

EMAG

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

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

MINUTES

Thursday, June 2, 2022

conducted via TEAMS

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Meeting called to order at 1:19pm
by Chanda Fox, EMAG Chair

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 type="checkbox"/> Ashley Strickland |
| <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Biermann |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jody Ferguson | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Scott Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant |
|--|---------------------------------|

Tribes

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

Guests

- Tammi Wright, Mason County

Director's Office

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Ezelle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharon Wallace |
|---|--|

Supporting Staff

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regenal Grant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Hollingsworth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Haertling | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacey McClain | <input type="checkbox"/> Annie Merritt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rob Sabarese | <input type="checkbox"/> Kathryn Zetzer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tirzah Kincheloe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Douglas | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Wasserman | | | | |

Chandra Fox confirmed a quorum was present.

The group unanimously approved the minutes from the April 7, 2022, meeting with a change to Sandi Duffey's attendance noted.

EMC Meeting Overview

Jason Bierman

Received Updates:

- EMC welcomed new tribal members and will update EMC Charter to reflect new membership and clarify administrative procedures.
- EMC reviewed the final draft of the Annual Report for the governor.
- Jason thanked Robert, Sharon, and Communications staff for their work on the report. Issues discussed in the report:
 - Incident management resource guidance
 - Public/private partnerships in Covid-19 response
 - All risk mobilization
 - Hazard mitigation and risk reduction

EMD Activation Updates and Pandemic AAR update

Robert Ezelle / Adam Wasserman

EMD Activation Updates

- We are tracking several activations, including winter storms, Covid-19, and residual issues from past fire seasons.
- In recent significant news: the expansion of the public health emergency incident period allowed us to roll counties and tribes which were not previously eligible into the January storms response. For questions regarding that effort, please contact Stacey McClain, stacey.mcclain@mil.wa.gov.
- Current activations
 - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)
 - Monkey Pox
- Projected Activations
 - Fire season 2022

Staff Changes

- Robert announced Nancy Bickford's retirement and introduced Jim Baumgart as her replacement.
- Sonja Hallam to take on the role of policy advisor.

CR22 Update

- Rehearsal of Concept with FEMA response in early May.
- Critical Transportation and Mass Care Services are the focus of the ROC and CR22.

Additional Items

- Robert provided an update on EMD's legislative agenda
 - SEOC staffing to modernize emergency communications
 - Mitigation Staff
 - Cyber and critical infrastructure support
 - Request for state to pay 100% of local cost-share for small and impoverished communities
 - Funding for credentialing IMTs

- State of Kansas TAG, and Kansas State University are studying local preparedness for food or agricultural incidents. They have asked EMD to encourage participation by the following counties:
 - Grant
 - Yakima
 - Benton
 - Skagit
 - Walla Walla

Adam provided a Pandemic AAR taskforce update.

- The team has broken down eight specific items listed in the proviso and will assign them to workgroups.
- Reviewing state agency after-action reports.
- Chandra asked if outside stakeholders will have an opportunity to join workgroups or if it is only open to taskforce members. Adam mentioned that it would be available to external stakeholders and SMEs, but a task force or agency member will lead each workgroup. Brendan stressed the importance that the task force stays in scope.

Fire Ready Nation Act

- Chandra mentioned that she participated in a press conference with Senator Cantwell discussing the Fire Ready Nation Act which
 - Focuses on NOAA
 - Codifies the National Weather Service’s role in wildland fire response
 - Increases funding for tech
 - Provides funding for the incident meteorologist program
 - For more information, follow the links below:
 - [Commerce Fire Ready Press Release](#)
 - [Senator Maria Cantwell- Fire Ready Nation Act of 2022](#)

EMD Program Updates

Select EMD Staff

Operations – Stacey McClain

Preparedness – Troy Newman

- IPPW
 - The Integrated Preparedness workshop is July 27-28
 - Capstone on August 25
- CR22
 - Begins June 13
 - 408 registered participants
 - If you haven’t registered yet and would like to, please contact [Niles](#).

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Critical Transportation (3 breakout sessions)	Crossover	Mass Care (3 breakout sessions)	Hot wash

Response – Mark Douglas

- SEOC
 - Currently activated at level 2 – Partial activation: Covid Response, Afghan Arrival Support-ESF6, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)-ESF11.

- HPAI - Working on detection and depopulation of infected flocks. Eight counties have reported positive cases, primarily in small to medium backyard flocks.
- Continuing to support local emergency management communications
- ESFs currently activated: 2, 5, 7, 11, 15.
- Wildfire season is beginning there is 50 percent chance of a “La Nina” weather system.
- Staffing: New Hires - Operations section chief Gary Roland, Logistics Section Chief Adam Mulvey, SAR Coordinator Amy Albritton; interviews in process for Credentialing Manager, Planning Section Chief and Logistics positions, and SEOC Manager; upcoming recruitment for additional duty officers.
- Intrastate Mutual Aid Subcommittee discussed the path forward. Sent out survey and received 18 responses from all entities across the state.
- The subcommittee will review the Operations Deployment Guide and update it. We will seek input from EMAG regarding updating the language in RCW 38.56 in the next legislative session, for example, adding language that would include fire service and special purpose districts, restricting jurisdictions from offering help for free, or allowing alternative reimbursement methods.

Mitigation/Recovery – Stacey McClain

- Legislators approved for \$75M for Individual Assistance (IA) for storms in 2021-22. We are working to build out the criteria.
- 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 percent cost-share is effective through July 1, 2022
 - After July 1, it goes to a 90/10 cost share.
 - Chandra asked if there is a timeline to return to the 75/25 cost share.
 - We already met our \$1B thresholds and should not be returning to the 75/25 cost share.
 - FEMA sent an additional data call looking for specific categories of individuals in quarantine; will this influence our reimbursement?
 - It could, but we don’t have a definitive answer.
 - Jason Bierman asked if there is a possibility of further constricting eligible activities for public assistance.
 - Nothing official, but yes unofficially winding down.
- We are in the process of recruiting for the Mitigation and Recovery Manager position and hoping to have a someone hired by July 1.
- Disaster 4650: Extended Winter Storm incident period to December, which gave us a 90% cost-share and allowed us to add Okanogan, Chelan, and Clallam County.

Preparedness Grants Funds Update – *slides presented*

Tirzah Kincheloe

Tirzah thanked John Hollingsworth and Sierra Wardell for managing the program while she was out.

20 EMPG Status

- Expended ~95%
- 12/13 reallocation agreements issued
- The overall period of performance ends in September
- Final closeout documents are due to FEMA by December 29
- Balance \$218,263

CEMNET update

- We are working closely with state IT, telecom, and budget teams to align costs. We will provide more information at the next EMAG meeting.
- With Ashley Strickland’s departure from Columbia County, Spokane County ACS group will take on looking at the feasibility of transitioning CEMNET from radio to satellite.

21EMPG Status

- Expended ~31% so far
- The next reimbursement submissions are due at the end of July.
- Balance \$3,167,656

21EMPG-ARPA Status

- Expended 5%
- The agreement end date is 12/31/2022
- 3/3 reallocation agreements issued
- Expended as of 5/25: \$79,856
- Balance \$1,487,801

22EMPG Status

- In the middle of drafting the state application to FEMA
- This year's award was combined with the additional continuing resolution funding, which makes it a little higher than previous year's
- Award amount: \$8.6M
- Application due to FEMA by June 13
- Passthrough applications will be sent out the week of June 13 and will be due back to the State at the end of July.

22EMPG Timeline

- Early April - The Notice of Funding Opportunity/NOFO released
- Early June - State Application due to FEMA
- Mid-June – Applications released to locals and tribes
- End of July – 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

Chandra added that some grant requirements are closely tied to the [FEMA Strategic Plan](#), and recommends reviewing it.

Representative Nominees Process

Chandra Fox

County

- Chandra will draft a letter to the East Side Small County Tier 3 group asking to affirm Lis Klute and an alternate as a nominee.
- Liz Jessee mentioned the charter had changed, so the representative didn't need to be an Emergency Management director. Her coordinator, Patrick, was interested in being the representative but is out on medical leave.
- Robert Ezelle stressed that nominees should be familiar enough with Emergency Management to be able to speak on behalf of that group.

City

- Received three nominations for small cities representation
 - Anne LeSage - City of Bainbridge Island
 - Colby Kavanaugh - City of Bothell
 - Mindy Mattson - City of Tukwila
- Question: Do we need to have a discussion or make a recommendation on these individuals? What is our process here?
 - Robert would like a quick discussion and then will decide after getting the community's thoughts.
- We discussed filling for positions with medium cities.

- Chandra will be reaching out to medium cities through the Association of Washington Cities representative, Fred Brink, to generate nominations.
- Call into Lake Forest Park to discuss the NEMCO interlocal agreement to get an alternate for Scott.
- Robert asked if Curry Mayer knew she had a seat on EMAG.
 - Sharon will reach out to Curry.

SR530 AAR Planning Update

Chandra Fox

- The deadline of December 1 to have a review and then a discussion.
- We will try to reconnect with some of the original committee members from the SR530 Commission. Eventually, we want to sit down and have a joint meeting of the EMC with the EMAG to discuss our recommendations and thoughts for moving the initiatives forward.

Open Forum

EMAG Membership

No topics were raised.

Closing Comments

Chandra Fox

Chandra discussed an action item from the last meeting to put together the small group to start a discussion to create a reallocation process for our EMPG dollars.

- Chandra has not yet pulled that group together but has a list of volunteers from the meeting and will get an initial meeting on the calendar after CR22 is complete. Please keep an eye out for the invite. Volunteers on the list are as follows:
 - Danna Davis
 - Lis Klute
 - Scott Johnson
 - Brendan McCluskey
 - Sandi Duffey

Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 p.m.