

WARREN COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

March 11, 1997

COPY

Members Present

John J. Farrell, Deputy Director
Office of Natural Disaster & Civil Defense

Philip J. Arthur
Environmental Control Manager
Finch Pruyn & Company, Inc.

John Ellingsworth
Glens Falls Fire Dept.

Marvin Lemery, Administrator
Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement

James Canavan, Coordinator
Emergency Medical Services

Max Reichen, Occupational Health and Training Manager
Finch Pruyn

Andrew J. Roden
Environmental Representative

Scott Sopczyk, Director
Greater Glens Falls Transit System

Sgt. Robert Hebert
New York State Police

Joan Dillon
Secretary LEPC

Members Absent

Herbert E. Riedel
Senior Citizens Council

David Capron, Plant Engineer
NAMIC

Chief Richard Carey
Glens Falls Police Dept.

Fred Lamy
Warren County Sheriff's Dept.

Steve Craig
New York State Police

Members Absent (continued)

Charles McCabe
Ames Goldsmith, Inc.

James G. Marshall, Publisher/Editor
The Post Star

Bob Desiderio, M.D.
Dept. of Emergency Medicine, Glens Falls Hospital

Joan Grishkot, Director
Health Services

Laura Stebbins
Dept. of Emergency Medicine, Glens Falls Hospital

David Cedarstrom
The Chronicle

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

The Chairman asked the committee for their views on membership (should we eliminate non-participants), how we can generate more activity, accomplishments and whether they felt we should continue to meet on a quarterly basis. Marv Lemery suggested that we provide some background information to the absentee members so they could appreciate our function. John Farrell refers to the SERC guidelines for requirements. John Ellingsworth suggested that we might have each representative on the committee give a brief synopsis of their role in the community, etc. Jim Canavan said he felt that we fill an important role as an advocacy group. The other members agreed and they voted to continue meeting on our present schedule.

It was decided that Jim Canavan as EMS Coordinator would do the first presentation at our next meeting addressing the County's problems with ambulance coverage. Following that it was agreed that we should have presentations on our communications problems; the hospital's emergency plan, and the HazMat Response van. Finch Pruyn offered to give the Committee a tour of their facility.

Phil Arthur also suggested that each member bring their copy of the Title III Plan and that we review it as a group, section by section, a little at a time to help refresh the plan and our objectives.

There being no other old business, Mr. Farrell gave an overview of an American Red Cross regional meeting he attended in Rome. A National representative was the speaker. He spoke of misconceptions of the Red Cross, emergency services, etc. The public is not aware of the Red Cross and various emergency services agencies will or can do to assist them and that there is a need for public education. It was suggested that this would also make a good presentation for our group. The chairman said he had already talked to Andy Collins, Adirondack Chapter.

He then asked if anyone had seen the SERC Report on use of chlorine gas at water treatment plants. He is going to find out what the mailing distribution is as he feels it is something that should be received by Fire Coordinators and Emergency Medical Services/Civil Defense. The report says

there is a substitute for the gas. Finch Pruyn said their chlorine will shortly be replaced by chlorine dioxide. After some more discussion it was agreed that we would invite someone from one of the public utilities to address the committee on this subject.

John handed out copies of the SERC Reporter which is published by the State Emergency Management Office. He highlighted some sections he felt would be of interest to everyone. The results of a survey answered by the our LEPC along with others was on the front page. Phil Arthur thought it was worthwhile just for the InterNet addresses. He offered to "Surf the Net" on behalf of the committee and make reports on useful information.

The chairman suggested that the time frame for our meetings should be about one hour and the committee agreed that presentations should be approximately half an hour. It was also suggested that we present an agenda with the meeting notice to generate more interest in attendance. He reiterated our proposed presentations: Emergency Services, Fire Coordinator, the hospital, communications, industry, a public utility, Red Cross. Marv Lemery suggested that we also make a joint presentation to the Board of Supervisors to make them aware of what roles we all play, what resources are available, how we coordinate our efforts between agencies, and the Incident Command System.

Marv mentioned as an example, the upcoming Air Show at the Warren County Airport, how they approved it without any input from Emergency Services not realizing what a strain they would be putting on those organizations. They are trying to get them to better manage events by giving consideration to these issues beforehand.

A motion to adjourn was made by Phil Arthur, seconded by Marv Lemery. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Dillon
Secretary