

November 17, 2022 – Meeting Minutes
Story County Emergency Operations Center

Attendees:

Amanda Bottorff- AgLeader Technology	Tom Hackett – Ames FD
Jason Ziph-Ames Fire	Lance Kookier-Hy-Vee
Jim Hanson-Iowa DOT	Paul Richmond- Iowa State University
Brenda Duppong- Lincolnway Energy	Scott Wheeler-Lincolnway Energy
Gary Backous-Story County Sheriff’s Office	Sarah Houdjer-Verbio
Mark Dolch-Verbio	Melissa Spencer- SCEMA

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:30 PM by Spencer with a welcome and introductions

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Approval of August 2022 minutes and November Tentative Agenda. Motion by Backous, 2nd by Hackett to approve minutes and agenda. MCU

Guest Speaker: Verbio Biorefinery

Sarah Houdjer & Mark Dolch provided an overview of Verbio current and future operations. The plant became operational in December of 2021 with production of renewable natural gas (RNG) that is piped directly into an Alliant Energy pipeline from the site. They are still building out the equipment and processes needed for ethanol production but anticipate ethanol production to start the 3rd quarter of 2023.

Verbio employees 45-50 people at the refinery site and another 25 people for their agriculture operations. The agriculture division contracts with producers for the collection and movement of corn stover for operations. With the planned storage capability there will no longer be stover storage sites around the County.

Mark as the EH&S Manager, is building the safety programs for the site and will be conducting 20 trainings in house to start with. There are many different contractors on site with employees that require continuous training. They have a Safety Committee that meets monthly address safety issues. They also conduct ICP tabletop drills with local first responder agencies to discuss response to the site.

Current chemicals on site include totes of sulfuric & phosphoric acid, potassium hydroxide and Amine Solution for the RNG process. Once ethanol production starts, they anticipate additional chemicals on site to include storage tanks of ethanol, sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide, peracetic acid. They will have F500 encapsulated foam on site that will have a direct feed to the hydrant system. They will only conduct defensive fire fighting operations in case of fire.

The presentation slides are available upon request.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Election of Officers

Since the attendance at the last meeting was low, the election of LEPC officers was tabled until this meeting. Per the bylaws, the Officer positions are Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. In the past the EMA Coordinator has held the Chair position due to required notifications for hazardous material incidents. This position does not have to stay at the EMA Coordinator.

Nomination by Hackett, 2nd by Kookier to elect the EMA Coordinator, Melissa Spencer as Chair of the LEPC. No other nominations, MCU

Nomination by Ziph, 2nd by Bottorff to elect Ziph as Vice Chair. No other nominations, MCU

Nomination by Kookier, 2nd by Hackett for the SCEMA Deputy Coordinator, David Cooper to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. No other nominations, MCU.

Development of LEPC Subcommittee

Spencer would like assistance from a subcommittee to look at how the LEPC can be revitalized and used to it's full potential. Past focus of the LEPC has been to address hazardous materials topics and planning. Hazardous materials is a small portion of what the LEPC should be doing. The LEPC should be engaged in a larger planning effort surrounding the county "as a whole" emergency response plan. Brenda Duppong, Lance Kookier and Jason Ziph volunteered to assist.

Training:

Lincolnway Energy is conducting electrical safety training this month.

Exercises:

The SCEMA and City of Ames is planning a full-scale exercise of the Story County Emergency Operations Center and Ames Incident Command Center in April 2023.

Hackett asked the status of mass casualty training and exercise with first responder agencies in Story County. Spencer advised there would be discussion at the November EMS meeting about how or if this will continue. There is a county-wide plan in place but there has been resistance to conduct county-wide training and exercise. Some individual departments are taking training within their own departments.

Hy-Vee is purchasing AED's and Stop the Bleed kits for all stores and conducting training for internal and external active threat situations.

IDNR reported spills:

None

Other:

The Story County Sheriff's Office has purchased two additional tactical response drones. One is a smaller indoor use drone for situational assessment and the second is a medium sized drone with thermal capabilities. These drones will reside with sheriff's deputies patrol cars to be quickly deployed. They are

looking at possibly purchasing a tethered drone to provide sustained overwatch capabilities for an incident.

Lincolnway Energy is planning to expand production to 95 million gallons of ethanol. They are also working on increasing receiving capacity with delivery of grain on the front end.

ISU EH&S is conducting a search to replace the Emergency Management Director position previously held by Steve Simpson. They hope to have a replacement by the new year.

Next meeting: November 17, 2022

Motion to adjourn by Hackett, 2nd by Ziph. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM

DRAFT