

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP (EMAG)

MINUTES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021 ~ CONDUCTED VIA TEAMS ~ 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

Meeting called to order by Robert Ezelle, Director of Washington State Emergency Management Division at 1:00 PM

In Attendance

Attendees were noted from the TEAMS participant list and verbal confirmation for callers.

Member/Alternate

Member/Alternate

Counties

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> JoAnn Boggs | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jay Weiss | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deanna Davis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sandi Duffey |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chandra Fox | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scott McDougall | <input type="checkbox"/> Brendan Cowan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ron Cameron | <input type="checkbox"/> Willie Bence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eric Brooks | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kurt Hardin | <input type="checkbox"/> Jason Biermann |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brendan McCluskey | <input type="checkbox"/> Alysha Kaplan |

Cities

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Alexander | <input type="checkbox"/> Carl Lunak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tory Green | <input type="checkbox"/> Ute Weber |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patti Jean Hooper | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curry Mayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Laurel Nelson |

CRESA

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
|---|---------------------------------|

Tribes

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cherrie May | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ada McDaniel | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve De Los Angeles |

Guests

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean Davis, Franklin County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sandi Eccker, Thurston County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jody Ferguson, Pierce County |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Honaker, Snohomish County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Liz Jessee, Walla Walla County | |

Director's Office

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Ezelle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Wasserman |
|---|--|

Supporting Staff

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanura Jackson-Diaz | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tirzah Kincheloe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacey McClain |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Troy Newman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Roberson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Sabarese |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sierra Wardell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Wickersham | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathryn Zetzer |

Robert Ezelle opened the meeting.

A quorum was not present.

Minutes from June 3rd, 2021 will need to be approved at the next meeting

Opening Comments

Robert Ezelle

EMC met this morning

- Discussed revitalizing committees on seismic safety, the WAMAS committee and the need to start them up again.
- Inclusion and Equity committee will be jointly chaired by DOH & CIEP.

Preparedness Grants Funds Update – *slides presented*

Tirzah Kincheloe

18/19EMPG fund allocation and closeout status

- Snohomish HAMWAN reallocation agreement end date is 9/30/21
- Scott Honaker from Snohomish County with a HAMWAN update
 - Trying to ID where to we should spend trying and infrastructure pieces to leverage in the future
 - Creating a good beach head in Spokane and good point to build out from several new sites
 - 3 or so fully implemented by end of this period, and deployable pieces to extend on an adhoc basis can be switched from deployable to permanent
 - Some servers going in place some to control the network (routing and time services, and gateway, and logging) applications (email, phone, chat, file transfers) on separate servers that are unique to each location so each segment can function in and of itself.
 - In Snohomish County for COOP, we built out comms trailers – both internet and to support a COOP, with a LAN site (wireless network) so can set up site tents, canopies, power – some internal battery, some solar panel. Been using them at mass vaccination sites. One will go to Spokane to be a hub for eastern WA. Hoping to span across the state but need partners across the middle of state. Also looking at Pacific county – expanding out there helps them have 1) secondary backbone 2) forms another pass for us to the south. Some links follow I5, but it's a single link down into Oregon.
 - On track to get those funds spent in the community.

20 EMPG Status

- Awarded \$4,462,926
- Expended as of 7/29 \$1,973,162
- Current balance \$2,489,764
- Agreement end date is August 31, 2021, are granting standard one-month extension through September 30, 2021
- Overall grant performance period ends September 30, 2022, allows for reallocation to occur within 3 year period of performance.

20EMPG-S Status

- Awarded \$1,717,531
- Expended as of 7/29 \$694,612 and since gone up to 774,869
- Remaining balance \$942,000
- Agreements end December 31, 2021 – no extensions can be given covid supplement grant ends Jan 26, 2022
- Any returned funding will go back to FEMA

21EMPG and 21EMPG-ARPA Applications and Next Steps

- Received 21EMPG at end of June, had some extensions
- ARPA due at end of July, had a few extensions
- Program coordinators complete the first initial review – 130 applications
- Tirzah completes the second review all 130 applications.
- Once we receive award from FEMA, around the end of September, the agreements will be issued in Sept. and Oct.

SHSP/HSGP – Sierra Wardell

- Last week at the quarterly HLS coordinators meeting – Reagan and Kathryn went through and after action of FY2021 SHSP process emphasis on allocation process for national priority area funding.
- Consensus that FY2022 process needs to start prior to the notice of funding opportunity following more like UASI process.
- Need to look at funding methodology for sustainment funding and request to expand meeting audience to include EM Directors; if decisions are needed, could impact to future funding.
- Looking at how state can allocate the national priority area funding more equitably.
- Due to covid response haven't had full participation and want all regions being represented going forward.
- Kathryn sent an email to stakeholders last week regarding our anticipation for future of UASI, we expect a greater portion of funding will be required to go to targeted areas and more information will be needed up front with state's application
- Finalized our calendar year monitoring plan and Courtney Bemus, our program assistant will be reaching out to schedule our approximately 30 virtual visits from August through end of year.

EMC/EMAG Charter Discussion – slides presented

Chandra Fox

Final items for discussion.

- With changed meeting schedule, we have updated the language for voting in the chair and chair elect having been in November; we no longer have a November meeting. Suggesting we replace the name of the month with the final meeting of the calendar year.
- Updating our population in the cities table will be in or representation spreadsheet so it matches the new chart in the charter.
- Additional items brought forward by Deanna Davis
 - Language that an EMAG advisory group member must be a EM Director or deputy director. Could it also be a designee if it's fine with the director of that county?
 - Discussion by members, (referred to charter on p. 5, letter F)
 - Chandra Fox - Will add designee it to revision to be voted on
 - Deanna Davis – We define the population for city representation, but don't do the same thing within the county; is that something we need to do?
 - Robert Ezelle – when patterned this on the E911 charter, grouped it on population on relatively equal numbers. Criticisms would be that they're not geographically clustered, they organized by size.
 - Chandra Fox Is there language in the 911 advisory group's charter that breaks that out, we can use that.
 - Robert Ezelle – we can find it and get it to you [this was emailed to members during the meeting].
 - Deanna Davis – Do we need to annotate the date or year on the population estimate? Maybe a footnote or note would suffice.
 - Chandra – will get that in.
 - Deanna Davis – P. 7, letter D. All meetings are open to any Emergency Manager and shall comply with the open public meetings act. I think by designating it as Emergency Manager personnel. Do we need to state Emergency Manager? The fact that it's an open and public meeting means it's open to all.

- Robert Ezelle – I think the intent was that the procedures shall comply with OPM (open public meeting). There’s probably a tweak that could be made. Easy way to fix this is all meetings shall comply with the open public meetings act.
- o Deanna Davis - We refer to a 2/3 majority. Is it better to leave it as 2/3 or make it a majority because 2/3 can fall between a person?
 - Chandra Fox – We’ll forego that one.
- Brendan McCluskey – We talked about having a special meeting so we have these for the next official meeting. Is that what the group would like to do?
- Sean Davis (Franklin) p. 5 under Officers, refers to simple majority, not an EMAG member now. Does EMAG chair have to be a current member?
 - Chandra Fox – Yes, you’d have to be a current member of the EMAG.
- Sandi Duffey – We don’t address voting. Can we do it via email or does it need to be in person or live, since we’ll always have a hybrid of virtual or in person?
 - Chandra Fox – if that’s an option we wish to have, I can add a section on email voting.
- Sean Davis – Should a vote it be the majority of members or majority of quorum present? [referring to Voting, section B actions, 3 passing motions].
- Chandra Fox – question is about email voting. Brendan, Deanna, Scott, in favor of it. Will add to this version of charter. Regarding majority or majority of the quorum, it should be a majority of those members present. We’ll add it. Will incorporate changes and get it to Robert to send back out to the group.
- *EMAG charter vote to take place at special meeting.*

WAC Update Initiative

Chandra Fox

- At first organizational meeting we did a high organizational overview of the WACs 118-04 188-09, 118-30, and 118-40.
- The 118-04 Emergency Worker Program is going to be the biggest lift; there were some concerns noted by a number of participants of what they’d like to see in that WAC.
- Next steps: on 8/18 at 10:00am, Chris Long will review his concerns for SAR program updates. Invite should have come out from Kevin. Our group will be listening in on that.

Open Forum

EMAG Membership

Community Lifelines - Kevin Wickersham –

- Regarding community lifelines, EMD is committed to adopting as first as framework of building and understanding a common operating picture supporting incident stabilization.
- There are 7 community lifelines which define the key groups of functions that support the operations of a healthy community, and there are components and sub-components that are essential elements of information for reporting on the health of those lifeline components.
- Value is provided with a structure for uniform reporting throughout the state.
- FEMA has adopted the community lifelines, which will allow vertical integration when in joint exercises with FEMA.

EMD Program Updates

Select EMD Staff

E911 – Adam Wasserman

- With the 988 bill passing HB1477, we are involved with DOH, Health Care authority, and Governor’s office with implementation of that. We will be sitting CRST, Crisis Response Strategy Team, as they implement that bill
- Text to 911 – We are trying to get that state-wide by the end of the calendar year, currently up to 26 counties
- As a member on the FCC fee diversion strike force, we should be finalizing that report by September.

Preparedness – Troy Newman

- CR22 – Catastrophic planning by Michael Roberson –
 - o There are two outreach events for our Mass Care and Water Infrastructure Systems
 - o Aug 17, 2021 9:00am

- Aug 19, 2021 9:00am
- CR22 & NLE by Rob Sabarese
 - Shared CR22 Timeline August 2021 – June 2022 for Exercises, Documents, Workgroups, Federally Supported Activities CR22 Initiatives, Exercise Objectives, first TTX (tabletop exercise) is November 18, 2021.
 - Location will be Portland Fuel Farm.
 - Preparedness Activities will take place Aug. – Dec. 2021 and ramp up Jan. – June 2022.

Mitigation/Recovery – Stacey McClain

- Covid-19 Public Health Emergency has been extended another 90 days on July 20, 2021; FEMA incident is still open
- Non-congregate sheltering/shelter-in-place – new requests have to go to headquarters for approval.
- FEMA policy extends non-congregate sheltering through November 30 2021 for FMAG and other Disaster declarations
- Hazard mitigation/HMGP has been approved for Covid, a NOFO will come out with details.
- Funeral assistance grant is still out there for Covid. We have about 5800 deaths that could be attributed to Covid and about 1500 applications.
- Have been approved for IA appliance fund, providing up to \$2,500 per/household for fire victims for wildfires occurring during the 2021 FY.
- There is 5 million in government budget for operations in individual assistant, waiting for guidance from OFM and Governor’s office on that.
- Four FMAGs approved for this fire season.
- Human Services will be working on the annual LEP report. Rocky Torres is our LEP coordinator.
- Hazard Mitigation application assistance opens, accepting through September 1st.
- FMAG application period opens on September 30, 2021. We accept pre-applications at any time.

Cyber & Infrastructure – Robert Ezelle

- We are in the interview process for Robin Lang’s replacement as our Cyber and Infrastructure Manager.
- Should be able to announce the incoming manager in the next 1-2 weeks.

Covid-19 Status and Fire Season

Robert Ezelle

Covid-19 Update

- Delta variant is bulk of our cases. The native variant is going essentially to 0; alpha variant was 75% and then diminished to be replaced by the delta variant which is now around 90% of our cases.
- Majority of outbreaks are among the unvaccinated. Seeing some breakthrough cases are occurring among vaccinated and among those most do not require hospitalization.
- Vaccinated folks can get and transmit Covid if they catch the virus.
- Our hospitals are at their highest capacity this year with covid patients.
- Capacity is diminished due to doctor and nurse staff leaving.
- We’re about a month behind England so looking at their numbers is usually what we end up seeing here.

Fire Season

- We’ve been experiencing significant drought across the state.
- Seeing fires occurring earlier in the season.
- Currently dealing with 11 large fires.
- Had 15 fire mobilizations so far this season, 4 FMAGs, burned upwards of 30,000 acres this year.

Closing Comments

Robert Ezelle

- Next meeting is October 7, 2021, 1:00-4:00pm

- EMAG Members will vote on the EMAG Charter in a special meeting in September.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:45p.m.