

MONTGOMERY/GREENE COUNTY  
LOCAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1998**  
**MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**40 WEST FOURTH CENTRE - SUITE 400**  
**DAYTON, OHIO 45402**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jeanna Bailley - American Red Cross - Greene Co.  
Tim Ballard - Mont. Co. Sanitary Engineering  
Robert Bauer - Southwestern Portland Cement  
Jason Bergquist - Haarman & Reimer Corp.  
Patricia Bernitt - Greater Dayton Area Hospital Assn.  
Gary Caprarotta - MV Emergency Mgmt. Authority  
Jeffrey DeVoe - Greene Co. Law Enforcement Assn.  
James W. Gross - Reg. Air Pollution Control Agency  
Donna Gorby-Lee - Dayton Water Department  
David Guinn - Dayton Regional Haz/Mat  
(Alt. for Billy Ring)  
Barry Holbrook - Dayton Fire Department  
Ed Kovar - Miami Valley Emergency Mgmt. Authority  
Pete Lane - Mont. Co. Agricultural Extension  
Ken LeBlanc - Miami Valley Regional Planning Comm.  
(Alt. for Nora Lake)  
Robert Marshall - Wright-Patterson AFB  
Ron Moorefield - Amateur Radio Emergency Services  
Kerry Onyett - American Red Cross - Dayton Area  
Ned Pennock - Miami Conservancy District  
David Price - Greene County Fire Chief's Association  
Tim Reichard - Ashland Chemical  
John Schlomer - Montgomery Co. Commissioners  
(Alt. for Vicki Pegg)  
Bruce Sucher - Dayton Area Managers Network  
Ron Volkerding - Greene Co. Sanitary Engineering  
(Alt. for Tim Denger)  
Nancy Wilson - WHIO/WHKO Radio

Carol Winslow - League of Women Voters  
Doug Zink - Montgomery County Township Assoc.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Gerald Alcorn - Mont. Co. Fire Chiefs  
T. Shawn Campbell - Greene County Commissioners  
Michael Dickey - Montgomery Co. Police Chiefs Assn.  
Chris Foster - Cargill, Inc.  
Jerry Mahan - Greene Co. Agricultural Extension  
Jane O-Dell - Greene County Health Department  
J. Michael Phillips - Mont. Co. Comb. Health District  
Aaron Smith - Quality Chemicals  
Otis Stanaford - MV Regional Transit Authority  
Ed Wroblewski - General Motors Corporation

**ALT. WITH MEMBERS PRESENT**

Libby Domingue - Wright-Patterson AFB  
Joann Fritz - Montgomery Co. Township Association  
Gavine Pitner - League of Women Voters

**NONMEMBERS PRESENT**

Kevin Chesar - MVRPC  
Dale Dempsey - Dayton Daily News  
Karen Fouser - WPAFB - 74 AMDS/SGPB  
Scott Glum - MVRPC  
Mike Ryan - ISOTEC, Inc.  
Chris Tumbusch - WPAFB

I. **Call to Order:** Mr. Sucher called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. He noted a quorum was present.

II. **Introductions:** Mr. Sucher asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

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III. **Approval of October 31, 1997 Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Gross moved, seconded by Mr. Onyett, that the minutes of the October 31, 1997 quarterly meeting be approved as written. The motion was unanimously approved 26-0-0.

IV. **Election and Appointment of 1998 Officers and Coordinators:** Mr. Sucher noted the MGCLERC By-Laws call for the current Vice-Chair to become Chair and turned the meeting over to Mr. Price. Mr. Price noted the MGCLERC Executive Subcommittee recommends Mr. Kovar for the position of Vice-Chair in 1998. Mr. Lane moved the nominations be closed and Mr. Kovar be the MGCLERC Vice-Chair in 1998, seconded by Mr. Moorefield. The motion was unanimously approved 26-0-0. Mr. Sucher moved, seconded by Mr. Kovar, that Mr. LeBlanc remain MGCLERC Information Coordinator for 1998. Motion was unanimously approved 26-0-0. Mr. Kovar moved, seconded by Mr. DeVoe, that Mr. Ring remain MGCLERC Community Emergency Coordinator for 1998. Motion was unanimously approved 26-0-0. Mr. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Caprarotta, that Mr. Bauer remain MGCLERC Secretary for 1998. Motion was unanimously approved 26-0-0. Mr. Price noted Mr. Sponseller has resigned from MGCLERC and appointed Mr. Zink to the Executive Subcommittee.

V. **Special Presentation by Dale Dempsey from the Dayton Daily News:** Mr. Dempsey noted the Dayton Daily News has one reporter devoted to environmental issues, which is not as common as one would think. He noted the average life span has increased approximately 20 years in the twentieth century, an achievement unprecedented in human history. He suggested the science of sanitary engineering has had as much to do with the increase as medical science. The challenge we face is how to keep the trend continuing.

Mr. Dempsey noted there are three wings to an environmental story - activists, business, and government. The writer is often in the middle and acts as a translator, having to explain what is said and how it is important to the reader. Environmental stories are usually open-ended, with closure and solutions often taking a long time. Readers usually like quick stories, quick analysis, and an ending. Mr. Dempsey said he is sounding a plea for help. Media writers need the help of professionals to understand the technical aspects of the story. He suggests casting aside the attitude that choosing silence is proper when people won't understand the technical side of the situation.

Mr. Onyett asked about the usefulness of press releases vs. phone conversations. Mr. Dempsey said press releases are useful, but any technical jargon leaves him cold. He noted that any staff member who can communicate well with the media is a valuable employee. He also appreciates when people call and tell him the story has something wrong in it. He suggested we all loosen up. Ms. Lee said her experience has been that Mr. Dempsey has usually been fair. Mr. Gross agreed, and said the reluctance to open up has been based upon past history.

Mr. Dempsey said piling on information that is not relevant is also not helpful. Mr. Marshall asked how facts are verified. Mr. Dempsey said there is no set formula. He spends a lot of time at meetings that do not result in a story in the paper. Mr. LeBlanc noted MGCLERC tried to establish a relationship with the newspaper since the beginning of MGCLERC, but were not successful.

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Mr. Dempsey noted stories will be in the paper based upon whether there is enough room for the article. He explained his problem of fitting the story into his allotted space. Mr. Pennock noted the general public looks at the short-term, while environmental problems require long-term solutions.

Mr. Dempsey noted important environmental stories do not just involve a good guy vs. a bad guy now, and attempts are made to explain the long-term nature of the issues. He pointed out the recent series on urban sprawl as an example. Mr. Price thanked Mr. Dempsey for a good presentation.

VI. **Resolution #98-01 Submitting 1998 SERC Grant Application:** Mr. LeBlanc explained the 1998 MGCLERC application for the SERC grant is requesting \$86,200, with \$81,700 for LEPC use and \$4,500 for training. Mr. Bauer moved, seconded by Mr. Onyett, that Resolution #98-01 be approved as written. The motion was unanimously approved 26-0-0.

VII. **Resolution #98-02 Authorizing Allocation of Funds to MVRPC and MVEMA:** Mr. LeBlanc explained proposed allocation, including the policy on distribution of fine monies approved in 1997. MVRPC and MVEMA provide staff support to the MGCLERC, were active in the compliance efforts, facilitated the MGCLERC retreats, and coordinated the required exercises. MVEMA would receive \$1,375 from fine monies, \$15,012 from the SERC grant, \$2,500 in training money, and \$147.48 for training reimbursement. MVRPC would receive \$1,000 from fine monies, \$27,878 from the SERC grant, and \$1,000 from training money. Mr. Onyett moved, seconded by Mr. Zink, that Resolution #98-02 be approved per the above stated allocations. The motion was unanimously approved 24-0-2 with Mr. Kovar and Mr. LeBlanc abstaining.

VIII. **Compliance/Enforcement Committee:** Mr. Kovar reported there were 20 releases not reported to MGCLERC between January and October 1997, prompting warning letters to be sent out. Forty requests for information necessary to complete hazard analyses were also mailed. He also noted the exercise for 1998 will take place in conjunction with an exercise at the Dayton International Airport in late May. Mr. Marshall asked how those who failed to report releases were found. Mr. Kovar said they had reported to Ohio EPA, but not MGCLERC. The Compliance Committee cross-checks data with Ohio EPA.

IX. **Other Business:** Mr. Caprarotta explained the grant request includes funding for a class regarding identification and response involving clandestine drug labs. They have been proliferating in rural areas and are usually stove-top operations. He showed the group a two-page list of the hazardous chemicals involved and noted a high percentage of cooked batches result in explosions. Mr. DeVoe noted many such chemicals are stockpiled in private store-n-lock facilities in the area.

Mr. LeBlanc mentioned the MGCLERC calendar and list of members. He also explained the new reporting booklets are purple for gas stations and orange for all other facilities. The 1998 reports are starting to come in.

Ms. Bailey said the National Transportation Safety Board has designated the American Red Cross as the responsible agency for the emotional well-being of victims, families, and responders involved in air disasters. She noted the high percentage of family members who show up at the site of the disaster. There is a guide available and anyone interested should contact her.

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X. **Next Meeting:** Mr. Price noted that the next meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Friday, April 24, 1998 at the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission.

XI. **Adjourn:** Mr. Sucher moved, seconded by Mr. Bauer, that the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 a.m. Motion unanimously passed 26-0-0.