Clermont County Local Emergency Planning Committee

July 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Attendees (In-Person): Mark Baird, Pam Haverkos, Andrew McAfee, John McManus, Jeannette Nichols, Tom Peck, Laurie Schlueter, Jeff Smith, Mike White, and Jessie Wiederhold.
Attendees (Virtually): Jill Ernst, Robert Hirsch, Ursula Miller, and Michael Mills.

Guests (In-Person): Anne Benedict, Michael Florez, Tim Kelly, Matt Terrell, and Neil Yockey.
Guests (Virtually): Thomas Berger, Michael Hoh, Emily Loudermilk, Lila Ziolkowski.

Call to Order

The meeting began at 1:31 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Tom Peck and seconded by Jessie Widerhold to adopt the minutes from the January 23, 2025, meeting. The motion passed.

A motion was made by John McManus and seconded by Laurie Schlueter to adopt the minutes from the April 24, 2025, meeting. The motion passed.

New Business

Memberships

The Current LEPC Membership period ends 08/14/2025. The next membership period will be from 08/15/2025 through 8/14/2027.
EMA received 23 applications. Of the twenty-three, twenty were current members. The applications were as follows:

Exist. Member	Name	Title	Agency	Representing	LEPC Officer
Y	Baird, Mark	Fire Chief	Milford Community Fire Dept./Clermont Co. Fire Chief's Alliance	Fire	Vice Chair
Y	Batchler, Bonnie	County Commissioner	Clermont County Board of Commissioners	Elected Official	
Y	Davis, Randy	WRD Asst Director of Operations WW	Clermont County Water Resources Dept.	Environmental	
Y	Downey, Steve	Fire Chief	Monroe Twp. Fire & EMS/Clermont Co. Fire Chief's Alliance	Fire	
Y	Ernst, Jill	Readiness & Response Program Manager	The Health Collaborative	Hospital	
Y	Haverkos, Pam	Director	Clermont County Emergency Mgt Agency	EMA	Chair/Emerg Coord.
Y	Hirsch, Robert	Police Chief	Miami Township Police Dept.	Law	
N	Kelly, Tim	Assistant Health Commissioner	Clermont County Public Health	Health	

Y	Lubbers, Hannah	Director	Adams-Clermont Solid Waste District	Environmental	
Y	Matzen, Brooke	Office Administrator	Greater Cincinnati HazMat Unit	Environmental	
Y	McAfee, Andrew	Vice President	Clermont Chamber of Commerce	Community Group	
Y	McLelland, Robert	Manager - Customer Field Operations	Duke Energy - Natural Gas	Industry	
Y	McManus, John	Director	Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District	Environmental	
Y	Miller, Ursula	Communications Coordinator	Clermont County Office of Public Information	Media	
Y	Neyer, Tim	WRD Asst Director of Operations WT	Clermont County Water Resources Dept.	Environmental	
Y	Nichols, Jeannette	Asst Prosecutor	Clermont County Prosecutor's Office - Civil Division	Other: Attorney	
Y	Peck, Thomas	Trustee	Clermont County Trustee's Association/ Monroe Township Trustees	Elected Official	
Y	Schlueter, Laurie	Program Manager II	Clermont County Emergency Mgt Agency	EMA	Sec/Info Coord.
Y	Smith, Jeff	Highway Superintendent	Clermont County Engineer/Highway Dept.	Transportation	
N	Terrell, Matt	Assistant Fire Chief	Union Township Fire Department	First Aid	
Y	White, Mike	Lieutenant	Clermont County Sheriff's Office	Law	
Y	Wiederhold, Jessie	Director	Clermont County Dept. of Public Safety Services	Other: Communications	
N	Wilson, Heath	Building Official	Clermont County Building Inspection Dept.	Other: Building Official	

A motion was made by Jeannette Nichols to approve the membership list as presented and seconded by Jessie Wiederhold. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Mark Baird to keep Pam Haverkos as LEPC Chair and Emergency Coordinator and seconded by Jeannette Nichols.

A motion was made by Tom Peck to keep Mark Baird as LEPC Vice Chair and seconded by Laurie Schlueter. The motion passed.

Public Meeting- Virtual Policy

ORC 121.221 was amended on April 9, 2025. ORC 121 addresses Ohio public meeting requirements, specifically allowing virtual attendance for quorums. In order to follow these ORC changes the committee must have a Virtual Policy in place. A tentative virtual policy was drafted by Jeannette Nichols and Pam Haverkos. The key points of this policy as drafted 07/17/25 are:

Per Ohio Revised Code Section 121.221 (Public Meetings- virtual meetings), members of the LEPC may attend and conduct meetings by videoconference or any other similar electronic technology. To be counted “present”, LEPC members attending virtually shall:

- Notify the LEPC Chair of intent to attend virtually 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting
- Be visible at all times
- Be clearly heard

Virtual attendance will not be counted toward the quorum, and the vote of the member appearing virtually will not be counted in the following circumstances:

- The meeting involves a vote to approve a major non-routine expenditure – meaning any individual expenditure equal or greater than $50,000.
- The meeting involves a vote to approve a significant hiring decision – meaning the hiring of an individual to be a full-time employee of the LEPC
- The meeting involves the proposal, approval, or vote on a tax issue or tax increase
- If, up to forty-eight hours before the meeting, 10% of the LEPC members notify the LEPC Chair that an item in the agenda must be acted upon at a meeting conducted fully in person

The Virtual Policy will be up approval at the September 25, 2025, meeting. Anyone with questions regarding the Virtual Policy can reach out to Jeannette Nichols (jnichols@clermontcountyohio.gov).

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Clermont County is updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2025. EMA applied for a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant in 2023 and just received the award in late 2024. EMA is working with the contractor JH Consulting, LLC. To create the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

All-Hazard Mitigation Plan update – The New Mitigation Strategy Meeting was held on June 26, 2025. We will be sending out the meeting notes in the near future. The information will be posted at https://ema.clermontcountyohio.gov/mitigation-plan/; The Draft Plan Comment period should be launched in September.

Once the Plan has been completed and approved by Ohio EMA and FEMA, it will be sent to the Board of Commissioners for adoption. We will have a one-year period for the participating cities, villages, and enhanced townships to adopt the plan. Batavia, Miami and Union Townships are designated as enhanced townships and are required to officially adopt the plan to be included. Other townships will be encouraged to adopt the plan as well. The City of Loveland and the City of Milford are encouraged to participate in our planning process but have the option to have their own plan or participate in Hamilton County's Plan. Regardless, the City of Loveland and City of Milford will still be referenced within the Clermont County Plan.

2020 Mitigation Action Status – the consultant will be reaching out to local jurisdictions to discuss the status of mitigation actions that were identified in the 2020 Plan (page 120-133). FEMA wants to see if projects were completed, on-going, deferred, or deleted and what challenges prevented projects from moving forward

Ongoing Business

HazMat Spills:

There have been 2 reportable spills since the April 24, 2025, meeting.

- 05/08/25 – 1106 Main Street – City of Milford – Duke Energy – Natural gas line rupture by contractor completing a sewer repair.
- 06/08/25 – 5484 Sout Garret Drive – Miami Township – 75-100 gallons of diesel fuel released in motor vehicle accident into fuel tank at residential address.

Information Requests:

EMA has received 4 information requests since the April 24, 2025, meeting.

- 05/12/25 – 4003 Filager Rd. – Batavia Village – Bowser Morner
- 05/12/25 –5609 Wolfpen Pleasant Hill Rd. – Miami Township – Westech Environmental Solutions
- 05/19/25 – 465 E Main St. – Batavia Village – Apex Companies
- 06/11/25 – 4226 Grissom Dr. – Batavia Township – Westech Environmental Solutions

Tier II Reports:

Tier2 submissions were due on March 1, 2025.

- **EHS Filers:** 49 includes 4 first time filers, and 2 government filers.
- **HS Filder:** 110 includes 6 first time filers.
- **Total filers to date:** 159 filers.

2025 LEPC Exercise:

LEPC Full Scale Exercise (FSE) was held on June 30, 2025, at the Nestle Purina Plant and Design Within Reach in Williamsburg Township. The exercise simulated a transportation accident resulting in a hazardous materials release. The FSE evaluated 8 objectives: 2- Incident Assessment, 3- Incident Command, 5- Resource Management, 6- Communications, 7- Response Personnel Safety, 9- Emergency Public Information, 12- Emergency Medical Services, and 13- Medical Facilities.

Neil Yockey, the SERC Master Controller, drafted and submitted his report for SERC concurrence. The Exercise report will be up for vote during the August 13, 2025, SERC meeting. Eagle Preparedness completed the After-Action report. The final AAR will be sent out to participants.

2026 - 2029 LEPC Exercise Cycle:

The new four-year exercise cycle will start on 07/01/2025. For this cycle, shelter operations has been removed as an objective. The LEPC is required to complete 1 Full-Scale and 1 Functional Exercise as well as test the remaining 12 objectives during the four-year period.
EMA has been in talks with Miami Township to hold a tabletop exercise for the 2026 requirement.

Budget

The 2025 LEPC Budget was e-mailed to LEPC members and included in the packet.

FY23 State Homeland Security Program Grant: Grant performance period: 09/01/2023 through 10/31/2025
County EMAs, Law Enforcement, and County Board of Elections were eligible to apply.

FY24 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

City of Cincinnati – Hamilton County is slated to receive $1,476,785. The performance period ends 12/31/25.
City of Cincinnati and the Hamilton County EMA are the Grant Administrators.

FY24 State Homeland Security Program Grant:

- Eligible applicants - County EMA, Local Law Enforcement Agencies, & Local Department of Public Safety (fire departments that are primary host agency for a specialty response team)
- Only 1 Project within our region was funded.

Department Reports

Clermont County Engineer's Office

- The Engineer's Office is finishing cleanup from the storms/flash flooding from June 6, 2025.

DPSS:

- During recent monthly tests, the outdoor warning sirens system has not activated as intended. DPSS is working with Mobilcomm to identify and resolve the issue. The outdoor warning sirens are tested on the first Wednesday of every month. The next test is on August 6, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

SERC:

- Ohio EMA will be recalibrating the Ludlum 26-3 rad meters next month. The recalibration is expected to take 2-3 months.
- SERC Coffee Talk: HazMat Response, Reporting, and Orphan Container Cleanup from Helene will be hosted via Teams on 09/17/25.

Public Health

- Public Health received the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant. It is currently 72% funded. PHEP is expected to be fully funded by the end of the year.
- Public Health is expecting to fill the vacant Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) position.

EMA:

- Storms (March 30-April 10) / Ohio River Flood Follow up
  - The After-Action Meeting was held June 3. EMA is working on the AAR.
  - The State Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) is pending the Governor's authorization and approval from the Controlling Board. Eligible costs for SDRP include emergency response, debris management, and improved infrastructure repair costs.
- The EMA office space will be under renovation. Work is expected to be completed by mid-October.
- EMA will be working on a Strategic Map to evaluate how we adapt to the changing disaster landscape.
- We are currently reviewing the Base Plan and Flood Annex. If you have comments, additions, or lessons learned that need to be integrated, please send them to phaverkos@clermontcountyohio.gov.

Health Collaborative

- The current state of the ASPR Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) grant is unknown. As a result, the Health Collaborative emergency preparedness funding is uncertain. The Health Collaborative is focused on sustainability planning. Travel to meetings has been limited.
- UC Health is selling the Daniel Drake Hospital, which is where the regional medical cache has been stored. The Health Collaborative will reassess their inventory and determine a new storage location.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at the Clermont County EOC (2279 Clermont Center Drive, Batavia, OH 45103).

Adjournment

Mark Baird made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Tom Peck seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 2:29 p.m.