

**LEPC Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2015**  
**12:00 pm Walters State Community College**

The meeting was called to order by Paul Brown. The pledge of allegiance was led by Director Chris Bell. Invocation was given by County Commissioner, Joe Huntsman.

There was no old business

There was a new business announcement by Jackie Jinks from Morristown Utilities asking for more volunteers for the Community Preparedness Fair. Please contact Jackie if you can help. The tentative date for the fair is August 29, 2015 at Walters State Community College.

A presentation was made by David Breeding, Claiborne County EMA Director in regards to the ongoing weather incidents that Claiborne County experienced from January through July of 2014. Beginning on July 27<sup>th</sup> there was an F3 tornado that was on the ground for 3 miles. The tornado was approximately 1 mile wide and did significant damage. A slide show was presented showing the impact and debris that resulted from this weather event. Cleanup, communication & budget issues were discussed along with the specifics of the difficulty in sorting through the debris, the highway department had no funds left in their budget, school was 8 days away from starting and it was a week from the election. A budget amendment was requested in a special meeting held by the commission. There were massive amounts of debris and a debris task force was formed. The incident garnered national media attention.

Todd Jones, TEMA area coordinator stepped up to speak on running the operations for the cleanup. There were 575 loads of debris. 33 loads went to the landfill, which took 10 years of landfill use. 532 loads were burned. There were 8,100 cubic yards of debris which equals 41 ½ miles in cubic feet. The TEMA command bus was the center of operations and helped tremendously with the efficiency of the cleanup. Agencies involved were Forestry, TDOT, TDEC and the National Guard. There were continual runs with equipment to remove debris. Their primary mode of communication was the stock of hand held radios that Claiborne County had available. A burn pit was utilized to dispose of the debris not taken to the landfill. Challenges included weather, establishing communication and TDEC facilitating the required burn pit authorizations.

There was a question & answer portion of the meeting which included the following questions: What was the length of the operation? Answer – 8 days with 6 days of debris removal. What was the estimated final cost of the cleanup? Answer - 3.5 million dollars. The director of the Hamblen County Landfill, Dan Winter, asked if all the debris was comingled or separated. Answer – it was separated to the best of their ability. Hamblen County does have a pit burner and is a Class 1 landfill.

Anthony Cavallucci from the National Weather Service stated that social media was a critical piece in notifying people ahead of time so they were prepared for the severe weather. There were no fatalities or injuries.

Chris Bell ended the meeting with a brief discussion on the importance of industrial involvement in LEPC as well as the diesel spill recently in Whitesburg.

The Morristown LEPC would like to thank Megan's Corner for supplying the meal for this meeting.

Meeting was adjourned with our next scheduled meeting to be held on July 14, 2015.