

EMAG

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Advises the Director of Washington Emergency Management on the distribution of Emergency Management Assistance Funds.

MINUTES

Thursday, December 2, 2021

conducted via TEAMS

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Meeting called to order at 1:00pm

by Adam Wasserman, Interim Assistant Director of Washington State EMD

Members

Quorum met: Yes No

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

Member/Alternate

Member/Alternate

Counties

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brendan Cowan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ron Cameron | <input type="checkbox"/> Willie Bence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eric Brooks | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kurt Hardin | <input checked="" 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"/> Sandi Eccker, Thurston County | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jody Ferguson, Pierce County |
|---|--|

Director's Office

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

Supporting Staff

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tony Clark | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maximilian Dixon | <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"/> Sierra Wardell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathryn Zetzer |

Adam Wasserman confirmed a quorum was present.

Minutes from October 7th, 2021 were approved unanimously.

Preparedness Grants Funds Update

Tirzah Kincheloe

19EMPG

- Currently processing the final reimbursement request received from Snohomish county for HAMWAN
- Looking at \$0 balance with no funds being returned to FEMA

20 EMPG Status

- Received 49 final reimbursements/reports
- 19 outstanding
- Closing agreements once payments are processed

20EMPG-S Status

- Received 14 final reimbursements/reports
- 43 outstanding (end date 12/31, finals due 2/15)
- Final closeout documents due to FEMA 4/26

21EMPG

- Received 71 applications
- 58 finalized

21EMPG-ARPA

- Received 55 applications
- 28 finalized

EMPG Turnback Funds for Reallocation

- 20EMPG Turnback
 - Approximately \$71K and will increase slightly when final reimbursements are received
 - \$61,478 available for reallocation
- 21EMPG-ARPA
 - Unaccepted \$195,999
 - \$136,230 available for reallocation

EMPG Reallocation Timeline

- January 2022 – solicit project ideas for 20 EMPG & 21 EMPG ARBA
- 2/3/22 – Reallocation decision at EMAG meeting
- 9/30/22 – 20EMPG special project(s) complete and grant performance period ends
- December 2022 – 21EMPG reallocation process begins
- 9/20/23 – 21EMPG and 21EMPG-ARPA special project(s) complete and grant performance period ends

Slides to be shared with meeting minutes

- New members to EMC
 - From the medical examiner community Dr. Nicole Yarid of King County,
 - From the coroner community, Nick Henderson of Kittitas County
- From Public comment, John Holdsworth of Community Transit spoke to a legislative initiative to broaden WAMAS to include special purpose districts.
- Covid AAR – they are still in the process of selecting the local emergency manager representation
- After adjournment of EMC, met as Senior Advisory Committee/SAC
 - Discussed current usage of FEMA Grants that EMD controls
 - SAC provides input to the state administrative agent on capability building
 - Working to get agencies that receive preparedness grants to attend; DOH stated they are willing to take part.

Open Forum

EMAG Members

- Brendan McCluskey – Jody Ferguson was nominated and then appointed to 1 of 12 FEMA advisory council positions.
- NAWAS
 - Brendan McCluskey – King County and other counties have been having issues with NAWAS. From emails he’s seen, it seems like it’s FEMA’s issue.
 - Tony Clark – The same thing happened in July 2020. Rich Hall found that the problem was with AT&T. Tony is forwarding that to Lynell Wilkins, she’s the contractor with FEMA working on NAWAS. Lumens has been out there to test the circuit. The issue appears to be with AT&T and one of our connection points. It’s cutting off about multiple stations – Clallam, Grays, Pacific Island, King, Pierce, Mason, Thurston, Lewis, and the National Weather Service. Except for a couple, those are the same areas affected in 2020. It’s ongoing and being worked with Lynell Wilkins as well is Laura Goudreau from FEMA. Rich Hall has waited for Century Link at the site in the past and they haven’t shown up.
 - Adam Wasserman – This is a FEMA circuit, so they are resolving it correct?
 - Tony Clark – FEMA will coordinate with the collective companies to fix this. It doesn’t appear to be on the Lumens side, it looks like it’s the AT&T side. Rich Hall knew the technical side and is gone now.
 - Adam Wasserman – We have contacts at Lumen and AT&T working through the 911 circuit so we will engage at our level and make sure senior levels at FEMA are aware.
 - Tony Clark – The counties that we are unable to talk to, they are still able to talk to each other. So it’s something that connects us to those counties and they all seem to be along the I-5 corridor.

EMD Program Updates

Select EMD Staff

Operations – Stacey McClain

Mitigation/Recovery, Public Assistance – Stacey McClain

- The JFO has been relocated to Lacey while handling 4 open disasters plus Covid, totaling 5.
- We are conducting damage assessments for the floods, Nov 2-19th with possibility of adding 4-5 days to the event.
- Will be completing a damage assessment with FEMA on the 13th-17th
- PA was notified by FEMA HQ that we’ll be extending the 100% federal funding for eligible emergency measures under the Covid disaster.
- For the Individual Assistance/IA we’re doing damage assessments in Whatcom, Clallam, and Skagit counties to include the Quileute and Lummi Nation and Nooksack tribes. We’ve assessed 799 homes; of them 11 destroyed, 268 have major damage. We’re working with SBA & FEMA to validate these numbers and should have them by 7 Dec to submit for IA.
- The appliance grant that was approved for the 2020 fire victims in Douglas, Okanogan, Pierce, and Whitman counties, granting 1M to replace appliances lost or damaged due to fires. That application closes June 2022. As of now, we’ve only spent about \$48,000 for appliances.
- For the Washington Restoration Framework, the national exercise division is hosting 5 exercises to help the State and key players to work through the RSFs.
- For Covid, we received a Mitigation Grant round of 103M, deadline to submit pre-applications for that is 30 Nov. The deadline was extended to 3 Jan. for Clallam, Island, San Juan, Whatcom, and Skagit counties due to the floods.

- For the 4584 and 4593 floods, full applications are due 10 Dec. Invites have been sent, there is no extension.
- The 2021 post-fire round deadline is 19 Nov. EMD is reviewing applications and sending invites for full applications which will be due toward the end of Feb 2022.
- BRIC round deadline was due 8 Nov, EMD staff is working through ranking, reviewing, and working with counties to edit applications prior to submission to FEMA for national ranking. Deadline for submission is 28 Jan.

Preparedness – Troy Newman

Hazards and Outreach – Maximilian Dixon, slides shared

- Mt. Rainier Lahar Warning System is being revamped with new hardware and software which will add a few more minutes of warning time to the Puyallup River Valley.
- A communications drill was held this week and will conduct a larger communications drill in Feb or Mar of 2022.
- Had a successful Washington Shakeout this year with almost 1.4M participants.
- Completed our first Tsunami Maritime Response and Mitigation Strategy for Port of Bellingham earlier this year, working on a second strategy for Westport Marina, and looking for a 3rd location.
- Completed a vertical evacuation structure assessment for tsunami evacuation.
Proposed Options included:
 - Option 1: No Vertical Evacuation
 - Option 2: Community-Derived Vertical Evacuation
 - Option 3: Broad Spatial Coverage
 - Option 4: Efficient/Lean
- Have almost completed our Tsunami Event Response Timeline. Creation process included with federal, state, local stakeholder participation inf meetings, SOP, walkthroughs, updates, and a tsunami seminar and workshop.
- In 2022, will work on WA Unreinforced Masonry Building (URM) Database with Dept. of Commerce and other state agencies to determine how to complete the database.

E911 – Adam Wasserman

- A bill is going to legislature for clean-up of language of in the 911 RCW to remove outdated language.
- Text to 911 goal was for it to be state-wide by end of the calendar year. Right now, 26 counties have it operational, 4 counties in testing, and 9 that are still working on it. Hoping to have it state-wide by early spring.
- 3G network is coming to an end in 2022. AT&T is going to discontinue it in February, T-Mobile and Sprint will discontinue in March & July, and Verizon shortly after. Those with phones operating on 3G won't be able to dial 911.

Upcoming Legislative Session

Robert Ezelle

- Representative Leavitt is crafting a bill to provide financial assistance to jurisdictions that exhaust the resources in providing heating and cooling center options; it would be a reimbursement grant. Members discussed potential cost-basis to stand-up heating and cooling centers.
- For 2023-2025 session we'll review lessons learned from Covid, climate change, and future responsibilities. Can we establish revolving mitigation funds that communities can borrow against and then match to pay over the long-term?

Covid-19 Status and Flooding Status

Robert Ezelle

Flooding Status

- SEOC was activated to Level 1 for flooding taking place primarily in Whatcom, Skagit, and Clallam counties.
- In Whatcom county, the Nooksack river broke multiple levees, there was widespread flooding of farmland and communities, loss and damage to private and public property, issues with livestock feed getting to the farms.
- Clallam County, there were landslides that cut off road access; most have been restored, but Hwy 112 is still closed due to slow-moving landslide.
- Drinking water in Clallam Bay went through pipe that was co-located with the road and severed. They put a temporary pipe in place which is in jeopardy due to the continued movement of the landslide. Trying to work alternatives with the county.

- Confirmed current chair nominee is Chandra Fox
- Brendan McCluskey nominated Scott Johnson as chair elect. Jason Biermann seconded.
- Robert confirmed there were no other nominations, and the period of nominations was then closed.
- Chandra Fox confirmed she is willing to serve as the Chair this year.
- Scott Johnson confirmed he is willing to serve as the Chair elect this year and Chair in the following year.
- EMAG members voted unanimously for Chandra Fox as Chair and Scott Johnson as Chair Elect.
- Robert passed the meeting to Chandra
- Going forward must work to fill vacant positions
- Chris moved, and Brendan seconded the motion to accept the 2022 calendar of meetings.
- EMAG members unanimously voted on 2022 meeting dates as follows:
 - 3 February
 - 7 April
 - 2 June
 - 4 Aug
 - 6 Oct
 - 3 Nov
 - 1 Dec
- The 2022 meetings will be virtual or possible hybrid in the future.
- Sandi Duffey stated Eastside Medium Counties per the charter has 2 member positions.
- Deanna Davis advised that Tony Miller of Yakima County will be the 2nd representative for Eastside Medium Counties. An Appointment letter will be sent to Tony Miller.
- Areas with vacancies are:
 - Eastside Small Counties, Tier 1 needs an alternate
 - Eastside Small Counties, Tier 2 needs an alternate
 - Eastside Small Counties, Tier 3 needs member and alternate
 - Westside Medium Counties needs an alternate
 - Small Cities, needs an alternate
 - Medium Cities, Position 1 needs member and alternate
 - Medium cities, Position 2 needs member and alternate
- JoAnn Boggs sent an email to EMD for Ashley Strickland to be her alternate in Eastside Small Counties Tier 1; an appointment letter will be sent to him.

Closing Comments***Chandra Fox and Robert Ezelle***

- Next meeting is February 3, 2022, 1:00-4:00pm

Meeting Adjourned at 2:09 p.m.