

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP (EMAG)

# MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 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

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|---|---|--|---|
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Steven De Los Angeles*           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sandi Duffey      | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Klute, Kitsap County DEM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kurt Hardin, Thurston County DEM* | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurel Nelson, Seattle DEM         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alysha Kaplan, King County, OEM   |  |

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Leneweaver | <input checked="" 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   | <input type="checkbox"/> Adam Wasserman          |

## Call to Order/Minute Approval

**Robert Ezelle**

- Chair opened the meeting.
- Jason Marquiss advised that a quorum was present.
- Meeting Minutes from Nov. 5, 2020 and Dec. 14, 2020 were emailed to members prior to the meeting: Pattijean Hooper moved for approval and JoAnn Boggs seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## Opening Comments

**Robert Ezelle**

- Welcome Curry Mayer of City of Seattle to EMAG
- Major Disaster Declaration for September fires

- Public Assistance (PA) has been approved.
  - Individual assistance (IA) is still pending.
- Governor Inslee is looking at masking requirements given new variant in circulation.

February 4, 2021 EMC Meeting Overview – Jason Marquiss, Sharon Wallace, Sandi Duffey

- Reviewed the current EMC Charter, about 1/3 way through
- Results of EMC Survey from Jan. 2021
- Vaccine presentation from DOH Incident Command
  - Jason Biermann, Snohomish county gave local perspective
  - Stacey McClain as State Coordinating Officer (SCO) gave status on various federal resources
- EMC Chair voting resulted in Jason Biermann as the new EMC Chair.
- Thanks to Sandi Duffey for her work as EMC Chair.

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## Preparedness Grants Funds Update

**Tirzah Kincheloe**

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EMPG Turn back Funds for Reallocation based on November 2020 meeting

- 18EMPG Turnback: \$47,545
- 19EMPG Turnback Estimate: \$94,284
- Total \$141,829 for reallocation
  - City funds are returned to “home” counties
  - \$56,236 will be returned to home counties from 19EMPG
- EMPG Reallocation timeline – today a vote is needed to finalize project details.
  - Internet expansion project under Jason Biermann
  - Total project cost is \$283,658 which is federal funds of \$141,829 and match funds of \$141,829.
  - Scott Johnson moved that the \$141k be reallocated to the internet project.
  - Curry Mayer seconded the motion
  - Jason Biermann abstained from the vote as it involves Snohomish county.
  - The motion carried.
- EMPG-S Reallocation
  - November meeting: Briefed status and requested reallocation ideas
  - December Special meeting: Review submitted ideas and projects
  - Final Recommendation: Reallocate to cities and counties that could accept and meet the match
  - Current reallocation status: 47 amendments in process, 5 pending

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## COVID-19 Status and check-in

**Robert Ezelle & Jason Marquiss**

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- Federal Government – President Biden issued an executive order for 100% cost-share for all BA eligible expenses back to beginning of event subject to appropriations.
- PPE

- Masks: We've been working with DOH and WSHA to identify near-term gaps in their membership's preferred masks 3M1860 and 3M1860-S masks
  - We haven't been able to buy-in with 3M or their distributors because 90% or more are already earmarked for hospitals and other health care facilities.
  - We submitted S&S request in partnership with DOH through FEMA to HHS
  - Request was denied
  - The only N-95 respirator they could offer was a US based company called Prestige Ameritech (NIOSH & FDA approved). Comes in a regular and small version.
  - We're expecting \$331,000 of them in the next 7 days
  - We'll have a couple state agencies do some initial fit testing specifically the small version.
  - May allow for a U.S. based procurement option
  - If we see 70% fit testing or higher, we'll share this with this group & broader EM group.
- Inventory
  - Last 3 weeks of inventory coming into the state has been higher than weekly inventories from Nov. & Dec.
  - It doesn't mean all hospitals and health care facilities are seeing the same trend.
- Nitrile Gloves
  - Multiple orders from previously reliable vendors were canceled; about 140 million pieces canceled from 3-4 different vendors.
  - Shifted those canceled orders over to J. Franco.
  - We have 80 million pieces waiting to be transported from California
  - Placed an additional 70-million-piece order coming in 30 days after that.
  - 1.8 million – 4 million pieces each week are requested across our counties, tribes, state agencies, much from long-term care or similar institutions.
- Questions
  - Brendan McCluskey – For the respirators, what about the ones DOH fit testing 3M9205 plus and stocking them since DOH is doing stuff with them already?
    - Jason Marquiss – The 9205 is similar but not a surgical grade and doesn't have as high of a liquid resistance as the 3M1860. The 9205 plus is better fitting in non-surgical settings, has a higher fit-test rate. Not sure what DOH is trying to achieve with that fit test.
  - Scott Johnson – When do you think our nitrile glove rationing will be alleviated?
    - Jason Marquiss – The 80 mil pcs in CA are supposed to be flown to SEA, needs to be palletized from there. Asked J. Franco to palletize in incremental quantities. As soon as we see another 10-15 million pieces, I think we can come off the scarce resource constraints. A week, maybe two.
- Fall Winter Surge
  - A spike occurred during Thanksgiving, after Thanksgiving, and at Christmas.
  - This week's modeling briefing show numbers are trending down.
  - Hope to get as many people vaccinated as possible.
  - Our capacity to give vaccinations exceeds supply.
  - 107k doses this week plus 60k to provide second vaccinations
  - Finding vaccination sites require access to a computer and presents an equity issue.

- SB 5101 – 2 Tribal members on the EMC – Robert Ezelle
  - Senator Stanford is the prime sponsor.

- There was support for it and testimony that AIHC recommend we create a subcommittee to appoint tribal representation to EMC and to discuss issues tribes wish to bring before EMC.
- Went forward without amendment.
- Currently negotiation and staffing on a reduced proposal by AIHC through Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) to put language into bill that tribal leadership will nominate tribal representation to be approved by TAG. Also makes consultation for the nomination to occur among the 29 WA tribes and the three that have treaty rights within WA, the Umatilla, a tribe in Idaho and another tribe in Eastern Oregon.
- The bill is sitting in rules pending going back to the floor.
- SHB 1099 Improving the state's climate resiliency through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework – Stacey McClain
  - Local government agencies that are required CEMP would need to include strategies to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating climate change impacts and natural hazard risks with their next update.
  - EMD is assisting with that.
- HB 1147 OIC Office of Resiliency – Robert Ezelle & Stacey McClain
  - Office of the Insurance Commission was tasked with doing a study on statewide resiliency.
  - The recommendation was to create an Office of Resiliency along with the appropriate resourcing to do its work.
  - At Governor's level to have the horsepower to work at exec leadership at State agencies.
- HB 1182/SB 5209, HB 1477 Enhancing and expanding behavioral health and suicide prevention crisis – Andy Leneweaver
  - State 911 office is coordinating with Dept. of Health – the 911/988 linkage.
  - We were concerned about roles & responsibilities
  - Today's EMAG calendar invite includes items from Nancy Bickford regarding Section 109
- HB 1271 – Jason Marquiss
  - Continuity of Operations for elected officials.
  - A mix of different healthcare initiatives placed into one bill because House and Senate members were limited by their caucuses in terms of number of bills they could sponsor or prime sponsor.
  - Includes addition of one member to the EMC, specifically from the Coroner/Medical Examiner field.
- HB 1340 – Robert Ezelle
  - Prime sponsor is Representative John Lovick
  - Looks at creating a statewide Pandemic and Preparation Response Task Force to have the state conduct with an in-depth after-action process that looks at actions at the state and local level.
  - In Tuesday's hearing, a substitute bill came forward. Will be moved forward Friday or next week.
- Questions
  - Brendan McCluskey – Regarding HB 1271 and adding Coroners to the EMC, it also changes the definition of a first responder to include coroners and medical examiners in it. Regarding HB 1340, sounds like the way the bill is written, that 1) the task force may duplicate some of what the EMC is already doing and 2) pre-supposing solutions to things when there hasn't been and after action report yet, 3) doesn't include a lot of local, municipal, or county representation on the task force.
    - Robert Ezelle – Not going to comment on the EMC portion. Part of what Rep. Lovick said was to not be prescriptive in the membership of the task force. Limit it to a few key members and leave it open to a much broader membership opposed to prescribing who must be on it. As far as solutions before we've identified problems, we've made the same observation to them and we'll see what the substitute bill looks like.
- Governor's Powers bills – Jason Marquiss

- Some bills are talking about limiting the Governor's powers from 30 days to 14 days to recommending 2/3 legislature vote to extend it past 14 days to including restrictions on state agencies for what rules or statutes they could waive in an emergency.
- There are multiple bills. Bill numbers and short titles are provided in the EM Update that went out April 3<sup>rd</sup>: 1004, 1013, 1020, 1029, 1060.
- Chandra Fox, WSEMA Chair President, published update on 2/3/2021 with bill highlights
  - Highlighted 1271 and 1340 for concerns that Brendan expressed, and other comments made.
  - HB 1152 Amends or appeals virtually all RCW's that have to do with pub health; eliminates local control for our local health districts in exchange for regionalization and impacts how EM partner with our ESF 8 agencies.
- Group agreed to forego a break

## **EMD Program Updates**

**EMD Staff**

### **Operations Unit – Sharon Wallace**

- Covid Public Assistance Update – Stacey McClain
  - Submitted time extension for damage assessment for the 28 Dec. to 16 Jan. Severe Winter Storm. We received many damage assessments, but not all, hence the extension.
  - Preparing for our annual PA Damage Assessment training, will be virtual.
  - Delivering/installing 28 new AHAB sirens through this spring/summer to complete our siren network.
  - FMAGs – 10 last year. The mitigation round is open; submission deadline is February 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - BCA/Benefit Cost Analysis contractor group brought on for BRIC/Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities has time left on their contract and will be used for our post-fire application round.
  - BRIC application was submitted on Jan 27<sup>th</sup> for \$143,395 for the state – our largest ask.
  - WRF/WA Restoration Framework is close to completion. One more of recovery support functions needed. Housing, economic recovery, health services, infrastructure systems, natural resources, cultural and historic resources are done. The social services are in review now. Community planning capacity building is still getting in review. Hoping to get the WRF signed & delivered by end of May.
  - Expedited Project Worksheet (PW). We submitted an expedited PW for vaccination support to FEMA; that is for money to get expedited out to DOH. Our total cost for that expedited PW was about 550 million; we get only get 50% of that upfront because that's an expedited one, about 275 million. Will get that money Friday or next week sometime.
  - 100% cost-share document. Memo that came out yesterday shows 100% cost-share for the whole disaster. The president's directive allows FEMA to pay 100% of federal funding for the cost of activities that have previously been determined eligible under PA category B section from the beginning of the pandemic, January 2020 up to September 30, 2021. We're waiting for more clarifying polices to come out from FEMA region 10. Another portion of the directive states they will expand eligible activities for reimbursement for activities conducted after Jan. 21, 2021 when the Biden administration entered office.
  - Non-congregate sheltering. Monthly requests have transitioned into a monthly management report. They're saying 100% cost-share for it; still no guidance on that. One of the reporting criteria on that is for us to say when are you going to transition this funding to HUD and how you will do it.
  - Covid numbers under Public Assistance (PA) program. When this first started we had 704 requests for PA, from that we have 180 projects that have made it all the way through the system.
  - Disaster Response Accounts (DRA) was submitted to OFM. This year we had we had to indicate what happens if we get the 90/10 split, 100% split, none of it. All those numbers have been submitted to the legislator.

- Question in Teams chat from Ron Cameron: Volunteer firefighters are paid on a call out stipend. They are working our various operational area vaccine events. Is the stipend PA reimbursable for the rural fire districts?
- THIRA SPR & CR22 – Troy Newman, Rob Sabarese
  - 2020 Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) – With the statistics, note we received 49% of the whole community.
    - Public Information & Warning: Access Functional Needs (AFN), 14% outreach achieved; Language English Proficiency (LEP), 1% outreach achieved
    - Public Health, Healthcare and Emergency Medical Support (EMS), 20% outreach achieved
    - Health and Social Services, 39% outreach achieved
  - 2021 THIRA/SPR Update
    - Step #1 - 69%, 20 of 29 counties from HLS 1-8 participated; 4 tribes participated; HLS Region 9 conducting regional THIRA via contractor
    - Step #2 - 155 tribe/county scenarios developed – 60% complete, 40% in progress
    - Step #3 – to begin in mid-March
    - State THIRA complete June. SPR begins June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.
  - CR22 Update
    - Initial Planning Meeting – March 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00am-12:00pm, with breakout 1:00pm-2:00pm
    - Recovery component is scheduled for November of 2022
    - FEMA has brought on contractors for each of the states in Region 10. Idaho and Oregon have theirs. FEMA has hired on their FEMA FIT contractor for integration with WA EMD for Exercise support.
    - Planning Timeline – once FEMA contractor is brought on, they’ll start their MSEL planning, work will be conducted through 2021, with finalization of the MSEL work in Jan. 2022.
  - Questions
    - Jason Biermann – Thanks to Sharon, Troy, Stacey, and Chris Utzinger who were responsive to my question about the logistics and supply chain and impact on CR22 with regional catastrophic planning grant and deliverables.
    - Laurel Nelson – 1) At one point we heard that Seattle was going to be getting FEMA IMAT during the Cascadia Rising exercise. Is that still happening or is it a rumor? 2) When are you planning to conduct your annual training and exercise planning workshop this year?
      - Rob Sabarese – I’ll follow-up on that to make sure we’re tracking that. The training & exercise workshop is the Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop, scheduled for the latter part of April and we’ll get information out very shortly.
- Operations Hiring Notes – Sharon Wallace
  - Credentialing Program Manager – This position has been advertised and applications are being reviewed; we have 5 candidates and interviews start Monday.
  - Continuity Program Manager – The position description is complete and has been signed off on by Robert Ezelle and HR. Just awaiting the recruitment on that.
  - Response Section Manager – Chris Utzinger is retiring this summer. We completed a small update to the position description which has been reviewed/signed off on by Robert Ezelle and HR. The job announcement is being reviewed and will be posted soon. The position will be double filled with the intent of training possibly February through August.
- Cyber & Infrastructure – Robin Lang – No updates

- E911 – Andy Leneweaver – No updates

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**EMAG Charter**

**Jason Marquiss**

- EMAG Chair
  - Discussion took place: Should the EMAG chair be a represented member or should Robert continue to serve in that capacity or establish a member voted chair and a member voted vice chair?
  - Robert Ezelle - We will begin the work of charter revision.
  - Jason Marquiss – Can work it and shop to members and bring to vote.
  - Working the charter revision: Brendan McCluskey, Chandra Fox, Sharon Wallace

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**Closing**

**Jason Marquiss**

- Jason Biermann – With EMC election this morning, did talk to constituents of large west side county rep, Kurt Hardin has said he’s willing to step up and rep large west-side counties. I am nominating him to fulfill that role.
  - Jason Marquiss – We will get appointment orders written up to get Kurt recognized as the next primary member.
  - Jason Biermann – Has documented that Jody Ferguson is willing to stay on as alternate.
- Scott Johnson moved to adjourn. Scott McDougall seconded the motion.
- Next EMAG meeting is April 1st, 2021.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:10p.m.