



WSEMA

Washington State
Emergency Management Association
2501 S. 35th St. Tacoma, Washington 98409

**Board Meeting – WSEMA
Ocean Shores, Washington
April 18th, 2008**

WSEMA board members present: Steve Bailey, Lester Olson, Tom Griffith, Jody Woodcock, Arel Solie, and Gail Marsh. Legislative Chair, Rebecca Clark was also present.

The meeting began at 8:30

Items of discussion:

Request from the State EMD to have a representative attend WSEMA Board Meeting. It was offered and agreed that Linda Crerar would be that representative.

Treasurer's Report. See Attached

Elections – it was discussed that the President Elect, the Treasurer's, the Private and Public Sector positions on the WSEMA board were up for re-election at the conference in September. We would encourage our membership to have people apply for these positions. At this time there are no known proposals to change the by-laws.

Best Practices: A contingent of emergency managers from WSEMA and a representative from the governor's office traveled to the State of Florida to evaluate their systems and see what we could learn from them as they have a very progressive state emergency management department. Some of the trips highlights were: learning how they use state representatives of the EMD to the state's seven (7) zones to help facilitate planning, response and recovery; they discussed with the team how their funding for Emergency Management works and what they would like to change about it if they could; they have a great campaign called "Volunteer Florida" that helps coordinate volunteer efforts throughout the state, to include those volunteer "reservists" that are used to aid in recovery issues. The Florida State DEM can tap into every department of their state during an emergency to aid in paying for disaster relief. They also provide an active Professional Certification Series that is channeled through their zones to practitioners.

AAR: The Governor's Office has asked for feedback from the flooding event that occurred in December 2007. The State of Washington DEM has done a draft AAR, but it just addressed state issues and responses and not what occurred at the local level. It was suggested and then agreed; that WSEMA coordinate an AAR that addressed the local's perspective and make recommendations based on that input. President Bailey agreed to coordinate this and get the information out to the rest of the state who was impacted so they can participate.

Legislative Work Group and associated issues: 2008 there were not many new laws for our membership to be concerned with. There is a concern that some laws in other disciplines have ramifications for us, i.e. the schools now have a new law that require they work with their local emergency management agency and have one exercise a year coordinated with them. Another

issue is the lobbying for Pet and Livestock shelters. While planning for this is highly encouraged by WSEMA, to enact mandates that are not funded and that would be more restrictive than what we presently have in place for human shelters is a concern. There is an expectation that this will be brought back again next year.

The legislative committee will be meeting in May or June with our Lobbyist to discuss the Emergency Management funding bill we are trying to get passed. New legislative session begins in January 2009. Legislative committee has asked for talking points about this funding from President Bailey so they can use them when they talk to their legislatures.

The legislative work group had three meeting this year. Once the legislators are in session they will be receiving weekly updates from our Lobbyist, Gordon. They would like to make contact with the state elected officials from those areas that were impacted from the 2007 flooding event.

Education Work Group: They have met and are working on streamlining the process for scholarships.

Private Sector Work Group – see attached memo.

AAR Work Group – new board member, Arel Solie will begin staffing this soon.

Conference Committee – The committee is working with Oregon to co-host our Conference in September 2009 in Oregon. There will be a planning meeting for this conference in Oregon on June 18th 2008. Kathy Estes has agreed to take the lead for WSEMA for this event.

The **WSEMA 2008 Conference will be September 16 – 18th at the Quinault Beach Resort, Ocean Shores, Washington.** The committee presented a number of training opportunities they were considering. They are confirming the guest speakers now. They have a new web registration process they will be using and hope to have it streamline the process.

The meeting was adjourned at 1430 to go visit the conference site and tour the facility.