MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 17, 2011

The regular meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was called to order by Chairman Munson at 7:00 p.m. in the Central Mat-Su Public Safety Building.

LEPC members in attendance, establishing a quorum:

Bea Adler,	Jimmie Rogers,
Don Warble,	James Littrell,
Bruce Walden,	Kevin Munson,
Sandra Porter,	Jon Owen,
Steve Adams,	Kurt Soeder,
Dan Deedy,	Casey Cook, and
Bill Morrow.	

Also present were Sandra Woods, Public Health; Lou Friend, Chickaloon Tribal Transit; and Amy Kearns, citizen.

A quorum was present, and due notice had been published.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: By general consent, the agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: By general consent, the minutes of June 15th, 2011 were approved as presented.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Tentative - Aviation Transportation Advisory Board Members

Ms. Laughlin stated that: She received a phone call from Mary Brodigan in the Planning Department of the Borough in regard to the LEPC possibly holding a joint meeting with the Aviation Transportation Board. Ms. Brodigan stated that the board wanted to discuss aviation safety plans. It was suggested that a member representative from that agency attend this LEPC meeting to introduce the issues their board wanted to discuss and then possibly set a joint meeting. No members are present and Ms. Laughlin stated that she hasn't heard anything else on the subject.

REPORTS

Citizen Corps Council

Ms. Adler stated that: They are working on the next preparedness fair which will be held on October 1st at the Willow Community Center. She encouraged all board members to have their agencies participate. There will be commercial vendors participating who will be able to sell their emergency preparedness items to the public.

OLD BUSINESS

LEPC Bylaws Revision

Ms. Laughlin stated that: The LEPC bylaws revision legislation has been sent through Borough Administration, and if there are no hang-ups anywhere, it should be introduced on September 6th, with a public hearing on September 20th.

Alaska Shield 2012

Ms. Adler stated that: The Borough is a participant of the Alaska Shield 2012 exercise, and the EOC will be set up here, at Station 6-1 on February, 10th from 8am – 5pm. A lot of partner agencies are participating and it is going to be a cold weather scenario (mid-winter freeze), with an extended power outage.

Mr. Morrow stated that: On Saturday, February 11th, the Red Cross will be setting up two shelters (at Wasilla High, and Su-Valley High/Upper Susitna Senior Center). There will be CERT people there and it will be focused on functional needs populations. He stated that they still plan to support mass care for food for the EOC on Friday.

Alaska State Fair

Mr. Littrell stated that: The fair starts next Thursday and set-up will be happening next Wednesday, at Raven Hall. There are still a few slots open on the schedule to man the booth, so please sign up if you can.

NEW BUSINESS

Recruit Workgroup

Ms. Adler stated that: We as a board need to be more aggressive in recruiting, especially if the rewrite of the bylaws go through, and we end up with more seats to fill. Ms. Laughlin agreed to send out the list of current vacant seats to all board members. From there, the member representatives agreed to look for potential candidates. Ms. Adler, Ms. Laughlin, and Chairman Munson agreed to be on the Recruitment Workgroup.

LEPC Representative Applications – Cover Letters to Mayor

Ms. Adler stated that: It was the suggestion of Ms. Sanderlin, as a member representative of the LEPC, to possibly institute cover letters, or letters of recommendation to the Mayor and Assembly for future LEPC applicants.

Discussion ensued, and it was decided by the board that due to the fact that the possibility exists that we will not see all applications submitted for LEPC seats, that cover letters or letters of recommendation will not be done for those that we do see. If any one person, or group of persons has an opinion one way or the other about a candidate who has submitted an application, that person, or group, can address it at the level of the Mayor's office, prior to his recommendation to the assembly, and/or at the assembly meeting at which the application will be considered.

It was requested by the board that Ms. Laughlin inquire regularly as to whether any applications have been submitted, and if so, that she advise the board in writing via e-mail.

COMMENTS

Mr. Walden stated that: 25 days from now we will mourn the 10th anniversary of 9-11 and that affects this group directly. He wonders if we are ready for what might happen in 25 days. There is a new head of Al Qaeda who is looking to prove itself. We tend to lure ourselves into a false sense of security and we need to be ready.

Mr. Cook stated that: Having a Homeland Security committee for our LEPC might be a good idea. Ms. Adler stated that we had such a committee starting in 2003/2004, but it disbanded a couple of years ago. She would like to reinstate it.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Mr. Cook stated that: There is a Fallen Firefighter remembrance on September 11th in Anchorage.

Ms. Laughlin stated that:

1) Cheryll Hinze from MEA e-mailed to say that Eddie Taunton is the new MEA Safety Manager and will be taking her place in attending the LEPC meetings.

2) The LEPC representative application for Casey Cook, the Borough Emergency Manager has been received and will be sent to the Clerk's office for processing.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chairman Munson announced that the next meeting would be September 21, 2011 and will be held at the Central Mat-Su Public Safety Building.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Munson adjourned the meeting at 8:35p.m.

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Kevin Munson, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Casey Laughlin, Secretary