

- b.** Local Emergency Planning Committee Minutes Report of November 13, and December 11, 2024 – Councilmember Kistler

January 7, 2025

Regular City Council Meeting

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Councilmember Kistler

SUBJECT: Local Emergency Planning Committee Minutes

To the Mayor and Council:

Attached are the minutes from the November 13, 2024 and the December 11, 2024 meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Lallete Kistler

Greater Ketchikan Area Local Emergency Planning Committee

Minutes

November 13, 2024

12:00 p.m.

City Fire Station 1

Call to Order

Chief Rydeen called the meeting to order at 12:07. Members in attendance were:

Dave Owings, SEAPRO

Jennifer Bergen, Public Health

Lallete Kistler, Ketchikan City Council

Mike Gates, KRBD Radio

Richard Harney, KIC, Tribal Develop & Planning

Rick Hines, Ketchikan Fire Department

Steve Rydeen, South Tongass Fire Department

Jack LeBlanc, AST

Seth Brakke, City of Ketchikan

Kathy Tighe, Forest Service (via teleconference)

Guest: Abner Hoage, Katmai Solutions

Approval of Agenda

Motion and second to approve agenda. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion and second to approve minutes from October 9, 2024 meeting. Passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Updates -- Steve Rydeen

- Outreach will be part of the EMPG Grants. Steve Rydeen and Rick Hines are working on it.
- Steve Rydeen is in contact with a contractor about our Hazardous Plan Update. Expect the process to take about 18 months.

Updates from the Integrated Preparedness Plan Workgroup (IPPW)

- Requirement to be in compliance with State of Alaska regulations
- We are adding "ground failures"
- We will change our reporting cycle from semi-annually to annual
- Looking at threats and hazards

New Business

LEPC Elections

Current LEPC Officers

Chair -- Steve Rydeen

Vice Chair -- Kacie Paxton

Secretary -- Dave Owings

Nominations

Chair -- Kacie Paxton

Vice Chair -- Jennifer Bergen

Secretary -- Lallete Kistler

Motion and second to approve slate of candidates. Passed unanimously.

Round Table Discussion

- Public Health -- POD went well with 85 people going through. Average time is 24 minutes per person to complete. Will transition back to Kayhi for future POD's. Also adding strike team to PODS. Public Health has noted a rise in pertussis (whooping cough) cases. Advised everyone to stay current on vaccines.
- Ketchikan Fire Department/Emergency Manager -- Rick Hines reported that the after action review of the landslide with the EOC team went well. Good conversations. Would like to set something up for the 2025 Blueberry Festival. Efforts underway to keep the public/community up to date on things.
- South Tongass Fire Department -- getting ready for the fire station rebuild. Has a \$55K grant for radios through the Borough. Also secured a grant for a generator for the Borough building. Great support from the Borough Assembly. Additionally, good work/cooperation between our local fire departments.
- Forest Service -- Reviewing plans and setting priorities for 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 1240 hrs.

Greater Ketchikan Area Local Emergency Planning Committee

Minutes

December 11, 2024

12:00 p.m.

City Fire Station 1

Called to Order at 12:04 pm by Chair, Steve Rydeen

Roll Call/Attendance

Glen Thompson, KGB
Greg Karlik, KFD
Jennifer Bergen, Public Health
Jerry Kiffer, NTFD/KVR
Lallete Kistler, City Council

Mike Gates, KRBD
Paulette LaBerge, American Red Cross
Rick Hines, KFD
Steve Rydeen, STFD
Jeff Shearen, CBP
Mio Rhein, STFD

Approval of Minutes: November 13, 2024 – m/a passed unanimously

Old Business: none

New Business

- LEPC Elections:
Previously nominated as Chair: Kacie Paxton
Nomination for Chair: Mio Rhein - m/a – passed unanimously
- All Hazards Mitigation: Reach out will happen the first of the year to revise it. A complete rewrite will cost \$200,000. KIC got a Brick grant. This will put us in compliance with FEMA so we will be eligible for other grants.
- STFD and KFD both received EMPG funding, \$20,000 each, for Emergency Management Personnel Grants to help with emergency management salaries.
- STFD and KFD both received funding for new radios.

Round Table

- CBP: They are working on upgrading radios to interoperability. They are shorthanded and working on hiring.
- NTFD: They set up a propane heating system so that the station is comfortable to work in again. It works, even though it's a little more expensive, and they are ready to host classes now.
- Public Health: They are fully staffed for the first time. Pertussis is trending down, but they are still urging the public to vaccinate. There have been over 500 cases for the year. The US has experienced their first Mpox case. There is also a mysterious "Disease X" that is unidentifiable and localized in the Congo, experiencing 31-146 cases so far.

- KGB: Animal control is completely full, which could be an issue if there is another major emergency. The school district is having financial problems but their debt volume is going down.
- KRBD: They bought some new Emergency Alert System (EAS) equipment and are working on getting it installed.
- KFD: They are having EMS training sessions and welcomed medical staff to participate. Chief Hines is working on rewriting city ordinances to enable sheltering in emergency situations. The rewrite includes some funding mechanisms if a church or other organization can help, and will ease the building requirements for emergency situations. KIC is looking to start an overnight shelter, which will help. They changed the EOC level to 3 with the Hillside slide. Sewer mains in the area are constantly sinking and some poles are leaning in the area. They organized swift current training in the creek to help mitigate issues that could block the creek. The homeowner was advised to move the fuel tank, which they did. An EOC advisory status level was implemented due to recent heavy rains. They are hoping to install weather systems on water tanks for future advisories. They are also hoping to update NIXLE with a Mass Notification system that will make emergency notifications more swift and add the ability to send out localized text alerts that tourists will also receive. The state sent Mort from the EOC to look at the Hillside slide. He's fairly certain that the surrounding houses are not in danger.
- STFD: They were notified that 6th Ave was having slide issues. STFD notified KFD. KFD says public works is looking at it now. They are working on design for the new building and apparatus replacement. Mio is working on state funding opportunities to pay for the apparatus.

7. Adjourn 12:32 pm - m/a passed unanimously
