them in a disaster or emergency may increase or decrease over time. In addition priorities may change from administration to administration. Technology may also change the way they deal with an emergency. They are facing some infrastructure problems and getting infrastructure in place. With respect to the Emergency Operations Center and the response teams, there has been some turnover so they have to get other people up to speed. They held an orientation event in early January. They are using a building block approach with Alaska Shield as the capstone event. They held a tabletop in February addressing mass care kinds of response. In early April they will hold a tabletop addressing a mass casualty, mass fatality scenario. It will be more of a functional type of

exercise. During the summer they will hold seasonal exercises as well as command and control and other incidents that are things one does not see every day. In particular they are looking at fleshing out some of the memorandums of agreement and understandings they have with other key agencies. In response to Mr. Brower, Mr. Spillers stated that he can get him what type of software the electronic patient care reporting is. Essentially it tracks a patient from the incident to the hospital.

Copper River LEPC: Mr. John Downes reported he has been working with some of the communities to build their EOPs. They have been working with health care providers in the Copper Valley who have built their own organization. They now have a seat at the LEPC. They held a Red Cross sheltering workshop a couple months ago. As a result of the Red Cross coming down they now have eight new Red Cross volunteers around the Valley. He reported they are building more sheltering kits for all of the schools. They are in the process of updating their EOP. They have a committee updating their bylaws. They are planning their disaster awareness day.

Juneau LEPC: Mr. Daniel Garcia reported the LEPC has been working on a lot of internal issues through sub-committees. They worked on their bylaws. They have filled nine vacant seats. They are looking at outreach and raising the profile of the LEPC in the community. They are reviewing and updating the emergency plans and the all-hazards plan. They addressed H1N1 preparedness in the community. Issues that have come up at the LEPC that they are interested in include special needs issues during emergencies, food security and vulnerability to supply chain disruptions, records preservation and others. They continue to advocate home preparedness to the community. They

continue to emphasize continuity of operations training with the membership. He also encourages people to look at developing CERT teams as a resource. The university recently had a CERT team form. Ten percent of the University of Alaska-Southeast employees are now CERT team members. He reported that they have a variety of planning, training and exercises going on. Juneau's hazmat team is now fully operational. He thanked the Ketchikan hazmat team for their assistance in that. They are working on encouraging the community members who submit Tier II reports to do so electronically. Juneau has hired a new emergency manager, Tom Mattice.

Delta-Greely LEPC: Mr. Mike Paschall reported they held one exercise where the LEPC worked with some of their response organizations, primarily public health, Red Cross and volunteers to get them back active. They are losing their sole medical provider and looking at how that will impact the preparedness of the community. They are looking at whether the community is served to an appropriate level with EMS preparedness. There was a concern that the State is going to charge the individual organizations on the ALMR system as users of that system and whether or not the independent agencies are going to be able to afford to pay to stay on that system and how that is going to impact them from a preparedness standpoint.

Valdez LEPC: Mr. George Keeney reported they are very busy with Alaska Shield. They have seven days of drills during that event. The ham radio crews have had two operational exercises preparing for Alaska Shield. The incident management team has held two tabletop exercises this last month. There is a week of classes scheduled next week. There are three CERT teams in the community that will be active with the fire department and the National Guard crews. The Red Cross will come out and do some training next week. He stated that Kathy Dawson, Pat Bonser and Mike Drummond have spent a lot of time preparing for Alaska Shield and helping out in the community as have Merry Carlson and her staff who have helped them with training. He thanked Roberta Carney and Michelle Heun for their assistance on the financial part. He reported that Valdez is approaching 300 inches of snow in town

and 500 plus in Thompson Pass. There have been a lot of avalanches in Thompson Pass. In the next month they will have the hill climb and snowboarding competition off the top of the mountains. The medics use this to check their skills. He suggested bringing the mobile command center to it. The NOAA testing of the tsunami system went great. They have nine sirens in the community now. Bert McQueen came up last week to teach an incident stress debriefing crew.

Southern Southeast LEPC: Mr. Brian Templin thanked staff for the conference. They have held a tsunami tabletop exercise. They just finished their local hazard mitigation plan process. The city council adopted it. He was looking forward to taking back some of the training provided this week back to the community.

Northern Southeast LEPC: Ms. Sara Kinjo-Hischer reported she started in early January. She expressed her appreciation for the conference. She learned about the roles of LEPC as well as got ideas from other communities. Current projects include a rewrite of the EOP. She will be doing some community outreach, including going to the health fair, Southeast Alaska State Fair next fall, as well as putting ads in the newspaper to get the word out for both the community and business owners who may have some hazardous materials in their business. They are planning some tabletop exercises in the upcoming months and some ICS training which was requested by the city manager. She also is trying to make the Tier II reporting more electronic. Mr. Brower suggested putting together some flyers to explain to the businesses that she is new to the position, and put together a packet with the Tier II information and send it to all the businesses.

Kenai LEPC: Ms. Patricia Little reported they are redoing their bylaws. Membership for LEPC is on a lot of different task forces in the community, the main ones being H1N1 and alternate care site planning they are now doing for the borough. They are working on new membership.

A. Public Comments

No public comments at this time.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. 2010 Alaska Shield Exercise Update – Mr. John Madden, Director, DHS&EM, stated this is a large and complex exercise. It focuses on an earthquake. There are three themes for the exercise: domain awareness, informed decision making, and transition. Domain awareness is rapidly being able to determine needs and capabilities, to sort fact from fiction, and to get enough information about what is going on to lead to informed decision making. Informed decision making means knowing enough that you have high confidence that you are making the right decision, but to make it swiftly and based upon good information. Transition is bringing order out of chaos, getting more informed, having your IMT sit together, and make your incident action plan. The priorities on the first day may not be the priorities on the seventh day. In addition many things are happening at the same time so you have simultaneous operations. You will also be dealing with a lot of conflicting information and have to sort through it. There will be an emphasis in several locations for search and rescue. They have arranged for a rubble pile to be brought to Alaska that will stay in Alaska for training and exercises. People will learn how to go through a damaged building, how to find the voids and how to detect survivors. There will also be mass casualties at some locations as well as mass care. In addition some

communities will actually shelter people away from their homes. There is a major emphasize in this exercise on public information so they are doing joint information centers at the state and are supporting those that are being formed at the communities so that the public message is accurate, reliable and timely, and meets the needs of the citizens. In this exercise they are looking at some other capabilities including building a Bailey bridge across Eagle River. Eight other states will participate and have forces here, primarily National Guard. Four states will bring their joint interoperable communication packages which will be located in different areas of the state. The exercise will address the reach-back capability: 1. the ability to receive aid, that there is some means by which aid can come in; 2. the ability to articulate what we need; 3. to be able to say what we can do within our state with local, state, private sector volunteers and federal agencies inside the state, and what do we need from outside of the state. We will articulate our needs to partners in other states and they will generate what they can provide and how long it will take to get it to us. Each day the situation report of what is happening for the exercise will be given out to many private sector partners. Many of them will take that information and work it inside their company and inside their sector. This will be part of the after action. For the first time they are linking the state disaster exercise with all the communities in with the international community. Alaska has consuls from a dozen nations and they will be included in the exercise so they can fulfill their responsibilities to foreign nationals. Other states are interested in this exercise and in how Alaska looks at earthquake monitoring, earthquake preparedness, exercise, and response. What is learned in Alaska Shield primarily will benefit Alaska, but we are serving as an observation point for many other states. When the big event happens, whether a catastrophe hits all of the state or part of the state, we are all

affected. Domain awareness, informed decision making, and transition will be needed to come out of the disaster, stabilize it, get the full resources of the nation behind us so we can move as rapidly as possible into recovery.

Mr. Lasell suggested having a USAR team that can be dispatched to other disasters like what happened in Haiti so we would have experienced people within the state to start those search and rescue operations immediately. He stated that during Katrina he was dispatched to help there. One thing they found was that through FEMA's Individual Assistance Program there was a lot of potential for fraud. He recommended that in looking at the Individual Assistance Program for the state they look at lessening the ability for fraud. Mr. Madden stated that one of the major emphases after the exercise will be the catastrophic: planning for it, how to operate in it, and how do we recover from it. He has started discussions with FEMA, Red Cross and other federal agencies that would be supporting the state on the framework for the discussion including how to get aid to those who need it and still meet the responsibility for using the money as it should be. They do not want to have a system that encourages fraud. With respect to USAR in Alaska, Mr. Madden stated they want to have the exercise, the needs and the capabilities to reveal or validate some of their assumptions. The existence of a rubble pile here will build capability, but maintaining the capability is the true challenge. He anticipates that in the after discussions there probably will be a call for improved urban search and rescue, downed building rescue for the state.

- B. H1N1 Update – Mr. Bryan Fisher, DMVA, reported that unless there is another surge in the spring, this would probably be the last time they cover this subject from the state

perspective. DHHS's Emergency Operations Center was open September 30th to November 25th. The main objectives were to provide coordinated information to Alaska communities, health care partners and the public; to maintain situational awareness at the state and federal level; to conduct distribution and administration of the anti-viral medication and influenza vaccine; and to continue to conduct H1N1 preparedness community workshops. They had 385 registered vaccine administrators around the state. There is still plenty of H1N1 vaccine available. They received 225,000 doses so far. DHHS stood up a Joint Information Center collocated with the Public Health Emergency Operations Center. The reporting information about the number of cases confirmed, number of deaths, etc., will still be available via the state's websites and will continue to be updated.

In response to Mr. Brower, Mr. Fisher stated he will email a point of contact information to assist them with the long-term goal planning.

C. Approval of Mr. Thomas Saxton to SERC Interoperable Communications Committee –

Thomas Vaden, Bering Straits LEPC, MOVED to nominate Thomas Saxton to the SERC Interoperable Communications Committee. John Downes, Copper River LEPC seconded the motion.

Under discussion, in response to Mr. Paschall, Mr. Fisher explained the committee had requested representation for a rural LEPC or LEPC and from an urban LEPC or LEPC. The current vacancy is for a representative from an urban LEPC. They did not have any volunteers. In looking through their policies they found that the North Slope Borough LEPC is categorized as a rural LEPC. The committee will give special dispensation to have Mr. Saxton represent the Association along with Mike Paschall from Delta-Greely and Rusty Lasell from Denali

Borough. All of the urban areas in Alaska are already represented on the committee in other capacities.

Mike Paschall, Delta-Greely LEPC, called the question. George Keeney, Valdez LEPC, seconded the motion.

The MOTION passed unanimously.

D. Resolution

Members had a copy of the resolution. Co-Chair Vakalis explained that a lot of this came up as a result of the session held Monday. Co-Chair Sunderland went through the resolution and the changes. He worked on this with Duane Dvorak. They tried to come up with language changes to update the goals and bylaws of LEPCA to reflect what they actually do and how they actually operate. They added things like right-to-know programs as things they concentrate on, as well as promote emergency planning. With respect to the bylaws, in paragraph 3, representation, he tried to clarify how they actually vote. Paragraph 4, he changed the language to reflect there are two co-chairs and a secretary/treasurer, that they speak for the organization, and they serve two-year terms with no limit on the number of terms, and that the co-chairs stagger their terms. He will work with staff to verify when the co-chairs were elected and possibly bring up another election in the fall meeting.

Paragraph 6, they took out the tri-annual meeting since that is not being done. He changed if any LEPC requested a special meeting to it may happen rather than will happen. If an LEPC wants a specific teleconference, they would contact the officers of the Association who will get a consensus on whether to hold a meeting. He also added a section on LEPCA funds.

James Maltby, Fairbanks LEPC, MOVED to adopt the resolution. Brian Templin, Southern Southeast, seconded the motion.

Under discussion, Mr. Dvorak explained that things that are new were in bold and underlined. Number 10 of the goals should have been bolded and underlined.

Mr. Paschall stated that Page 2, line 84 indicates copies of the minutes are to be sent to the LEPCs. He would like to strike that as it not currently being done. Co-Chair Vakalis explained that currently it is posted on the web site. If a hard copy was wanted, the person could print it off. Ms. Schaeffer stated that before the meetings she goes to the website, but otherwise does not go to the website very often otherwise. She would prefer to receive them by email so she could provide them as well to her LEPC during their regular quarterly meetings. Ms. Carney stated they can send them via email.

Jamie Sunderland, Co-Chair, MOVED to amend, to strike the sentence beginning on line 84 regarding copies of minutes being forwarded to all LEPCs after any Association meeting and to replace it with the minutes of the meeting will be sent via email. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Paschall stated that if they were going to be emailed, that would be sufficient and the language did not need to be amended.

Mr. Paschall raised the question of why the officers would have a vote if there was another representative from their LEPC present at the meeting thereby giving that LEPC two votes. Mr. Sunderland explained that he believed the officers have a vote as they were all from LEPCs. He was trying to reflect what was happening.

Mike Paschall, Delta-Greely LEPC, MOVED to amend by stating beginning on line 72, Each LEPC will have one vote unless a co-chair is from a represented LEPC. In that case an LEPC may designate a second representative from their LEPC who will hold the LEPC's voting rights. Wendie Schaeffer, Northwest Arctic LEPC, seconded the motion.

Under discussion, Mr. Paschall stated that if there was a representative from an LEPC present from the same LEPC as the officer, then there should only be one vote cast by that LEPC.

The MOTION to amend passed unanimously.

Ms. Schaeffer asked with regard to the LEPCA structure if they wanted to include when the elections are held. Co-Chair Sunderland stated he was going to see when they were elected.

With respect to the section on LEPCA funds, Co-Chair Vakalis stated his interpretation was that the funds can only be expended if the consensus of the officers allows it to be expended. He asked if the group was comfortable with that. Mr. Maltby stated that the officers were elected by the membership and they should trust the officers to do their jobs.

Wendie Schaeffer, Northwest Arctic LEPC, MOVED to amend the motion to change line 74 to read: the LEPC will elect by majority vote of those present two co-chairs and one secretary/treasurer for the Association. Election of officers shall take place during the first annual meeting of the year with office to take effect upon the close of that meeting. Duane Dvorak, Kodiak Island LEPC, seconded the motion.

In response to Mr. Lasell, Co-Chair Vakalis stated that while both of the current co-chairs were elected the same year, people would like to stagger it. Mr. Paschall pointed out that the proposed resolution states that the co-chairs run alternate terms.

The MOTION on the amendment passed unanimously.

The original Motion as amended passed unanimously.

E. LEPCA Funds

Mike Paschall, Delta-Greely LEPC, MOVED that the Co-chairs send the LEPCs some correspondence to request some funding for LEPCA from private organizations that fall under the LEPC scope. Frederick Brower, North Slope Borough LEPC seconded the motion.

In response to Co-Chair Vakalis, Mr. Paschall explained he was suggesting the LEPCA send out the letters. Co-Chair Vakalis explained that currently the LEPCs can do that themselves. Mr. Paschall stated the motion is to encourage LEPCs to request their local, private enterprises provide funds for the LEPCA. He would like to see the LEPCA be able to do something with

more funds. He saw opportunities at the conferences that the LEPCA could do. Mr. Dvorak stated that they have done some projects at the request of the Association membership. While he did not oppose the concept of trying to bring money in, he would suggest developing a work plan first. Mr. Paschall stated the idea was for the LEPCA to do projects during the conferences. Mr. Dvorak recommended they form a committee to come up with an idea of how they would use those funds to benefit the Association, to benefit the LEPCs, and to further the goals and mission. Mr. Lasell agreed with Mr. Dvorak regarding having a plan first. Co-Chair Vakalis explained the history of the money they have was that they had an education project regarding sheltering in place. The money the Association now has was left from the grant from ConocoPhillips for that project. He expressed concern about asking businesses for money without a plan for its use.

The MOTION failed unanimously.

VIII. MEMBERS CLOSING COMMENTS - OPEN FORUM

Co-Chair Vakalis requested members submit topics they would like to have discussed or areas they would like people brought in on to assist in the furtherance of what the responsibilities and duties are.

Mr. Garcia, Juneau LEPC, stated he was looking for ideas, directions, and suggestions for LEPC issues. He requested other LEPCs post their agendas and minutes on the web for the benefit of other LEPCs.

Rusty Lasell, Denali-Greely LEPC, asked for opinions for the use of LEPC funds. He would like to see the ability on a tabletop exercise to see if their plans will work.
Mark Jaqua, Greater Ketchikan LEPC, thanked the staff and officers.

Wendie Schaeffer, Northwest Arctic Borough LEPC, thank the staff for the hard work on the conference and the meeting.

Duane Dvorak, Kodiak Island Borough LEPC, thanked staff for making extra seats available at the bi-annual preparedness conference. He appreciated the discussion regarding the interaction of the staff with the LEPCs and LEPCA and how they support and facilitate their objectives as well as how they as emergency planners can take more initiative in the affairs of the association. He recommended people think about how they can improve the Association. He stated he was available to assist if people have proposals for goals or mission statements for the LEPCA.

Frederick Brower, North Slope Borough LEPC, thanked the Department and the LEPCA. He appreciated the training he has received.

Sarah Sanderlin, Mat-Su LEPC, supported Mr. Lasell's idea. She requested staff provide a list of the items the various LEPCs have received approved monies for to assist them.

Co-Chair Sunderland thanked staff for putting on the conference. He thanked the LEPCs for discussing what they LEPCA does and making a few changes.

Ms. Carney stated that there were documents available at the back table regarding base-line funding and what types of expenditures it covers as well as special project funding. While she does not have a list of

all the types of projects that have been funded, she will look at that and see if they can pull something together. The available documents are the statute, a white paper on LEPC guidelines and issues, and a two-page document on what the funding can be used for.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.