

Emergency Management Council Meeting

Thursday, May 1, 2014 – 0900-1200
Building 91, Camp Murray, Washington

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes/Remarks/Introductions

Jim Hall, EMC Chair

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m.

Opening Comments

Edit the March meeting minutes – vote was not unanimous on all motions as call-in members were not able to respond.

Motion: Approve the March meeting minutes with the caveat that they will be edited per comment above. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous.

EMD Remarks

Robert Ezelle, EMD Director

The partnerships, teamwork, and relationships we built *before* the SR 530 landslide event enabled us to pull together quickly during the event.

FEMA Remarks

FEMA was not present for the meeting.

Committee – Task Force Reports

1. EMC Executive Committee (Informal) – Jim Hall

The four committee members will stay after the EMC meeting to discuss the charter and expectations of the group. The charter should be ready for approval at the July EMC meeting.

2. Emergency Management Advisory Group – Robert Ezelle

The EMAG met the Friday, March 7th, talked about the charter, and are reasonably close to a final draft. The structure and representation are pretty much worked out. The group will be ready to go once the information has been circulated through the emergency management community. The next meeting will be in conjunction with the July EMC meeting.

3. EMC Working Group – Bill Gillespie/Jim Hall

No report

4. State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) – Bill Whealan/Mike Harris

The next SERC meeting is during the conference in Lake Chelan at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, May 7th. There was a natural gas plant explosion in Benton County. The Williams Pipeline had an explosion in the compressor room. Benton County used their CSEPP evacuation plan, evacuated to Oregon, and set up a shelter in the Oregon fairgrounds. The SERC will try to gather more info for the meeting on May 7th. There is no formal AAR as of yet.

a. Formally appoint Bill Whealan Chair and Mike Harris Vice Chair

Jim Hall, EMC Chair, took precedence and appointed Bill Whealan as chair of the SERC and Mike Harris as the Vice Chair of the SERC.

5. Seismic Safety – Dave Norman

There is a meeting on Thursday, May 8 in Spokane at which USGS, DNR, and EMD are presenting to the public about the earthquake hazard in Spokane. May is Volcano Awareness Month. An announcement was made that Mount St. Helens is re-pressurizing, but no eruption is imminent as it takes years to develop.

6. Senior Advisory Committee – Ziggy Dahl

No report – will reschedule the April meeting to the end of July.

7. Intrastate Mutual Aid – Robert Ezelle

Snohomish County was working a lot of mutual aid with their neighbors for the SR 530 landslide. After about a week and a half they were overwhelmed by just mutual aid. The state stood up the SEOC to handle the mutual aid requests. Now we need to take a look at the WAMAS subcommittee and go back to the drawing board to look at procedures and training. We also need to take a look at how the RCW is written – it may make it problematic if we use WAMAS again (regarding strong eligibility for federal reimbursement). We have a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 28th at 1300 in the EMD Policy Room.

8. Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee – John Ufford/John Himmel

The IPS committee met last fall to discuss the course for where we want this group to go in the future and are trying to determine next steps. Other activities were put on hold this spring because of the landslide.

We are trying to identify both public and private sector committees to get involved.

There was a survey that was sent out and the response from the private sector was mediocre. They were only willing to spend 30 hours *per year* for this. It is very difficult to get them to participate unless we offer something of value. We need incentives to get the private sector involved.

EMC Action Requests

1. Regional Coordinators (Item tabled until EMAG and SAC firmed) – Bill Gillespie

Once the EMAG charter and workgroup is established we can respond to the request. It will stay on the agenda as “old business” since it is a tabled motion.

2. Sustainable Funding

No Report – still looking for ideas

3. Intrastate Mutual Aid Procedures – Robert Ezelle

This action request was discussed under the Intrastate Mutual Aid agenda item.

EMC Report to the Governor

No report

EMC Guidelines

No report

Washington State Guard Capabilities relative to Emergency Management

Bill Elliott/COL LaRue

The State Guard is a part of the Washington Military Department's Organized Militia – the State Guard along with the Army and Air National Guard. nat'l guard. We are a part of the joint forces headquarters and currently have five operational missions: Liaison Officer's for the WNG; Geospatial Information, Interoperable, Exploitable – Portable (GIIEP) System Unit; Emergency Communications (EMCOMM Unit); Movement Coordination Center (MCC) Management; and Computer Network Operations (CNO) Unit. The MCC is a part of the SEOC and is controlled by the Log section when activated by the disaster manager and coordinates directly with DOT and WSP. EMCOMM unit has UHF, VHF, and HF capabilities and participates in joint training with EMD, WNG, and the Amateur Radio Emergency Services at Pierce County DEM. The GIIEP team provides live imagery of an affected area and has aerial, land, and water platforms. They have been joint training with WSP with the FLIR equipment. The LNO Training program has NIMS certified participants. The State Guard is here to monitor, coordinate, assist, and advise. They are the most expensive type of response and so are normally the first in and first out. There is no cost to a County EOC or ICP for a state guard LNO. The State Guard is a niche organization with about 95 quality personnel.

2014 Homeland Security Funding

Charma Anderson

Since the DSEG was disbanded was funding levels went down the approval process has been unclear.

Homeland security funding started in 2002 as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It is administered through DHS/FEMA. EMPG is offered through the Stafford act through FEMA R10. The new EMPG funding methodology will go into effect May 10, 2014.

We need to create a new SHSP formula for state partners.

The major portion of funding is used to sustain trained staff for emergency management and to purchase communication equipment.

How would an earthquake clearing house be sustained through funding? UASI is primarily focused on terrorism, but it could be funded through SHSP and in-kind services.

Regarding the vetting process, we want to move toward a better sustainment model at the local and state level. Currently, we are able to rely on savings from vacancies this past year, but we do need to get back to a vetting and approval process.

SR530 Landslide Discussion

Determine if we need to make a recommendation to TAG/Governor.

The SR 530 landslide was a “deep-seated” landslide – a large landslide that was caused by water (groundwater in particular, several hundred feet underground). The groundwater builds up over a long period of time and takes years for it to move through the system. There is also an active fault in that same area that could also be a contributing factor to the landslide. There are no investigations at this point. There are multiple hypotheses as to what could have caused it. There have always been lots of landslides in that area.

We would like to see a consolidated After Action Report of some kind. EMD will be bringing in Glen Woodbury to help compile the separate AARs and individuals from different organizations will be meeting up with him.

One piece of advice for the next disaster: call a geologist faster. They will help determine and evaluate site safety. One of the challenges for this disaster was trying to build situational awareness. It took days to build the true picture of what we were dealing with. Should have ordered air and LIDAR photos immediately.

We need to build a report that's layered from the local perspective and build up to the state and national guard. It should not be summarized so much that the local perspective value is removed.

We can't miss this golden opportunity to present to the legislature the need for sustainable funding to improve systems, procedures, and processes. Sustainable funding is absolutely critical for us to improve what we do in this state.

It is a good idea to bring universities and academia into this for a better perspective across the board. We need to have a standard form to receive input from all agencies.

The EMC should be helping and informing the WSEMA legislative committee and we need to have short timelines. We need to be able to prioritize the funding and make a definite link to areas that need improvement.

We can use the consolidated AAR as a tool to help make our point.

There is also an independent commission of neutral people with technical expertise being pulled together to work with Glen Woodbury to take a look at the larger holistic picture. The AAR will only be one component that will feed into the commission.

Motion: Recommend to Governor Inslee to put together a team of people from the academic community. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

THIRA Training

Tabled due to shortage of time

Good of the Order

July meeting agenda items: Weather systems presentation, vacancies on the council, and THIRA training

Closing Remarks

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next meeting: *Thursday, July 10, 2014
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Bldg 92, Camp Murray*