



Rockdale County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meeting Minutes

November 3rd, 2025 @ 1:00pm
Rockdale EOC
Conyers, GA

Attending: John Bandzul, Hailey Blackerby, Allyson Born, Gerald Woodridge, Sharon Webb, Brandon Marlow, Richard Pickens, Jaseth Reid, Kim Lucas, Claudette Rancifer, Devon Proctor, Tina Hobbs, George Kelecheck, Nick Lynn, Ben and Cheryl Garcia, Gaby Solorio, Rebecca Hill, Michael Rekhelman, Scott Pickert, Q. Garcia.

Meeting called to order at 1:08pm

- Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from October 2025 was made and seconded.
- The minutes were approved.

Old Business and Subcommittees

- No old business to bring up from the last meeting.
- There are no subcommittees to report.

Review of Open House

- The open house was successful, despite the chair being delayed due to weather in Boston.
- Vice Chair and Assistant Chief Marlow did a very good job creating it.
- Citizens attended, got information, asked questions, and saw fire department equipment.
- Lieutenant Kyle Whitson reviewed hazmat capabilities and equipment, and there was a drone demonstration.
 - Drones are used for searching for people using forward-looking infrared cameras.
 - Drones are used to identify the origin of smoke and for visual overview of large scenes.



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- Walkthroughs of facilities are being scheduled with fire and police departments.
 - The goal is for public safety to see facility layouts and for facilities to educate public safety on what is in the facility.

Bylaw Amendment Proposals

- Two amendment proposals for the bylaws were introduced, requiring a vote.
- The first proposal is to add a community liaison to represent citizens, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations.
- A community liaison could be a "cheerleader" for the group, reaching out to communities and civic organizations.
 - A community hands-on person is needed to represent the public, churches, and nonprofits.
- The second proposal is to add an industry representative.
 - The industry representative would be from an industrial chemical, power producing, or railroad organization.
- Concern was raised about how one industry representative could speak for all industries, as the goal is for representatives from each high-hazard facility to attend meetings.
 - Suggestion made to have a subcommittee of industry representatives with a chair instead of just one representative.
- Other counties, like Cobb County, have industry buy-in and subcommittees where they discuss and find consensus on issues, pool resources, and train together.
- The idea for new positions to have job descriptions (brief) was mentioned.
 - Will be provided at the meeting in January

Community Liaison Position

- The industry representative will be tabled for now.
- Adding a community liaison position to the bylaws is a good idea.



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- A motion and a second are needed to add the community liaison position to the bylaws.
- The position would be voted on at the first session of the next year (January).
- A citizen asked if they have a vote and expressed interest in the community liaison position but will be out of pocket for knee replacement surgeries.
- They are willing to assist when able and will put the word out for someone else who might be interested.
- Request for a job description for the community liaison position, clarifying expectations.

Subcommittee Approach

- The speaker agrees with the approach of having a subcommittee for meetings, talks, and scheduled training.
- An industry representative might not be a good addition to the bylaws due to Director Webb's concerns.
 - It would be better to keep industry involvement as a subcommittee so that everyone from the industry can have a voice.
- Training subcommittee may be opened up again.

Bylaws and Positions

- The current executive board positions are chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer.
- This person can get information out to the public and help reach HOAs and small community groups.

LEPC History and Revival

- The LEPC was started in 2017 but disbanded due to events such as the split from fire and COVID.
- The goal was to get it back up and running, with efforts starting around February.
- Communication is always a problem, but efforts are being made to improve it.



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- Agendas and minutes are being put on the website to keep people updated.

Outreach Ideas

- Flyers in local voting spots could help spread information about the LEPC.
- Flyers at grocery stores could also reach people who don't use the internet or read newspapers.
- A community liaison could lobby local businesses and encourage them to participate.
- Involvement at the chamber level is desired for the community liaison.

Community Events & Exposure

- Community events are a great place to advertise because there is a captured audience.
- The speaker suggests LEPC consider participating in the upcoming Veterans Day parade for exposure.
 - Rockdale Fire will have a fire truck and could hand out flyers.
 - National EMS will be there and will have their antique ambulance in the parade.

Bylaws Amendment: Meeting Frequency

- A second amendment proposal for the bylaws is to change the meeting frequency to once a quarter, requiring a minimum of four meetings per year.
- Monthly meetings were initially necessary to get the project running, but quarterly meetings could garner more participation and allow for more meaningful agendas.
- Special meetings can be called with a seven-day minimum notice.
- The minimum of four meetings per year ensures compliance with bylaws, even if a meeting is missed.

Soil Water Conservation District Example



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- The Soil Water Conservation District created a two-minute infomercial from their meetings, leading to national exposure.
- This is suggested as an avenue for LEPC to gain exposure.

Nominations and Elections

- Nominations are being taken for chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and treasurer.
- Gerald Woodridge and Director Webb were nominated for chairman.
- Gerald Woodridge was elected as chairman.
- John Bandzul was elected as Vice chair.
- Nominations for secretary are opened; Allyson is nominated to continue as secretary and seconded.
- Nominations for secretary are closed; all in favor.

Treasurer

- The chair would like to have a treasurer for 2026.
- Nominations are opened for treasurer, someone good with numbers and money.
- Nominations are closed and will be brought back up in January.
- Establishing a treasurer could allow the LEPC to provide meals or snacks.
- Request for a job description (brief) so this person knows what to expect.

Comments and Questions

- Question about whether the group has a budget.
- The group does not have a budget currently.
- The county has been gracious in providing flyers, and emergency management and other partners have been helpful.
- Without a treasurer, they cannot start with a budget.

Fundraising Ideas



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- Interest in where the money would come from, especially for PR and advertisement.
- Boot campaigns involving LEPC, EMA, 911, and the fire department could be a possibility, but would need to run it through legal.
- Dues from industries could be implemented, similar to Cobb County, where a fee is paid at the first meeting to cover the entire company for the year.

Next Generation Involvement

- Brainstorming ideas to involve the school system and students at the LEPC level.
- Holding meetings at 6 p.m. so students and their parents can attend.
- RCA (Rockdale Career Academy) has a towable smoker and served Boston butts and chicken at their Halloween festival.
- The culinary program is always looking for projects to involve students.
- Students want to be involved and know what's going on around them and how it affects them.
- High schoolers have asked about the flyers and appreciate the meeting minutes.

School Collaboration

- Schools conduct drills and have a good relationship with emergency services.
- There was a large drill planned before a recent incident, involving students in various roles.
- The LEPC is open to a representative presenting at an Explorer meeting.

Youth Involvement

- The younger generation is showing more interest in community involvement.
- Harnessing the youth is important because it's their community and future.
- National preparedness initiatives have a positive impact, as noted by the Ag Educator at the extension service.

Flyers



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- There's information on both sides of the glossy cards, making them difficult to display.
- The glossy cards are likely more expensive than 8.5 x 11 paper.
- Suggestion: Use one side and a less expensive paper.

Training

- Inquiry about big training events scheduled for early 2026 by facilities and county departments.
- Question about training at the school level, such as fire or hazmat training, possibly at the high school level.
- Teen CERT has been difficult to get going, and even the adult CERT program has been a challenge.

Appreciation

- A thank you was given to Director Webb and Gerald for their work this year.
- Director Webb was thanked for her knowledge, guidance, and allowing Gerald to dedicate time and effort to the committee.

Gratitude and Reflection

- Speaker expresses gratitude for the attendees' participation, acknowledging the significant commitment required.
- Notes the success of gaining participation in the first year of the rehash, highlighting the need to add more seating.
- Expects participation to increase, especially with Gerald as chair.

Meeting Adjourned at 13:58.