

Richland County LEPC

Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2024

Members present:

Justin Weers – Foremost Farms
Darin Gudgeon – WEM
Chris Kanable – ARES/RACES
Sean Gary – Schreiber Foods

Brian Jones – Richland Schools
Burlie Williams – American Red Cross
John Heinen – JT Heinen Global
Wes Rogler – Schreiber Foods

1. **Meeting called to order** at 6:11 PM by Sean Gary and a roll call of all in-person and virtual participants was taken. A sign-in sheet was circulated for signatures of those who were present.
2. **Proof of notification** was provided by John Heinen. It was reported that notification was properly posted and published (Media, City Hall, Brewer Library & Courthouse, as well as via email distribution).
3. **Motion to approve agenda** occurred with Chris Kanable moving to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Brian Jones. The motion carried.
4. **Approval of minutes from the October 4, 2023 LEPC Meeting** occurred with a motion from Wes Rogler and a second from Chris Kanable. The motion carried.

5. Director's report:

- a) An overview of Mike Jessen was provided to the committee. He has extensive experience in the fire service (Oconomowoc area and Memphis, Tennessee) as well as emergency medical services. He was hired in May of 2024, did orientation the week of the 20th and started after Memorial Day. He oversees both the Ambulance Service and Emergency Management. The County will be bringing John Heinen on as Deputy Emergency Manager in January 2025 full time on a 32 Hr/Wk basis. He will be overseeing all the grant activities, EPCRA duties, IPP activities, Resilience planning and projects, and respond as needed to local events.
- b) The following spills were reported year-to-date:
 - Anhydrous Ammonia air spill at Schreiber Foods – East, < 250 Lbs., Jan. 24th
 - Raw Milk to storm drain at Foremost Farms, 500 Gallons, Feb. 7th
 - Diesel Fuel in ditch on Bear Road, West Lima, 150 Gallons, May 8th
 - Hydraulic Oil in forested area, Boaz, Unknown Qty. assumed < 50 Gallons, May 15th
 - Pesticide (suspected), 21644 Honer Ln, Richland Center, Unknown Qty., June 7th
 - Hydroxides to storm drain at Foremost Farms, < 10 Gallons, Aug. 13th
 - Liquid Manure at 29281 Fairview Road, Gotham, Unknown Qty., Sep. 4th

In relation to the water treatment chemicals (hydroxides) released at Foremost Farms, the committee agreed that an AAR (After Action Review) should be completed – Brandon Fetterly, Sean Gary and John Heinen to organize and conduct with WEM's assistance. Vernon County HazMat, contractors and State Agencies to be invited.

c) PFAS – from the last minutes:

- 1) Darin Gudgeon brought the committee up to speed on the toxicological implications of the widespread presence of PFAS (Per- and PolyFluoroAlkyl Substances) in the environment. It is understood that the WDNR is taking the lead on prevention and remediation with support from Public Health and potentially the Emergency Management community. To the best of everyone's knowledge, there is no level-of-concern contamination in Richland County yet. La Crosse may have measurable contamination though; the implication being that it may soon impact us here. There are several known sites across the State that have been identified as PFAS hotspots. It's also known that fire departments have used PFAS-containing foams on structure fires. The committee recommends asking RCFD about when they started using foam and whether or not it had PFAS in it. Chair Brandon Fetterly agrees that the issue should be kept on future LEPC agendas as a way to track issues as they arise.

DNR is coordinating task groups to address the issue in the State. Technical Advisory Groups are being formed to administer regulatory activities and objectives.

See <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS> for additional information.

6. **Public Comments and Input:** Foremost Farms extended an invitation for Fire, LEPC and EMS to tour the facility. It's been a while and many things have changed since the last set of tours. John Heinen to coordinate between the facility and local partners.

7. **New Business**

a) **EPCRA Plan of Work Administration**

1. The LEPC membership list for 2024 was reviewed. A number of updates are needed. The changes were noted and will be entered into the most recent spreadsheet. The new list should be ready by month's end and will be sent out with the packet for the December meeting.
 2. Per the annual review requirement, the RC-LEPC Bylaws review was listed on the agenda so any requested changes could be identified and acted upon. Neither the Vice Chair, Secretary nor any of the Membership identified any. Everything recent that needed updating had been finalized in 2022. No formal action is required this year. A motion to accept the Bylaws as is was made by Brian Jones, seconded by Sean Gary. The bylaws stand as presented.
 3. Four County HazMat Response Team Agreement & Addendum. There was a short discussion about the multi-decade history of the hazmat team, the area it covers and the nature of some of the calls they take. No questions, concerns or comments came up. The motion to accept and approve made by Chris Kanable, seconded by Brian Jones. Motion carried.
8. **Next Meeting Date** was discussed. For the remainder of the Plan of Work, the next business meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3rd at 5:00 PM (1700 hrs).. The AAR meeting that was discussed will be at 5:00 PM on Tuesday night, November 19th at the National Guard Armory.
 9. **Meeting adjourned** by Vice Chair Gary at 7:47 PM as there was no further business.