

# MINUTES

## Emergency Management Council Meeting

August 8, 2021 | 0902 | *Meeting called to order by Jason Biermann, Chair*

### Attendees

- 1 A list of virtual primary and alternate member attendees is at the end of these minutes.

### Approval of Minutes

**Jason Biermann, Chair**

- 2 A motion was made by Chandra Fox to approve the June 3, 2021, minutes as written. It was seconded by Kirk Holmes. *Minutes Approved as submitted.*

### Opening Comments

3 **Maj. Gen Daugherty**

- The General thanked the members of the Emergency Management Council (EMC) for their hard work.
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4 **Robert Ezelle**

- Robert Discussed staff changes. Deputy Director, Jason Marquiss, has departed EMD for a position with Department of Enterprise Services (DES). His position will be posted soon. Cyber and Critical Infrastructure Unit Manager, Robin Lang has transferred to the Department of Veteran Affairs.
- The Washington State Emergency Management Program is now Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) accredited.
- Fires - There have been 15 mobilizations, four Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGS), 330,000 acres burned. The fire landscape could change significantly due to an impending wind event. We are currently working with the governor on a few amendments to the burn ban proclamation. Those included changes to truck driver hours. The lack of availability of aviation fuel has become a nationwide problem. Smaller airlines depend on trucked fuel. The problem isn't with a shortage of fuel rather a shortage of licensed truck drivers.
- At the end of June, All Hazard Alert Broadcast (AHAB) siren buildout was completed. We installed 50 more sirens. We were also able to secure \$1,000,000 in funding from the legislature to add to our seismic sensor network.
- On August 11, from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM, we would like to invite you to our diversity and inclusion listening session. We would like to hear how our efforts are working and challenges you may be experiencing with the agency.

5 **Jim Baumgart**

- Jim gave a budget update, talked about pandemic After Action Review (AAR), and

three additional positions coming to the Emergency Management Council (EMC). These positions need to be reviewed, selected and appointed. According to Jim, this is the first year that we have had state funding for individual assistance. We need to work through the mechanics of how we implement that program. We are beginning to look at strategic goals and agendas for the coming year.

## Committee Reports

Jason Biermann, Chair

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### **Committee Status Discussion**

- Discussed which committees we would like to continue and the need to find volunteers for those subcommittees. We currently have six workgroups, they are as follows: Strategic Planning, Emergency Management Advisory Group (EMAG), State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), Washington Mutual Aid System (WAMAS), Seismic Safety, Inclusion and Equity. The last two have been inactive.
- Casey Hannel of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) spoke on the seismic safety committee's inactivity. He explained that due to COVID-19 and other priorities the committee has trailed off a little. Casey would like to hear from Jason, Robert and the rest of the council for feedback. The committee needs to work on a new charter and work on a new strategic plan.
- Jason explained that the new strategic plan of the EMC included language stating that each subcommittee should update their charters. In terms of interaction with the EMC, historically there has been a report out, we would like to see the subcommittees build out more of the agenda.
- Nathan Weed mentioned that the Department of Health (DOH) will continue work on the Inclusion and Equity workgroup and would be willing to support any other members if they would like to work on it as well. Kim Conner with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), would like to work with DOH to keep the Inclusion and Equity workgroup moving forward.
- Jason discussed WAMAS. There is currently an opening in the subcommittee for a member of the EMC. Mark Douglas with the Emergency Management Division (EMD) spoke about that position. Current members are Robert Ezelle(chair), Ray Cockerham, Philip Lemley, and Bill Gillespie. Bill is looking to be replaced as well creating two vacancies. Robert Ezelle implored people to join. Chandra asked if she could assign staff to the work group, but per the Revised Code Washington (RCW) the workgroup members must also be members of the EMC. Robert would like to address this law with the legislature. Jason asked members to consider volunteering by next meeting.

## 2021 Annual Report

Jason Biermann, Chair

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### **Review Plan, Proposed Content Timeline**

The intention is to shift the annual report schedule; this will not start until 2022. There was agreement to focus the 20-21 annual report on COVID-19 and its impact on other events and disasters. Jason presented a slide to go over the Strategic plan

proposed outline. The floor was opened to the group to make outline changes. No one had any suggestions.

#### 111 **Identify Authors**

- Nathan Weed – Editorial support, content
- Bill Gillespie and Chandra Fox – Utilization of Incident Management Teams (IMTs) and Spokane’s specific use of IMTs
- Kyle Bustad – Public/private partnerships
- Sharon Wallace – Content management and design
- Jason Bierman – Content management

## Current and Recurring Emergency Management Issues

#### 112 **COVID-19**

##### • **Vaccine Distribution and Disease Trends**

**Nathan Weed, DOH COVID-19 Response Incident Commander**

Nathan presented a slide that illustrated the following:

- Statewide COVID-19 Trends
  - Daily Positive Tests
  - Daily Hospital Admissions
  - Daily Mortality
  - Trends in Case Rates by Age
- WA Health Hospital Occupancy
  - Total hospital beds occupied by confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients.
  - Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds occupied by confirmed/suspected COVID-19 patients.
  - Proportion of cases attributable to variants.
  - *Jason asked about mandating vaccines, and what conversations are being considered for mitigation.*
    - We are looking at how to mandate vaccines without infringing on the rights of others. We will probably be seeing masking indoors.
  - *Greg asked what the future looks like, considering the United States (US) seems a bit delayed, compared to the UK, when experiencing trends of COVID-19. Since the United Kingdom (UK) is now seeing a shift downward, should we expect to see the same thing occur here in the US?*
    - Nathan went over the idea that historically aggressive viruses tend to burn out quicker. We are hoping that is the case here, but we don’t want to place the hope above the prevention.
  - *General Daugherty asked about the vaccine becoming available for younger children.*
    - No new developments at this point; however, Pfizer has approached the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding younger children. Nathan emphasized that masking has been very effective

until children can be vaccinated.

- *Arel Solie asked about the press release which indicated 92 percent of hospitalized cases are unvaccinated. She mentioned that the numbers are confusing and offered that it might be helpful to focus data on children over 12 and children under 12. Currently the data sets don't convey the urgency needed.*
  - That feedback will be pushed to the team.
- *Jason asked about the saturation in the hospitals, "How are we mitigating the stress?"*
  - In Washington state, we don't have the hospital capacity for respiratory virus season. This has been a recurring issue for the past six years. We are having conversations with medical associations and stakeholders across the state to try to find ways to mitigate that stress.

- **Stacey McClain, EMD, State Coordinating Officer**

The public health emergency was extended 90 days on July 20, which is good news for reimbursement. It ties into the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) incident period for COVID-19, which is still open. We haven't heard anything from FEMA about closing that incident period. Many jurisdictions are using FEMA Public Assistance funding for isolation and quarantine, but there are a lot of jurisdictions that are using the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, as well as other funds to pay for their isolation and quarantine, but those programs will be expiring soon. There will be a meeting Friday, August 6, with local health jurisdictions to go over a regionalization approach to isolation and quarantine. There was some confusion regarding the 90-day extension for emergency use non-congregate shelters, which extended that policy out until November 2021. This is not the policy regarding isolation and quarantine for COVID-19. This is for non-congregate shelter for *any* approved disaster. The FEMA Funeral Assistance Grant is still available. Washington State registration is at approximately 24 percent compared to the national average of 42 percent.

- *Bill Gillespie asked about reimbursable amounts for COVID-19 response.*
  - We are at about 1.2 billion in the system when it comes to all public assistance projects for COVID-19.

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## **Community Lifelines – State Implementation**

### **Kevin Wickersham, EMD**

Kevin presented a slide that covered the following:

- Community Lifelines Defined
- Community Lifeline Components
- Incident Stabilization
- Determining Lifeline Condition
- Qualitative Condition Designation

- Community Lifeline Implementation in the SEOC
  - *Nathan asked what would be the most helpful from the group.*
    - Please stay tuned for the moment.
  - *Eli King asked how we plan on engaging with state agencies who own different critical infrastructure coordination.*
    - It will be a critical effort, but we do not have a clear picture moving forward just yet.
  - *Jason asked if it is fair to say this is going to touch all different ESFs as we know them.*
    - Yes.
  - *Jason stated that the EMAG would be a good place to get feedback.*

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### **Cascadia Rising 2022 (CR22)-Recovery Exercise**

#### **Robert Sabarese, EMD**

- Robert presented a slide that covered CR22 Initiatives  
*Eli King added a comment to the chat feature, "as an FYI - SONS will have limited impact on WA Energy Partners but I am coordination with DOE and Oregon."*  
*Jason thanked Rob and Vince with FEMA Region X, for the support to the Catastrophic Planning Grant.*

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### **Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) Executive Summary- Participation and Future Goals**

#### **Robert Sabarese, EMD**

- Robert shared the 2021 THIRA Executive Summary He spoke about counties who have partially participated, stating that data cannot be effectively assess because of insufficient (partial) data. We are needing more support around details from counties that have only provided partial data.
  - *Jason made a comment regarding THIRA Step 3 insufficient data in surveys, from the perspective of a local emergency manager, stating one of the difficulties is, to get the level of detail that we need, we really need input from the other sectors. I don't think anyone likes it when we make up answers for each other. So, I would really ask that all the other sector representatives, as best you can help communicate that through your respective associations or groups the importance of this work.*
  - *Chandra Fox stated that she agrees with Jason. She broke down her process for getting a high response, saying that she provided the surveys to stakeholder groups with the offer that if they needed assistance a staff member would be made available to them to help walk them through the survey.*

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### **2021 Fire Season Fire**

#### **Mobilization Pre-Positioning Pilot**

#### **Bill Slosson, State Fire Marshall**

- Bill shared a slide which included the following:

- Mobilization Act
- Mobilization Plan
- Mobile Authorization
- Mobilization Prepositioning
- Mobilization Activity
- Non-Traditional Response
- There were requests for the slides, but no questions.

## Regional Issues Impacting Washington

**Vince Maykovich, Acting Director, FEMA Region X**

No presentation given due to time constraints.

## Legislative Follow-Up

### 117 **Pandemic Response and Recovery AAR Task Force**

**Adam Wasserman, EMD**

- We have brought together a steering committee comprised of DOH, DSHS, and Commerce. We are currently working on the concept of operations. We will have that concept approved and to the governor's office. The next step will be to identify the members of the task force. Due to the complexity of the effort, we will also be sending out for an RFP to bring in a consultant.

### 118 **Wildfire Appliance Grants**

**Stacy McClain, EMD**

- We were awarded \$1 million out of the general fund, this biennium to cover appliances for the following counties that were affected by the wildfires in 2020:
  - Douglas
  - Okanogan
  - Whitman
  - Pierce
- We are currently building the grant. This grant will allow disbursement of up to \$2,500 per applicant. Applicants must be 80% below the county's medium household income. We are looking to roll it out at the end of August or possibly the first week of September.

### 119 **Governor's Emergency Fund**

**Stacy McClain, EMD**

- The legislature has approved \$5 million for recovery operations for individuals. We are still working through the process of how the program will be ran, with OFM.

### 120 **EMC Representation**

**Sharon Wallace, EMD**

- House Bill 1271 added representation from coroners. EMD will be working with Timothy Davidson at the Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners to help fill that vacancy.
- Senate Bill 5101 added tribal representation. Craig Bill, the director of the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, has a letter prepared that will be sent to the tribes within the next week requesting nominations.

### Closing Remarks

#### **General Daugherty**

121 FEMA is going to come out with additional grant guidance. Expect a press release for the Hazard Mitigation Grant program.

#### **Jason Bierman**

122 Meeting Adjourned

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## EMC Member Attendance

	Primary	Alternate
1	Jason Biermann	
2	Arel Solie	
3	Robert Ezelle	Adam Wasserman
4	Jim Pendowski	
5	Chuck LeBlanc	Melissa Gannie
6	Chief Michael Harris	Chief Brian Schaeffer
7	Casey Hanell	Department of Natural Resources
8	Chandra Fox	Kyle Bustad
9	JoAnn Boggs	
10	Bill Gillespie	
11	Nate Weed Erika Henry	Ron Weaver
12	Ray Cockerham	
13	Greg Welch	
14	John Himmel	
15	Kirk Holmes	



## EMC Non-Member Attendance

Other Departments	EMD
Jim Baumgart, Office of the Governor	Nancy Bickford
Kimberly Conner, DSHS/WASILC	Mark Douglas
Erin Coyle, Dept. of Agriculture	Stephanie Haertling
Sandi Duffey, Grant County	Stacey McClain
Sandy Eccker, Thurston County	Troy Newman
Scott Engle, Puyallup Police Dept.	Robert Sabarese
Jody Ferguson, Pierce County	Sharon Wallace
Nicholas Gibbons, King County	Sierra Wardell
J Havner, City of Seattle	Kevin Wickersham
Elizabeth (Eli) King, State Energy Office	Kathryn Zetzer
Angie Lane, DNR	
Amber Martin-Jahn, Serve Washington	
Curry Mayer, City of Bellevue	
Vincent Maykovich, FEMA Region X	
Martin Mueller, OSPI	
Tyler Ray, WSP	
Brian Schaeffer, Spokane Fire Dept	
Bill Slosson, Washington State Fire Marshal	
Steven Strand	
Keith Swank, Political Candidate 10 <sup>th</sup> district	
Ron Weaver, DOH	