



## SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020 @ 10:00 AM

South Florida Regional Planning Council  
One Oakwood Blvd, Suite 250, Hollywood, FL 33020

[www.soflalepc.org](http://www.soflalepc.org)

**Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions, this meeting was conducted virtually via GoToMeeting.**

**1. Welcome (Manny Cela)**

Coordinator Manny Cela opened the meeting and welcomed the members at 10:04 am. In the absence of Chair Ray McDonald, Mr. Cela requested and received permission from Vice Chair Shaw to direct and conduct the meeting for logistical reasons.

**2. Meeting Instructions (Manny Cela)**

Mr. Cela instructed all participants to keep their microphones on mute to eliminate feedback and unnecessary noise from disrupting the meeting. During roll call and votes, mikes can be temporarily unmuted.

**3. Previous Meeting Summary**

Minutes of the previous meeting were moved by Troy Johnson, seconded and approved unanimously.

**4. Membership Changes (Manny Cela)**

There were no new membership requests since the last meeting.

**5. Roll Call (Manny Cela)**

In attendance were Junieth Arana, Niel Batista, Tatiana Belmont, SERC TTF Rep Maikel Garcia, Troy Johnson, Eduardo Koenig, Chair Ray McDonald (joined late), Chief James Russo, Peter Schechter, Vice Chair Stephen Shaw, Natasha Strokin, Alvaro Tonanez, Freda Vaughn, Keith Westin, Gabriel Zahora and Coordinator Manny Cela. Out with excused absences were Jamie Johnson and Bret Maxwell. Non-members in attendance included Eric Pena, Kate Boer (TCLEPC Coordinator), Jennifer Bourguin, Chief Julie Downey, Yvette McLeod, Krystal Aaron, Kelly Gibbs, Matt Currie and John Meyer (TBLEPC Coordinator).

**6. Subcommittee Reports**

Training Subcommittee (Manny Cela)

Coordinator Manny Cela informed the members that the LEPC worked with a vendor and MD DERM to develop a virtual version of the **OSHA 8-hr HAZWOPER Refresher** course. Four such classes for a total of 80 students is scheduled to be delivered as two 4-hour sessions per class over eight days.



Some funds remain for an additional training class or hazmat trailer equipment purchase.

We received a proposal for a **HazMat Explosives in Transportation** class from Lt. Al Tonanez from MDR. Lt. Tonanez addressed the group, explaining that the class was scheduled to be offered at the HazMat conference in Baltimore, which was cancelled, and was offered at the HazMat Symposium in Daytona two years ago. Currently, the class consists of a four-hour pre-recorded session with 70 slides covering DOT placards, industrial explosives, precursors to homemade explosives and other topics.

On the downside, the January 2021 **HazMat Training Symposium** has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. On the plus side, that means that additional training funds will be available next year, perhaps to support two Hybrid HazMat 160 classes or other training. We've received inquiries for such training from Hialeah FR and Monroe County FR. The four Broward HazMat teams are considering organizing their own in-house hazmat training, which the South Florida LEPC will look to support.

Freda Vaughn discussed a training program from FDOH on **Responding to Suspected Biological Agents**. Ms. Vaughn will be providing additional information for distribution to members and interested parties.

#### Planning Subcommittee (Manny Cela)

There are no Planning Subcommittee activities this year

#### Exercise Subcommittee (Manny Cela)

Plans were in place to conduct field exercise May 27 with a radiological scenario. Hollywood FR had been kind enough to offer the use of their training facility for the exercise. Several HazMat Teams had indicated an interest in participating. The FDOH Bureau of Radiation Control was also offering support for the event.

The COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions caused cancellation of the event. FDEM will allow the LEPC to continue planning activities and have the exercise postponed until next year.

### **7. SoFlaLEPC Officer Elections (Manny Cela)**

Coordinator Manny Cela informed the Committee that the positions of Chair and Vice Chair have two-year terms which have now expired. Both Chair Ray McDonald and Vice Chair Chief Stephen Shaw expressed an interest in serving another term. SERC TTF Representative Lt. Maikel Garcia was also interested in retaining his position. Any other persons interested in these positions were asked to contact Coordinator Manny Cela by email before COB Friday, August 14, 2020. None did. A motion was made by Peter Schechter in support of the current officers. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **8. SERC Thomas Yatabe Award and Certificates of Appreciation (Chair Ray McDonald)**

Chair McDonald addressed the participants, stating that the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) presents the prestigious Thomas Yatabe Award each year to one individual selected from each



LEPC in Florida for outstanding service to their Committees. Certificates of Appreciation are also presented to LEPC members selected for their contributions.

Chair McDonald nominated Coordinator Manny Cela to receive the Yatabe Award. Mr. Cela has been with the South Florida LEPC since 2005 and has plans to retire by the end of the year. In addition, Chief Russo and Chief Garcia from Hollywood FR were nominated to receive Certificates of Appreciation. It was through their efforts and support that their Department offered to host the cancelled field exercise. A motion was made by Gabriel Zahora in support of the nominees. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**9. SoFlaLEPC Coordinator Report (Manny Cela)**

Mr. Cela addressed the group, thanking them for the honor of the Yatabe nomination. He explained that the plan is to advertise for his replacement during September and have someone in place in the October timeframe. He has agreed to be available to assist in the transition through the end of the year, perhaps into early January. His last meeting will likely be this November 18.

Mr. Cela briefed the members on several topics. The SERC meetings, postponed from July due to the Pandemic, will be rescheduled, virtually, for September. The October SERC meetings will also be conducted virtually. FDEM has indicated that funds for the FY2021 HMEP contract will be similar to this year. Finally, the ERGs have arrived at an FDEM warehouse in Orlando. The State will be delivering the allocation for our three counties to a MDRF HazMat warehouse from which Broward and Monroe will pick up their books.

**10. Member Comments**

There were no member comments.

**11. Upcoming Meetings**

The next SoFlaLEPC Meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2020 at 10 am. It will also be conducted virtually via GoToMeeting.

**12. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 10:45 am. It was passed unanimously.