

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP (EMAG)

MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020 ~ CONDUCTED VIA TEAMS ~ 2:30 PM TO 4:30 PM

Meeting called to order by Robert Ezelle Director of Washington State Emergency Management Division at 2:30 PM

In Attendance – Introduction of Attendees

Attendees were noted from the TEAMS participant list and verbal confirmation for callers. (*) = via phone

Members

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Alexander | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Biermann | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JoAnn Boggs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Brooks |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Cameron | <input type="checkbox"/> Lorraine Churchill | <input type="checkbox"/> Brendan Cowan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deanna Davis |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steven De Los Angeles* | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sandi Duffey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sandi Eccker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Ezelle |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jody Ferguson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chandra Fox | <input type="checkbox"/> Seattle OEM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pattijean Hooper |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Jenkins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Johnson* | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cherrie May | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brendan McCluskey |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ada McDaniel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Marquiss | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott McDougall | <input type="checkbox"/> Ute Scofield |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jay Weise | | | |

Guests

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurel Nelson, Seattle DEM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kurt Hardin, Thurston County DEM* |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Gillespie, Pierce County DEM | |

Supporting Staff

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Bickford | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanura Jackson-Diaz | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tirzah Kincheloe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robin Lang |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stacey McClain | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Troy Newman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Sabarese | <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Utzinger |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharon Wallace | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sierra Wardell | | |

Call to Order/Introductions/Opening Comments

Robert Ezelle

Chair opened the meeting.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Jason Marquiss advised that a quorum was present.

Survey

Tirzah Kincheloe

Reallocation classification

Survey results: City funds to be returned to their home counties

- The request was for funds to lose classification once returned to the pot.
- Survey results were 9 responses in a yes/no vote: 8 in favor; 1 opposed
- Chair advised that it will be a decision by group that should be documented by vote, not just the survey results.
- Vote proceeded without debate.
 - Jason Marquiss noted that Cherrie May and Steve De Los Angeles that they are voting members representing the two tribal seats.
 - The vote proceeded via chat function and phone
 - **The motion passed unanimously.**

18/19 EMGP Reallocation

Tirzah Kincheloe

Total Available funds: FY18 - \$47,545; FY19 \$136,508

- The FY19 total is different than what was sent on Friday as reimbursement requests had been received since sharing those figures.
- Responses were in favor of upgrading CemNet, Projects for Earthquake Early Warning, Public information, and jurisdictional specific requests.
- One change, the Franklin County EM last response, two bullet points under Mason county that were miscategorized. This first one is for Clallam county and the CEMP revision is for Mason County.
- Jason Marquiss asked how many of the items listed would require adjustments to our applications with FEMA.
- Tirzah Kincheloe confirmed that since these are all for local projects and local funds, they may not require an application revision. There is a question of allowability for supplies that support access and functional needs with the recharging station (electric wheelchair charging stations at approx. \$600 each), recharging things are not in the allowable list under FEMA's EMPG so that might require a waiver.
- Jason Biermann asked if the objective is to fund one of these or how many of these would be funded via the reallocation funds?
- Tirzah Kincheloe confirmed it's the latter.
- The group discussed the proposed projects.
 - Tirzah Kincheloe stated Jason Biermann has been speaking the most to it and asked if Jason's organization would be able to take on this project and for anything that's not portable, would we need to complete EHP reviews and get dollar amounts down?
 - Jason Biermann confirmed they could coordinate it and there will have to be EHP reviews done for some of the sites at least.
 - Laurel Nelson advised would need to speak to her amateur radio folks, would likely want to be involved since they're already involved in HamWAN and could possibly be at the table.
 - Robert Ezelle asked Jason Biermann how we move forward to build it out as a project, identify counties, identify portable capability to be able to turn this into a project with \$136K?
 - Jason Biermann answered that if folks want to do this, he'd have his communications person reach out. Then to email him and indicate if their county or city is interested. He'll connect those folks with him to determine what the coverage area looks like and what is needed financially. Some folks might want to have direct control. We can pull together a group of the communicators and they can figure out how to get the most for our money.
 - Robert Ezelle asked if anyone who signs up for this is going to have to provide the match for the funding, they would receive for the components they would purchase.
 - Tirzah Kincheloe confirmed that's correct and the entire project would need to be completed Sept. 30th which is the end of the performance period. Everything would have to be installed, projects completed, drop-dead date would be Sept. 30, 2021. For the allocation date, there isn't one, but we

would need to get it done as soon as possible so we can get any agreements out and EHPs to FEMA Region 10.

- Jason Biermann stated that if we can start connecting folks by February, then if the need exceeds the resources, what I will ask them to do is make a recommendation of where we get the most benefit and they can come back with an option for the EMAG. There can be a vote or discussion on what we want the priority to be.
- Jason Marquiss stated that if this is ultimately the project that is the primary recipient of available funding, I would assume the EMAG members need to go back to their stakeholder groups to also pull some of this information to find out if their interested in signing up and look to see if they would have the match for the cost associated.
- Laurel Nelson made motion that EMAG move forward for reallocation of the \$136,508 to address the expanding internet project that we'll need to appropriately convene the right people to the table to have the consensus on what's that's going to look like project scope wise.
- Chris Alexander stated he seconds the motion.
- The vote proceeded via chat function and phone
- **The motion passed unanimously.**
 - Jason Biermann's communication team is going to lead that.
 - It will be put to a vote in the February meeting.

20 EMPG-S Reallocation

Tirzah Kincheloe

Total Available funds: \$302,484

- EMPG Covid supplemental funds include Small, Large, Tribes. Based on earlier vote consider this as one total pot of funding available \$302K. The amount is different than what was emailed 12/11/2020 An applicant submitted for their reallocation amount since then.
- Two responses were received for redistributing the funds.
- Planning projects suggested via local outreach, education, expendable vaccine distribution supplies, a few jurisdiction specific requests.
- Tirzah Kincheloe asked if anybody had any further projects to suggest, or take a vote on these that were submitted
- The group discussed public information/affirmation project for the vaccine and redistribution to the local jurisdictions.
- Tirzah Kincheloe stated that the planning projects suggested were local outreach, education, expendable vaccine distribution supplies, a few jurisdiction specific requests and asked if anybody had any further projects to suggest, or should we take a vote on these that were submitted.
 - Laurel Nelson stated as we roll out vaccine in 2021, we may need to do education and affirmation for those. Funds could be used education/affirming through social campaign, the importance of being vaccinated.
 - Scott McDougall stated he formally withdraws the Pacific County proposal as it exists. More interested in seeing redistribution across the board and leave it up to individual jurisdictions, how they want to use it. In Pacific County are planning for education piece and vaccination piece and funding seems to be available to us at the local level, but would be interested in a redistribution for local jurisdictions to use funding as they see fit, but not necessarily tying it to...any particular...just having it as a general Covid nexus opposed to having it be tied to any particular piece.
 - Tirzah Kincheloe advised we have an available amount of \$302,484. We originally had 14% divided by small counties. We had 20 small counties originally; 5 of them were not able to accept the funds. The eligible small county number has gone down to 15. There would be \$42K split evenly among the 15 small counties, that would be an additional \$2,800 to each of those small counties. We have \$260K across the cities and the larger counties, This is the additional reallocation amount that would be added on top of their original award. Spokane didn't apply for EMPGS.
 - Robert Ezelle stated City of Tacoma, \$9,000. Pierce \$25,000. Snohomish, \$27,000.

- Jason Biermann stated that meets our individual need, but as Laurel mentioned, some of these issues are going to span multiple jurisdictions and doing outreach to some of those communities that are resistant to getting the vaccines is going to be important.
- Laurel Nelson stated they appreciate another \$33,000, but I think we're all going to be facing some challenges here trying to get our populations to get vaccinated and would like to defer to a project that benefits us collectively. And maybe that involves a smaller project between a few of us
- Robert Ezelle asked what our funding timeline like is like.
- Tirzah Kincheloe confirmed – This grant expires on Jan 26, 2022. All agreements that we have with our subrecipients end in December of 2021.
- Jason Marquiss stated that if we go with the route of expendable vaccination supplies or public information campaign, there may be some things at the state level that the Governor's office and the DOH are already doing on the public information side and we may not need to invest these dollars into that. On the vaccination supplies, we want to make sure with this group that whatever intent ultimately, that any procurement of additional supplies is deconflicted with any intent the DOH has.
- Scott Johnson noted before we rule out using that, we have as Tirzah mentioned a little bit of breathing room on this one. Reaching out to those folks to see if it would be a force multiplier would be a good thing to know before we do a file allocation on this.
- Robert Ezelle stated I'm sensing that we put together a group to take a look at this and try to come up with a couple strategies for messaging that counters the misinformation and develop retranslated messaging that folks could use and then come back to the EMAG in February with a proposal .
 - A group was formed without vote or objection to explore the public information force multiplier options with their communication teams.
 - Scott Johnson and Laurel Nelson are working on this.
 - The group is to return to as soon as possible, but no later than the February EMAG meeting for members to vote on.

2021 Meeting Dates

Jason Marquiss

- The group discussed increasing EMAG meetings from 4 to 6 meetings per year, potentially being the first Thursday of every other month.
- Jason Marquiss stated EMAG meetings could align with the SERC and EMC dates are already projected for the year at least for the first 6 months: the February meeting on or about the 4th of February; April tied to SERC on or about the 6th or 7th; EMC on the 3rd of June and could have an afternoon EMAG meeting. Both EMC and SERC are in Sept and Nov. In keeping even number months would be offsetting Aug, Oct, Dec.
- Chandra Fox made a motion that for 2021, the EMAG will meet on a bi-monthly basis.
- Scott McDougall second the motion.
- Voting took place via chat and phone
- **The motion passed unanimously.**

Adhoc Items

Robert Ezelle

- Solar Winds Orion cyber attack
 - Could target state and local governments
 - State CIO is going to reach out to counties in a State CIO call soon.
- Vaccine Planning
 - DOH is active in vaccine planning
 - The group discussed their involvement
 - Chandra Fox stated they are focusing on coordinating volunteer registration with the health district.
- FEMA Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) presentation, Jan 27th, 2021
 - This presentation will be COVID day

- FEMA is asking if someone from Local emergency management would like to give a 15 min. presentation to give a local perspective on what challenges they've had with COVID.
- If not a member on the call, then one of their stakeholders.
- The group discussed giving a group response.
- EMD will send something out to the broader emergency management for a presenter.
- EMAG Charter Review – due to time will need to be added to February agenda
 - Looking to update the chair of the group
 - At the last meeting of 2019, there didn't seem to be a lot of momentum to discuss it.
 - Be prepared to discuss it in the February EMAG meeting.

Closing Comments***Robert Ezelle***

- Thanks to everyone for all your time, the innovative ideas we went through today.
- Tirzah thank you for the hard work that you do to manage EMPG so superbly.
- Scott Johnson will be touching base on the public information regularly.
- Happy holiday and we'll talk in the new year.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:20pm