

**Emergency management Council
Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2008
Building 91, Camp Murray, WA
DRAFT**

Members/Alternates Present: Diane Oberquell, chair; Major General Timothy Lowenberg, Military Department; John Batiste, Washington State Patrol; Jim Mullen, Emergency Management Division; John Erickson, Department of Health; Steve Bailey, State Emergency Management Directors; Lester Olson, State Emergency Management Directors; Jim Scharf, Police Chiefs, James Tinner, Building Officials; Art Jordon and Steve Reddington, Search and Rescue; Dave Norman, Department of Natural Resource; Jeff Jensen, Local Fire Chiefs; John Scheer, Local EM Directors.

Attendees: Bill Gillespie, Search and Rescue; Patrick Massey, FEMA X; Craig Apperson, OSPI; L. G. Nelson, WABO; Arel Solie, WSP; Sadie Whitener, Ecology; James Woods, WSDA; Mark Arras, WSP; Ryan Warner, WSDOT

EMD/MIL Present: Roger Hieb, Maillian Uphaus, Ron Wilson, Jill Bushnell, Matt Stoutenburg, Kurt Hardin; John Ufford; Christine Dill, Dalton Gamboa, and Linda Crerar.

Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order and asked all members and guests to introduce themselves. A quorum was established.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the July 10, meeting were reviewed and approved with the following corrections. General Lowenberg asked that the following corrections be made to his report: 1) add in the first paragraph..."soldiers trained for wildfires remain available for use" to sentence starting with 125 trained...; and 2) correction in the second paragraph that the Buffer Zone Protection Program is in the President's budget and that Congress has not acted on the budget.

Adjutant General's Remarks:

General Lowenberg updated members on the impacts of state budget reductions. Public Safety is a priority function for state government and emergency management functions are currently exempted from budget reductions. However, the agency is reducing expenditures in a number of areas to support the budget reductions. He also reported that Scott Heinze had resigned from his position at the Governor's Office and, that due to the budget reductions, the position will not be refilled.

He provided information on the assistance the Military Department is providing to operations in the Gulf Coast and discussed the continuing work of NEMA and the EMAC Advisory Council to resolve administrative problems in EMAC. A discussion followed regarding how and what needs to happen to improve the EMAC system at the state and national level.

Emergency Management:

Jim Mullen announced that EMD is able to provide additional Emergency Management Planning Grant (EMPG) funding to support twelve emergency management jurisdictions that were identified to have the greatest needs in the state. Jim distributed a copy of a letter being sent today to these jurisdictions informing them of the additional 2008 funding.

Jim explained this limited funding was made available from EMD's portion of the 2008 EMPG grant award. Jim made the decision to distribute the funds based on discussions he had had with local jurisdictions regarding their gaps and needs and the work the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) has done at the federal level to increase EMPG funding. The increase in the 2008 award to the state allowed him the opportunity to begin to address the issues of the funding gap between larger and smaller jurisdictions.

The counties who received additional funds do participate in EMPG and received less than \$30,000 in funding this year. Because the funds are from EMD's portion of the state's award, they require no local match. The counties receiving funds: Adams, Columbia, Grant, Island, Jefferson, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, San Juan, Skamania, Walla Walla and Whitman.

Jim said he hoped these additional funds would help address some of the most pressing needs we have in the state. This funding is available for one year only and the state will continue to press for ongoing emergency management resources to support critical emergency management services throughout our state. He believes resources need to be sufficient to establish a base funding level for all local emergency management jurisdictions, but that unfortunately that is not the case at this time.

General Lowenberg briefed the Council on EMD's use of the Government Management Accountability and Performance Program (GMAP). This approach allows agencies and programs to understand why certain results are occurring and to make changes when necessary to improve performance and outcomes.

EMD will be reporting to the Governor and the public in January on three statewide measures: local jurisdiction preparedness capability, state agency and state program preparedness/capability and state Emergency Operations Center maintenance/sustainment. The current local preparedness objective is focused on counties but will in the future address city preparedness. TAG believes that with this

public and transparent process everyone will know who is meeting the minimum standards and what we will need to do to help everyone get to the baseline.

EMD is working with local jurisdictions, state agencies and statewide programs to establish standards for a minimum level of capability. EMD staff is working to establish a state agency/program workgroup. The Local Programs Workgroup, established by the Council, is currently working to identify minimum standards for local county program preparedness.

A discussion followed. Steve Bailey expressed WSEMA's support for these very positive steps EMD has taken to assist and support local jurisdictions.

Informational Updates:

FEMA:

Patrick Massey reported:

- Susan Reinertson, FEMA X Regional Director, is on a six (6) month assignment to lead the National Disaster Housing Task Force in D.C.
- 12 FEMA staff left to assist with hurricane response in the Gulf and the remaining staff are on stand-by.
- Region10 has received funding to acquire new office space to help accommodate the 30 new FTE's that will be hired over the next few months. That will bring their workforce to 110 FTE's including reservists.
- FEMA and all FEMA regions will develop an all-hazards operations plan by end of the year.
- FEMA headquarters completed a visit to review federal grant programs at EMD and will provide a report in October.

TAG talked about the Task Force for Emergency Readiness (TFER) pilot, which provides National Guard members to work in state programs as civilians to support strategic and logistics planning. Washington has five slots that may be filled. TAG reported that the federal Real ID program implementation costs are very high and that 14 states have passed bills choosing not to comply with Real ID Program.

The Chair asked Patrick if he would follow-up on a question posed to FEMA at the Council's prior meeting regarding state access to disaster pre-authorization money. She said several Council members had learned about this program during a visit to Florida's Emergency Management agency.

Action Items: Patrick will follow up with a response on disaster pre-authorization.

WSEMA:

Steve Bailey reported:

- WSEMA Annual Conference to begin next week with over 200 participants registered and a robust education program.
- Legislative Committee has done a great job on putting together new emergency management funding bill and a bill outlining a statewide mobilizing for mutual aid program. Both of these bills will be discussed at the Annual Meeting during the conference.

COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Seismic Safety:

Dave Norman provided the Chair with a letter from Doug Sutherland designating him as the department's seismic safety expert and member on the Council. Mark Kahley will serve as Dave's alternate.

Dave reviewed with the Council the key observations and recommendations from the Seismic Safety Committee Report in the Council's Annual Report.

Key Observations:

- Currently most of the state's "build environment" is not insured for earthquake related losses.
- Revise the state focus for seismic safety on planning and mitigation strategies that address fragile infrastructure, vulnerable building, and land use planning.

Key Recommendations:

- Provide more formality to participation on the Seismic Safety Committee by having Governor invite participants.
- Establish a specific roster of organization and disciplines to be represented on the Committee.
- Require formal public briefings by the Committee to the Emergency Management Council and a separate annual report to the Governor from the Committee.
- Identify and provide funding to one agency to serve as the coordinator for the Committee.
- Provide a mechanism for "formal" adoption of a seismic safety state plan.

Dave said this is not new ground we are covering. There has been a series of reports that date back to 1986 identifying what actions need to be done to address seismic safety in our state. He said that we must tackle this problem from a policy approach versus a technical approach. The Council must address the lack of effectiveness of the current organization and structure. The current structure provides no "authorizing environment" to implement the critical activities needed to prepare and mitigate for seismic safety. This must be changed in order to see progress in our state.

Committee on Homeland Security:

John Erickson reported that the Committee is developing a new mission focused on Homeland Security issues. He said that Jeff Parson, EMD staff, presented information from the Infrastructure Protection Sub-Committee (IPSC-sub-committee of CHS). John recommends that Jeff give this presentation to the Council at a future meeting. John indicated that there are still questions about how data flows, priorities and identification.

John recommends a method be developed that will get information from the IPSC out to the proper players. Jeff will be presenting to the Domestic Security Executive Group (DSEG) this next month to help bring everyone up to the same level of knowledge

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC):

Jeff Jensen reported that Brian Schaeffer, SERC Chair, is trying to engage the group and is holding the SERC meeting next week at the WSEMA Conference.

He also reported that the CBRNE Bill has been modified. The bill has been changed from requesting the establishment of 11 teams to 5, which reduces financial impact.

Local Programs Workgroup:

Les Olsen provided a handout and update to the Council on the work of the group. The Workgroup's objective is to develop local program baseline preparedness standards. The group met on August 20, and identified initial criteria and discussed baseline levels that may be influenced by population, geography and/or risk. Once the baseline standards are identified and peer reviewed they will be used to survey counties and identify needs and gaps.

At the first Workgroup meeting information was presented on the national Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) along with valuable work that Cheryl Bledsoe with Clark County had completed to evaluate their county's core program based on current state and federal requirements for emergency management.

The Workgroup discussed how the standards can be utilized to assist jurisdictions and WSEMA in identifying what gaps exist and the necessary resources that will be required to help bring jurisdictions to the baseline standards. It will also provide accountability to the legislature so they know what level of services they would get for a funding investment in emergency management. This information will be used in reporting on the GMAP process. In addition, these standards will help in our overall ability to measure our actual performance during a disaster.

Members agreed that this was a very positive step forward for local emergency management program and the statewide emergency management system. Les said that

the Workgroup hopes to have basic agreement on the criteria/standard by the end of the year.

John Erickson said that the Public Health local programs were starting to do a similar evaluation and identification of baseline standards for local programs.

Statewide All-hazard Strategic Development Working Group:

Jill Bushnell updated the Council on the work of the newly formed working group. She distributed a fact sheet that included information about the purpose, scope and methodology. Currently efforts are in Phase I, which is to fill gaps in critical areas where we need representation to complete the plan. She is going to use this as a framework and draw from the existing strategic plan. She will also liaison with some of the other working groups.

Discussion followed. Members asked Jill to coordinate plans with the Regional Plans and link them together as much as possible. Jill pointed out that the plan does include seismic safety and the state can include seismic safety in the target capabilities list. John Erickson also asked that the Working Group connect local public health in the strategic plan.

Public-Private Partnership:

Jim Mullen provided the report and a handout for Wendy Freitag who was unavailable to attend the meeting. Jim reported that a draft MOU between three agencies (WSP, WMD, and DOT) and Safeway is expected to be completed the first part of October. Steve Bailey and other selected WSEMA members reviewed and provided feedback to the draft MOU.

Discussion followed. Members felt that having the state work with MOU's that provided enterprise/statewide level corporate/business assistance was a good service for the locals and state emergency management system. The locals do not have to replicate these efforts but do need to engage the private sectors working with local emergency management.

Recovery-Restoration Workgroup:

Kurt Hardin introduced himself. He and Wendy Freitag will be co-chairing the Recovery-Restoration Workgroup. The objective of the group is to coordinate recovery/restoration activities and adopt "best management practices" that effectively and expeditious returns the state to normalcy. The Workgroup is just being organized and they will be holding a meeting within the next month.

New Council Business

Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation (ACCT)

Ryan Warner, Coordinator for ACCT at the Department of Transportation provided the Council with information about ACCT's mission and purpose. The statute establishing ACCT (RCW 47.06B.030) requires them to promote coordination of special needs transportation, provide a forum for discussing issues, provide oversight and direction to the state's coordination agenda and recommend remedies to the legislature. ACCT is required by statute to advise the Emergency Management Council on how to address transportation needs for high-risk individuals during and after disasters (RCW 47.06B.030). Ryan asked the Council how ACCT and EMC could best work together.

A discussion followed. Most EMC members were unaware of the existence of ACCT. Several members pointed out that local emergency management agencies are responsible for special needs populations during an emergency. Les Olsen said that each district has a transportation plan, which they report to DOT. This plan includes local and Para-transit information. Patrick Massey with FEMA noted that this is a national issue for FEMA.

The Council asked if ACCT had a measurable assessment of statewide needs and could those needs be depicted on a map similar to what is being used for other statewide measures for GMAP. ACCT does not have that type of an assessment. Ryan said the ACCT statute has a definition of high-risk, which does narrow the focus and leave out a number of special needs groups. John Ufford noted that Emergency Support Function (ESF) #6 requires planning and response for special needs transportation. TAG asked if John would assist ACCT in addressing their mission.

The members asked if ACCT could assess and survey the transportation needs. Ryan also provided an overview of who the members were on ACCT: 1 representative of the Governor's Office, 2 consumers, WA Public Transportation, WA Transportation Association, Community Transit and three state agencies (DSHS, DOT, and OSPI).

Action Items:

FEMA was asked to report at the next meeting on evacuations in the Gulf Coast regarding special need populations.

Ryan and Linda Crerar will meet to review roles, responsibilities and next steps for ACCT and EMC in meeting the Council request.

Nominations Committee Appointed:

Nomination Committee was appointed and will provide recommendations for new Council Chair and Vice-Chair at the November Council Meeting. Committee Members are: Diane Oberquell, General Lowenberg, John Erickson, Jim Mullen and Dale Jensen.

Other Business:

Jim Scharf commented on the recent shooting events in Skagit County. Jim said that without ICS skills and NIMS training the effective coordination of the 9 crimes scenes with 100 plus personnel would not have been possible. He wanted to highlight how important the ICS system and NIMS training has been in supporting a multi-agency response team to work effectively and with great success.

John Batiste and TAG agreed that ICS and NIMS have law enforcement fully engaged.

Action: WASPIC conference topic.

Art Jordon, the Search and Rescue representative on the Council, announced his resignation and introduced Bill Gillespie the new Search and Rescue Association President who will be taking his place. TAG and the Chair thanked Art for his service and asked that the Association get an official letter into the Governor's Office regarding his resignation and new appointment. Art will follow-up with a letter to the Governor.

John Batiste informed the Council that no action has been taken on the WAJAC federal waiver request for the \$1M. Arel Solie informed members that the state is at a critical juncture and the federal dollars will be exhausted by mid-October unless the state receives the waiver.

TAG and Chief Batiste will work together to address this issue.

Craig Apperson, with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), reported to the Council on a number of items happening in higher education and K-12. State and federal regulations are requiring schools to do a significant level of planning and readiness. Districts are required to be in NIMS compliance and meet WASPIC reporting requirement. New emergency WAC's are in place that define elements of evacuation and lock downs, which schools must comply. OSPI has a new Safety Planning manual and Safety Center website. He said OSPI has trained over 1900 school administrators statewide in ICS. The NIMS 100 course is the baseline but they are developing a stratified approach looking at 100 and 700 level courses. The law requires only principals to be trained.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Next meeting November 6, 2009 9am – noon.