

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of Meeting August 4, 2022,

Meeting called to order by Joann Boggs, Acting Chair, 9:05 AM

In Attendance – Introduction of Attendees

JoAnn Boggs requested the status of quorum; Sharon Wallace confirmed quorum was achieved.

Approval of Minutes

Joann Boggs, Acting Chair

Stephanie Wright motioned to approve June 2, 2022; minutes as submitted.

Fred Brink seconded the motion.

Without objection, the council unanimously approved the minutes as submitted.

Call To Order

Joann Boggs, Acting Chair

JoAnn Boggs thanked Jason Biermann for his years of service following the announcement of his departure from the EMC. His new position is Senior Policy Advisor with the Snohomish Executive's Office.

Fred Brinks motioned to accept the resignation of Jason Biermann.

Stephanie Wright seconded the motion.

Without objection, the council accepted the resignation of Jason Biermann.

JoAnn Boggs announced that nominations for the Chair position will be accepted the 2023-24 term at the October meeting.

Fred Brinks nominated JoAnn Boggs to serve as the Acting Chair until the December election.

Chandra Fox seconded the motion.

The council voted to appoint JoAnn Boggs as the acting Chair through December.

Sharon Wallace discussed changes to the EMC Charter stating that most changes were minor.

- Anywhere that had stated "pertaining to state and local emergency management," language was added to include "tribal," and the new membership for the Eastern and Western Washington Tribal Representatives was added.
- Added language to clarify our part of our elections process.
- Language was added stating that nominations for officers will be accepted prior to the last meeting, with an additional call for nominations from the floor will occur during the last meeting.
- Added in when we are asking our subcommittees to turn in their summaries. EMD requests summaries three weeks prior to the scheduled Council meeting rather than two.
- Made a grammatical change from proscribed to prescribed.

Stephanie Wright motioned to accept the changes to the EMC Charter.

Fred Brink seconded the motion.

Without objection, the council approved the updates to the EMC Charter.

JoAnn Boggs discussed the need for two new members for the WAMAS subcommittee. This committee supports the infrastructure of interstate mutual aid systems. They update guidelines and procedures to facilitate implementation and infrastructure, mutual aid, interest, and mutual aid assistance by member jurisdictions,

including but not limited to, the following projected or anticipated cost checklist and forms for requesting and aiding, correct record keeping, reimbursement procedures and other implementation issues. WAMAS had five members, now it's down to two or three. There were no volunteers.

JoAnn Boggs opened the floor for volunteers for the WAMAS subcommittee.

Bill Gillespie asked who the current members are. **Sharon Wallace** answered: Robert Ezelle as Chair, Ray Cochran, and Bill Gillespie.

Quyen Thai asked how often the subcommittee currently meets. **Sharon Wallace** answered monthly.

Sharon Wallace will reach out offline to fulfill these positions.

Chandra Fox asked if the WAMAS Subcommittee members need to be EMC Members, or could they be volunteers?

Sharon Wallace answered that they need to be either primary or alternate EMC Members.

Opening Comments

General Daugherty, Sonja Hallum, Sharon Wallace

General Daugherty gave opening remarks and thanked everyone for attending the meeting today. He congratulated Jason Biermann for his new position with the Snohomish County Executive's Office and looks forward to working with him in his new capacity and expressed his appreciation for Joann Boggs stepping into the Acting Chair role in the interim. He discussed incentivizing those who volunteer for the committees. General Daugherty mentioned the current fire burning in Vantage, that is currently burning in the brush and hasn't yet moved to any big timber, reminding the council that we're still on the cusp of a potentially serious fire season. COVID is still with us, and the General is wishing everyone good health and to keep vigilant until the bug is finally gone.

Sonja Hallum introduced herself as the Governor's Senior Policy Advisor for Public Safety. She described her portfolio as having previously included everything related to public safety, which includes criminal justice corrections, juvenile justice policing, firearms, and criminal justice reform. The issues related to Emergency Management and military were moved into her portfolio. She stated, "These are very new issues to me. I've not worked in these areas, so I'm on a very much of a journey of learning. I'm here today to listen and learn and would invite any of you that if you'd like to meet and talk about the work that you were doing and help me to learn more about the issues in your area. I welcome that opportunity."

Sharon Wallace introduced herself as the Deputy Director of the Washington Emergency Management Division, filling in for Director Robert Ezelle. Sharon took a moment to thank Jason again on behalf of Robert, the entire EMC, and herself especially.

Speaking on the annual report, Sharon announced that legislative staff have reached out to EMD requesting a meeting about the matters in the annual report. A briefing will be provided on that. It will be a great conversation as it's the first in a long time, if ever we've received that sort of outreach.

Sharon described EMD's pending proposed decision packages for the upcoming legislative session.

- For critical infrastructure and cyber resilience is to expand that program to provide more support to local jurisdictions.
- An all-hazard incident management team package to develop and maintain regional teams to respond within their home jurisdiction, or to any other jurisdiction in Washington, and that will be coordinated with pass through dollars.
- State Emergency Operations Center staffing and technology modernization. Looking at establishing dedicated staffing for the principal SEOC roles which will hopefully allow some of our current staff to return to their jobs for which they were hired and then modernize some of the EOC technology as well.
- A climate change mitigation program decision package for hazard mitigation planning related to increasing our capacity.
- A decision package on the subsidized local match. Increasing the state match of 12.5% to the full 25% non-federal share for impoverished jurisdictions.

Tiffany Anderson, FEMA Region X, presented on behalf of Willie Nunn. She shared that the selections have been announced for BRIC and flood mitigation assistant grant programs for fiscal year 2021.

Several projects from Washington were identified for further review in the national competition. Additionally, Washington had a few first round selections earlier this year for state locations, and congratulated state partners and thanked them for the work done with communities.

The announcement is not an award yet. FEMA will continue to work with applicants identified for further review to conduct programmatic reviews on the selected sub applications before making a final decision for funding and for FY22.

FEMA staff are looking at the next grant cycle already. President Biden announced that he's doubling the amount of funding available for BRIC programs to almost \$2.3 billion for fiscal year 2022. Watch for the FY2022 notice of funding opportunity.

The Hazard Mitigation Assistance Summer Engagement webinar series kicks off today.

Willie Nunn is heading to the coast to celebrate the completion of the Shoalwater Bay Tribes tsunami tower. He and a handful of staff from Region X will be attending. The tribe is the first in the nation to develop a vertical evacuation tower.

Finally, two representatives from Washington State were selected to serve on the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission, a federal wildfire commission. Congratulations to Tim Cook, Washington State Hazard Mitigation Officer, and Elizabeth King, Washington State Department of Commerce. Thank you both for serving on that commission.

Open Public Forum***JoAnn Boggs, Acting Chair***

Open to questions or discussion.

No discussion presented.

Meet-a-Member

Stephanie Wright introduced herself as a member of the Snohomish County Council where she has served on the County Council for nearly 12 years, and she's been on the Emergency Management Council since the end of 2018. During that time, she served as the Chair of the Washington Association of Counties. Before that, she was on the Lynnwood City Council for three years, and by trade, a teacher and high school librarian.

Current and Recurring Emergency Management Issues

EMD Operational Update

SEOC and EMD Update – **Kevin Wickersham**, EMD

- Kevin gave SEOC and EMD updates offering to answer any questions that may come up. Highlights included:
 - The SEOC continues to be activated at Level 2, which is a partial activation. We are staffed up given increases in fire activity lately in our monitoring activities. We're activated with a Supervisor and Operations Section, Chief Logistics Section Chief Pio. We have our public assistance group activated for fire management assistance, grant monitoring and activities. We have our GIS specialist up as well in addition to ESF 5, 7, 8, 11, and 15.

- Monitoring the mutual aid picture across the country. There have been several interesting events: California's wildfire activity particularly has increased, as well as significant flooding in Kentucky and previously in Montana and New Mexico.
 - We've sent out and shared a few different EMAC mutual aid opportunities, but nothing that was up our alley there.
- Heat Wave - No measurable precipitation in the forecast and we continue to have in the longer-term climatological forecast above average heat expected.
 - Fire potential still up there, particularly in the eastern portion of the state. The western portion of the state's lower risk and we understand from our DNR Environmental Office colleagues the fuel moisture is low and with continued heat and dryness, the risk is all still there.
- COVID-19 Update - A little bit hard to understand exactly what's going on in terms of disease transmission just given the amount of home testing and lack of reporting to public health. In terms of exact case trends, it's not exactly clear, although anecdotally and from the information we do have, it's clear there's quite a bit of COVID out there, the healthcare system, many folks are probably aware continues to struggle significantly, partly related to COVID, partly related to higher levels of activity from other things. And just ongoing staffing challenges there. As far as I understand the healthcare situation is about as tough right now as it has been in recent memory and kind of continues to be.
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza - Been about two weeks since the last detections in Washington or Oregon. There were investigations that happened in Kitsap and Snohomish County over the last week, which were tested and came back as negative for HPI. Still moving along at a low level there and hopefully again kind of fingers crossed tapering down.
- European Green Crab infestation continues to be an aggressive response, led through Department of Fish and Wildlife in partnership with the Ecology and DNR and the tribes and the locals and the shellfish producers. Just about everybody else who touches saltwater in Washington, they've captured something along lines of 100,000 of these green crabs so far. They're trapping aggressively and there are, estimated to be millions that they still need to catch. A slow-moving process, but they're doing a really good job with multi-agency coordination and they're making things move there.
- Fire Season - two current fire mobilizations for the Vantage highway fire in Kittitas County and the William Blakes Fire in Spokane County. Pretty significant activity on both. There is also the Cow Canyon fire over in the vicinity of Ellensburg, which is large, so they're Type 3 and Type 2 teams going out for all those last I heard.
- Monkey Pox - We're aware of 145 cases in Washington, which I think Washington now ranked 8th or 9th of states in the country. Not exactly the distinction we'd be looking for there, but DOH is working with the public health and healthcare sector. Partners certainly do investigate cases and are also doing post exposure prophylaxis and treatment for healthcare workers, particularly who might have been exposed to cases. Having effective vaccine and treatment for that is certainly different than COVID and different strategies involved, and they're doing their best to keep things under control there. The Department of Health IMT is active, and the World Health Organization did declare this a public health emergency of international concern.

SR530 Recommendation Review Update

Review Update - **Chandra Fox**, Spokane County EM

- Created a small work group because it's important when we do an after action and when we have lessons learned and recommendations that are made, it's important that we track what happens with those recommendations and anything that's associated with an improvement plan.
 - 17 recommendations were made, and we've been able to verify the status of 16 of those.
 - Review should be finished and can provide a final report on that at the next EMC meeting.
- **Casey Hannell**, DNR asked who the intended audience for the update was. Chandra answered the EMC, other interested parties, and the EMAG (Emergency Management Advisory Group – one of EMC's subcommittees)

Briefing: State Fuel Action Plan

- Fuel Action Plan – **Eli King**, WA State Department of Commerce (See Slides)
- Purpose of the state fuel action plan is to manage supply disruptions from a catastrophic incident to a regional disruption and an oversupply either a potential disruption or actual.
- Works with the Emergency Management division, but we also work directly with the governor's office when it comes to energy, emergency supply alerts, potential disruptions.
- Federal Government passed the 2021 Energy Security Act
- Discussed the difference between an energy supply alert versus an actual energy emergency.
- Status of the state fuel action plan:
 - Developing local fuel points of distribution, so I'll be working with all the different counties also with local fuel needs assessments, waivers, confirmation, conservation programs, and we're also in the process of understanding aviation and maritime fuel better.
- Washington selected to do a regional resilience assessment program
- Seed actions outlined in Fuel Action Plan (from least severe to most severe)
 - Activation and notification situational awareness about what the supply is, where it's impacted, coordination with the energy sector, along with local jurisdictions, special purpose districts and tribal nations to get damage assessment, along with from our SLTT partners and private industry
 - Assessing fuel needs determining prioritization
 - Implementing fuel conservation measures
- Discussed supply shortage.
- **Johanna Hansen**, Operations Manager, is offering office hours for anybody interested in starting fuel planning
 - We have a fuel needs assessment tool, a local jurisdiction planning guidance, a template, a checklist, and a point of distribution guidance.

Work Session: IMTs and All Hazard Mobilizations

Bill Slosson, Steve North, Kevin Wickersham

Bill Slosson, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal discussed Incident Management Teams (IMT's).

- Incident Management Teams are designed to work with local entities.
 - Delegation of authority
 - Scope of work
- Incident Commanders (IC) meet with local Agency Administrators to understand what is needed
- IMTs are the concept of assembling and training people that can respond to a major event that you know can be widespread or catastrophic
 - We send trained individuals nationwide to manage incidents that are beyond the capabilities of a local unit
 - Or within the capabilities of that unit, but there to manage that incident to not take away their ability to manage their day-to-day response work
 - Teams are comprised of the Incident Commander for the sections planning ops, and a command staff with the PIO Liaison and Safety Officer
 - All individuals have an exceptional knowledge of EMS and how it all comes together
 - Teams can manage all hazard types to include fires, floods, landslides, large scale, hazardous material incidents, hurricane response
- Two different kinds of Incident Management Organizations
 - Structure relates to complexity.
 - Incident complexity goes from a Type 5 Incident to Type 1 Incident, where Type 5 is the lowest level of complexity, and it progresses to Type 1 as the highest level of complexity
 - Type 5 Incident: One fire engine spraying a brush fire on the side of the road (lowest number of resources and least complex to manage)
 - Type 4 Incident: Qualified Incident Commander, different types of resources from different agencies.

- Type 3 Incident: Like our current fires, Williams Lake and Cow Canyon are Type 3 Incidents. Due to the complexity the Vantage fire is moving from Type 3 to Type 2.
- Type 2 Incident: Typically managed by an Incident Management Team. Standing roster of training and experience, using the system, and managing events. Between Washington and Oregon there are currently 8 Type 2 Incidents.
- Type 1 Incident: National Team. Organized regionally within the Federal Land Management Agency and lines up with the FEMA Regional system. Washington, Oregon, and Idaho are in region 6. Higher level qualifications and available nationally and managed by the National Interagency Coordination Center in Boise.
- NIMO - National Incident Management Organizations
 - There are currently five of these – they are a small group
 - Significant amount of experience and they receive unique assignments and help bring large incidents together

Kevin Wickersham, EMD shared slides and discussed requesting an Incident Management Team (IMT).

- We have six all hazard IMTs in Washington with various levels of staffing and capabilities
- To request incident management resources (full team or single personnel resources to fill certain positions).
 - If within a county escalating up to the county EOC first in the same way you know we handle all other resource requests and then.
 - In a county EOC, if they have access to a team locally or region can certainly go ahead and pull those resources directly. Counties also can directly request assistance from one or more counties under WAMAS.
- Can elevate the request through FEMA for a federal mission assignment to request assistance from federal agencies.
 - Form of those larger Type 2 and Type 1 teams.
- Need to be able to fund the costs of those resources and you need to be prepared to execute agreements with the agency or the jurisdiction that's providing support.
- WAMAS provides the framework for Interstate mutual aid, which is great and essential, but it calls for and does not substitute for a specific agreement that are executed at the time that a resource offer is accepted
- Delegation of authority is a critical piece too if you're intending to have the IMT manage an incident, you need to be prepared to delegate authority and articulate that desired end state and provide.
- In the all-hazard space in Washington, there is not currently dedicated funding that that provides for building or caring for sustaining IMT.
 - Working on remedying our decision package which would request allotments of stable annual funding that we provide to pass through grants to counties through a grant program that EMD would administer

Bill Slosson discussed how land managers do this with standing agreements.

- DNR, BLM, BA, WDFW, and NPS are all signatories to the Stafford Act Master Agreement, which gives them automatic ability to exchange funds and create business relationships and operational relationships.

Kevin Wickersham, discussed the Interstate Incident Management Qualification System (IIMQS)

- IMQ adopted as the standard for credentialing Type 3.
- Creating a process to get personnel qualified under the IRQS system as well as cross-credentialing personnel with equivalent QS qualifications.
- Setting up a mechanism with DNR for personnel who achieve credentialing through the all-hazard system to be recognized in the NWCG system.

Bill Slosson refers to 310-1 the Position Qualifications Guide.

- 310-1 provides a chart to show required trainings for each position and section.

Steve North, Chair of the Washington IMT Coalition discussed facilitating the development of qualified type three teams in the state.

- Represents 13 Incident Management Teams.
 - Implemented a peer-review committee and adopted a qualification standard (adopted by the state) for those teams that need the assistance to fully qualify Type 3 teams.

Bill Gillespie asks how this will be implemented at the county level, as well as any legal requirements for the counties to implement an IMT or to be signed up for one.

Steve North wants to discourage counties thinking that they need to develop a Type 3 team.

- This only works with counties collaborating with a regional approach.

Kevin Wickersham added that IST's are a thing but are generally affiliated with large Type 1 federal resources. As to the legal requirement, there is none "per se," regarding the development of IMT's.

Senior Advisory Council Meeting

Kathryn Zetzer, Robert Sabarese

Kathryn Zetzer, EMD discussed 23 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant funding allocation and project selection process update.

- Specifically talking about preventing, preparing, protecting, and responding to acts of terrorism in this grant program.

Robert Sabarese, EMD gave a THIRA/SPR PowerPoint Update (see slides).

- 33 counties and jurisdictions have provided THIRA data and information for review.
- Mitigation team is currently working on an update to the state enhanced hazard mitigation plan and what that means from their vulnerability and consequence analysis.

Closing Remarks

General Bret Daugherty expressed his appreciation for the informative discussion.

Adjournment

Joann Boggs, Acting Chair

Meeting Adjourned at 11:02 AM

Attendees

EMC Members and Alternates

Position	Name	Council Position (RCW 38.52.040)	4-Aug
1	Fred Brink	Primary Association of WA Business	x
Pos 1 Alt	VACANT	Primary Association of WA Business	
2	Stephanie Wright	WA State Association of Counties	x
Pos 2 Alt	Gene Strong	WA State Association of Counties	
3	Chief Scott Engle	WA Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs	
Pos 3 Alt	Chief Peter Fisher	WA Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs	
4	Chief John Batiste	Washington State Patrol	x
Pos 4 Alt	Arel Solie	Washington State Patrol	x
5	Robert Ezelle	EMD Director	
Pos 5 Alt	Sharon Wallace	EMD Deputy Director	x
6	Jim Pendowski	Dept of Ecology	x
Pos 6 Alt	VACANT	Dept of Ecology	
7	Chief Chad Cross (as of 11.2021)	WA State Fire Marshal's Office	x
Pos 7 Alt	Melissa Gannie	WA State Fire Marshal's Office	x
8	Chief Michael Harris	WA Association of Fire Chiefs	x
Pos 8 Alt	Chief Brian Schaeffer	WA Association of Fire Chiefs	
9	Hilary Franz	Department of Natural Resources	
Pos 9 Alt	Casey Hanell	Department of Natural Resources	x
10	Chandra Fox	Washington State EMD Association	x
Pos 10 Alt	Kyle Bustad	Washington State EMD Association	
11	JoAnn Boggs	Local Emergency Managers Directors	x
Pos 11 Alt	Jason Biermann	Local Emergency Managers Directors	x
12	Bill Gillespie	St of WA Search & Rescue Volunteer Advisory Group	x
Pos 12 Alt	John O'Rourke	St of WA Search & Rescue Volunteer Advisory Group	

13	Andrew Rose	Department of Health	
Pos 13 Alt	Ron Weaver	Department of Health	
14	Doug Powell	Washington Association of Building Officials	x
Pos 14 Alt	Quyên Thai	Washington Association of Building Officials	x
15	Greg Welch	Private Industry	x
Pos 15 Alt	Gary Chandler	Private Industry	x
16	John Himmel	Washington State Department of Transportation	
Pos 16 Alt	VACANT	Washington State Department of Transportation	
17	Kirk Holmes	American Public Works Association	
Pos 17 Alt	Jennifer Bailey	American Public Works Association	x
18	Martin Mueller	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	x
Pos 18 Alt	Mike Donlin	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	
19	Nick Henderson	Coroner/ME	
Pos 19 ALT	Dr. Nichole Yarid	ME/Coroner	
20	VACANT	Federally Recognized Tribe (Eastern Washington)	
Pos 20 ALT	VACANT	Federally Recognized Tribe (Eastern Washington)	
21	Chief Jasper Bruner	Federally Recognized Tribe (Western Washington)	x
Pos 21 ALT	VACANT	Federally Recognized Tribe (Western Washington)	