



**SUMMIT COUNTY  
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

*Hazardous Materials Planning and Community Right-To-Know*

**Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Steve Groves – Chair	Valley Fire District
Tommy Smoot	Summit County Emergency Management
Tim Gemind - Secretary	Summit County Emergency Management
Pam Williams	American Red Cross
Sharen Breyer	Community
Sam Rubens	Summit County Public Health
Macklin Flinn	Cleveland Clinic – Akron General
Bruce Koellner - 2nd Vice	Copley Township
Kurt Kollar	OEPA

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Brenda Robinson	Huntsman
Julia Harber-Vice Chair	NEO Regional Sewer District
Shawn Metcalf	Akron METRO RTA
Steve Brown	Bath Township PD
Joseph Shumaker	Akron Fire Department
Jacob Maxim	Huntsman
Judy Bearer	Retired Industry
Don Weaver	Summit County DOSSS

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Rob Keener	Akron FD
Kelsey Kurcsak	Georgia Pacific
Theo Williams	Univar
Michelle Sowers	OEMA
Judy Kelly	SCEMA
Joseph St. John	SCEMA
Noah Porter	OEMA



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## **I. INTRODUCTIONS**

This meeting of the Summit County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was called to order by Steve Groves at 8:30 am on February 15, 2024, in the EOC, 166 S. High St., Basement.

## **II. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

### **Approval of Minutes – November 16, 2023**

First: Pam Williams      Second: Sharen Breyer

The motion was carried by voice vote.

### **Correspondence and Comments:**

Steve Groves reviewed and passed around the correspondence:

- Two electronic votes:
  - to send up to 30 Hazmat technicians to the Solon Hazmat conference
  - budget approval (we will start doing this at the end of every year)

## **III. INFORMATION COORDINATORS REPORT:**

Tim Gemind stated we received thirty-six right-to-know requests, two 30-day follow-up reports, and six spill reports. The annual LEPC grant has been submitted. FEMA will host an exercise cycle and continuous improvement process webinar next week and the following week. Warren County EMA is hosting a cameo training the week of March 19. The Governor's office announced a statewide initiative to collect and destroy firefighting foam. For the past couple of years, it has been discussed that it is terrible for the environment. On March 20, there will be an LEPC coffee talk on how to do a hazardous analysis.

## **IV. SPECIAL TEAMS PLANNER REPORT – Tim Gemind**

Tim Gemind stated that December's hazmat training was on carbon dioxide systems. January's training was an in-service of new SCBAs. February training was WMD with the Ohio 52nd Civil Support Team. March will be on Lithium-Ion Batteries, and April will be a Hazmat Refresher.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

Tommy Smoot requested an amendment to the resolution approving LEPC reimbursement (\$33,600) for Tim Gemind's salary to EMA. We have not increased the amount within the past ten years. Pam Williams motioned to amend the original resolution to \$45,024.00, with Sharen Breyer as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote, with Tim Gemind abstaining.



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**VI. NEW BUSINESS –**

None

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EHS Hazard Analysis Committee**

No report. Tier II reports are filtering in. One hundred forty facilities have filed to date. The state sends out reminders. We have received a large amount of electronic filing.

**Spill Reporting Compliance**

The NOV report was emailed, including Kurt Kollar's report.

**Training, Education & Exercise Committee**

The LEPC Conference will be at the Red Cross on Friday, October 4. Chief Drabick from East Palestine will be a guest speaker, and Kurt Kollar will also present from the state EPA perspective. Summit County will not be partnering with anyone this year for the conference. If you have any ideas for speakers, please contact Tim Gemind.

**Planning Committee**

No report.

**Finance Committee**

Kurt Kollar motioned for \$500 for coffee/pastries for the March Lithium Battery training class, with Sam Rubens as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Pam Williams motioned to spend up to \$7,500 to purchase 8 Cyanokits for the Hazmat trucks, with Sam Rubens as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Sharen Breyer motioned for up to \$5,000 to send 4 Hazmat technicians to the Midwest Hazmat Conference in Chicago in May (registration/hotel) with Bruce Koellner as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Pam Williams motioned for up to \$ 7,000 to send 4 Hazmat technicians to the annual IAFC hazmat conference in Baltimore in June, with Bruce Koellner as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

The group discussed the request from the Tallmadge Fire Department for a new spill trailer and laptop. Bruce Koellner requested that a committee be formed to set a policy for LEPC purchases, such as this one, with Pam Williams as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote. The request from Tallmadge will be tabled until the next meeting.



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**VII. INCIDENTS**

The committee discussed the Macedonia incident. There is an estimated \$3,800 in cost recovery for Hazmat and a total cost of \$39,354.59 for initial first responders. The committee discussed Brandywine Creek and the Hazmat team's quick response.

The committee discussed the Tallmadge phone call assessment regarding a box trailer full of batteries that rolled over. A wrecking company handled recovery.

The committee discussed Cuyahoga Falls's incident that involved a juvenile experimenting with radiation. The Ohio Health Dept oversaw the remediation.

The committee discussed the Mogadore incident involving a stolen 55 gal drum and the Tallmadge restaurant food grease release. OEPA was notified and responded to Stow for an odor at Call and Young Rd.

Kurt Kollar discussed strategies for responding to the E. Palestine incident and future spills.

**VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Rob Keener stated that the SERC hopes to have new forms available and data more usable. They are also revising the LEPC exercise manual for the 2026 cycle, making it more user-friendly. The State of Ohio and the Governor's Office have approved the funding for the disposable firefighter foam. The logistics have not been worked out but should be finalized in early summer.

The committee discussed the May 14 CAK full-scale exercise with the Stark County EMA/LEPC; it will be from 3-7 pm.

Tommy Smoot stated that Summit County hosted an Eclipse livestream on February 13, 2014, with Summit County EMA, OEMA, NASA, Summit County Public Health, and the National Weather Service, and Greta Johnson was the moderator. The recording is available online. We encourage residents to stay home and watch it from their homes or bike/walk to a local neighborhood location. We are collecting and gathering events to share with our first responders. We are anticipating traffic issues. The population estimates have decreased.

**IX. MEETING ADJOURNED**

Sam Rubens motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 am, with Pam Williams as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

**X. NEXT MEETING**

May 16, 2024, @ 8:30 am location EOC.