

EMAG

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

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

MINUTES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

conducted via TEAMS

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Meeting called to order at 1:01pm

by Adam Wasserman, Interim Assistant Director of Washington State EMD

Members

Quorum

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ashley Strickland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandi Duffey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deanna Davis | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antone Miller | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chandra Fox | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott McDougall | <input type="checkbox"/> Brendan Cowan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Cameron | <input type="checkbox"/> Willie Bence |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Brooks | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lis Klute | <input type="checkbox"/> Jason Biermann |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jody Ferguson | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Eccker |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brendan McCluskey | <input type="checkbox"/> Alysha Kaplan |

Cities

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cherrie May | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ada McDaniel | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve De Los Angeles |

Guests

- Tammi Wright, Mason County

Director's Office

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

Supporting Staff

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regenal Grant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Hollingsworth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanura Jackson-Diaz | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacey McClain | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annie Merritt |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Sabarese | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharon Wallace | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathryn Zetzer | | |

Chandra Fox confirmed a quorum was present.

Minutes from February 3, 2022 were unanimously approved with a change to Deanna Davis' attendance.

EMC Meeting Overview

Chandra Fox

Received Updates from:

- Willie Nunn, new FEMA Region X Administrator, who discussed his priorities
- Nate Weed with Dept. of Health
- Did some work as the Senior Advisory Committee/SAC
- Reviewed current draft of the Annual Report which will be going to the governor's office in June

Covid-19, PPE, Flooding Status

Robert Ezelle

Covid-19 Update

- Seeing good trends – disease rates, fatalities, and hospitalization rates are dropping
- Hospitals are returning to a more normal operations tempo

PPE Distribution

- We're mostly out of that business; it's primarily handled by Dept. of Health
- our logistics team is still taking a few orders from local partners and other state agencies

Flooding

- We're continuing to work through the recovery from the atmospheric rivers in November
- We received a major disaster declaration for the storms in December & January
- We filed a move to get the incident period opened to a little further back in December which was denied but we'll continue engaging with FEMA to get that approved.

Cyber & Infrastructure Resilience Subcommittee of EMC

- There used to be a Critical Infrastructure sub-committee of the EMC. We were struggling to get participation from our critical infrastructure providers and so combined it with some work that DHS was doing and just have one critical infrastructure group.
- We may raise the issue to the EMC, that we may bring back the motion to reconstitute the critical infrastructure sub-committee. Outreach to stakeholders is needed first.

Legislative Session

- We've been working with the Governor's office to move something forward with Individual Assistance
- In the Governor's budget
 - Bill for National Guard tuition assistance, correction to language
 - Modernize and bring 911 statutes into currency; removed all references to "enhanced" and other technical corrections; passed and we'll have a new statute for 911.
 - APCO NENA advanced first responder recognition to telecommunicators; that bill passed as well as of July 1st, call takers are classified as first responders.
 - In every one of our decision packages we request funding for the disaster response account; that was approved.

- Also requested legislature would pay ½ of local cost share for mitigation grants; that was approved.
- Had a decision package requesting two FTEs for access and functional needs and 1 for tribal liaisons; we received both of those.
- Additional items
 - Governor’s disaster assistance office increased to 10M.
 - Worked with Sen. Rolfes and received a \$300,000 proviso to draft up an IA program; we’ll contract with an entity to build the WAC to promulgate the IA and then take back to the legislature in a future bill.
 - There was funding provided for a cybersecurity grant that is going to be awarded under the infrastructure bill.
 - 85M was requested for disaster assistance to Whatcom county which didn’t pass, but 7.5M was awarded to EMD for disaster assistance for individuals and families for last year and this year.
 - We received 200,000 as a pass-through contract with the Ruckleshaus foundation to do a study of decision making during the pandemic.

EMD Program Updates

Select EMD Staff

Operations – Sharon Wallace

We are making progress on having tribal representation on the EMC and hope to have that in place in June.

Mitigation/Recovery – Stacey McClain

- Disaster 4481, Covid-19 recovery – we’ve processed 940M for public assistance and have an estimated almost another billion still waiting to be processed.
 - The 100% cost-share is effective through July 1, 2022
 - After July 1st it goes to a 90/10 cost share
- Disaster 4650 was approved on March 29th.
 - There are 3 tribes that were not on that list because they are not full in in a declared county.
 - The parts of the tribe that is in the declared county will be eligible for public assistance and the parts that are not in the county will not be eligible.
 - We are sending an appeal on this.
- Disaster 4635 pre-application submission deadline is June 3rd.
- The post-fire grant round submissions are in and EMD is submitting to FEMA in May.
- Disaster 4481 Covid round for HMGP, the full applications were due in April and are going out now. We received 1B in proposals on that.
- BRIC round 2021 – we are waiting for FEMA results and expect them in May or June.

Preparedness – Stacey McClain for Troy Newman

- IPPW
 - Integrated Preparedness workshop is July 27-28
 - Capstone on August 25th
 - IPPW Worksheets were scheduled to go to the partners the week of June 20; we now expect to send them within 2 weeks from now, end of April/early May.
- LEPC HazMat conference is April 12th and May 12th

Response – Kevin Wickersham

- SEOC
 - We’re bringing on a few 2-year project positions as dedicated support for the SEOC; the first time we’ve committed resources in this way.
 - A total of 7 project positions; 3 of these positions are posted: Operations section chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief

- We're also updating our Standard Operating Procedures, implementing lessons learned from the covid, and other items.
- We're working on the Covid AAR for the SEOC in furtherance of the legislative deadline for the statewide support.
- We've been working with Juvare on the WebEOC product; making some changes such as improvements in the resource tracker and updating the updating to the most updated version of the boards.
- Have been supporting the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife on the infestation of European green crabs.
- Working with the WA state of Dept. of Agriculture on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

E911 – Adam Wasserman

- Text to 911 – we have 3 counties that are testing and 28 that are operational, remainder should be done by late summer and then plan on having a state-wide advertising campaign.
- 988 is going to be the new suicide hotline number and starts July 16th of this year; it will be the new behavioral health crisis line as well.

Preparedness Grants Funds Update – *slides presented*

John Hollingsworth

20 EMPG Status

- We've expended 94% of funding
- Final closeout documents are due to FEMA December 29th

21EMPG Status

- Expended 14% so far
- The next reimbursements are due at the end of April.
- Balance \$3,958,817

21EMPG-ARPA Status

- Expended 1%
- Agreement end date is 12/31/2022
- Expended as of 3/31: \$14,144
- Balance \$1,517,718

Available for Reallocation

- 20EMPG \$369,924, includes adjustment of funds to closeout 19EMPG
 - King \$48,069
 - Snohomish \$1,619
 - Remaining \$320,236
- 21EMPG-ARPA
 - King \$53,948
 - Thurston \$10,055
 - Remaining \$192,985
- City Breakdown
 - 26 cities usually apply for EMPG funding
 - Would like to see more city involvement in EMAG meetings. Ms. Fox requested counties reach out to their POCs to see if anyone is interested.

Reallocation of Funds Brief – slides presented

John Hollingsworth & Regenal Grant

- Ranking spreadsheet shared
- CEMNet Upgrade Proposal
 - Columbia and Stevens are pieces of equipment of concern
 - Members discussed option with Regenal Grant of WMD IT
 - Chandra Fox made a motion to fund the maintenance and repair of CEMNet with \$275,000 and remainder to be used for the pilot test of the satellite system; seconded by Scott Johnson
 - The motion passed via vote in chat and verbal response.
- 22EMPG Timeline
 - Early April - The Notice of Funding Opportunity/NOFO will come out shortly
 - Early June - State Application due to FEMA
 - Mid-June – Applications released to locals and tribes
 - Early August – Completed applications due back to PGS
 - August/September – review and finalization period
 - By September 30 – FEMA Awards EMPG to state EMD
 - October/November – Agreements issued to locals and tribes

Pandemic AAR Discussion

EMAG Members & EMD Staff

- Chandra Fox and Brendan McCluskey are the EM representatives for the governor’s task force and have attended 2 meetings thus far.
- Adam Wasserman – with our internal EMD AAR, we reached surveyed state agencies so we could draw upon that as we put together the larger after-action pandemic report. They’ll be additional input opportunities.
- Brendan McCluskey – the special interests seem to be the most vocal and the west-side seems overrepresented compared to the eastside.
- Chandra Fox – she and Brendan will write up their concerns so it can be provided to the steering committee; please forward your concerns to Chandra Fox and Brendan McCluskey.

EMAG Strategic Plan Update – Strategic Plan shared

EMAG Members

- EMAG members reviewed and discussed objectives and initiatives in the EMAG Strategic Plan.
- Sharon Wallace – The committee must have a charter or workplan with scope, deliverables, annual review.
- Chandra Fox – We have a charter which doesn’t refer to a strategic plan. If we transition to a workplan, that should satisfy that.
- Sharon Wallace – Agreed.
- Chandra Fox – Everybody okay with take this document and set it aside
- Scott Johnson – okay with dumping it with proviso that we do still look at these to see if they have value.
- Sandi Duffey – Agree, we do need to have this in the back of our minds, like 5 sustainable funding for all levels of EM.
- Chandra Fox – If we table this document keeping in mind there are themes worth saving and put together our workplan
 - 1) Lack of city representation on this body should be solved sooner rather than later.
 - 2) The development of an actual process that we use to reallocate the EMPG money.
- Timeline to recruit city representation is by next meeting.
- Timeline for reallocation process is by end of 2022 but definitely by the end of the contract period.
- Subgroups
 - EMPG Reallocation Process: Deanna Davis, Lis Klute, Scott Johnson, Brendan McCluskey; Sandy Duffey
 - 530 AAR Review: Lis Klute, Brendan McCluskey; Sandy Duffey

Bill 1455 - Ban on Active Shooter School Drill

- You may be getting some inquiries from school districts on meeting their exercise requirements
- Legislation specified two full-scale exercises in a 4-year period.
- WAC 118-30 revision will be part of our workplan as well

Open Forum

EMAG Membership

No items discussed.

Closing Comments

Robert Ezelle

- Reach out to your city folks to gain city representation.
- Chandra Fox will email the Reallocation and AAR discussion groups.
- Next meeting is June 2, 2022, 1:00-4:00pm

Meeting Adjourned at 3:01 p.m.