



**Missouri Emergency Response Commission**  
2302 Militia Drive PO Box 3133  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102  
573-751-1700

Missouri Emergency Response Commission Meeting Minutes

**Date and Time:** 10:00 A.M. January 15, 2026

**Location:**  
**SEMA Conference Room**

*WebEx Call In:* (650) 479-3207

*Meeting number (access code):* 2861 533 7796

*Meeting password:* MrbqqhJJ337

**Welcome/Introductions**

Pete Martin, Lisa Jobe, Kim Brundage, Sean Counihan, Cory Jorgensen, Lana Nelson, LeAnn Hoelscher, Alex Fisher, Nikol Enyart, Karen Eagleson, Chris Berndt, Lesley Rone, Patrick Seamands, Stephanie Norton, Sara Allen, John Trower, Tyler Bax.

**Minutes from the previous meeting 10-9-25**

Motion to Approve: Sean Counihan

Second: Cory Jorgensen

Minutes approved.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion to Approve: Cory Jorgensen

Second: Sean Counihan

Consent Agenda approved.

Pete Martin announced that Chief Chris Berndt retired from Western Taney Fire. According to our statute he can't serve on the MERC to represent fire. He has had 47 years fire, 37 years western Taney, 31 years as fire chief. Moved district from 150 to 208, built 8 fire stations, 5 remodels, took ISO rating down to a 4 (originally around 8 or 9). Purchased 50 apparatus to cover the district. This is a few of those highlights. He brought those highlights to the meeting because MERC would like to bestow upon Chris Berndt the Brad Willett Award for his years of service on the MERC Commission.

**Old Business:**

- MERC Truck-Update on MERC truck. We were approved to purchase it; it went into production this week. ETA is 4 weeks to have it produced.
- LEPC/D Grant Update- Pete Martin-Awards went out and signed offers have come all come back. LEPCs/Ds will need to do get started on those. Of \$500,000 available, we had only \$1,000 left to spend on the grant award. This grant was in the Governor's recommendations for next year. It will have to go through the Senate and House to be official.
- Additional Item: DNR foam disposal- there is going to be no funding for disposal as far as Sean knows due to federal funding issues. It is on hold for the time being. Everyone is looking for

Chris Berndt, Chairman

Cory Jorgensen, Vice-Chairman

resources on how to get rid of their old foam. We are hoping some funding will become available in future years. Pete's recommendation for right now is that they put it somewhere safe and make sure it's secure and hopefully there will be funding available in the future.

- Li/Ion batteries added to Tier II filing- researching and will be discussed in April 2026 meeting. We are tabling this item to April's meeting. There are packets in your books. This is what Karen found and the pieces that the commission requested for legislation. You can look it over and discuss at the next meeting if you choose.

#### **New Business:**

- New Chairperson- need to elect a new chair. Pete said usually the vice chair becomes the chair
- Motion: Pete Martin
- Second: Chris Berndt

Motion that Sean be Vice Chair

Motion: Cory Jorgensen

Second: Lesley Rone

New Chair will be Cory Jorgensen, Vice Chair will be Sean Counihan.

- Special Tier II filing season- Had 690,000 who filed by November 1. There was a lot of confusion, had a lot of phone calls. MERC had a big push to find the non-filers. Ended up with 863,000. The plan is to catch any other non-filers during this filing season. We had 325 facilities that did not pay. We will have to go after them and then get them during this filing season. Have been trying to get some CEPF distributions out.

Nikol-Fiscal- When we stopped collection, we had \$683,337 have paid out \$327,000. We will have 2 years to pay out. On Mar 1, 2026, we will have over \$1,000,000. We are a bit behind in distributions because packets weren't due until November.

- LEPC/D Procedural Change for annual review- Last January the Commission voted on a process for CEPF packets. Pete has reviewed this; on paper it looked like it should work great. He has looked the process over, taken feedback from users, team, etc. End users are having problems with this process. Pete has a new name and process. LEPC/D Performance Highlights is what it will be called. It will be a single packet. Pete would like to start this this fall. He's going to do a beta test with all of the LEPCs who had the most concerns and had reached out this year and ask for their feedback to make sure this is a good process, and they have no problems. This will be sent by email but if the packet is too large, we will accept it through US Postal. Sean mentioned that the state does us document sharing websites. We could get with our IT department to figure out which 3<sup>rd</sup> party large filing service the state supports (similar to Dropbox).
- HMEP- We were awarded \$622,197 in the October. Kim and Lisa have award letters all sent out. Around 60 LEPCs/Ds have been awarded. Most of them got their first choice. We looked at HMEP program goals and tried to ensure these classes were awarded based on that. Now waiting on contractors to set up dates and move forward. Nikol-we have only spent 3.8% of the grant so far. We had over \$800,000 requests come in. We will be supporting summer fire school and IST teams we will do some regional hazmat trainings also. Of the funding received through HMEP, 65% of that goes to training.
- Bylaws-Lisa Cardone was finalizing those, and she was unable to at the meeting today. We will table this until the next meeting when Lisa is back.

#### **Partner Agency Reports**

- DHSS

Chris Berndt, Chairman

Cory Jorgensen, Vice-Chairman

- DFS
- EPA
- MoDNR-DNR is in the process of replacing all response truck statewide. They have 4 of them in this week, are expecting one this week and one next week. Should be on the road by mid-February. Our current 2009 trucks F550s will be up for sale for response agencies. The new trucks will be ½ ton or ¾ ton with service body. Should not change response at all. New geo probe drill rig for hazardous waste investigations. It will be a trailer rig this time. DNR would like to market those to response agencies, so spread the word. Will have a F350 in Jefferson City for response.
- 7<sup>th</sup> CST-Last quarter Government shut down, so they were mostly stuck at home. They did go to Chiefs games, are planning to work World Cup this summer. Still in planning phase right now. Will spend 30-40 days in KC working the World Cup games. They did send a couple out to the Balloon Festival in New Mexico. The Adoration Parade went fine. It was cold out so nothing nefarious went down. Did some internal decon training in Jefferson City. Are sending some to Panama and Israel as far as a partnership. Joint CBRNE Course in Kansas City with EPA, 7<sup>th</sup> CST, local fire, etc. to figure out joint response to an event in the case of something at World Cup. 7<sup>th</sup> CST might be getting new truck to carry counter UAS system. Hoping to have that before World Cup.

### **MERC Staff reports**

- CEPF- If not previously discussed
- HMEP- If not previously discussed
- Director Items- Pete Martin-We emailed MERC staff reports out ahead of time. It should be a progressive report moving forward. Pete has nothing new for them today. Sean asked about non active LEPCs/Ds. Is there anything MERC is doing to get LEPCs/Ds that are inactive up and running? Sara Allen said she is in active and constant contact with these counties. She is speaking to their commissioners to try to get them active again. Sara has a plan to discuss these with some of the active surrounding counties to absorb them into the active surrounding counties. One of Pete's goals is for one year of his tenure here, to have all active LEPCs.
- Cory has another question-On our list of commissioners, do we know about the vacant positions? When Caty gets back from maternity leave, we will be working on those. We are missing law enforcement and general public, soon to be fire.
- Fiscal Report- was already discussed

Motion to end the meeting

Motion: Corey Jorgensen

Second: Sean Counihan

**Next Meeting:**

**April 16, 2026 at SEMA**

Time: 1:00 P.M.