

STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 26, 2010
Anchorage, Alaska

I. Call to order - Chairperson

Chair Katkus called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

A. Roll Call was taken.

Members Present:

Thomas Katkus (Chair)	Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs
Larry Dietrick (Co-Chair)	Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Taunnie Boothby	Dept. of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Grey Mitchell	Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development
Matt Leveque	Dept. of Public Safety
Craig Fleener	Dept. of Fish and Game
Tara Horton	Dept. of Health & Social Services
Dean Brown	Dept. of Natural Resources
Terry Strle	Local Government
Jamie Sunderland	Local Government
George Vakalis	Urban LEPC
James Maltby	Urban LEPC
Brian Templin	Rural LEPC
Tom Vaden	Rural LEPC
James Butler	Public Member at Large

Members Absent:

Mike Coffey, Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities

Ex Officio Members Present:

Amy Schwalber	Alaskan Command
Robert Forgit	FEMA
LCDR Shane Montoya	USCG
Robert Whittier	EPA

Ex Officio Members Absent:

Department of Administration
Department of Education and Early Development

Guests Present:

Bea Adler, Mat-Su Borough
Lorna Weese, Citizen Corps Committee

Mayor Shirley Marquardt, City of Unalaska
Tom Mattice, City & Borough of Juneau
Michelle Brown, Juneau LEPC
Daniel Garcia, Juneau LEPC
Mike Paschall, Delta Greely LEPC
Flower Cowl, Delta Greely LEPC
Russ Ackerman, Fairbanks LEPC
Sandy Dixson, City of Petersburg
Alan Wien, SERC Work Plan Committee & DEC
Kurt Helgerson, DOD
Mark Hill, 176th Wing EM Flt
Michele Sherwood, EPA
Vivian Melde, EPA
Bryan Fisher, Interoperable Communications Committee & DHS&EM
John Madden, DHS&EM
Mike O'Hare, DHS&EM
Roberta Carney, DHS&EM
Merry Carlson, DHS&EM
Kathy Dawson, DHS&EM
Robert Tanner, DHS&EM
Andy Jones, DHS&EM
Adrian Avey, DHS&EM
Jacalyn Watson, DHS&EM
Wanice Cowles, SERC Coordinator

- B. It was concluded that a quorum was present.
- C. Administrative Announcements – SERC Coordinator Wanice Cowles announced here are two vacancies coming up on the SERC, one urban and one rural LEPC representatives. They will be open for renewal or application for the position. She also gave a safety briefing.

II. Welcome and Introductions.

- A. Opening Comments by Chairperson and Co-Chairperson – Chair General Katkus, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and Mr. Larry Dietrick, Division of Spill Prevention and Response. Chair Katkus welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated that the SERC brings forward creative and innovative ideas for discussion for solving problems. The different regions of the state require different solutions. Co-Chair Larry Dietrick welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- B. Member Introductions and Opening Comments

Chair Katkus asked those at the table to introduce themselves.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes – October 1, 2009

Mr. George Vakalis MOVED to accept the minutes of October 1, 2009 as presented. Mr. James Maltby seconded the motion. There were no corrections. There were no objections.

IV. Public Comment

There was no one signed up for public comment.

V. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of and Changes to the Consent Agenda –

Mr. George Vakalis MOVED approval of the consent agenda. Mr. Tom Vaden seconded the motion. There were no objections.

B. LEPC Appointments –

Mr. George Vakalis MOVED to accept the LEPC appointments found at tab 5. Ms. Dean Brown seconded the motion. There were no objections.

C. LEPC Reactivation – Bristol Bay LEPC Reactivation & Approval of New Members

Mr. George Vakalis MOVED Item C for discussion purposes. Mr. Tom Vaden seconded the motion. There were no objections.

Mr. Vakalis stated that there are two issues (Tab 5C). Request number 1 is for reactivation of the Bristol Bay Borough LEPC; Request number 2 is to approve the members if the first request is approved. His recollection for the original request to be removed as an active LEPC was due to a having a difficult time getting the required number of members and function as an LEPC.

Mr. George Vakalis MOVED to reactivate the Bristol Bay Borough LEPC. Mr. Tom Vaden seconded the motion. The MOTION passed unanimously.

Mr. George Vakalis MOVED to approve the members proposed for membership on the Bristol Bay Borough LEPC. Mr. Jamie Sunderland seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Report

A. DHS&EM Updates – Mr. John Madden reported on accomplishments, activities and future plans. Since the last meeting they have acquired capabilities they did not have before. These include the command and communications vehicle which can be forward deployed to almost any disaster they can reach on wheels. 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. They hope to supplement the vehicle by increasing their communications capability further by getting more portable versions of it.

Alaska was the test-bed for a first ever test in January 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.

He reported they have increased activity for the Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection (APIP). In recent months they did information sharing, discussions and running drills simulating a cyber security attack, simulating a cashless emergency.

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).

The River Watch Program has started for this year. They will be working with the National Weather Service as well as the Canadian equivalent. He stated that it is the readiness before that gives the ability to act swiftly. There has been four days of preparedness conference prior to this meeting with people from communities around the state sharing information, experiences and the creativity they have in how to prepare their communities. It has been a successful conference.

Future plans include 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. They are working to integrate all of the activities of the different organizations. Each has a focus but the end state is the same: improved readiness, improved response and improved recovery. In the coming months they will be focusing on mission integration. The second emphasis is on the catastrophic. Mr. Madden stated that the emphasis is 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 focus on 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.

The third element of the future focus is 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.

VII. Local Emergency Planning Committee Association

Mr. Jamie Sunderland, LEPCA Co-Chairperson, reported on the LEPCA meeting. In addition to presentations, they heard from each LEPC on their activities, they made some changes to their bylaws to update them. They heard about the upcoming Alaska Shield exercise. They approved a new member for the SERC Interoperable Communications Committee, Mr. Thomas Saxton from the North Slope Borough.

VIII. Local Emergency Planning Committee Status Reports –

(None)

IX. Old Business

A. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee – Mr. George Vakalis, Chairperson, reported that there was little to report as the Legislature has not yet approved the budget. Once it is approved the Finance Committee will meet and use the baseline as the primary tool for allocating the funds. If there are excess funds over and above the baseline requirements, locations will then compete for what is available. At this time he has heard of no LEPCs that were having difficulty spending the money that was allocated earlier.

2. Training Committee – Mr. Thomas Vaden, Chairperson, stated they were finally getting some closure to the Training Matrix update. It will be in an interactive web format. They will be able to look up what, for example, X person needs to do for training to meet all the unfunded federal/state requirements. It has gone through the Training Committee and through the All-Hazards Plan Review Committee as well as many subject matter experts and the state training coordinators. It will be sent to the members of the SERC before the next SERC meeting for them to review and then adopt at the fall SERC meeting. Ms. Jacalyn Watson addressed ICS training. They are working on the historical application process for ICS position-specific instructors. The goal is to turn in the names of people who would qualify by the September deadline. They hope this pilot program will serve as a pilot for future credentialing efforts. Mr. Butler asked if there has been any attention paid to trying to find a way to link the NWCG qualifications to the new FEMA/State system. Ms. Watson stated that part of the application process they have in place is going to address that. Mr. Butler stated that one of the challenges is in the training and becoming qualified and having someone sign them off. He asked if there would be opportunities to tag along with overhead teams from Fire to get somebody initiating and signing off task books. Ms. Dean Brown said she has talked to their training officer about the need to coordinate with this type of training. The experience and check-off on the task book is what really says you've had someone who knows what they are doing. She felt that was critical. She will make sure they are getting that link.
3. All-Hazards Plan Review Committee – Mr. Andy Jones reported the committee has held two meetings since the last SERC meeting. They have reviewed seven plans. They are currently reviewing the State of Alaska's Emergency Operations Plan. They have also been reviewing the State of Alaska Multi-Agency Coordination Group Handbook, Palmer's Emergency Operations Plan, Hooper Bay's, etc. In the next round they will have 18 plans to review and three templates. They have been working in conjunction with the FEMA Area Office on federal reporting documents (GAP analysis, SPR, etc.). They are trying to condense all these plans together to make one streamlined document. They had a special condition in 2009 for EMPG applicants to fill out the GAP analysis. They have now gotten these back and the committee will review the documents. This will help them understand better the capabilities that are missing within the communities. At their last meeting they combined the efforts of the All-Hazards Plan Review Committee and the Training Committee. It was helpful for each committee to understand what the other was doing.
4. Disaster Search and Rescue Committee – Mr. Andy Jones report touched on the purpose of the committee. The committee was established to better plan, prepare and respond to incidents involving life safety in relation to search and rescue. It compliments the Federal ESF 9 search and rescue responsibilities. The committee is tasked to look at structural collapse, urban search and rescue, assessing structural integrity, etc. Currently they are identifying the existing Disaster Search & Rescue (DSR) capabilities and deficiencies. DHS&EM has funded training for Juneau to bring in a specialized SAR instructor to teach urban avalanche search and rescue. Next week the 11th Air Force Rescue Coordination Center is hosting a SAR workshop. They will try to get the committee involved in the urban search and rescue scenario under Alaska Shield. May 17th they will be briefing delegates from the Montana National Guard, Alaska National Guard and from overseas on planning and statewide capabilities. He stated that it is easy to figure out which federal and state agencies are partners within SAR, but they have forgotten who the local groups are. He has been interacting with local communities including Alaska Mountain Rescue Group, Juneau Mountain Rescue, etc. Volunteers are the number one support when it comes to SAR operations. Mr. Sunderland asked if they could give a presentation at the next SERC meeting on the rubble mound and Mr. Jones agreed to do it.
5. Interoperable Communications Committee - Mr. Bryan Fisher, Co-Chair person, reported the

committee meets at least once a month. One of the primary duties is to manage and oversee all grant funding for interoperable communications. The original PSIC grant has been extended for another year. They have been working with the subgrantees and have extended their terms to enable them to finish their projects. They also manage the interoperable emergency communications grant program. They simplified the grant process. They were successful in reaching out to the smallest, most underserved communities in the state. They have submitted their application for the grant for 2010 and are waiting to hear back from the federal government. There are also some State General Fund dollars that they will put in that pool along with remaining funds from the PSIC grant. With respect to projects the committee oversees in terms of training and exercise, they just took final receipt of all of their strategic interoperable communications training and exercise plans. Each of the 71 communities will receive a 10-page document that is a training prescription for the next 3 years. They plan to recognize communications generalists. They continue to move forward on that project as well as a number of planning and assessment projects that should be wrapping up within the next couple of months. Ms. Brown stated that the State has made a lot of strides on interoperability communications. She asked about the prospect for long-term sustainability. Mr. Fisher stated that the issue is operations and maintenance of all of the capital investment that has been made. It has been clear from the beginning that it is not likely that the federal government is going to provide sustainment funding. There were some announcements this year that some of the federal grants would support funding of operation and maintenance activities to some degree. With respect to the interoperable communications piece, there are many villages using 40, 50, 60 year old radio equipment so the priority will not be to spend any of those limited dollars on operations and maintenance activities. It is up to the local jurisdictions and subgrantees to continue to work with the legislature to try to find a way to fund it. He added that they were attempting to buy equipment for those types of communities, jurisdictions, and agencies that do not have a tax base that do not cost a lot of money to maintain and do not require subscription fees, etc. Ms. Dean stated her concern was that as time goes on they will be looking at a lot of needs. It is essential to have systems that communicate with each other. She felt the SERC will be looking at some real challenges in the future.

6. Work Plan Committee - Mr. Alan Wien, Chairperson, reported the SERC Work Plan is under Tab 12 in the meeting book. At the last SERC meeting they had presented the draft plan. There were no changes proposed to the plan. That day started the 30-day public comment period for the new plan. They did not receive any comments during that time period. Shortly after that period they received a letter from the Northwest Arctic Borough providing comments to the draft plan. The committee reviewed the Borough's letter and determined that altering the SERC Work Plan was not the best way to address their concerns. Instead the staff at DHS&EM drafted a letter to the Borough that provided explanations, clarifications and alternatives for the Borough to look at to address their concerns. The committee was therefore presenting the SERC with a final draft of the Work Plan. They still recommend no changes from the previous plan with the exception that on the first page they list the SERC committees. Upon approval by the SERC the plan will become effective July 1, 2010. It is a two fiscal year plan.

Mr. George Vakalis MOVED acceptance of the SERC Work Plan with the proviso that Urban Search and Rescue Committee be changed to Disaster Search and Rescue Committee. Ms. Dean Brown seconded the motion. The MOTION passed unanimously.

7. Citizen Corps Committees – Ms. Lorna Weese, Chairperson, reported there are several Citizen Corps programs around the state. One of the results of this week's preparedness conference is that several communities have expressed an interest in learning more about Citizen Corps as well as starting Citizen Corps programs in their communities. She reported that planning is in the works for the 2010 Public Safety Explorer Conference to be held in Fairbanks. Five of the Citizen Corps

programs were highlighted in a slide show. Mr. Butler complimented the Citizen Corps program. He asked if when the CERT people are activated are they under the umbrella of the borough or city that calls them out as far as worker's comp, etc. He felt they need to be aware that there are some policy issues associated with having volunteers come to an incident. Ms. Weese stated that different communities have their programs set up in different ways.

X New Business

- A. Emergency Tow System (ETS) – Mayor Shirley Marquardt, Unalaska, discussed the emergency tow system and how it works. The Selendang Ayu incident showed that they did not have the equipment and training locally to deal with an incident like this. They came up with the Aleutian Islands Work Group to first define the problem and then design a solution. The problem was being able to respond quickly, locally and safely to these vessels with a much better chance of simply holding the vessel until the weather changes or another response vessel can arrive. They designed a system they felt would meet the difficulties they were having. The City of Unalaska bought one for \$30,000 that would handle vessels up to 50,000 deadweight tons. ADEC purchased one to handle vessels over 50,000 deadweight tons. They also developed an operations and procedure manual that anyone who was going to respond could utilize. They have trained with the system. If people are not familiar with the system and how it works, and how it is deployed in several different ways, the chances of success in an emergency are much less. They plan to exercise the system every summer. They realized that they had to get the video and the manual not only to responders but also to the vessels that make port calls at Dutch Harbor. Every vessel that enters their port now gets one of the manuals as well as a CD, and a talking to by the pilots. Mayor Marquardt stated that ADEC has now purchased a second system that is stationed in Kodiak. The system is designed and is packed into a tote so it can be deployed from either the deck of a tug to a ship or it can be airdropped to the ship and then deployed back to the tug. She would like to see them stationed throughout the Aleutian Island Chain. In response to Mr. Forgit, Mayor Marquardt stated that the City has a small vessel they use to tow small recreational boaters and there is a fee for that. For the larger vessels there is something in place through the state and federal governments where they would be required to pay. IMO is working on requiring all ships other than those carrying oil and crude to carry emergency towing procedures. The Co-Chairs thanked the Mayor for her commitment to the project.
- B. Statewide Mutual Aid Compact – Mr. Bryan Fisher, DHS&EM, and David Gibbs, Director of Fairbanks North Star Borough Emergency Operations, discussed the concept of a statewide mutual aid compact. Mr. Fisher stated that the State of Alaska does not have a statewide mutual aid compact in place codified in law other than some statutes that provide some protections to fire agencies around the state to be able to send fire officers from one jurisdiction to another. The state is signatory to a number of international treaties as well as the Interstate Mutual Aid Compact & Emergency Management Assistance Compact. There is a treaty with British Columbia and Yukon Territory (Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement). Those treaties, approved by Congress, allow Alaska to share resources across international borders. We do not have that in state where the response community can be sent from one local political subdivision to another within the borders of the state. They have been looking for a number of years at how to do it. In 2004 the National Emergency Management Association drafted a sample compact that could be introduced into state legislatures. Mr. Gibbs reported that this year the Borough has identified mutual aid as one of the top priorities. In the course of developing the draft legislation they put forward they consulted with colleagues in some of the larger municipalities and received their support. They also received a resolution of support through the Alaska Municipal League as well as from the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association. He stated they are committed to continuing on with this issue and to working with the state. They will probably be looking for a resolution of support from the SERC at their next meeting for a mutual intrastate mutual aid agreement. Mr. Fisher stated that this issue was discussed Monday

at a session of the preparedness conference. DHS&EM will be convening a task force to look at the legislation as proposed by the North Star Borough to make sure it's ready to be moved forward next legislative session. By being able to provide some protections in statute, it will allow flexibility for local jurisdictions to enter into these agreements. They will also be discussing the formation of a statewide mutual aid committee to come up with the policies, procedures and practices to make sure everything remains consistent, is available and usable in times of disaster. Ms. Brown thought this was an excellent idea. One of the problems Forestry has run into that reoccurs is liability, workman's comp, how do you handle things as far as payment, portal to portal, etc. Something statewide is really needed. Forestry would be willing to help where they can.

- C. 2010 Alaska Shield Exercise Update – Ms. Kathy Dawson, DHS&EM, reported Alaska Shield is a statewide exercise designed to ensure effective coordination and communication among local, state, federal, private sector and non-governmental agencies during and after a catastrophic event. It will enhance the ability to assure and restore critical resources, supply chains, essential goods and services, etc., as well as support local community objectives. The exercise will be April 26th through May 1st. There will be three 24-hour operational periods. The scenario is an earthquake and the exercise is focused on operational and tactical levels. It is a combined exercise with the JTF Arctic Edge exercise and the Alaska National Guard's Vigilant Guard exercise. They are meeting weekly now in the planning phase. They also meet either telephonically or in person with the local communities involved in the exercise. The state has sponsored two tabletops, one for communities on communications, and one for executive leadership. They also are doing synchronization workshops and other training. ICS training, EOC training, communications training, etc. is also being offered to local communities. FEMA is also coming in to do some training. Communities involved in the exercise are Anchorage, Cordova, Mat-Su, Kenai, Unalaska and Valdez. Private participants include APIP, Alyeska, BP, and the Alaska Railroad. State participants include DMVA, DOT, DEC, DPS, DHSS, Department of Justice and the University of Alaska. The National Guard is bringing in units from Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Hawaii, North Carolina and one other. Federal partners include the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard District 17, FEMA Region X and the FAA. DOD partners include JTF Alaska, Alaska NORAD, U.S. Army Alaska, Fort Wainwright, Bassett Army Community Hospital and others. They estimate at least 5,000 people will be involved. Two tabletops will be set up for 60 to 90 days and 120 to 150 days after the exercise to practice long-term recovery exercises. Chair Katkus added that there will also be observers coming up to watch what happens. He encouraged everyone who can to get out and observe it, participate in it or be a part of it.

XI Other State Agency and Ex-officio Reports –

FEMA - Mr. Robert Forgit reported that since the last meeting they have closed the JFO for the work done in the river program with Eagle and the Yukon/Kuskokwim and opened another one with the Kodiak mud slides. One of the different concepts they started in Alaska is the virtual JFO. It seems to be successful depending on the size of the disaster. It was used in the Kodiak disaster. The Alaska area office is growing. They now have four people. There is a Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meeting in Boise, Idaho April 21st and 22nd. FEMA is also preparing for Alaska Shield. They are focused on the first initial hours. The FEMA federal support team will be initiated and they are bringing up an IMAT team. He reported that FEMA was part of a state partnership program to go to Mongolia and some of the Mongolian partners in emergency management will be coming to observe Alaska Shield. He stated that the Alaska area office is very busy and are thinking about expanding their space.

Alaskan Command - Ms. Amy Schwalber reported they also are preparing for Alaska Shield/Arctic Edge/Vigilant Guard. They just finished two days of intense staff training. They will hold some more tabletop exercises. She reported that the Joint Base Elmendorf/Richardson is set up for this summer. They have started

a lot of processes to join the two. Kulis will also be moving. With respect to Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection, and the private/public sector infrastructure group, she stated that 25 private sector agencies have signed up for intensive participation in Alaska Shield.

Coast Guard - CDR Shane Montoya reported that they recently held a multi-agency and international tabletop exercise looking at an oil spill exercise in the Arctic and how they would work with local, state and federal partners in conjunction with their Canadian partners. They hope to use it to expand into a more robust and possibly equipment deployment exercises in the future. The past two summers the Coast Guard has also held operations for several weeks in the Arctic trying to figure out how they would expand and what the best options and opportunities are, and what equipment works and what equipment does not work. They are in the process of planning for this upcoming summer.

EPA - Mr. Robert Whittier reminded the attendees that there was a new schedule for drills and exercises for the rest of the year. They are also participating in Alaska Shield down at the Port of Anchorage in the hazmat scenario. They are in the initial stages of working with the state and the Coast Guard in updating the subarea plans of Bristol Bay and Northwest Arctic. They would like to see some community involvement from the LEPCs in updating those plans.

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and & Economic Development - Ms. Taunie Boothby reminded people that flood season is coming up and to think about that in their preparations.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation - Co-Chair Mr. Larry Dietrich stated that the Alaska Shield exercise will include the Alaska Railroad in a hazmat scenario that will involve nine hazmat teams. The Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group has met twice since the last SERC meeting. ADEC has also been engaged on the North Slope and the oil and gas infrastructure in efforts to assess spills. They want to extend the life of the field another 50 years so they are looking at the infrastructure to see if it is sustainable for another 50 years. There was an incident at Bligh Reef with the tug Pathfinder. There was a significant petroleum release in Adam during a transfer operation. With respect to the Alaska Regional Response Team, they finally approved Change 3 to the Unified Plan. It includes new guidelines for in-situ burning, places of refuge for stricken vessels, new volunteer spill worker guidelines, as well as marine salvage and lightering guidelines.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game - Mr. Craig Fleener stated they do not have anything to report.

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services - Ms. Tara Horton reported they did not have any updates at this time.

Alaska Department of Natural Resources - Ms. Dean Brown reminded everyone that fire season starts April 1st. Typically the early fires are 100 percent human caused. There is a high fire risk until green-up. The Fire Techs are going through their annual training now.

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development - Mr. Gray Mitchell reported they just completed the Governor's Safety and Health Conference. The members of the council plan the conference every year. They tried to coordinate with Alaska Shield and will work harder to coordinate next year as there is a lot of cross over in the subjects taught. He thanked Chair Katkus for his presentation at this year's event.

Alaska Department of Public Safety - Mr. Matt Leveque stated the DHS&EM's emergency response vehicle is a remarkable, well thought out tool. Having a vehicle that can get anywhere on the road system gives them spectacular opportunities to locate an incident command post in the right place. The recent recovery of the snowmachiners also demonstrated the utility of ALMR radios. With respect to the sustainability of the radio systems that have been bought, he stated that within the Department of Public Safety, specifically the Alaska State Troopers and Wildlife Troopers, they are spending tens of thousands of dollars a year simply on batteries.

Chair Katkus agreed that the emergency response vehicle is a tremendous asset and is available where it can be placed to support people.

XII Informational Items

- A. Finalized SERC FY 2011/2012 Work Plan
- B. Northwest Arctic Borough's (NWAB) letter to the SERC regarding the draft SERC Work Plan
- C. Work Plan Committee's response to the NWAB
- D. DHS&EM's response to the NWAB
- E. Revised Ethics Information for Members of Boards and Commissions

XIII. Public Comment

There was no one signed up for public comment.

XIV. Commission Member Closing Comments

Mr. James Butler stated he has worked with many of the different agencies during actual incidents. This has been a busy winter with a variety of ship wrecks and some post fire issues. It is good to come to the meetings and hear what is going on and then take it back to the folks on the ground. He stated that the people from the different agencies who are on the ground do a good job under very difficult circumstances. He felt the upcoming exercise is a tremendous opportunity to draw out from the people in the field who the team is ultimately required to support how well they are accomplishing that. We need to make sure we think about supporting the people on the line. He encouraged the SERC to find things that they can do to be proactive whether it's a mutual aid agreement or whatever so they can start getting some action items and really help the people in the field.

Mr. Jamie Sunderland thanked DHS&EM for a good conference.

Mr. Brian Templin thanked DHS&EM for a good conference. He stated that at every conference the staff does a better job not only in bringing stuff that is very useful to the communities, but in working with the group that comes to send information back to the communities.

Mr. Tom Vaden thanked William Petram with ANTHC who has been traveling all winter to rural Alaskan communities working on emergency operation plans, etc. He also thanked the State Troopers and the National Guard for their efforts during the Nome/Golovin snowmachine race.

Ms. Dean Brown thanked Chair Katkus for a well run meeting.

Chair Katkus thanked Ms. Cowles for keeping him straight.

XV. Adjournment

Chair Katkus adjourned the meeting.