



**SEDGWICK COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
2pm**

**ON SITE:**

Occidental Chemical Corporation  
6200 S Ridge Wichita, KS 67215  
2pm to 4pm

**ZOOM Meeting:**

ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068146505>

- 1. Call To Order:** LEPC Chairperson Ann Houk called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

**A. Attendance:**

Ann Houk, LEPC Chair	Nicholas Bell, Oxy Chem	Ryan Gadbury, WFD
Jaron Barrett, Oxy Chem	Rorik Moore-Jansen, SCHD	Shannon Reed, SCEMS
Richard Montano, City of Derby	Stewart Seagraves, Ascension	Scott Norlin, Spirit Aerosystems
Kirk Franklin, Oxy Chem	Jim Cornman, DHS/CISA	Nicholas Becker, SCFD
Corina Snyder, Southern Star	Vanessa Pearch, NOAA	Jilene Reichle, McConnell AFB EM
Jon Schropfer, SCEM	John Michael, KS Fire Marshal	Regan Gerber, Spirit Aerosystems
Jason Koch, Oxy Chem	Matt Vogt, Valley Center Police	Trista Clevenger, CPAAA
David Kuttler, Oxy Chem	Tara Zajic, Worthington Enterprises	Lane Sekevac, UPR
Bryan Clark, Oxy Chem	Gina Gregory, City of Valley Center	Derek Lampkin, BNSF
Kyle Burtch, SCEMS	Jessica Pereira, SCHD PHEP	Chris Steward, SCHD

- B. Introductions:** Ann provides a “thank you” to Occidental Chemical Corporation, Jaron Barrett, for hosting the LEPC meeting.

- 2. MINUTES APPROVED:** Minutes from the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting are approved. Motion to approve by Gina Gregory and second by Matt Vogt. All present in agreement with minutes approved as written-accepted.

Jaron provides logistics for the building if an emergency should occur.

- 3. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. HMEP Grant Status**

Ann states that we have received grant awards for both the Lithium Battery and Propane classes. Ann states that she will be working with Bryan Ellis to get the classes scheduled. Ann states that the classes will be open to all first responders. Ann states that we had some vendors supporting the training with providing Propane so the class will be open to the Vendors. Ann states the amounts of almost \$30,000 for training. Swapan spoke with Ann and offered some additional



training. Ann states that she is waiting to see what is on hold due to federal grant money on hold.

## **B. LEOP Review**

Jon states that they have been working on the hazardous mitigation plan and since the last meeting the plan was approved by KDEM and FEMA. Jon said it has been completed and in place. Jon states the LEOP review is due this year. Jon states that revisions must be done by June. Jon explains that pathway to achieve the review with all partners and how to get it accomplished. Jon states that if your organization has a part in the LEOP a representative will be reaching out to go over your specific ESF. Jon states he will do the final review before submission.

Jon says that the ESF 14 is a new plan that focuses on cross sector business and infrastructure coordination. Jon states this ESF is new for Kansas and he will be reaching out to get that implemented. Ann asks to clarify if this is only Tier II businesses or all. Jon states it is all businesses/government cooperation.

Ann states for those who do not know the ESF classifications they are as follows:

ESF 1 Transportation

ESF 2 Communication

ESF 3 Public Works

ESF 4 Fire Fighting

ESF 5 Information and Planning

ESF 6 Mass Care Emergency Assistance

ESF 7 Logistics

ESF 8 Public Health and Medical Services

ESF 9 Search and Rescue

ESF 10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response

ESF 11 Agricultural and Natural Resources

ESF 12 Energy

ESF 13 Public Safety and Security

ESF 14 Cross Sector Business and Infrastructure Coordination

ESF 15 External Affairs

Ann states if you have any questions please contact Jon.

## **C. Open Discussion**

Jon states that on March 11<sup>th</sup> they are hosting a full scale Active Shooter event at WSU. Jon states that FEMA will be assisting with the exercise. Jon states he is looking for volunteers for bystanders, family members and victims. Jon states to contact him and he will send a link for you to sign up to attend the event. Jon states that lunch will be provided. Jon states that the salvation army will be activated to assist with meals.

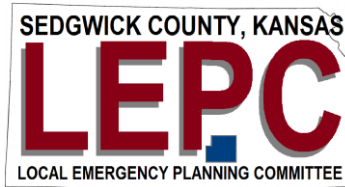
Jon states that all the positions for evaluators and actor positions are available and if anyone needs exercise credit contact him.

Jon states this is the first time that this is the first time that we are actually moving patients. Gina requests information be sent out.

## **4. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. Business Surveys**

Jon states that they will be contacting businesses for gather information for ESF 14. Jon states that he will follow up with Julie on the basis of the surveys.



## **B. ESF 14**

Jon states that the outcomes from the business surveys that will be sent out or distributed will set the foundation for the ESF 14. Jon states he will share more when he knows more of what it looks like and is expected.

## **C. HMEP Classes**

Ann states that if anyone has any interest in classes or for her to try and get grant money to get the classes in town to please let her know. Ann states that classes may include: JHAT, Hot Zone Survival, Risk Based response to hazmat and oxidizers, Risked based response to pharmaceutical agents, RADIQ, Hazmat IQ, Hazardous Materials Incident Command, and Incident Command for train derailments.

John Michael offers to notify other agencies of classes available so that the classes are well received.

## **D. 2025 Safety Expo**

Ann states that the LEPC has a sub-committee is going to host a community wide event that will focus on educating our community on several community hazards/disasters and how to be prepared. Ann states that the plan is to have the event at the Regional Training Center. Ann states that she wants to provide her community with the available resources.

## **E. Emergency Prep Guidebook**

Ann states that part of the safety expo is the creation of an emergency preparedness guidebook so that the community has a one stop location to gather useful resource information. Ann states that all of the information has come from various agencies and from online resources. Ann states that she emailed a rough draft of the guidebook to the LEPC membership for feedback and review. Ann states that she would like local community photos for the book to personalize the book. Ann states that her goal is a final draft by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Ann states that every attendee at the expo will receive the book. Ann states that the book will also be available for the website for SCEM and can be used or printed by any member of the LEPC. Ann states that she would like to put every resource in the book and knows not everything is there.

Ann states that the event will be September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 10am to 2pm. Ann states that we will have hands on activities, flu clinic, every electrical training and all first responders. Ann states that we have so much willingness for our safety partners to engage in this activity. Jessica states our focus is on families and kids so they can explore and learn about emergency awareness/preparedness.

Ann requests that membership review the book and provide feedback by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **F. Membership Review**

Ann reminds those who want to be active members that have attendance requirements. Ann states that if you want on the membership to please let her know. Ann states during covid the changes to the bylaws allow us to have meetings by zoom and to allow a substitute or stand in when you are unable to attend. Ann states that it is vital for active participation and attendance to gain the benefit of the LEPC.

Ann states she is happy that we have so many willing to keep our community safe.



## 5. PRESENTATION:

### **Occidental Chemical Corp**

Jaron provides a slide show of Occidental Chemical. Jaron states that Occidental used to be Vulcan. Jaron states that if anyone is looking for a job to let him know as they are always hiring. Jaron states the goal of the conversation is to let you know what the company is and what they do. Jaron provides a facility overview:

- \*Startup by Union Chemical in 1950

- \*Purchased by Vulcan Chemicals in 1957

- \*Purchased by OxyChem in 2005

Wichita manufacturing has a total of 261 employees, Tech center has 14 salaried employees and private carriage has 40 employees.

Jaron states that there is a strong emphasis on Health, Environment, Safety and Security.

Jaron state the following are the major chemicals produced at the facility:

- \*Chlorine, Sodium Chlorite, Sodium Hydroxide, Hydrogen, Methyl Chloride, Methylene Chloride, Chloroform, Carbon Tetrachloride and Hydrochloric Acid.

Jaron provides facts on the Wichita Plant:

- \*Largest, single point, electric power consumer in Kansas

- \*Largest annual railcar shipper in Kansas (30-40 railcars per day/30+ trucks per day)

- \*Largest solution miner of salt in the state

- \*One of the longest continuous functioning Community Involvement Groups in the US

Jaron reports that Oxy Chem has the Prairie Wetland Conservation Area that is a 420 acre certified prairie wetland conservation area that is located just east of the plant. The plant maintain the area and was awarded the Grassland Habitat Project Award in 2024. It is not open to the public but can make appointments.

Jaron discusses chlorine production and uses. Jaron states it is used to treat water to control bacteria, produce PVC and other plastics. Jaron states that the chlorine industry contributes to more that \$46 billion to the North American economy annually and helps provide thousands of essential products.

Jaron discusses the other chemicals made on site: Sodium Hydroxide, Hydrogen and Sodium Chlorite, hydrochloric acid, and chlorinated organics.

Jaron discusses the basic overview of electrolytic cells as it flows through an electrolyzer.

Jaron discusses the drills and training. In 2024 80 firefighters and 35 dispatchers were involved in formal training and/or drills on plant emergency response protocols. Sedgwick County Sheriff's department conducted plant orientation and emergency brigade protocols for all 3 shifts over a 2 day period. WFD and SCFD participated in plant walking tours, classroom training, full-scale exercises, and hazmat/high angle rescue scenarios.

Jaron states that they also do training and drills on intruder and suspicious packages, confined space rescues and onsite medical responses.

Jaron states that in 2024 OxyChem installed a new internal mass notification system that can



announce plant emergencies through large outdoor speakers, supplemental speakers in process units, and building/control rooms. Jaron states that this is used to signal for any of the following situations:

- \*chemical release
- \*medical emergency
- \*fire
- \*lightning and tornado
- \*accountability
- \*shelter in place
- \*plant evacuation
- \*weekly testing

Jaron states that if there is an offsite impact that the Community Alert Network (CAN)-[everbridge.com](http://everbridge.com) can be used to notify residents and businesses within a 2 mile radius of the plant of either informational messages or a chemical release message. Jaron states this is tested every quarter.

Jaron states that the weather alerts and notifications are vital to the safety of the plant. Jaron states they are notified of lightning within 4 miles of the plant with a 20 minute lead time and Tornado within 3 miles of the plant with a 20 minute lead time if possible.

Jaron discusses the responder roles and duties during an emergency response with the Incident command structure.

Jaron discusses the crisis management teams and corporate special situations plan.

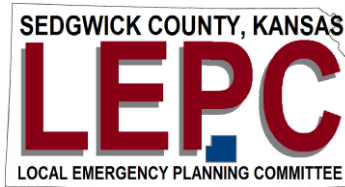
Jaron states that the site had an incident in 2015 where the sodium chlorite warehouse caught on fire, which triggered the activation of the plants Special Situations Plan. Jaron states the fire sprinkler system inside the sodium chlorite warehouse extinguished the fire, but the concern was soil contamination and a trailer outside the warehouse caught on fire. SCFD assisted with extinguishing the trailer and the Special Situations Plan formulated a plan for soil remediation.”

Nick Bell states having the wildlife area is just to keep the area safe and conservation purposed.

Jaron states that Community Alert Network notifications are sent by phone calls not text messages. And if the person doesn't answer after the first call, the system will call them again before leaving a voicemail.

Derek Lampkin states that he has worked with Oxy for quite a while but there has been a change in command and would like to know if they are responding for HCL railcars or chlorine leaks in railroad issues. Jaron states that they have a response to Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, Wyoming and Colorado. Oxy chem states that they will reconnect with Derek to update on changes in command and contacts.

Jaron states the future of the plant is to continue business without impact. Jaron states that there is a mechanical integrity group that manages equipment and when upgrades are needed based on lifespan. Jaron states it is a rigorous program and will not allow equipment to fail.



**6. ROUND TABLE:**

Jim Cornwell states that they have a program called Chem Lock that can come and assist companies to secure chemical and have better chemical awareness.

Ann states that Tori will be doing cybersecurity safety in future LEPC meetings and at the Safety Expo.

Vanessa Pearce with NOAA states that it is Severe Weather Awareness week March 3 -7 and we will be doing a state wide tornado drill on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The annual training is Monday March 24<sup>th</sup>.

**7. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting is adjourned at 3:16pm. Matt Vogt approves adjournment for online attendees.**

**8. NEXT MEETING:**

**May 15th 2pm ON SITE AND ZOOM**

**\*\*Presenter: Robert McKenzie**

**Location: Phillips 66**

**2400 E 37th St N Wichita, KS 67219**

**ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83174694446>**

**\*\*Presenter #2: Corina Snyder**

**Southern Star Pipeline**