



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. May 15, 2025

Location:
SEMA Conference Room

WebEx Call In: 650-479-3207

Meeting number (access code): 2867 800 5892

Meeting password: ngHeQ5mvB23

Attendees: Lisa Jobe, Karen Eagleson, Kim Brundage, Alex Fisher, Terry Cassil, Sara Allen, Lana Nelson, Patrick Seamands, Cory Jorgensen, Jeff Riddle, Sean Counihan, Chris Berndt, Matt Loehr, Brett Redel, John Trower, Amy Lepper, Holly Otto, Lisa Cardone, Cody Garner

Welcome/Introductions

Minutes from the previous meeting 1-23-25

Motion to Approve: Cory Jorgensen

Second: Patrick Seamands

Approved meeting minutes with two changes on page two at the top.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Add the two topics, LEPC and How does MERC help locals to figure out whether all are filing who should be. Approval of this agenda with these two changes.

Motion: Patrick Seamands

Second: Sean Counihan

Old Business:

EPA-Terry Cassil:

We thought Jodi would be on this call, but she is out sick today. Terry is going to request that Jodi (or someone from EPA) come to the next meeting and talk about Li-Ion batteries. Li-Ion batteries are basically under the household consumable exemption. We would like her to come to the next meeting and make a report about Li-Ion batteries.

SERC authority over LEPC funding was another question that was asked. EPA said basically the Feds require reporting, but they have nothing to do with the funding. SERC has authority to coordinate ALL LEPC facilities.

Status of MERC Director-Terry Cassil

Chris Berndt, Chairman

Cory Jorgensen, Vice-Chairman

Status quo for now. Senate gavelled out last night, so they are done. House is still in session for 2 days. House Bill 81 was passed by the House and the Senate. It restarts the sunset for another six years & adds a one-time fee. Terry has visited with our new Senator on the commission, Senator Adam Schnelting.

Bylaws-Lisa Cardone

Should have them in your packets. The CSR that governs everything 11 CSR 10-11.010-250 have either been rescinded or moved to other CSRs. We might need to do some digging on that to make sure we are referencing the right CSR.

Article I- No Changes

Article II- Spell out LEPC and LEPD

Article III- Update membership of MERC.

Economic Development would stay Natural Resources would stay, add Public Safety.

The six members appointed by the governor – add Transporter of Hazardous Materials.

Article VIII-Draft meeting minutes will be distributed within no more the 3 weeks (not two)

Add-final meeting minutes will be posted on MERC website one week after approval of the minutes.

We will send the bylaws to Kayla Kemp at the director's office to check the CSRs and give guidance moving forward with these changes.

We will get the guidance from Kayla and then will put this together as one packet for the group to vote on at the next meeting. Terry will bring this back to this body and report back what feedback she has.

Legal will review CSR and the document as a whole and we will vote on this at the next meeting.

New Business:

- LEPC Grant Update-Amy Lepper

For this current Fiscal Year, the funding runs July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. All reimbursements were due by the end of today. We have \$527,000 pending in reimbursement requests. We awarded nearly \$800,000. A lot waited until the last minute. More will be trickling in today.

FY 26: July 1, 2025- In previous years, \$2M had been budgeted for LEPC and MDAG (which is used mainly for small disasters that don't make \$11.7M for a presidential declaration). Many times, this money goes for debris removal. These grants have been reduced to \$1M. We can award \$1M total. This grant can go forward. It will most likely be 50/50 split. \$500,000 for LEPC and \$500,000 for MDAG. This cut was due to a legislative change to the budget.

- SEMA Conference-Holly Otto

Wyndham Executive Center, Columbia, MO for the next 2 years. October 8-10, 2025. Resiliency Summit Day before on Oct 7. We do have some breakout session topics finalized but not all. We are still working with 7th CST to have a breakout session one day.

Can LEPC money be used for it? What can it be used for? You can use CEPF funds to do registration only.

- Legislative Update

Nothing more

- Lithium-Ion Battery Requirements-EPA Response attached

Maybe we will reach out to someone to talk at the SEMA conference about Li-Ion Batteries.

The same multinational conglomerate is building a new Li-Ion battery facility in Fredericktown to replace the one that burned. St Louis will also be getting a Li-Ion battery facility as well.

Nothing more on this. EPA packet includes this. They will discuss this when they come to talk about Li-Ion Batteries also.

- New Commissioner-Senator Adam Schnelting

Was a Representative but new to the commission. We will invite him again next time since they won't be in session. We will make sure he's personally invited to the next meeting.

- Patrick Seamands asked whether the MERC staff assists LEPCs to identify non-filers.

According to law, it's the LEPCs responsibility to find the non-filers but Karen and Lana have been assisting LEPCs every year since they started.

Kansas City LEPD hired a contractor through a grant that finished today to find all the non-filers in the Kansas City metro area. They did 2,000 hours of work in 2 weeks. They have a plan to do this moving forward. This contractor sent out letters to all non-filers and included MERC contact information. They will be sending out 200-300. They will be sending out 2,000-3,000 emails as well. This will cover all 5 counties the MARC covers. These will go to all non-filers in the MARC region. This will probably generate a lot of phone traffic in the MERC office. Letters will go to filers who should be filing but aren't. Emails will go out to some who are inquiring about whether they should be filing.

They also have a subcommittee working on a Tier II workshop. We will be doing two Tier II workshops in the area to hopefully alleviate some of the questions what will be coming into the MERC office. We will video the sessions and put a link to the video on the website. We will have them register through STEMS.

Sara will look through the minutes from the MARC meeting to identify who the contractor is and how much it costs.

It's a compliance requirement policy that LEPCs have a plan to find non-filers and will use it each year.

MERC office provides recommended strategies to LEPCs to help them find non-filers.

Partner Agency Reports

DHSS-Cory Jorgensen

With the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology there will be more demand for power generators. They may go to smaller nuclear reactors in the next 3 years. It may be to a point where every oil well in west Texas will have their own little nuclear reactor. Companies like META have already paid the money to begin this process. DHSS has some budget issues and will be doing some cutting.

DFS-nobody here

Chris Berndt, Chairman

Cory Jorgensen, Vice-Chairman

EPA- nobody online

MoDNR- Management changes: Our previous division director Kyra Moore has been appointed Deputy Department director and Art Goodin has been promoted to Division Director.

7th CST- new commander Shreve Bentley started this week. Survey Section has come along. They will be taking over the CST participation on MERC from Matt Loehr. They would like to get their Tier II access back if possible. Karen said to go to the website, log in as a county user and then call Karen Eagleson and we will get them changed over to a different access.

Where can they get a current LEPC/LEPD map online? Sara will send an updated list to them.

The 7th CST provides support for events held at Arrowhead Stadium. With the FIFA World Cup events coming up next year, Arrowhead Stadium has not held any outside events this summers, so the stadium events have been slow. The last call out was the white powder letter at the Attorney General's office.

MERC Staff reports

CEPF-system report. OA ITSD has been working on the new page for our fees. He will test it in July/August to make sure it's ready to go by September 1, 2025.

HMEP- May be getting more money next year. Soy foam demonstration. Cody Garner will check out what kind of fire they will be putting out at this demonstration. Will this be indicative of a flammable liquid fire, or will it be just a small fire? Cody will gather this & we will send out to the MERC commission and the LEPCs.

Pulaski Co (TSRP) is an LEPD that hasn't met since 2023. April 8, Sara went to Pulaski Co. Her RFP is to propose that Pulaski be allowed to leave TSRP and become stand alone LEPC. Sara is looking for approval for Pulaski Co to move forward as an LEPC.

Motion to approve Pulaski County splitting from LEPC

Motion: Sean Counihan

Second: Cory Jorgensen

Motion carries.

Motion to disband the LEPD (TSRP-Texas-Shannon-Reynolds-Pulaski) with information to follow that they can continue to follow on a path to be a stand-alone LEPC or join with another LEPD.

Motion: Cory Jorgensen

Second: Sean Counihan

Motion carries.

Foam disposals- have been getting some positive feedback on foam disposal through LEPCS and CEPF funds. Thank you DNR for assisting with these efforts.

Lincoln-Warren LEPD-Lincoln/Warren reached out to Sara and their hazmat team is losing some or all of their funding. This is a noncompliant LEPD since 2023. Sara has been working with them. She will be going to Hawk Point on Tuesday and having a compliance meeting. They are already an LEPD but some of their officers are not in the county anymore. Sara will assist them with a plan moving forward. After Tuesday Lincoln-Warren will be an active LEPD again and they will start using the money again to assist their hazmat team.

Boonslick Area LEPD-they had another meeting where the funds have not been combined. Looking for guidance on what to tell them about their funding. They are functioning as an LEPD but haven't comingled their funds. If they don't want to comingle their funds, they may need to just separate into two LEPCs again.

Motion that if they can't follow the guidelines set forth by the MERC commission that they should disband by June 30, 2025. We will send them a letter from the Commission asking them to combine funds, they should do this by a certain date. It should be a letter from the MERC director telling them to either combine the funds or dissolve and become separate LEPCs.

Motion: Cory Jorgensen

Second: Sean Counihan

Motion carries.

Director Items

Got a call from a pipeline company that they didn't feel they should have to file Tier II and pay a fee because they file through PHMSA and it's more robust. This is in statute right now and would require statutory change. Terry sent his emails to Kayla Kemp (attorney) and she will visit with them and report back. We haven't heard back from her yet as to what has happened. We also have seen an uptick in pipeline incidents, and we aren't hearing about them being publicized. A lot have been due to excavation/utility damage. Main concern is that they don't want to report it twice and pay a fee.

How does the database handle things that aren't a specific location like that. They put the county and the lat/long. The fire department sees the counties on their end.

Cody Garner-EER reports- 2025 have had 6 pipeline incidents so far. 11 total in 2024 and 6 in 2023. 2022 there were 12. A lot of the ones we have as releases in the system are city pipelines like the utility lines and someone is digging in their yard and hitting those lines.

On chat Cody Garner said he contacted Amber Meyer with MoSoy and they will have a rollaway dumpster semi-truck sized they will light on fire.

Fiscal Report-Nikol Enyart

Firefighter trainings- they have used all of their funds.

MERC funds- we have used about 50% of our funds; so we are in good shape.

HMEP funds- we plan to use all of the funding this year to make sure classes are being booked for any cancelled.

Next Meeting: July 31, 2025; 10:00 AM

Reports would be due July 10, 2025.

Motion to adjourn: Cory Jorgensen

Second: Lisa Cardone

Meeting adjourned 11:48 am.