

Patoka River Planning Committee
Meeting Notes
January 19, 2017

Notes include:

- New members
- Opening presentation – Spill system on I69 bridge
- Finalizing Patoka River Area Plan
- Tactical response planning for 2017

- We welcomed several new attendees, including:
 - Stan Capobianco (common spelling) from Indiana State Fire Marshall's Office / Indiana Dept of Homeland Security
 - Timothy Stuppy, ER manager for Summit Environmental Services, LLC
 - Aaron Green, Section Chief, IDEM Emergency Response Section
 - Carol Ropski, US EPA Region 5
 - Sorry if I forgot anyone else
 - An updated contact list is available under Documents at our website: www.epaosc.org/patokariverplanning. It's kept 'private', you'll need to follow the links to request an account before you'll be able to view private content.
- Opening presentation:
 - Jason DuPont of Lochmueller Group (INDOT consulting firm) provided an overview of the highway spill diversion system at the Interstate 69 bridge over Patoka River.
 - There are 2 I69 bridges, one north bound and one south bound.
 - Each bridge is constructed with storm water drains along the outside wall and median wall.
 - Each storm drain is designed to connect to piping under the bridge. (There's some issues. See more below.)
 - There is a high point on the bridges that determine where storm water / spills travel to the north or south.
 - There is a storm water / spill catchment basin located at the north end of the bridges and a second basin at the south end of the bridges. The basins are constructed above the 100-year floodplain.
 - The basins are designed to slow, but not stop, storm water and potential spills. The designed 'leak rate' of the basins is 10 percent leakage per 1 hour.
 - The basins discharge into ditches and then the Patoka River.
 - I've attached several pictures to give you an idea what the system looks like.
 - Improper design or construction has allowed some piping sections to pull apart. INDOT is aware of the problem and working to contract for repairs.
 - Ongoing operation and maintenance may fall on INDOT's environmental / MS4 section.
 - First responders and spill contractors who may respond to the bridge to prevent spills from entering Patoka River will need to be trained on how to best contain spills at the bridge:
 - Stan Capobianco will be making Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) / fire chiefs aware of the bridge spill system, and suggesting some equipment that may help responders (like spill mats).

- Stan is investigating possible ways to conduct a commodity flow study (what hazmats are travelling down I69) in order to better determine spill hazards at the bridge.
 - This year, one of our Patoka Planning Committee initiatives is to establish written tactical response plans to give spill responders clear instructions on how to best contain spills in very specific locations. This will include planning for the I69 bridge.
 - We may find it helpful to setup a field visit / awareness training for responders at the bridge. (not to affect normal traffic)
 - Responders should know there are gravel access roads at the north and south end of I69 that lead to the spill basins. The roads have locked gates. I have the combination to those locks if you need it. This information is for official use only, please do not share.
 - We had several questions for Jason D. that will require some digging on his part. I submitted the questions to Jason in a follow up email. We'll report out as info comes in.
- Patoka Area Plan
 - We presented a draft Area Plan last fall. This Incident Action Plan (IAP) could be used during a real spill incident. The plan establishes ahead of time, draft Incident Objectives, contact names, agency roles and more.
 - We requested that you review the plan and submit comments to me. I received feedback from IDEM, Pike Co EMA and Gibson Co EMA. If you have not taken a chance to review the draft Objectives or provide input on your agency roles, please take a chance to do so and get me comments in the next 30 days.
 - Though the plan will be a living document and regularly updated, we will finalize a draft in coming weeks so it's available for immediate use.
- Tactical response planning for 2017
 - Over this calendar year, our big initiative is to take a close look at the planning area and figure out what we can do to improve our chances for successfully containing spills to the immediate spill area, and to mitigate any impacts to nearby vulnerable areas and species.
 - In order to get started, we're setting up two conference calls in the next 30 days.
 - Call with spill responders: first responders, spill contractors, IDEM, private industries:
 - Think about where our spills most likely to happen?
 - If it helps, review our Hazards Analysis document: <https://www.epaosc.org/sites/11044/files/Hazards%20Analysis%2025%202016.pptx>
 - Be thinking about what can be done to contain spills to the immediate area?
 - Are there appropriate systems in place to contain or slow down spills?
 - How is a spill likely to be discovered? Who will mobilize someone to contain, remove the spill?
 - Are there response tactics for specific spill sources that can be worked out ahead of time?
 - Where to look for spilled materials downstream?

- Where can we deploy spill containment and recovery operations (away from immediate area, too)?
 - What equipment is available or likely to be requested?
 - Is there equipment available that can be pre-staged or at least identified ahead of time?
 - Is there a lack of necessary equipment?
 - Is there any training that would improve our chances of containing a spill?
- Call with natural resource trustees and experts: IDEM, DNR, Patoka NWR, USFWS, other?
 - When considering where spills are mostly likely to occur, what can we do to mitigate any harm?
 - Can we prioritize the most vulnerable habitats and species in order to better focus our efforts?
 - What actions should we take to protect these?
 - Are there traditional response tactics that are off-limits?
 - Are there spill response tactics that may do more harm to vulnerable areas than good?
 - There are typical, traditional spill response tactics. Usually physical removal is involved. Are there non-typical response tactics, like in-situ burning, monitored natural attenuation (MNA), other that we should be considering?
 - What specific instructions can we give to spill responders?
 - References available in the Region 5 Regional Contingency Plan include:
 - Spill response Tactics Manual:
<http://www.rrt5.org/RCPACPTools/TacticsManual.aspx>
 - Habitat Fact Sheets:
<http://www.rrt5.org/RCPACPTools/HabitatFactSheets.aspx>
 - Other Appendices (in-situ burn, fish and wildlife annex, more):
<http://www.rrt5.org/RCPACPMMain/RCPACPAppendices/Overview.aspx>