



Cuyahoga County
Local Emergency Planning Committee
May 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes



1. Roll Call – Scott Broski conducted roll call and led the meeting.

- **LEPC Members in Attendance:** Wade Balsler, Johnny Brewington, Scott Broski, Dan DeRoos, Jessica Fetter, Alan Finkelstein (Omari Mays, proxy), Richelle Gibson, Piet Hagenaars, Rob Howerton, Jacqueline Jackson, Deirdre Jones (Gary Bolton, proxy), Bryan Kloss (Kevin Friis, proxy), Sheldon Lustig, Tracy Pate (Natalia Maikranz, proxy), Matt Schneider, Cory Skoczen, Randy Solganik (Julie Lowry, proxy), Fred Szabo, Dave Telban, Mark Vedder, Ingrid Wagner, Jason Wheeler
- **Non-Voting Members in Attendance:** Greg Laurenson – CCOEM, John Rhoades – NEORSD, Michelle Sowers – Ohio EMA
- **Guests in Attendance:** Scot Asvestas – TPI, Laura Cerrito – CCBH, Tim Draves – Westshore Hazmat, Greg Fondran – USCG, Tim Forthofer – ICMD US, William Gerber – ODOT, Michael Stewart - CCPO

2. LEPC Member Spotlight Series – Wade Balsler – Ohio EPA

- Wade Balsler provided a presentation regarding the Emergency Response Program for Ohio EPA. The presentation included the roles and responsibilities of on-scene coordinators, the types of incidents to which the program responds, and points of contact for our region, among other items.
- The LEPC would like to thank Wade for this overview and for his time and willingness to present.

3. March Meeting Minutes Approval – Scott Broski asked for a motion to approve the March 2, 2026, minutes.

- Sheldon Lustig noted an error in a date listed in the March minutes, which has since been corrected.
- Sheldon Lustig made a motion, Dave Telban seconded. Minutes approved upon correction.

4. Financial Report: Greg Laurenson provided the financial report for April 2026 on behalf of Nancy Veley.

- Four changes since the March meeting. The LEPC paid AristaTek Inc. \$4,950.00 for renewal of the PEAC-WEB licenses and \$9,160.00 for the PEAC-WMD Worst Case Hazard Analysis of Tier II facilities. Both of these payments came from SERC funds. The LEPC also paid a total of \$585.00 to send Alan Finkelstein to the NASTTPO Conference in April 2026. Of this \$585.00, the HMEP Grant paid for \$468.00 and the LEPC Discretionary fund paid for \$117.00. Lastly, the LEPC used \$4,250.00 from the SERC fund to pay Bad Day Training for their Hazmat First Responders Operations class held in April 2026.

5. Resolutions:

- Approved:
 - #05042026-1 Accept & File Financial Report Period ending April 30, 2026
 - Dave Telban made a motion, Mark Vedder seconded. Resolution approved.

***7) EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY BE HELD PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE (ORC) 121.22(G)**

ORC 121.22(G)(5), a public body may hold an executive session to consider "matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes."

ORC 121.22(G)(6) provides that consideration of "[d]etails relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office, if disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the public body or a public office." Under this exception, both conditions must be met:

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- ❑ #05042026-2 Apply & Accept FY25 Year 2 HMEP Grant
 - Dave Telban made a motion, Johnny Brewington seconded. Resolution approved.
- ❑ #05042026-3 Approving Funding for Food/Beverages for LEPC Exercise
 - Johnny Brewington made a motion, Dave Telban seconded. Resolution approved.

6. Subcommittee Reports:

- Management- Scott Broski
 - Met on April 20, 2026.
 - Discussed two membership changes.
 - Sgt. Mike Kehl with GCRTA will replace Chief Dierdre Jones as GCRTA's representative with the LEPC. This is pending SERC approval at their June meeting.
 - Capt. Tim Draves with Westshore Hazmat will be filling the final at-large spot, pending SERC approval at their June meeting.
 - The LEPC would like to thank its members as this is the first time in recent memory that all 32 positions will be filled, pending SERC approval of Sgt. Kehl and Capt. Draves. We appreciate our members' time, effort, and partnership with our group.
 - Discussed bylaws revisions. We are waiting for SERC to finalize their LEPC Handbook so we can properly update our bylaws. The handbook is expected to be approved at the June SERC meeting.
 - Commodity Flow Study – we received four proposals from vendors. These proposals are being individually reviewed by a review committee and there is a group evaluation scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2026.
- Facilities- Greg Laurenson provided the Facilities Subcommittee update on behalf of Ellen Dempsey.
 - The Facilities Subcommittee is bringing in three sessions of RCRA Awareness Training for Cuyahoga County industry personnel on June 15, 16, 17. It will be held at NEORS from 8a-12p each day.
- Transportation- Sheldon Lustig
 - Norfolk Southern and TRANSCAER held three days of training and instruction at Rockport Yard in April.
 - Chief Vedder noted that there was a specific time reserved for Hazmat team training that went well. There was also First Responder training held on multiple days.
 - Norfolk Southern is still working with insurance companies regarding the East Palestine incident.
 - Union Pacific has recommissioned a large steam locomotive that is currently on a national tour and will be coming through Cuyahoga County during the summer, possibly in June. The route has not yet been announced for Cuyahoga County but has drawn large crowds during the early portion of its tour so far.

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- The former Reading Steam Locomotive that is being rehabbed in the Flats was given its first boiler test and did not pass.
 - Spills- John Rhoades & Dave Telban
 - Met on May 4, 2026, immediately preceding the main LEPC meeting.
 - Four outstanding spills from 2023/2024 and have been referred to the prosecutor.
 - Two outstanding spills have received their 90-day letters and will be referred to the prosecutor.
 - 27 new spills from March/April 2026.
 - 10 not reportable.
 - 8 reportable with completed spill reports.
 - 1 reportable with 30-day letter sent.
 - 4 reportable with 30-day letters due immediately.
 - 3 reportable with upcoming 30-day letters due.
 - 1 spill pending addition external information before reportable/non-reportable determination.
 - Training and Exercises- Greg Laurenson provided the Training and Exercises update on behalf of Alan Finkelstein and Brendan McNamara.
 - The LEPC TTX is scheduled for Thursday, May 21. It will be held at the Strongsville Rec Center from 9:30a-12p. We will be running a scenario to test the SERT Hazmat team.
 - Multiple members of the LEPC gave a brief overview of the logistics and value of a tabletop exercise as our LEPC has new members that may not be familiar with the process.
 - We are hosting a Hazmat Strategy and Tactics course on June 24 and 25 held at the 2501 Harvard Ave. Seats are still open for this course.
7. **Office of Emergency Management Report-** Greg Laurenson provided the Office of Emergency Management report.
- Records Requests- 16 since last meeting, 45 total for 2026.
 - Tier II Reports- 875 filed, have reached out to missing facilities.
 - 2026 LEPC TTX on Thursday, May 21. 10a-12p, lunch provided (please RSVP).
 - Our office continues to conduct ReadyEx Prep workshops and TTXs across the county.
 - EMAP assessment is complete, currently in review stage for findings and documents.
 - Operations team is finalizing updated flipbooks for water assets, drone assets, and specialty team maps. We are also supporting 8 FSEs, including one on May 5, 2026, in Olmsted Falls.
 - Rescue Task Force training starts this week, flyer available upon request. Open slots for all sessions.
 - There is a county-wide primary election on May 5, 2026 – EOC will be activated.
 - Training
 - NWS is hosting a virtual Extreme Heat Conference on Monday, May 11.
 - G-197 Integrating AFN into EM – May 12-May 13 at Harvard Garage

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- Additional training opportunities are expected to be available now that the government shutdown has ended.
- Outreach
 - May 16 – North Royalton Safety Fair
 - May 27 – Olmsted Township Coffee with the Chiefs
 - June 11-13 – Middleburg Heights Community Fair

8. New Business

- The USSC Cleveland is coming to Cleveland on Saturday, May 9. It will be in Cleveland until Sunday, May 17.
- The Cleveland Marathon is on Sunday, May 17. The City of Cleveland's EOC will be activated on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17.
- Jacqueline Jackson introduced a new planner with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Laura Cerrito.

9. Next Meeting: July 13, 2026

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