



WSEMA

Washington State
Emergency Management Association

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES September 15, 2009

The WSEMA membership met at the Salishan Resort in Gleneden Beach, Oregon on September 15, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in conjunction with the Joint Conference with Oregon Emergency Management Association.

Present:

Helen Ahrens-Byington	Mike Dingle	Tim Lenk	Mary Schoenfeldt
Butch Aiken	Jim Duncan	Wade W. Magers	Richard Schroedel
Rick Anderson	Vivian Eason	Gail Marsh	Sam Sevier
Ken Back	Bill Eller	Tom Mattern	Lee Shipman
Matt Bernard	Don Ellis	Scott Miller	Mike Simmons
Martin Best	Gay Ernst	Jason Mouton	Bob Spencer
Cheryl Bledsoe	Kathleen Estes	Deborah Needham	Beth Vaughn
JoAnn Boggs	Matt Fugazzi	Ralph Parker	Charles Wallace
Diane Bonne	Ron Gehrke	Bill Peters	Ute Weber
Fred Bretsch	Katie Gillespie	Tyler Ray	Jay Weise
Lisa Caldwell	Ray Gross	Denise Rowlett	John Wheeler
Sean Davis	Roger Hieb	Darrell Ruby	Jamye Wisecup
Stephanie Day	Andrew Kinney	John Scheer	Hank Wiswell

The meeting was called to order by President Marty Best.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 16, 2008 meeting were corrected to show Sam Sevier as present. Butch Aiken moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2008 meeting as corrected, the motion was seconded, and the corrected minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer John Scheer reported there are 195 paid members, and provided a treasurer's report indicating the following balances.

The WSEMA Checking account balance as of July 30, 2009 is \$31,093.01

The WSEMA Savings account balance as of July 30, 2009 is \$6,822.65

The Joel Aggergaard scholarship fund CD as of July 30, 2009 is valued at \$11,877.07

Jason Moulton asked the breakdown of private-sector members to public-sector members. John Scheer had not calculated that breakdown, but the membership list is on the WSEMA website so that can be determined.

Andrew Kinney moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Butch Aiken seconded and the report was approved.

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STANDARDS MATRIX

Marty Best distributed and explained information on local emergency management standards that have been developed by a state workgroup he has been involved with. Sam Sevier mentioned that there has been no legislation on communications systems interoperability standards and that continues to be a difficult issue to develop standardized systems. Tim Lenk agreed that there isn't adequate coordination and global examination of communications issues. It was expressed that the membership needs strong representation on the State Interoperability Executive Committee. Members need to attend these meetings and make their opinions known to the WSEMA representative on the SIEC, currently Tom Griffith.

Gail Marsh indicated there are mandates that are not included on the matrix. It was agreed that members need to examine the matrix and identify what other items need to be added.

Robert Spencer pointed out the tier levels seem in conflict with NIMS typing logic. There was discussion about the numbering system, which led to discussion about the numbering systems indicating EOC activation levels. Matt Bernard, NIMS coordinator from FEMA Region X said he will bring the EOC activation numbering issue to the national group that FEMA is putting together to develop tools for EOCs, which is in FEMA's five-year implementation plan.

Scott Miller stated the matrix is an outstanding document to use with local leadership and elected officials to indicate mandates and legal background for emergency management program needs. He went on to state that in Homeland Security Region 7, they have standardized EOC activation levels and evacuation level terminology. He mentioned that in rural locations, agencies are less prone to activate an EOC but more likely to have a 24/7 duty officer or emergency contact who responds to incidents. Marty asked Scott to write a line or two to add to the matrix to describe this readiness level.

Marty and Richard Schroedel asked that comments be provided to them. Comments need to be provided in time for potential adoption of the matrix at the November State Emergency Management Council meeting. Gail Marsh asked that the document be distributed back out to the membership after revision.

CONTINUATION OF CONSULTING CONTRACTS WITH HEINZE & ASSOCIATES AND GORDON WALGREN

Marty stated the executive board has had conversations regarding whether to continue the consulting contracts with Heinze & Associates and Gordon Walgren for legislative activities and support. The membership discussed that the organization needs to articulate what our needs are in the area of documentation and reporting with these contractors. Rick Anderson stated his concern that the organization is not getting results or value out of the legislative process and work with the lobbyist. He feels that annually the organization is taking the same actions and expecting different results.

Marty Best stated he feels that a repetitive approach to legislative activities provides strength. He feels if the organization doesn't actively support a bill and lets it drop, momentum is lost and it is difficult and time consuming to start it up again.

Tyler Ray asked that the board strengthen the language in the Gordon Walgren contract at the next opportunity for renewal, and JoAnn Boggs agreed. Scott Miller stated that it is important that part of the lobbyist's responsibilities is to keep the organization aware of legislation that may be pertinent to or detrimental to the emergency management profession or discipline. The lobbyist should position the organization to be proactive to promote legislation that WSEMA wants to see adopted. John Scheer stated the contract renews on January 1, 2010.

Darrell Ruby asked if there are legislative talking points developed that can be shared with local emergency managers.

Scott Miller asked if there was going to be a member vote regarding the Gordon Walgren contract. Marty Best stated that based on the meeting discussion, the executive board will renegotiate and sign a new agreement with Walgren. The board does not anticipate entering into a new agreement with Heinze & Associates at this time.

WSEMA COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative: No additional discussion.

Education: JoAnn Boggs reported that Lynn Sturbins was selected to receive the 2009 Joel Aggergaard Scholarship. Lynn is pursuing an emergency management certification. There were three applicants and one award.

Sean Davis asked whether the dollar value of the award should be increased, as there is a significant balance in the scholarship fund.

Private Sector Outreach: There was no report on private sector outreach. Gail Marsh suggested that Jason Moulton from Safeway (on activation of his membership dues) be nominated to a leadership role in the private sector workgroup. Sam Sevier indicated his interest in the workgroup. Cheryl Bledsoe asked what are the objectives and outcomes of the private sector workgroup, and it was determined that these have not been articulated over the past year. Darrell Ruby mentioned that the DRB Toolkit (Disaster Resistent Business), highlighted at the pre-conference training, is a free tool available to businesses in the state of Washington, available through registration and approval by the local emergency managers. He asked if the state or WSEMA supports use of that tool.

Conference: Kathy Estes reported there were 84 attendees from Washington State and 94 attendees from Oregon at the Joint Conference. Although the conference finances are not resolved, it appears revenue will well exceed expenditures. Kathy asked that attendees submit feedback on the conference through a survey that will be e-mailed out, or comment to her or the registration desk. The 2010 conference will be held in the Tri-Cities at the Clover Island Inn in Kennewick.

WSEMA Representation on Statewide Committees: No report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Marty Best recognized the work of Jody Woodcock (not present) on the WSEMA executive board over the past number of years. Jody has chosen to step down from the West Side Representative position.

Election of officers was conducted. The resulting elections were:

Tom Mattern, President Elect
JoAnn Boggs, East Side Representative
Ute Weber, West Side Representative
Tyler Ray, Public Sector Representative

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed. *A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting; the meeting was adjourned at noon. The next meeting date will be held in conjunction with the WSEMA Conference in Kennewick, Washington in September 2010, date to be determined.*

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Estes, WSEMA Secretary