

HAND COUNTY Local Emergency Planning Committee

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The Miller Press
114 West 3rd Street, PO Box 196
Miller, South Dakota 57362

(sent via email: news@themillerpress.com)

Re: Minutes of the LEPC

Dear Miller Press,

Please publish the following minutes:

The December 8, 2015 Local Emergency Planning Committee met for a regular meeting in the courthouse assembly room with the following members present: Tammy Hofman, Tom Lichty (vice chairman), Charles Fawcett, Rod Gortmaker (chairman), Stephan Resel, Jeff Hargens, Steve Schroeder and Doug DeBoer (acting secretary). Patti Pudwill (SD-OEM) was the only guest.

The meeting was called to order by Lichty at 12:05 P.M. DeBoer read the published minutes of the October 13, 2015 meeting. It was moved by Fawcett, seconded by Schroeder to approve the minutes as resented. DeBoer reported there is no financial report because the LEPC does not have its own finances and no members are paid for their service. DeBoer reported that he did not apply for a new LEPC grant through the state because there are unspent funds from previous grant awards. DeBoer will work on projects to use the funds already approved.

James DeGeest, owner of Aerofoto of Miller, provided a demonstration of his drone which has a camera attached to it. DeGeest explained to the members the abilities of his camera platform while videos from his craft were shown to those present. The members seemed to agree that drones could be a useful tool during public safety emergencies. DeGeest left the meeting.

The election of officers was initiated. No members were nominated from the floor. After discussion, it was agreed that the 2015 chair and vice chair positions would remain. It was moved by Resel, seconded by Fawcett to nominate by unanimous ballot the current members to remain the same for 2016 and to allow DeBoer to remain secretary (and Public Information Officer) on a temporary basis. The motion passed.

DeBoer provided a brief program on the SARA Title III (federal law) hazardous materials awareness and reporting act. DeBoer displayed the state DENR website page devoted to this topic which is found at "www.denr.sd.gov/titleiii/" or by using your search engine to find "South Dakota tier II" reporting.

DeBoer showed the group the objectives and mission statement of the LEPC as presented by the state through the federal legislation. The discussion centered on reporting of hazardous materials in the county during January for the protection of public safety officials (namely fire departments) and the community in which the hazardous materials are located.

The group discussed how business and private parties alike can have hazardous materials (fuel, chemicals, pesticides, etc.) stored at their property and no one else may be aware of it until an accident occurs and then people and property are in harm's way. The group discussed a few events from the past in which responders learned of hazardous materials on site of fires.

A discussion was also held about the membership of the LEPC, specifically, how the different agencies and elected local officials are to be represented of the LEPC.

DeBoer moved that the meeting adjourn, Lichty adjourned the meeting at 1:14 P.M.. The next LEPC meeting will be February 9, 2016. LEPC meetings are open to the public.

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