

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP (EMAG)

MINUTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 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 – 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pattijean Hooper | <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Jenkins |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Johnson* | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carl Lunak | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Marquiss | <input type="checkbox"/> Cherrie May |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curry Mayer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brendan McCluskey | <input type="checkbox"/> Ada McDaniel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott McDougall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ute Scofield | <input type="checkbox"/> Jay Weise | | |

Guests

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amy Gillespie, Pierce County DEM | <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Klute, Kitsap County DEM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kurt Hardin, Thurston County DEM* | <input type="checkbox"/> Laurel Nelson, Seattle DEM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alysha Kaplan, King County, OEM | |

Supporting Staff

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maximilian Dixon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanura Jackson-Diaz | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tirzah Kincheloe | <input type="checkbox"/> Andy Leneweaver |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stacey McClain | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shane Moore | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annie Merritt | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Troy Newman |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Sabarese | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Utzinger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharon Wallace | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sierra Wardell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Wasserman | | | |

Call to Order/Minute Approval

Robert Ezelle

Robert Ezelle opened the meeting and confirmed that a quorum was present.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Meeting Minutes from April 1, 2021 minutes were emailed to members two days before the June 3rd meeting.

Scott Johnson moved to approve minutes.

Pattijean Hooper seconded the motion.

Minutes were approved unanimously.

EMD staff is working concurrent disasters. Recent staff additions include:

- Rachel Leuck, Credentialing Program Manager
- Annie Merritt, Continuity Manager
- Kevin Wickersham joined from DOH. Replaces Chris Utzinger as Response Section Manager when Chris retires in September

Fire season could possibly start early and have a delayed end.

From legislative session, a couple bills passed that have direct impact to EM community.

- Increase size of EMC by adding 2 tribe members and a representative of coroners and medical examiners; EMC is now 21 members
- Budget program, awarded 1M to administer grant program to assist individuals to replace appliances lost in fires
- Awarded \$500K with DOH to run pandemic AAR process, to look at how to improve pandemic resp in state; interim report due end of June 2022, final due end of June 2023
- Legislature supported Governor's request for 5M to assist individual and families impacted by disaster. Assistance will be funneled to recipients through existing programs.
- We will discuss formalizing this into an IA program and discuss what a PA program would look like.

EMC Update – Jason Biermann

- EMC approved strategic workplan
- EMC is charged with review of WACs related to emergency management
- Man from Edmonds is interested in WAC that addresses CEMPs. Determination was made that there needs to be a rule change made to the WAC, EMAG may want to weigh-in.
- EMC Agenda format was changed for EMC, trying to get EMC more relevant to TAG and the governor
- Robert Ezelle: WACs 118-09, 118-30, 118-40 are within the purview of EMAG and as subcommittee of EMC could be a good place to start the review and of the formal process to send back to the EMC.
- Chandra Fox – willing to be in work group for reviewing rule making for the WAC for now and the future. Advise if you'd like to be part of that group.
- Sharon Wallace – There are 3 pieces: CEMP, task for larger group of admin rules/WAC, and RCW that was scoped & narrow.
- Robert E – we at EMD will work with you on those

Preparedness Grants Funds Update - *slides presented***Tirzah Kincheloe**

18/19 EMPG fund reallocation and closeout status

- 69 of 70 19EMPG agreements closed
- Total turnback for reallocation: \$141,829: Total project(s) cost = \$283,658 (EMPG + Match)
- Will move forward with awarding turnback funds to Snohomish County for expansion of communication capabilities. Funds expire September 30, 2021.

20EMPG Status

- Passthrough funds: Awarded \$4,420,076, Expended \$1,739,996, Current Balance \$2,680,080
- Agreement End Date: August 31, 2021

20EMPG-S Status

- Passthrough funds: Awarded 1,717,531, Expended \$638,417, Current Balance \$1,079,114
- Upcoming reimbursement due date: July 30, 2021 (no extensions)
- End Date: December 31, 2021

21EMPG Applications

- Completed applications due June 30
- Review and finalization period: July/August/September
- FEMA Awards EMPG to State EMD: NLT September 30
- Agreements issued to locals and tribes: September/October

21EMPG-ARPA Allocation Discussion

- 21EMPG & 21EMPG-ARPA are 2 separate applications.
- We can treat them like normal EMPG funds, but must track them separately
- Period of performance is a 3-year period
- Members discussed how to allocate State Award 21EMPG-ARPA - \$2,136,034
 - M&A 5% - \$106,802
 - Balance - \$2,029,232
 - EMD Program Funding 15% - \$304,385
 - Pass Through 85% - \$1,724,847
- Scott Johnson moved for accepting allocation of 21EMPG-ARPA using EMPG-S model
- Curry Mayer seconded the motion.
- *Motion passed unanimously.*

EMC/EMAG Charter Discussion

Chandra Fox, Brendan McCluskey

EMAG Charter - slides presented

- Primary objective was to create a chair position that can advise the Director.
- Under II Purpose
 - Added E. Nominates Primary and Alternate Emergency Management Representatives to the Emergency Management Council (EMC).
 - Would like to have additional EM voices on EMC and felt EMAG was a good place to do that. They could be EMAG members or could be someone that works emergency management in one of your shops.
- Updated population tables for the counties and the cities; some small cities graduated to medium cities.
- Under VII. Officers: in working toward continuity of the committee, we would now include a chair and chair-elect in serving the position.
 - Members discussed the chair-elect finishing the chair's term and their new term.
 - Will update Vice chair to reflect chair-elect
- Under VIII. Members: member expectations spelled out
- Under IX. Elections: voting to occur in November and new leadership in place by beginning of the year
- Under XI Voting: if more than one person is put forward as chair, voting to be conducted via secret ballot.
- Members discussed how to address a lack of representation for a constituency group (e.g., small counties).
 - We probably just need to be proactive and recruit.

- Cannot appoint or direct; it's a voluntary organization.
- Smaller jurisdictions lose a vote when they're not represented.
- Next Steps will be to
 - Clarify the language in duration of terms to include completion of the vacancy of chair before chair-elect serves their own term.
 - Change vice chair to chair-elect
 - EMD will continue to provide admin support to new leadership structure.
 - *EMAG charter vote to take place at next meeting.*

Open Forum

EMAG Membership

PPE

- Chandra Fox – In Spokane County there's been a sharp decline in request for PPE. We along with the sheriff are closing orders at the end of June with final delivery being the first week of July.
- Scott Johnson – For last 10 weeks, we've been averaging 14 orders a week: 10 dentists, 3 adult care homes. They're stockpiling because it's free. When I broach the subject with policymakers here, there's no traction. We would not suffer a hardship if that program were to end.
- Deanna Davis – Benton-Franklin side requests have sharply declined. We put notices out in our sit-rep that we are not fulfilling any more requests unless they're an emergent need. If a request comes in, we are reaffirming with them that the requirements state that you must try to acquire these supplies on your own and have them certify to that. We have no issue with doing away with that.
- Jason Biermann – We haven't purchased PPE for a while and have pushed most of our supply out. Will keep a supply on hand for the Tier 1 facilities in case there's a wave of activity.
- Robert Ezelle – At some point the state is going to need to back out of the PPE provision mission and just maintain it for bona fide emergencies within the healthcare system. Those conversations are ongoing.
- JoAnn Boggs – We have been contacted by one of our school districts to see if we had extra youth masks. They want to stock up because they are anticipating that students will be wearing masks in the fall.
- Jason Marquiss – We have essentially stopped large scale procurement unless there is a consistent demand from counties, state agencies, and tribes. Single requests for items we don't normally stock, isn't something we ask DES to procure. Today we received notification from FEMA region 10 that they are trying to offload PPE. There is the Prestige Ameritech mask that come in small and regular size. In fit testing trials the small size of the Prestige Ameritech fits smaller than the small size of the 1860 and fits a smaller face. We could push those out in lieu of ordering more and request those from FEMA at no cost. Need cloth or any?
- JoAnn Boggs - They asked for youth masks, didn't specify what kind.
- Jason Marquiss – That's the best we can do right now. We can go back to FEMA and request a certain volume. Separately for this group, I have reached out to OSPI & ESD112 who is handling procurement for school districts. If this is an emerging demand, we can request those.
- Sandi Duffey – Can OSPI deal with it? It's an issue we have when distributing to other locations.
- Scott Johnson – What Sandi said.
- Jason Marquiss – We'll still stay involved with OSPI & ESD112. If someone needs small quantities of those masks, we can probably fulfill that in anticipation of the fall. We don't know what the status of PPE will be in August or September. We are waiting for DOH to take the lead on the future of PPE in Washington.

- Pattijean Hooper – Throughout of the pandemic, especially in Zone 1, King County, there has been a lack of understanding of our political leaders regarding what emergency management does and doesn't do. We've raised the issue with King County who has offered the Emergency Management for Political Leaders Course. I think it would be nice for an organization at this level, to present to officials when they are elected (sheriff, city council, etc.) to hand them a brief document "Emergency Management for ..." whatever their position is to include the briefest of ICS and briefest of expectations for what emergency management is. Is there anything that this organization could sponsor or develop, to educate without offending?
- Steve De Los Angeles – I love that idea. As elected official myself, I've had hard time convincing other elected officials that this is an important function. It's a good idea.
- Scott McDougall – Every time there is an election, I have a document that is updated, I have a meeting with them, developed by Stephanie Fritz and worked well for her. It could be used to provide some continuity across the state.
- Curry Mayer – Scott, if you would share that with us. There may be two pieces here. Each of us may know things specific to our org, could be a fact sheet for the profession overall and then each of us could spend time with officials within our own jurisdictions.
- Robert Ezelle – Nationwide this has been an issue, where you have established EM procedures and protocols and those have not been followed.
- Jason Biermann – One of the strategies in the EMC's strategic workplan is to increase awareness of the EMC and we've talked about creating a presentation to share with the constituent bodies that form the EMC and both the reps from association of Washington cites and Washington Association of Counties both volunteered to work on that strategy; it could be good to mix those strategies together. And I also put in the chat the Senior Leader toolkit that FEMA put out.
- Scott Johnson – Could we leverage the Secretary of State's office? If Secretary of State's office, puts out guidelines for newly elected officials, maybe getting something in there to recommend they touch base with their emergency management division would help.
- Robert Ezelle – Good message, I can reach out to them and see what they have. NEMA puts out an elected officials guide. I'm not a member of IEM. Do any of you who are members know if IEM has something similar? Hearing nothing, I'll try to track down that document for newly elected officials.

BREAK

EMD Program Updates

Select EMD Staff

Operations and Mitigation & Recovery – Sharon Wallace

- Kevin Wickersham is on board as EMD's next Response Section Manager.
- EM community should have received a survey from the EMC on attrition in the EM community. We'd appreciate your filling it out and/or sharing it with others.

Mitigation & Response – Sharon Wallace for Stacey McClain

- 2021 BRIC funding amount will be 1 billion nationally which is twice the amount of last year. FEMA will release the guidance on that in the next few weeks and we in turn will release our state specific guidance on priorities & deadlines.
- We expect BRIC 2020 results later this summer.
- Washington Recovery Framework will be sent to counties for final review this week. All recovery support functions have been completed.
- On PA, there's new diversity reporting requirements and cost-share. We'll be getting new information to you on that.

Preparedness – Troy Newman

- Welcome Annie Merritt, our new Continuity Program Manager. She'll be working at state level and our local partners.
- Planning – Shane Moore, Catastrophic Planner – slides presented
 - Catastrophic Planning to ID routes following impacts to our transportation system; priority Maps based on Local Feedback (survey results) and WSDOT
 - Mass Care Services: Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, Human Services
 - Water Infrastructure Systems: Identification of CONOPS, Understanding/Situation Overview
 - Operational Coordination to develop a coordination system to best manage a catastrophic emergency at regional level with initial limited resources
- Assessment & Exercise - Rob Sabarese - slides presented
 - Exercise Timeline over 2021 and 2022
 - Cascadia Rising 2022 Exercise Documents Timeline: MSEL is due in Feb 2022
 - WA CR22 Workgroups – 7 workgroups: Critical Transportation, Mass Care Services: Documentation and Evaluation, Milestones/meeting Planning, Design and Control, Scenario and Player Briefs, Week of Play. The last two workgroups do not have leaders at this time and are being led by Laura Hann, State Exercise Program Manager.
 - Exercise Documentation
 - Ground Truth Document (Nov 2021) – FEMA is in process of DRAFT Ground Truth
 - Evaluation (Dec 2021)
 - Master Scenario Event List (MSEL) (Feb 2022)
 - Exercise Plan (April 2022)
 - Exercise Evaluation Guides (April 2022)
 - CR22 Mid-Planning Meeting (MPM) Preparation (Sept 2021)

Response – Chris Utzinger

- Tomorrow is the 500th day of our full activation in support of Covid-19.
- Severe Fire Season this year; SEOC is transitioning from Covid to Wildfire suppression.
- This week we have promulgated a new version of the SOP; a 600-page document.
- Chris is retiring in mid-September and Kevin Wickersham is hired. They are in process of a 3-month handoff to support continuity in this position.
- State SEOC is undergoing a major upgrade on the SEOC floor and Policy Room.

E911 – Adam Wasserman

- Focusing on getting text to 911 statewide by the end of the calendar year.
- Currently we have 30 PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Point) that cover about 29 of the 30 counties.
- Working with county coordinators and PSAPs on their continuity of operation plans including taking advantage of our advance policy routing functions of our new ESI net.
- With passage of HB1477, which implements 988 as new suicide hotline number and expands crisis health system here in Washington, we will be representing 911 on the crisis response improvement strategy committee to help implement that bill.
- We were named to the Governor's Blue Ribbon commission on the intersection of the justice and behavioral health crisis systems that will develop a 10-year strategy to significantly reduce the number of individuals who experience a behavioral health crisis and make contact with law enforcement or enter the justice system as a result of their illness.
- Cyber – Robert Ezelle

- Robin Lang is departing EMD and moving over to Dept. of Veterans Affairs.
- We are in process of putting out a vacancy announcement to fill that position.

Covid-19 Status and check-in

Robert Ezelle

- Vaccine
 - The numbers are a little over 50% for Washingtonians fully vaccinated
 - We are seeing demand taper off.
- National Guard
 - Within National Guard, we are seeing drawdown of Guard assets in response to covid missions they have been performing over the last 1 ½ years.
 - Title 22/Federal authorization is running out at end of fiscal year in September. Soldiers and airmen that have been with us the whole time have large amounts of leave they need to take prior to the expiration of that authorization and there is a demobilization process they need to go through.
 - We will continue with 110 soldiers for the food bank mission through the end of July.

EMAG Priority, Agenda, and Workplan Discussion

EMAG Membership

- Main discussion points and priorities – slides shared
 - Remaining meetings of 2021
 - CY2022
 - CY2023-2025
- Chandra Fox – This looks to be tied to what EMC is trying to do with their strategic plan.
- Jason Biermann – The full EMC did approve the 6 strategies.
 - There is still work to do to get volunteers for the various teams.
 - Asking EMAG to do some of the work on the rule review and supporting the rule making with the change to the WAC that covers CEMPs.
- EMC 2022-23 Strategic Work Plan slides shared
 - 1. Provide purpose and focus for the EMC through an annual strategic workplan.
 - 2. Obtain feedback on EMC Annual Report
 - 3. Increase perception of EMC value and influence.
 - 4. Ensure consistent communication with EMC members and constituents.
 - 5. Review and analyze funding for emergency management.
 - 6. Review and update RCW 38.52.040.
- Robert Ezelle – Should we wait for the new charter to be approved and a new chair and vice chair?
- Chandra Fox to work with Sharon Wallace and Robert Ezelle to put together a schedule to work through the charter changes.
- Robert Ezelle – referring to EMAG Priority, Agenda and Workplan slide for possible priorities
 - If talking funding methodologies, is it time to look at how SHSP is allocated?
 - Legislation/Funding needs –how do you frame what is truly needed to fund emergency management
 - EM Program gaps & risks – the tying of investments to capabilities and a strong process to assess our capabilities and gaps.
- Jason Biermann – with changes to SHSP, it may be worth it to discuss if old methods still work.
- Robert Ezelle– Sierra will rely on you to bring forward the funding methodology discussion.

Closing Comments

Robert Ezelle

- Next meeting is August 5, 2021, 1:00-4:00pm
- EMAG Members will vote on the EMAG Charter at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:15p.m.