

## **Darke County LEPC Minutes September 17, 2024**

This meeting of the Board Members of the Darke County LEPC was called to order at the Darke County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management at 10:02 am by Vice Chairman Brian Phillips. The minutes of June 18, 2024 meeting were presented for review Russ Thompson made a motion to accept the minutes, Kevin Subler 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, motion passed, minutes accepted.

### **Treasurer's report:**

- Reviewed the detailed expense and income information. A copy was provided to all. Russ Thompson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Jeff Yantis 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, report accepted.

### **Old Business**

- Work continue with JH Consulting to complete a Commodity Flow Study. To date the road monitoring information has been received.
- Lithium Battery/Alternative Fuels training was held 9/14/24 at the Birchwood Facility. Ken Johnson also gave a brief overview for ODOT and will provide this for other departments/agencies.
- The recovery continues from the March and May tornadoes. EMA continues to try to coordinate debris clean-up along the Greenville Creek. The City of Greenville has 2 damaged properties that they are monitoring for progress in repairing.

### **New Business**

- The Board Members were emailed a copy of the Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan that had some minor updates. Kevin Subler reviewed those changes with the group. Russ Thompson made a motion to adopt the plan, Mark Whittaker 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, plan is adopted.
- The SFY 2025 SERC Grant award was received at \$21,360. Mindy Saylor explained she continues to monitor the funding and so far the award amounts have stayed consistent.
- The EMA/LEPC Contract was presented to the Board. This is an annual contract in the amount of \$8,000 to cover office space, records storage, budgetary services etc. for the LEPC. Mark Whittaker made a motion to accept the contract, Russ Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, contract accepted.
- Mindy Saylor reviewed the SFY 23 Compliance Report that was submitted to the Ohio SERC.
- The current US Drought monitor map was shared with the group. Conditions continue to be monitored with state and local partners.

### **LEPC Planner Report**

- Kevin Subler The LEPC is required to complete a full scale exercise by 6/30/2025 and planning will begin soon.

**Members Comments:**

- ODOT: There continues to be issues at the round-about on 121 with super loads that are taking 15-30 minutes to get through and knocking down signs and damaging the curbs. Some of this is a result of construction lane restrictions in Preble County and Indiana. They are preparing for Winter and have several new employees resulting from several retirements.
- Keith Wise: The SW Region of Ohio EPA reminded everyone that they respond any impact to a waterway not just chemical.
- Sam Reed: The Ohio SERC is revising the Exercise Evaluation Manual that is used for LEPC Hazardous Materials exercises. Use of the new manual will begin 7/1/2025.
- Ken Johnson: He has successfully added link layer to some Kenwood radios. Motorola software is taking a long time to receive.
- Eric Cook: The Anderson's is receiving new corn and it is very dry. There rail shipments consist of 21-23% and the remaining is trucks. He working with the University of Findley on a rail training for responders.
- Brittany Weitzel: She is working to revitalize the Healthcare Coalition Group. The last meeting topic was reviewing the Winchester Indiana tornado and evacuation of a nursing home that was destroyed. The group is requesting to meet more frequently.
- Stephen Brown: BASF had a release of a non-hazardous substance. A large amount of rain occurred that night causing runoff to the retention pond. As a result, that water had to be removed and treated which has been completed.
- Russ Thompson: The Darke County HazMat team had a verification visit and was confirmed as a Type II Team.
- John Wright: The American Red Cross assisted with 1 house fire.
- Sheriff Whittaker: A Mobile Command Vehicle was purchased used and offers computer work stations, radios, and bathrooms and is available to departments to request. Miami County transferred their older armored vehicle to Darke County. The Sheriff's Office is coming to the end of fair, festival and race season in which Deputies work a lot of overtime. They continue to work on a solution for communication with Randolph County Indiana.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Mindy Saylor*  
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**Mindy Saylor**