

MINUTES
of the meeting of the
CARSON CITY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

June 3, 2008

The Carson City LEPC held a public meeting on June 3, 2008, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Fire Station No. 1, 777 S. Stewart Street, Carson City.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Stacey Giomi. Voting members present were Robert Charles, Jonathan Crawford, Brian Crowe, Kevin Curnes, Dave Dawley, Bonnie Parnell, Ray Saylo, Darren Selby, and Tom Tarulli (which constituted a quorum).

Voting members absent were Steve Albertsen, Vicky Fogelman, Phillip Harrison, Linda Hurst, Hank Lucas, and Lee Radtke. Non-voting members absent were Jerry Evans, Keith Forbes, and Rhett Milne.

Also present were Mark Gillies (Interstate Safety & Supply), Tom Porta (State Emergency Response Commission [SERC] member & Nevada Department of Environmental Protection), and Stacey Belt (Carson City Health & Human Services).

2. Approval of March 4, 2008, Meeting Minutes

No action was taken on this item.

3. Public Comments and Discussion

There were no comments from the public.

4. Discussion/Action to Approve the Submission of FY 09 “United We Stand Grant Application”

Stacey Giomi started with the advisement that he had sent email notices to all members requesting information from them, and asking if they were interested in applying for the grant as members of the LEPC. He also sent announcements/applications to agencies within the City. To date he had not gotten a response. Ray Saylo asked whether the undersheriff had sent a response in regards to this grant application, to which Stacey Giomi advised he had not. Ray Saylo was wondering about additional communication radios. Stacey Giomi advised Jack Freer had previously asked briefly if the additional radio request would apply, to which he advised they would, but had not heard further from Jack Freer on the subject.

Stacey Giomi advised that, at this time, the only proposal they had to put forward was for the purchase and development of a weather network system called *Weatherbug*, which is internet based. The company that provides this system will come into a community and set up weather stations at predetermined locations and tie them into a computer network. Stacey Giomi advised he was looking at a package of three stations to be set up in Carson City. Once the stations were tied into the network, then the information would be available to the general public from our website through a link directly to the weather stations. It would provide realtime weather data in addition to data logging capabilities. He stated it will go back four months, and the database would collect as far back as wanted to look at the highs and lows, the peak of everything in any given day, plus an hour by hour examination of the 27 data points that are set up.

Ray Saylo stated that he had been using it for some time and the system also sends weather alerts. He stated they also provide video hook-ups by installing cameras at any of the weather sites, which allows you to look at the weather at a particular site.

Stacey Giomi advised that the software can do plume modeling which would help in the event of a hazmat response. This means that it can take live weather data, incorporate it into its software package and add chemicals. He used the example of a chlorine leak from one of the public works treatment plants by the Eagle Valley Middle School. He stated you could punch in the weather data from the three weather stations, it would calculate that data, develop a plum model based on the history of chlorine, how much is leaked, and it would provide a description of where that cloud of chlorine gas would travel to over a period of time. He stated this would be a very useful tool. Additionally, once you are in the network site, you can get weather information from any one of the six or seven thousand sites across the country. He asked Bob Charles to demonstrate a site, and Florida was pulled up on the screen.

Tom Tarulli asked if there was a dollar grant maximum or minimum, to which Stacey Giomi advised that the maximum was \$30,000. Bob Charles brought up a demonstration of the site on the overhead computer screen for Florida, and Stacey Giomi advised that this is what the site tie-in would look like and demonstrated key elements such as accessing current weather information and data logger. Events could be found for any given day, with readings available hour-by-hour. In the event of a flood, the rain movement could be tracked. He felt this system provided information that was applicable for several agencies such as the health department, public works, and possibly law enforcement. Stacey Giomi advised that the location of the weather stations was up to the LEPC, stating that in Florida they placed them at their fire stations. He felt that Ash Canyon, in the middle of town, and one on the east side might be some possible locations. The requested funding amount for the proposal was \$29,475 for three locations installed.

Bob Charles also advised that the system could be animated to provide for Doppler and different satellite images in real time as well.

Ray Saylo determined that the sheriff's office would not be able to provide input in time for their request for additional communication radios.

After discussing this item, it was moved by Kevin Curnes, seconded by Bonnie Parnell, with motion carried, that the FY 09 "United We Stand Grant Application" to request funding to purchase the *Weatherbug Professional* weather network system be submitted as discussed.

5. **Report of the April 17, 2008, Quarterly SERC Meeting**

Stacey Giomi advised he wasn't at the meeting, but looked over the meeting minutes. He advised of FEMA's presence in the area. He stated they have been working with various states and local governments conducting what they call a "Gap Analysis." Primarily, they analyze the disaster response capabilities of state governments and, secondarily, local governments to see if there are any "gaps." He advised that while Nevada had been one of those states coming up for review, it was moved up due to the swarm of earthquakes in the Reno area. FEMA has been here over the last two to three weeks gathering data. Their "gap" analysis will examine six to seven key areas and how state and local governments are ready to respond to each one of those areas. From there, they will address a mitigation plan to move forward.

Stacey Giomi also advised that the City will be participating in a statewide exercise on June 12 that will continue for about a week. It is called "Vigilant Guard." It is an exercise to primarily test the National Guard, but counties are participating as well. And, since the hospital needs a disaster drill for their accreditation, they will be participating as well, with the City's public safety departments acting as liaisons. Tom Tarulli was present at the SERC meeting and advised that there was no other additional information to provide.

6. **Reports from LEPC Members**

- In Brian Crowe's absence, Stacey Giomi advised that last year at this time the LEPC submitted the "United We Stand" grant for funding to install a siren system at Western Nevada College. This was due to the fact that the college was identified as an emergency management shelter, as well as for the purpose of campus security. This grant was secured and the siren has been installed and tested. It is a campus-wide, audible siren with additional remote activated sirens for rooms within buildings that are unable to hear the central siren. This insures the entire campus is covered. The siren system is activated from the campus security office, or remotely if they are outside the building. Should an active shooter event occur at the college, they can activate the siren. The response to the siren would be a campus lock-down, whereby all doors would be locked with the students staying within their classrooms.

Bonnie Parnell asked if there were different sounds for different situations, or did they just immediately lock down once they heard the siren? Stacey Giomi advised the policy was that if the siren is activated, then it was primarily a lock-down event.

He said from that point they do a public announcement from a script advising what procedures should be followed next. Tom Tarulli advised he saw the demonstration and said that it was very impressive. It was all computerized, with verbal commands given and options to send the signal to all buildings, or deselect certain buildings. There are several scripts to be read by the computer over the public announcement system.

Upon arriving at the meeting, Brian Crowe advised the siren system includes strobes, speakers, and horns. He stated they are going to keep the initial system basic, with a lock-down response and limited number of options so that the people who use it understand it real well. However, it is expandable. If additional funding should be obtained, then they could tie it into their door system so that when the siren goes off, they can lock the doors from the command. The current system is tied into a central alert system that gives them the ability to do silent tests and diagnose the voltage in all of their cabinets and panels with a pass/fail response. Brian Crowe stated he is very pleased with the results and wanted to thank Carson City for allowing Western Nevada College to move forward with this improvement for their campus.

Bonnie Parnell asked if there were other colleges or universities that had this system. Brian Crowe stated that Western Nevada College was the first, and UNLV was looking at a central alert or pop-up system. However, other schools were moving ahead with other systems. He stated that there will be a meeting this month and in July with representatives from other universities to conduct a demonstration of the system. Whelan has been at Great Basin and UNLV giving demonstrations. He also advised they will be moving forward with text messaging and cell phone alerts, but based on the demographics of Western Nevada College's population, they felt that wouldn't be as effective on their campus as it would be at a four-year institution. They felt the siren alert would catch more people.

Stacey Giomi complimented Brian Crowe on being proactive, and the whole campus for having the forethought to install the system.

Bonnie Parnell stated that the Attorney General is very interested in these kind of security system alarms at institutions of higher education, and asked if she could see a demonstration. Brian Crowe advised anyone at LEPC is welcome to a demonstration, but they would need to let him know ahead of time as they are very busy until July 1. He probably won't use the main siren, but can set off some building siren devices so that you can get an understanding how the lights and strobes work.

Bonnie Parnell advised that she served on the Attorney General's Safe Schools Task Force and that she would see if the Attorney General would be interested in putting funding for this system in their budget. Although they have paid a lot of attention to safe schools in respects to K-12, with the incidences that have occurred over the last couple of years, she is real concerned with institutions of higher education. She

advised she will inform the Attorney General of the information presented at this meeting in regards to the siren system.

- Bonnie Parnell advised that she had recently attended an intelligence briefing at the State Homeland Security office. She felt that if any of the members had not had a chance to visit, they should.
- Darren Selby advised he had a meeting with the State (purchasing motor pool and public works for the City.) The State fueling contract was due to expire at the end of this calendar year. Logistics will need to be worked out with the opening of the contract in December. However, the main discussion evolved into emergency fueling operations. Right now they have a “handshake” deal with Western Energetics—the Caroline and Carson Street location. He’s started looking into refining equipment for emergency fueling and doing MOUs between the different State agencies, including NDOT. He stated that if this region (Reno/Sparks/Carson) lost the fuel pipeline from San Francisco, then there would only be 48 hours of fuel, although this was significantly better than the 24 hours Las Vegas has. He advised he is trying to get prices together for getting equipment to get fuel out of the ground if we were to have an extended power outage. He stated that there are some portable systems that are really good and not that expensive.
- Stacey Belt advised on Saturday Carson City took receipt of a disaster response trailer that includes a 20-bed inflatable medical facility that could be used for various purposes. It will be used for the “Vigilant Guard” exercise between June 12 and June 18. She encouraged all LEPC members to visit on the afternoon of June 16, between 11-2 pm to see how operations will be set up. They will also be setting up a 50-bed portable medical facility, which will be fully equipped as a hospital, along with some emergency medical surge trailers. These are City and State assets in the event an earthquake or some type of structural damage occurs to the hospital and the patients need to be moved outside. She advised the 50-bed facility is an asset of State Public Health and warehoused behind the DMV [in Reno].

Bonnie Parnell advised she will be attending the 9 am demonstration.

- Kevin Curnes stated there is a lot going on with the Carson City schools. Tomorrow is the last day of school. Major projects are occurring at Carson Middle School and Carson High.
- Stacey Giomi advised that Vicky Fogelman is no longer with the City and her position with LEPC will remain open until the City replaces her.

7. **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 9 at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting room of Fire Station #1.

8. **Adjournment**

It was moved by Kevin Curnes, seconded by Bonnie Parnell, with motion carried, that the meeting be adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Recorder: Lorelei Barr