

# Wyoming State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

Public Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: May 30, 2024

Location: Cheyenne, WY

Chair: Chief Jim Wamsley

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## 1. Call to Order

- Chairman Wamsley called the meeting to order at 12:14 p.m.

## 2. Roll Call

- Roll call conducted by Nick Wardle.
- Chairman Wamsley confirmed a quorum with 12 members present.

### Attendance:

- Jim Wamsley – Fire Chief, RSFD; Host Region Response Team 4; Current Chair
- Ben Sharif – EPA Region 8, Regional Operations Center Manager
- Jeanine West – Emergency Management/Homeland Security
- Bill Shank – Public Representative
- Mark Pepper – Vice Chair, Local Government Representative
- Aimee Binning – Manufacturing Representative
- PJ Wilbur – Department of Environmental Quality
- Nick Wardle – Radiological Hazard & Administrative Support
- Bill Shank – Logistics Chief (Hazmat, Bomb, Dogs)
- John Cattles – Energy Representative
- Maston – EMS Representative

- Ivy Castleberry – Media Representative
- Senator Eric Barlow – Legislature Representative
- Chad Bade – University of Wyoming
- Lynn Budd – Director, WOHS
- Heggem – Department of Agriculture Representative
- KC Ramsey (virtual) – WYDOT Representative

### 3. Approval of Agenda

- Chairman Wamsley called for changes three times.
- No changes offered; agenda approved as presented.

### 4. Opening Remarks

- Chairman Wamsley welcomed members, emphasized the value of in-person meetings, thanked Homeland Security for coordination and the Department of Health for funding support.
- Noted that face-to-face discussions build stronger working relationships and collaborative outcomes.

### 5. Approval of Previous Minutes

- December 7, 2024, Public Meeting Minutes reviewed.
- Motion: Mark Pepper
- Second: Dale Heggem
- Discussion: Request to include full list of attendees in the record. Wardle will update minutes accordingly.
- Vote: Approved unanimously.

### 6. Member Updates and Questions

- Vacant Positions Discussion:
  - Ongoing vacancies noted in Energy, UW, and BNSF seats.

- Discussion regarding gubernatorial appointments, term lengths, and reappointment procedures during administration transitions.
- Legislative clarification may be required.

## 7. Partner Reports

### Local, County, and Emergency Manager Updates

- No updates provided by Campbell, Natrona, Uinta, Johnson, Hot Springs, or Laramie counties.
- Discussion held on SERC's role in supporting Emergency Managers, frequency of meetings, and LEPC training opportunities.

### Regional Emergency Response Team (RERT) Reports

- Region 1: Hazmat training for 6–8 new members; coordination with WY/NE CST; recent incidents include white powder and chemical spill.
- Region 3: First activation on EV fire; ammonia leak response in Carbon County; increase in Hazmat Tech staffing.
- Region 4: Full-scale exercise; diesel spill response; coordination with Sweetwater County EM.
- Region 6: Strong LEPC activity; 19 Hazmat Techs; 80–120 operations-level responders; working on equipment and funding applications.
- Region 8: Hazmat and bomb squad active; inter-jurisdictional coordination; vehicle support through grants.
- Regions 5 and 7 – no reports.

### Federal Partner Reports

- FEMA (Ammons): Updates on EMI training, new climate-related certification, and grant program timelines.
- EPA (Sharif): Updates on funding, cost recovery options, upcoming regulatory changes (Substance Response Plan, Safer Communities Rule), and water regulation applicability. Discussion held regarding Tier II/RMP data integration.

### State Partner Reports

- None provided.

## 8. WOHS Updates

- Director Budd:
  - Acknowledged participation and legislative support.
  - Reviewed RERT funding and equipment needs.
  - Tier II Filing Fee planning underway.
  - Working session with RERTs was productive; additional funding requests anticipated.
- Cindi Shank:
  - Provided activation and reimbursement process overview.
  - Noted challenges with bomb team staffing and equipment needs.
  - Confirmed 6 active RERTs and 8 K9 units.
- Aimee Binning:
  - Tier II compliance and reporting significantly improved (9,678 facilities).
  - Emergency Response Plan compliance also increasing.
- Discussion followed on mapping facility changes, energy storage facilities, and potential solar/wind farm risks.

## 9. Old Business

- Vacant Positions & Attendance:
  - Discussion on attendance thresholds, enforcement, and bylaws.
  - Agreement to seek Attorney General clarification.
- Tier II Filing Fees:
  - Fee structure discussion (current free, potential increase).
  - Legislative process and timeline reviewed.
  - Senator Barlow encouraged direct communication with legislators and clarity on funding needs.

## 10. New Business

- Strategic Plan & Objectives:
  - Plan requires review and updates; members discussed statutory vs. federal responsibilities.
  - Concern raised regarding commodity flow studies due to UW withdrawal.
  - Potential RFP for alternate contractor discussed.
- HMEP Grant:
  - Current 3-year cycle ends 2025.
  - Funding changes expected for next cycle.

## 11. Committee Assignments

- Education Committee: Cattles, Fairbanks, Heggem, UW (Bade), Wilbur, Castleberry.
  - Binning recommended developing “SERC 101.”
  - Heggem suggested in-person delivery; Castleberry confirmed quarterly meeting schedule.
  - Additional volunteers: Bill Shank, West, Sharif.
- All-Hazards Committee: [Assignments not finalized].
- Legislative Committee: Barlow, Spoonhunter, Anderson, Castleberry, Wamsley.
  - Discussion on engaging associations (municipalities, counties).
  - Clarification on lobbying restrictions and board training.
- Bomb Squad Administrative Rules: Shank working with bomb team commanders to finalize.

## 12. Public Comments

- No comments received.

## 13. Commissioner Remarks

- Heggem (Ag): Upcoming EPA chemical regulation changes and Wyoming pesticide certification changes.

- Budd: Appreciation for member participation; recognition of staff support.
- Ramsey: Thanked group; looks forward to serving.
- Bade: No updates.
- Sen. Barlow: Thanked members; highlighted importance of aligning legislative efforts with timing.
- Castleberry, Mastin, Cattles, Cindi Shank, Wardle, Wilbur, Binning, Pepper, West, Sharif: Various thanks, support for in-person meetings, comments on attendance and data management, willingness to assist with facility tours, and encouragement of continued collaboration.
- Chairman Wamsley: Encouraged committees to meet between official SERC meetings.

#### 14. Closing Remarks

- Discussion on funding availability for in-person meetings.
- WOHS committed to working out financial support.

#### 15. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.