

# EMAG

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

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

# MINUTES

Thursday, August 4, 2022

conducted in person and via TEAMS

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

*Meeting called to order at 1:08 pm*

**by Chandra Fox, Emergency Management Advisory Group Chair**

Members 17 Quorum 9 Quorum met:  Yes  No

Attendees were noted from the TEAMS participant list and in-person sign-in sheet.

### Member/Alternate

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#### Counties

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JoAnn Boggs  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ashley Strickland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott McDougall   | <input type="checkbox"/> Brendan Cowan  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sandi Duffey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant            | <input type="checkbox"/> Ron Cameron                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Willie Bence   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Brooks       | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deanna Davis | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant            | <input type="checkbox"/> Lis Klute                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Jason Biermann |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antone Miller           | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jody Ferguson     | <input type="checkbox"/> Alysha Kaplan  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chandra Fox  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brendan McCluskey |   |

#### Cities

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anne LeSage | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant        |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Steve De Los Angeles |

#### Guests

- Tammi Wright, Mason County

#### Director's Office

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

#### Supporting Staff

- |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Haertling | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joel Haarstad  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alisha King      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glen Albright    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sierra Wardell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Sabarese        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharon Wallace | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathryn Zetzer   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tirzah Kincheloe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Troy Newman    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Wasserman      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean Putney    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victoria Fontana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Wickersham |  |

Chandra Fox confirmed a quorum was present.

The group approved the minutes from the June 6, 2022, meeting with no changes.

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**EMC Meeting Overview****JoAnn Boggs**

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- Jason Biermann has taken a new position with Snohomish County. He will stay engaged with Emergency Management but resigned as the chair with the Emergency Management Council (EMC). The EMC voted to accept his resignation. The EMC then voted to have JoAnn Boggs complete Jason's term as chair – through the end of 2022. Elections for the 2023-25 term will be held at the December meeting.
- Eli King, Commerce, provided an overview and update on the state fuel action plan.
- There was a presentation on Incident Management Teams (IMT) and All Hazard Mobilizations presentation by Bill Slosson, Steve North, and Kevin Wickersham.
- The next meeting will be October 4. We will reexamine having an in-person meeting as there were few in attendance. Most participated via Teams.
- The SAC was convened. Katheryn Zetzer, EMD Preparedness Grants, provided an update on the 23SHSP funding allocation and project selection process update. Rob Sabarese, EMD Assessment and Exercise Program Supervisor, provided a THIRA/SPR update.

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**EMD Pandemic AAR update and EMD Strategic Planning Updates****Sharon Wallace /  
Adam Wasserman**

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EMD Pandemic AAR-Adam Wasserman

- Workforce meetings are taking place to cover the topics laid out in the proviso, i.e., housing, DOH.
- Different agencies will lead meetings to allow the inclusion of experts, locals, and those impacted in each group.
- Group feedback and recommendations are expected back to the task force in November.
- Final provisos and work on the final AAR will begin in January, being due June 30.

EMD Strategic Planning Updates-Sharon Wallace

- The EMD management team is working to identify and examine gaps internally and within our communities. As well, they are analyzing contributing factors to these gaps, the consequences of not acting, and potential solutions.
- Goals and objectives are being discussed and developed. The intent is to work with EMD staff, state agency liaisons, tribes, and our critical partners, including the emergency management community.

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**EMD Program Updates****Select EMD Staff**

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Operations – Troy Newman

- EMD will submit decision packages in early fall:
  - Critical Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience
  - IMT
  - Significant request for staffing increase to our SEOC and tech modernization, as well.
  - Climate Change Mitigation

- Subsidized local match that focuses on impoverished communities in the state and the change from 12.5 percent to the full 25 percent non-federal share.

#### Preparedness – Troy Newman

- Troy thanked everyone who participated in the IPPW.
  - Five sessions focused on Homeland Security regions and counties within them.
  - Four sessions focused on tribes.
  - Five sessions focused on the SEOC and ESFs, looking into any gaps and working to help close those.
- The team will use all this data on August 25 and different preparedness tools for a capstone event.
- Two areas of focus over the next 12-18 months:
  - Public Health, Healthcare, and EMS.
  - Infrastructure Systems and Information Communication Technology.
- Wrapping up CR22
  - Over the next 60 days – build a summary of conclusions and publish it by October.
  - Reconvene with those work groups in September to pull together the complete AAR.
  - Will publish completed After Action Report (AAR) in Spring 2023.

#### Response – Kevin Wickersham

- Staff Changes
  - EMD selected William Vance, previously our State Training Program Supervisor, to SEOC Manager.
  - Chris Long is retiring after 30 years as the SAR Coordinator. EMD hired Amy Albritton as the new SAR Coordinator. She has already started and will overlap with Chris before his last day at the end of September.
  - John Novak starts next week as EMD's Credentialing Program Manager.
- SEOC - Currently activated at level 2 – partial activation:
  - Wildfire Season – picking up activity this week.
  - Covid Response – Healthcare systems are still struggling.
  - Monkey Pox Virus – WHO and DSHS have declared this a public health emergency.
  - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)-ESF11 – About two weeks since the last positive detection in the state.
  - European Green Crab Infestation – DFW has trapped and removed 100,000+ and will continue removal.

#### Mitigation/Recovery – Joel Haarstad

- Washington State was selected for further review for \$62.5 million in Federal Share funds during the 2021 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant round.
- Five of eight competitive projects were selected this year vs only three of seventeen in the previous year.
  - It seems to be focused on quality vs. quantity in project submittals.
  - Ranking fifth in funds per capita in the nation.

#### Human Services and Individual Assistance Program – Joel Haarstad

- Our state does not have an individual assistance program; it is an unfunded requirement.
  - This creates gaps in response.
  - We have reached out to the legislature to acquire funds, but we have been given no assistance without accurate data to support it.

- We have funded IEM contractors to help establish a standing individual assistance program.

#### Public Assistance – Joel Haarstad

- FEMA published a final rule that increases the large project threshold to \$1 million.
  - Applies to new projects in Public Assistance.
  - This doesn't affect any current projects already in process in Public Assistance.

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#### Preparedness Grants Funds Update – *slides presented*

*Tirzah Kincheloe*

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Tirzah shared that her last workday was August 5 and thanked everyone for their involvement.

#### 20EMPG Status

- Awarded \$4.6 million in passthrough funds.
- Expended \$4.4 million as of August 3, 2022.
- Reallocation projects are underway.
- EMAG CEMNET Pilot Project Cancelled
  - Additional funds were awarded to the City of Bellevue for a Conex storage bin to store Emergency Management supplies.
- Balance \$150,000.
- Period of Performance ends 9/30/2022, with no extensions.
- Final closeout due to FEMA 12/29/2022.

#### State CEMNET update – Sierra Wardell

- Due to staffing issues and vacancies, the IT division cannot spend the 20 EMPG funds or ARPA funds allocated to them.
  - Possibility to push the 20 EMPG funds to 21 EMPG and add it back to allocations.
  - Thoughts on looking into past approved projects to utilize the ARPA funds. There is still another year in the performance period for the ARPA funds.
  - Requesting input from EMAG on their desires on how to move forward.
- Chandra Fox asked for a motion to move the 20 EMPG funds forward into the anticipated 21 EMPG reallocation process.
  - Scott McDougall made this motion.
  - Deanna Davis seconded this motion.
  - The motion was passed.
- ARPA funds remaining \$142,985.
- Chandra Fox asked for a motion to be made for EMAG to move on to the following ranked items on the approved list of projects until it is spent.
  - Deanna Davis made this motion.
  - JoAnn Boggs seconded the motion.
  - Motion passed

#### 21 EMPG Status

- Working through reimbursements that were due 7/31/22.
- Expended \$1,858,883 as of 8/3/2022.
- Agreement end date is 9/30/2022.
  - 1-month extensions are available through 10/31/2022.

- Balance \$2,739,783

#### 21 EMPG-ARPA Status

- Expended \$241,787
- The agreement end date is 12/31/2022
- Balance \$1,325,780

#### 22EMPG Status

- Locals and tribes turned in applications on June 13, 2022.
- This year's award was combined with the continuing resolution fund, which makes it a little higher than previous years.
  - Award amount: \$8.6M.
  - Should be received by the end of September.

#### 22EMPG new requirements – Sierra Wardell

- Agreements not signed within six months of the email being sent out will be void, and funding will be returned to the allocation pot.
  - Waivers will be available for limited reasons.

Sierra and Chandra thanked Tirzah for all she had done within the EMPG program.

#### Reallocation Process

- Chandra Fox shared Appendix A draft; EMPG Reallocation Process document.
- Proposed budgets should be no more than 15 percent of the total funding.
  - Adjustments may be made by EMAG depending on the amount of funding available.
  - Flexibility to reassess and make changes as EMAG deems necessary.
- Each voting position gets one set of scores. The primary or alternate can complete scores, or they may collaborate on a combined score. Chandra Fox shared the excel spreadsheet for applications created by Sierra Wardell.
- Chandra Fox thanked her small group, Deanna, Brendan, Lis, Sandi, Scott, Sierra, and her team for all their help in this process.
- Draft documents will be provided for review, followed by the vote to approve at the October meeting.

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### Constituent Representative Updates

*Chandra Fox*

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- New Members
  - Anne LeSage from Bainbridge and Mindi Mattson from Tukwila are new Westside Small City Reps.
  - Adenea Thompson from Stevens County as primary and Darren Higashiyama from Kittitas as the alternate for Eastside Tier 3 Small Counties.
- Still have vacancies in Medium Cities.
  - Carl Lunak from the City of Bellevue is interested and working to obtain a nomination letter.
  - Medium Cities still needs a second primary position filled, as well as two alternates.
  - All Medium Cities are located on the Westside.
- Large Counties
  - Sandy Eccker from Thurston County has retired; we will need to fill the Alternate for Position 2.

- Westside Large Counties position is vacant.
- We need city representatives in these groups as we provide EMPG funds to cities.

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**SR530 AAR Update**

*Chandra Fox*

- With work continuing on the statewide pandemic AAR, it is a good time to look at the SR530 AAR, to track the status of the recommendations.
- There were 17 recommendations for program changes and implementation.
  - Status is clear on 16 of the 17 recommendations.
  - The final item status will be provided at the October meeting.

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**Open Forum**

*EMAG Membership*

Anne LeSage introduced herself as the Emergency Manager for Bainbridge Island. She thanked everyone for welcoming her to the group and is looking forward to getting to know everyone.

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**Closing Comments**

*Chandra Fox*

Reminders:

- Voting on the reallocation process to add to the charter will take place at the September meeting.
- Elections for the next Chair-Elect will take place at the December meeting.
  - Scott Johnson with CRESA will transition from Chair-Elect to the Chair position.
  - The Chair-Elect position comes with support from EMD staff and is instrumental in meeting structure and priorities with work plans.
  - You may self-nominate, nominate another or nominations will be taken from the floor at the meeting.
- WSEMA conference is in September; please look at the conference packet, we would like to see everyone attend.

Move to adjourn by Eric Brooks

Motion seconded by Scott McDougal

Meeting Adjourned at 2:07 p.m.