

Local Emergency Planning Committee
February 1, 2012

In attendance:

Gregory Tavormina, Town of Fallsburg
BJ Gettel Town of Bethel Code Enforcement
Michael LaFountain, SC BOCES Health and Safety
Damaris Rundle, American Red Cross
John Cascone, American Red Cross
Dean Smith, NYS Department of Transportation
Robert Hafele, NYS Police
Rick Sauer, NYS Police
Trish Westenbroek, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Mark Ferrari, NYS-OEM-Region II
Richard Martinkovic, SC OEM
Nadine Macura, NYS-OEM
Gene Lucchese, NYS-OEM Region II
Mike Duffy, NYS Department of Health
Alex Rau, SC 911
Bob Theadore, Catskill Regional Medical Center – Emerg. Prep
Deming Lindsley, NYS DEC Police
Beth Gilmore, SC Public Health
Gene Reynolds, Orange & Rockland Utilities
Paige Maxwell, SC BOCES Health and Safety

Meeting began at 2:00 pm.

Greg Tavormina opened the meeting welcoming everyone to the first meeting of 2012. He thanked everyone for taking the time out of their busy schedules to come and join us. He passed around the sign in sheet.

BJ Gettel stated that after serving this organization since 1988 she will be resigning as your secretary. She will not be leaving you folks; she will be here serving the organization. With all of the duties that she has as a Code Enforcement Officer, unfortunately, she doesn't have as much time to put into this as she would like to. We have found a replacement for her, so you are not without a secretary. Paige Maxwell works for SC BOCES for Michael LaFountain.

Greg Tavormina stated that to bring everyone up to speed, the two goals that we have immediately for the LEPC for this year is the review of the SCEMP plan for submittal to the State. BJ sent out an email to everyone that had parts of the plan to review. As of this point, the only we received updates from is Mike LaFountain. I know that County Planning and Environmental Management is working on the multi-jurisdictional multi-hazard mitigation plan. They have been in contact with all of the Towns and as soon as they get their submittals back in from the Towns they will be submitting it to the State. Once that is approved, we will include it in the SCEMP and get it sent in for our final approval. The other thing we will be working on

with the fire chiefs through Dick's office and the Code Enforcement Officers is Tier II reporting for industries in the County. For anyone that isn't familiar with Tier II, it is an EPA requirement for reporting of hazardous chemicals in various quantities located on their sites. It is a requirement for them to submit a yearly report to the local fire chiefs and the LEPC to be maintained here as the warehouse for information for responders. That is what we have coming down from our end, initially.

All attendees introduced themselves.

Dick Martinkovic stated that we need to do an election of officers today. He wanted to review and thank everyone for their participation last year even though we only met a couple of times. He especially wanted to thank BJ for all of the years of putting up with all of us. Having been the Chair for a number of years and Greg taking over, BJ has really been the focus and the glue that brought us together many many times and she could never get enough acclaim or pay for all of the things she has done. BJ, we will miss you, not that you will ever be forgotten, but thank you.

BJ Gettel replied you're welcome.

Dick Martinkovic stated that one of the things that we have got to do today to get started is the SCEMP. By practice every five years we really need to have it reviewed. He knows that Beth from the Public Health side has added or made some changes with our SNS Plan and Self-Worth and Planning has done some work with us. We really need to bring it up to speed. He would like to see if we can't get it done by April, if we can. Mark has committed the assistance of his staff to work with us. We've got a professional group. Once we finish our input then it goes to the SEMO office. They will review it and make sure that we have covered all of the subjects that we need to do and in the proper fashion. That plan is very very important to us, especially as we move forward in grants. Currently we applied for a couple of Homeland Security Grants and there is a question in there that says is your SCEMP approved and up to date as well as other plans that we have. It is real important that we all give input. He stated that it is critical, truthfully, that this plan is up to date, so he would like to make that push. Everybody knows that we went through a series of storms this past six months back around the 28th of August. We went through Irene and right after that we got hit with Lee and then we had a snow storm in mid-October that we, in Sullivan County, did not experience a lot of problems. The Mid-Hudson region, and Mark will review this in a little while, they really got slammed. We did send assistance once we were cleared of our damage to about four counties above us. We had close to 50 fire fighters that went up and back for almost 10 days and provided help. We literally pumped all of Bambridge (Chenango County) out and then went up to Appalachian and Broome Tioga County and Owego and we were also in the city of Binghamton. There were a lot of fire companies that came down. There were a lot of EMS crews that came into those Counties as well as other emergency services people to try to help them all get through what they had. Our friends over in Greene County up in Prattsville and Wyndham got hammered. Mark will review with you some of the quick details of that. In talking to his fellow emergency managers, we all got a lot of lessons. There were some missteps, as we always have. We have a new Governor, as you all know, and he was trying to do the right thing, and some of the right things that his staff were doing were in counter with what we were doing in emergency management. There was a

little confusion. We have some new bosses that have taken over that were appointed by the Governor so they now have pretty much gotten input from all of us. The OEM side from the Counties and they are trying to make sure that we are not going to be subject to the same missteps, so to speak. He can report, in this building for those of you that have never been here, this is a folding wall. On the other side of this wall is where we have our SC Emergency Operation Center. When we set up the Sunday morning after Irene, he was told to get the place going about 9:00 am. He got here early. As he always says to everybody, what is the first thing that you do when you set up an EOC. Make coffee. He comes marching in to the galley and get the coffee pot going and by the time he got back to the office in the center hallway, the power went out. Of course, he called his friends at NYSEG. We were told we were number 2. Number 1 was the Catskill Regional Medical Center. That was at 8:45 am. We never got power until about 7:00 pm. We improvised like we always do. Portable generators and so forth. That storm also helped me because the next day we had a Chairman of our Legislature say to him, how did we do during the storm. He told him the worst thing was that our new building has no permanent backup. He told him that he had been asking for the authority to spend some of the Homeland Security money and it is all tied up in environmental studies. You would think that there were dead Indians buried outside. It gets ridiculous. One thing leads to another. He complained to the Chair and he called the Governor's rep. He had the Governor's rep on the phone. He laid it right out to her about the people who are never there and how they claim they are going to get to us. Three days later he got the approval. If you saw the hole at the other end of the building. That is going to have a \$2,000 gallon LP gas tank. It is about a \$56,000 project and we have a \$23,000 generator that they have already purchased for us. It is over in the DPW garage. Hopefully, we can get the tank in with the weather and it will be up and working within the next two to three weeks. It will have an emergency shut off. Which means that if the domestic power dies, then automatically the generator will come on. That generator will provide the power for this building, the lights, and the heat. We will be self-sufficient at that point. We would have like to have had it before, but it is the bureaucracy. Sometimes, in a storm, suddenly things can get done. He is very happy to tell you that that was procured and moving along. As we get into more storms, like every other storm, none is identical. We were very fortunate in our County after Irene that we did get a public assistance declaration. We got the Individual Assistance declaration. We had over \$2,000,000 worth of EA damage which is right now the team is working in the County with the various municipalities and so forth trying to get your projects approved and get them the money for repairs that we need or will be made in the near future. For Lee, we did not have the damage that our fellow counties had around us, but we did have some people in the County that didn't have power for 5, 6, 7 days. That becomes an issue. It is not something that we can directly control. Orange and Rockland were the first to get everybody back. NYSEG was right behind them. Then Central Hudson. Gene lives over in Central Hudson territory so he doesn't want to pick on his own utility company, but he asks Gene "are they part time over there, or full time?" They have their emphasis in Dutchess County and they have a piece of Grahamsville and up in Claryville. Unfortunately, when you have an outage, the PSC rules are that you always try to get as many people back in an effort. If a line crew comes in and they can restore 10,000 people in a two hour exercise replacing transformers, that will get a priority over 10 houses that are over 20 miles that are spread out that could be individual wires that could take two or three days. That is the hard part, so when you talk to some Town Supervisors that are in the very rural areas, they are upset because it takes so long for the their people to get their power to come back on, but it comes down to numbers. They can

get numbers in that gets more people on with power. Let's face it, we all depend on power. If you don't think you do, take it away from you for a day or so and you'll really feel it. For everything water, food, heat, on and on. We got through the two events. There is a lot of critiquing. The folks at SEMO were great. We talked back and forth multiple times. These two great people here. Mark got sent to Belleayre. Through phone calls we kind of walked through all of the steps. When the FEMA people come everything is all good and then his office for the next 6 – 8 weeks is going through the motions with the FEMA team. As they are coming around passing out information. They had the community affairs group here up until about mid-December handing out information and talking to people. Making sure they applied for the IA assistance. We also had a group from PA; one guy is from New Orleans. He was very interesting. A man who knew his job. He was there as I would get issues. He knows that Catskill Regional had some issues because they are a not for profit so they didn't fall into a government agency, but we got them all squared away with their claim because they had some damage and so forth. The process gets very involved and he just hopes that you all understand that sometimes it doesn't happen overnight. With the sit down with in unified command in this other room, he knows that morning with Irene they ended up at with exit 106 closed with flooded. Dean's people are right there talking to the County DPW who were talking to Alex so that 911 knows that Route 17 is closed. We had a State Trooper there and the trooper was giving us information. That is the way we operate and it works very well. He makes no bones about the fact that we do not open our EOC at the drop of the hat. If we open it, it is because we really need an EOC. He tries to bring in what agencies are important at that time. If we are talking about a long storm where we could be open for two or three days, where people are going to need more shelter and stuff, he will bring the Red Cross to the table. He will bring our Public Health to the table. We will have to bring BOCES to the table because that will start to expand. If it is a short term, he needs law enforcement, EMS, Fire. Greg was with us for that one day. I absolutely have to have Alex with me. Of course, the SEMO folks. If they can't be with us physically because every County has a center open, at least we have the telephone link between us and we can talk immediately. If I don't have the resources to help one of the Towns or Villages, I make a phone call. They call the State and they will get assistance brought to us. The process is quite involved. But I think we have done it enough times that we have got our act together. We opened the EOC for that one event for Woodstock. The Fish concert. We weren't quite sure what was going to happen with that event area. That becomes everything from traffic issues to health issues.

BJ Gettel stated that there were illegal campgrounds.

Dick Martinkovic stated if you get a phone call from me that EOC is open, trust me, it's serious business. I don't do this at the drop of a hat. Please, the agencies that I don't call, it is not that I forgot you or don't want you. That is not the case. I am not going to make you come here just to have you sit and look out the windows. That is not the way we operate.

Mike LaFountain stated that we haven't met in a while. In November all of the school fire inspections and structural inspections were completed. Everyone is legal again for another year they all have their cos. I've been working with John and Kathy because some of the Red Cross agreements for sheltering people in schools date back to 2007 and 2008. They are supposed to be looked at periodically. That is not periodically. We are putting a plan into place an annual

review once we get them all up to speed. In that same regard, one of our school districts for the Dept. of Health, for their swimming pool, needed a copy of their public access defibrillator plan. In doing the research with Hudson Valley Remsco it seems that the schools all did public access defibrillation agreements in 2002 when they got defibrillators and nobody has ever looked at them since. Most of the people who are listed on it aren't there. The types of AEDs that they have aren't there. The training agencies aren't correct. He is working with Hudson Valley Remsco. He has been in contact with a couple people about getting medical surveillance and all that. We are going to bring those up to speed as well. We are also putting in a plan to review those annually as well. Just a couple of administrative things that have fallen by the wayside that we are trying to get fixed up and up to speed.

Gene Reynolds state that he doesn't know how many people here are Orange Rockland customers. For those of you within the volunteer fire service, the big thing for us with the two big storms was Irene and the second punch with Lee a few days after. That storm up until then was the largest, biggest event for us ever since Hurricane Floyd back in 1999. In that storm we probably had 88 – 90 thousand customers out. We have about 300,000 customers system wide in the three states that we serve. Irene was about 130,000 customers out. Then we got hit with the Halloween storm and that was about 130,000 customers. That then became the next worst storm we ever had. Our storm plan pretty much over the last 8 or 9 years ago was geared toward the 50 – 60 thousand customer outages. That is typically what we get in big storms. In 2010 we had the February snowstorm and the March storm. They were big, but they were 50 – 60 thousand customers and the storm plan worked pretty good. The big thing for us that we learned from Irene and was implemented in the Halloween storm is our wires down issue which continues to be something that a lot of volunteer service folks are concerned about because you've probably seen incidents where you have had to sit on wires for 8, 10, 12 hours. I remember just a couple of years ago talking to one of the fire chiefs up in Lumberland or Glen Spey. They were on a wire for 17 hours. We hope that we haven't had incidents as bad as that. Even two hours is a long time. What we did in the Halloween storm was we starting bringing in contractors. Our site safety people are our meter readers. If we have say 100 meter readers and we get into a major storm we will have 50 on the day shift and 50 on the night shift. We are doing the 12 hours. We go from 100 site safety people to 50 during a given time. We can't handle the amount of wires we get. Just to give you an idea, during Hurricane Floyd we had about 1,000 wires down. In the storm Irene we had about 2,600 wires down. In the Halloween storm we had about 3,400 wires. We are never going to be able to keep up with that kind of number with the existing workforce. We are really looking to beef that up. To get that number up quite high with contractor forces. We are getting agreement with a lot of contractor service companies that do things for us now, like stray voltage testing, checking the poles. We have a lot of contractors that do utility work like all utilities. We are looking to bring them over in storms and adapt them to do these other services for us and then use our own site safety people to kind of go through and try to spread them out more to identify wires that people don't have to sit on. Wires that are dead and fuses that have been pulled or circuits are off or locked out. That was a big thing for us. Our whole plan is being revamped and reworked so hopefully if you are a customer of ours and you have been out for 4 or 5 days like some people were in the Halloween storm and Irene, some of these things will help because we are actually revamping everything with our storm plan. This is a process that we hope by April 1st to have a lot of this work done. The damage assessment is one of our next critical storm functions. Every employee in our company has a

storm function but damage assessment is one of the big ones because that is the first boots on the ground to assess the damage so we know what we even have. That is going to also be one of the contractor resources. We always appreciate and would welcome you to ask us to do electric safety trainings and gas safety training. We don't really have natural gas much in Sullivan County. We are always open to electric safety trainings. We've had a couple of fatalities unfortunately last year with civilians or the public. If you are in EMS, Red Cross, Fire Service, DPW, please get my number or contact Dick. We are doing that right now in Rockland County. We would be glad to do that in your agencies and organizations.

Rick Sauer stated that he participated in a conference call today that encompasses Sullivan, Orange and Rockland. They are planning an exercise spearheaded by Oscar Allen from Rockland County for bioterrorism functional exercise sometime in late March or early April that will be primarily focused on joint investigation and communication between law enforcement and the Health Department. Nobody from Sullivan County participated in the conference call. He doesn't know if anyone was notified.

Beth Gilmore stated that she wasn't on the call, but she forwarded it to Dick. We attended meetings in the past in reference to that when it was first initiated with the developing of the protocols and she did let Oscar know that because of other prior meeting commitments that she was not going to be able to participate.

Rick Sauer stated that they are looking for a facility in Sullivan County. They've got the Orange Regional Good Samaritan in Rockland County. They are looking for a facility in Sullivan to participate. He doesn't know if the hospital wants to.

Dick Martinkovic stated that he spoke with Chief Muthig because he was supposed to cover that. He was supposed to be here now.

Rick Sauer stated that a date wasn't set. In June the FBI is looking to do a training for law enforcement and public health and nursing. One will be in Hudson Valley and one will be in Suffolk and Nassau County for working on the protocol.

Beth Gilmore stated that she had a few things with regard to the SCEMP plan. As you know Dick had mentioned the SNS Strategic National Stockpile Plan. We have been working on this for three years. The State has reviewed it. Each year they will do review and recommend updates in reference to it. The other part of that plan is what they are calling the Medical Countermeasures Plan which was originally called the Point of Distribution Plan which we had developed prior to the State requiring it now. That is currently being updated by the local Health Department. The other plan that is also a deliverable for this grant year is a local Health Department Radiological plan. That is due in the end of the fourth quarter which is August/September. The Health Emergency Operation plan which she mentioned at our last meeting. We did update that and it is now called the Public Health Emergency Response Plan but it is currently in review with the State and we haven't gotten that review back yet. She doesn't know how you want her to handle that in reference to it being the attachment to the SCEMP because it is currently the old Health Emergency Operation Plan. She should be getting the review back soon because she did speak to the State Rep. Those are all the four plans that

currently will fall under the SCEMP eventually as an attachment from the local Health Department.

Deming Lindsley stated that a lot of folks don't know about us and what we do. All of his people are being equipped with PRD's. Personal Radiation Detection. We are a cog in the wheel for terrorist attacks. They carry these radiation detectors and the idea is for dirty bombs. Our people are out in the waters and all over so all of our force will be equipped with these PRDs. During the flood, after being here with Dick he feels that Sullivan County really missed the bullet for all practical purposes. Compared to what we had. So part of his zone is Ulster County. We got set up there because he has the atvs which are police units, fully marked and we have radio communication and guys certified on it. If you'd been around it is amazing what Mother Nature can do to the babbling streams that you want to build a house next to when you see that it is a raging river coming down through there. They lost the infrastructure in the Town of Shandaken. Shandaken is all up or down. All those bridges went out and those people living in those dead end roads lost their power and telephone and there is no cell coverage. They were just left out. As soon as the water went down, we were able to get the atvs in and bring in meds if necessary. Bring in supplies. Get people out when and where it is necessary. That is kind of our function. Then of course everyone wants to blame the State of New York for the brooks because we should either clean them out cut trees off and other stuff. The big thing was getting the infrastructure back in and we issued emergency permits from the back of cars and told people to just dig, baby dig to the bridges back in place.

Dick Martinkovic stated that he is laughing because last Wednesday he had a stress test. He has a PRD in his car at all times.

Deming Lindsley stated that so far they have chased medical people around the County. They are the only terrorist we've got.

Dick Martinkovic stated that he had it in his briefcase. He got in the car to take a break, they told him to be back in 40 minutes. He opened the door and the next thing he hears is beep beep beep. He's going, Oh no. He looks back and he is talking to the PRD and says just shut up!

Deming Lindsley stated that it is amazing just how sensitive these things are. They have chased cars because the guys on a bridge or working some place and the thing goes off. So far we have just found people that have had medical treatment. The first thing you ask them is if you've had medical treatment. Especially when they are Dick's age. He stated that he knows how old he is because they are the same age!

Mike LaFountain asked Beth if PODs are still the Health Department.

Beth Gilmore replied PODS assessments? She stated that Mike was involved in the school assessment. What was decided because of staffing purposes and resources, we decided to do two main Points of Distribution sites. The schools have not been eliminated, but we have not updated the school assessments primarily because our plan is to use the primary and secondary sites. The Sheriff's Department along with those other two sites personnel has been doing the POD security assessments.

Mike LaFountain stated that he went out with Art a couple of years ago and he never heard anything back. He appreciates the update. Yesterday SC BOCES hosted a United States Department of Education Seminar on Emergency Management in Schools. It was attended by 52 people. A variety of people, principals, teachers, educators, law enforcement. We had people from as far away as Poughkeepsie, Andes, and Rockland County. A good crowd and a decent seminar. He stated that he could have pretty much taught most of it. It was enjoyable and everyone walked out of there with a favorable renewal in the fact that they need to do more school emergency planning. We are also looking to roll out again ICS 100, 200 NIMS 700 and 800 because there has been some change over and turnover in the administration in schools.

Mark Ferrari stated to give you a little background. He has been a Region manager for about 14 years. Prior to that he spent a lot of time in the Division of Naval Affairs. He has seen a lot of emergencies and disasters. 2006 was the worst thing we had all seen as far as a natural disaster up until August of this year when Irene came roaring up the valley. You probably remember if you were part of the planning, there was a lot of planning done for Long Island and New York City for the event. Those of us that were here for Floyd in 1979 kept trying to tell everyone, remember Floyd. Irene did a lot that Floyd did but a lot more and deeper than Floyd. In the Region II we have 10 counties. All 10 counties were affected in some fashion or another. All 10 counties were declared a disaster and got public assistance and individual assistance. As Dick said, you dodged the bullet if you only had 2 million dollars' worth of damage which is usually catastrophic in most Counties. Those of you who have been in Green and Ulster and Delaware counties, they were clobbered. He got a call the first Monday after the storm. He was on his way to Margaretville. We could not get to many Towns and Villages in Green Ulster and Delaware counties. We couldn't physically get to them. Couldn't drive to them. Couldn't fly to them because it wouldn't stop raining. We had some Villages and Towns that were totally isolated for 2 to 3 days. Finally we got to Margaretville. He had actually seen a video that someone had put out on YouTube. It was a picture of Margaretville itself where we had been only a couple of weeks earlier to the carnival. That was under about 10 – 12 feet of water. While we were at Margaretville someone said, what does it look like. I told them if you remember Colchester, it looks worse. That was his report and that got everyone's attention. While at the same meeting in Margaretville, he gets a call to go to Belleayre to set up as Dick referred to as the Governor's operation. That was a forward logistical report center. It ended up a political logistical support center, as far as he is concerned. We got a lot done there, though we could have gotten a lot done more efficiently if we had just followed our normal rules and regulations. He spent a little bit of time in Shandaken. He lives in Ulster County so he knows Shandaken very well. He always wondered where Oliveria was, he finally learned. Oliveria, Big Indian, Shandaken, High Mount. That whole area where Ulster Delaware and Greene come together. That storm just sat over that point and went downhill from there. It pretty much eliminated the hamlet of Fleischmans it just about got leveled. Margaretville got devastated. But probably the worst he saw of everything he saw was Prattsville. There is no Prattsville, it is just a bunch of wrecked houses. It is one Main Street and it just came right down Main Street. There are a lot of reasons for it. I'm sure DEC is getting a lot of the blame for it. Being allowed to take the gravel out of the stream. That had nothing to do with it.

Deming Lindsley stated that it was the Mississippi River going down through there. It was 7 feet of water.

Mark Ferrari stated that streams intersect there and the whole mountain where Wyndham resides came down that hill and all plopped itself into Prattsville. There was no place for that water to go except down Main Street. We lost numerous houses. There was a whole community of double wide trailers that just floated away. Just floated until they couldn't float anymore and just piled up on top of each other. It was just a pile of debris. If you didn't know that at one time they were houses you would think that they were just a pile of debris. Fortunately, we didn't lose anybody. People were on their roofs for hours and we couldn't get to them. We couldn't get helicopters in the air. That went on in Schoharie, Ulster, Green and Delaware counties. He had no idea it was going on the East side of the river. Westchester was getting hit hard. Putnam got hit hard, even though that rarely happens. He was in the mountains. Gene and Nadine were trying to run the office and Gene got detailed. We lost contact with what was going on and the Counties were pretty much handling things it themselves. We did the best we could to stay in touch. He finally came down out of the mountains after about 2 and a half weeks. Some of the Counties wouldn't even talk to him because he wasn't there when they needed him. He understood what they were upset about. One of the things that came out of Irene and Lee is the huge, astronomical amounts of debris now in the streams. He means mountains of debris in the streams. Subsequent to the disaster in late October the Government decided to make a drastic move with Emergency Management. They replaced the whole front row. The Commissioner of Homeland Security was replaced with a man named Jerome Hauer. The Director of NYS Emergency Management was replaced with a young man named Stephen Kerr. The Chief of Staff for all of this was replaced by a guy named Jerry McCarty. I knew all of three of them a little bit before they got there and he knows them all very well right now. They asked him to go into Greene County and establish a pilot program for trying to get the debris out of the streams. The FEMA model is that they will go from a bridge site and upstream or downstream 150 feet. That is all they will pay for for debris removal. If you go from 150 feet back and in some places 5, 6 or 7 miles, there is debris everywhere. There are monster, massive piles. So the mission was to go out and identify these sites, which we did in Greene County. Our goal there was to identify 25 sites and to go to FEMA and say can we fund these. We identified at least 22 sites and were hoping to get at least 10 of them funded. We were fortunate with the support of FEMA, RCS, DEC (who were very helpful), and the Soil and Water Conservation District who was very helpful to us because they know these remote sites we were looking for. We were able to get 16 sites funded. That was a huge success. The Governor's office said that he wanted this to go out to all of the Counties that were affected by Lee. We offered it up as an invitation to all of the Counties. If you were interested in having us come and take a look, we'll see what we can get funded. In our Region, all 10 Counties did apply and all 10 counties are participating in that debris clearance program. He believes, as of now, all 38 counties that were affected by Lee or Irene are being looked at. This would not normally be done in a disaster situation. Normally FEMA will only fund 150 feet and we are going back 2 or 3 miles now. Even with what we have done, he is still seeing stuff that we didn't see. There is so much of it out there. One example, someone said there was a golf course in Greene County. Well, we walked that golf course in a freezing cold day in December and we couldn't find a stick. We stumbled across the guy that owns the golf course and he told them that you want to go back into the hills. He took us up into the hills alright. We got up there and we had a site of a landslide that actually came

down in the remote area and plopped down into that creek. That caused a lot of the flooding up there. That site is so big. If you stand in John Farrell's office you could look out and see a strip of bare land out there. We wouldn't have known it if that guy and the DEC hadn't dragged us up there. Whether we clear that site or not, he doesn't know, but at least it got someone's attention. Something that we never did before, debris clearance in remote locations, is going on now. We know that come spring, had we had the normal amount of snow and had a lot of this rain been snow, we would probably have had 3 or 4 feet of snow in the mountains by now. Looking at the spring flood, that debris that is in the streams would come home. That will then again be plugging up bridges and taking out culverts. So hopefully what we are doing is worthwhile. Somebody was able to secure \$20 million through some DEC grants and through the Governor's Office that is assisting with this. FEMA is assisting. NRCS is assisting. Any funding sites that are out there we have tapped into. The new regime... Jerome Hauer, some of you have probably heard that name before. He was the Emergency Manager in New York City prior to 911. He was the OEM Director in the State of Indiana. Stephen Kerr was the Deputy OEM Director in New York City. Jerry McCarty came out of the NYS Port Authority and also worked for FEMA. These guys have got extensive emergency management background. Word keeps coming out that they are all NYC boys. That is partially true. Stephen Kerr actually grew up in Kerhonkson. He's an Ulster County boy. Someone mentioned SCEMP. Nadine is our SCEMP person. She will be reviewing. Nadine handles LAPC. She will help Dick rewrite the plan and get it up to speed to wherever you want it and where you want it to go. As far as where we are with the results of the three major events that we have had since August. This is the biggest thing we have ever handled. Even though the World Trade Center was bigger monetarily, it was confined to 17 acres. This is spread out over 38 counties. Even though 1095 which was the disaster from 1996, the winter storms of 96 was 45 counties, the dollar amounts and damage totals were nowhere near this. We've already exceeded 1.5 billion dollars. That is the bad news. But good news in mitigation because we will probably get \$150 million in mitigation money which means we can go out and do a lot of buy outs. Buy out homes that are destroyed. A lot of what is in Prattsville is 50% or more destroyed which makes it eligible for relocation, elevation or acquisition. A lot of Schoharie County and any County that eligible for the buyout. The letters of intent for acquisitions and buyouts are due the 29th of this month. In about two months we will probably be entertaining applications. Acquisitions and buyouts are on the top of the list. Those houses are already destroyed. FEMA is not going to put money back into these houses. We are looking to be very busy with that for the next four or five years. Long past Dick and his retirements. Sadly to say, this is a good time to be in emergency management if you are looking for work. On that note, we just got authority to hire 100 temporary employees at \$24.50 an hour. We just hired 27. We are still looking for applications. There is a little bit of a hold up right now on hiring because we can't keep up with the equipment. They all need phones and computers and we are still trying to purchase them. So, anyone looking to get temporary work...they've got to be capable. They just can't be someone's cousin. These people will be looking at damages, making assessments, writing up estimates. Hopefully we can get the equipment resources and vehicle resources we need to support them. We'll probably be hiring another 75 people. They get flat pay. They also get per-diem travel, etc. Nothing comes out of their pocket. We are also trying to hire them locally so they stay within region. So someone we hire in Kerhonkson doesn't end up in Buffalo. The people that we hired in Albany are working in three counties around there. The people we hired in Binghamton will work in the Southern Tier area. If anyone is capable and interested, send me their resume and he'll get it in

processing. No guarantees they will get a job, but he'll send it along. Other than that, you don't know I'm sure; our office was located in a bunker underground over near Poughkeepsie. It was probably the first victim of the flood. We lost it at 7 am. The water came rushing in and we went running out. We are still not back in that building. It has been partially rehabbed. We got caught in the bureaucracy. We've got FEMA coming to look at it hopefully next week. It will probably end up a public assistance project and we'll get the money back. And hopefully get back in there in the next few months. We want to get back in that building. There are threats of closing it even after we spent \$300,000 on it. He thinks he has overcome that threat. The last time he was here was in June for the last LEPC meeting. Nelson Delameter who worked for us out of Delaware County for a couple of years, he retired. Hopefully we will be replacing Nelson in the next couple of weeks. SEMO did get authority from the governor's office to hire 16 more people. So now we are just waiting for the money to pay for them. We've got plenty of people that want to work. Stephen Kerr, our director is a very hands-on guy. Very touchy feely. He has published his personal cell phone number. I know Counties, Towns and Villages are calling him. I know because he calls me to call them back. Homeowners are calling him directly and he is calling them back. Jerome Hauer is a little different. He is a formal guy. I don't know if you will ever get to see him. He is very direct and straight forward. No mixing words. He gets it done. We have a really strong leadership crew over there. We are extremely busy and a lot of our time is still being spent on Irene. We are starting to back out of that.

Nadine Macura stated that she has already started reviewing the SCEMP plan with Dick and is planning on coming up with some ideas and suggestions. Greg Tavormina asked to be kept in the loop. She agreed.

Dean Smith wanted to mention that our Incident Commander is Chris Klein. She works out of our Binghamton office. She couldn't make it today. She asked if we could have these meetings a little earlier so she could get down here. She could give you a better break down as to what happened with us with Irene and Lee. He stated that Sullivan dodged the bullet, but half of his equipment and crews ended up in Schoharie County for both Irene and Lee and after they came back and we had the Halloween storm, they ended up in Orange County and Westchester County. We've been quite busy. Most of his guys didn't see their families. They are back now. The State is talking about possibly changing the regions. We have 12 DOT regions in the State. They are talking about cutting them down to 6. Where the lines are going to be, he doesn't know. Right now Sullivan responds to Binghamton. That is their regional office. He thinks that on the plans they were throwing out showed us changing and going to Poughkeepsie. Whether this will happen or not is anybody's guess. We'll still be hear and go to whatever direction they point us to go to.

Greg Tavormina questioned if morning meetings are better for everybody or afternoon?

Mark Ferrari stated that you will probably hear a rumor that the new leadership team has proposed that we change the structure of the State Emergency Management office from 5 offices to 10. Lining up on the State Police model. That is not in place yet. They are hoping to get it done within the next year. Whatever Troop F's region is, there will be a SEMO region exactly the same size. Troop K on the other side of the river, Hudson Valley East, this would be Hudson Valley West. That is being discussed. They will be staffed with 3 to 4 people in each office.

Currently we are staffed at 5 people. That is a major move that the new leadership team is looking to put in place. Part of the 16 additional people that I spoke of earlier is not part of this. You might see that. You might see a SEMO Regional Director with a lot less counties to cover. You'll hear about it before you see. It will be discussed at the NYSEMA conference. If that happens we will split our region right down the river. Four counties on the east side and five counties on the west side. Delaware split off to Troop C.

Greg Tavormina stated that last year we were supposed to have elections, but due to the weather and other things, we couldn't have a meeting. Currently the Chairman is Greg. Lt. Lindsley is the Vice Chairman.

Alex Rau entertained motion to nominate Greg Tavormina as Chairman.

Beth Gilmore seconded.

Greg Tavormina accepted.

Lt. Lindsley moved that we close the polls and have the secretary cast one ballot. Mike

LaFountain seconded.

Dick Martinkovic entertained motion to nominate Lt. Lindsley as Vice Chairman.

Mike LaFountain seconded.

Lt. Lindsley accepted.

Dick Martinkovic moved that we close the polls and have the secretary cast one ballot. Rick Sauer seconded.

Greg Tavormina stated that the next meeting will be sometime in April as we have to meet three times a year, subject to the SCEMP status. We will be contacting everyone by phone and email. Thank you all again for your support and for coming.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Maxwell