

EMAG

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

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

MINUTES

Thursday, October 6, 2022

conducted in person and via TEAMS

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Meeting called to order at 1:13 pm

by Chandra Fox, Emergency Management Advisory Group Chair

Members 19 Quorum 11 Quorum met: Yes No

Attendees were noted from the TEAMS participant list.

Member/Alternate

Member/Alternate

Counties

- JoAnn Boggs Vacant
- Sandi Duffey Vacant
- Adenea Thompson Vacant
- Deanna Davis Vacant
- Antone Miller Vacant
- Chandra Fox Vacant

- Scott McDougall Brendan Cowan
- Ron Cameron Willie Bence
- Eric Brooks Vacant
- Lis Klute Vacant
- Jody Ferguson Alysha Kaplan
- Brendan McCluskey

Cities

- Vacant Vacant
- Vacant Vacant
- Anne LeSage Vacant
- Curry Mayer Laurel Nelson

CRESA

- Scott Johnson Vacant

Tribes

- Cherrie May Vacant
- Ada McDaniel Steve De Los Angeles

Director's Office

- Robert Ezelle Sharon Wallace

Supporting Staff

- Joel Haarstad Alisha King Glen Albright Sierra Wardell Kevin Wickersham
- Rob Sabarese Kathryn Zetzer Troy Newman Stacey McClain Adam Wasserman
- Sean Putney Victoria Fontana

Sharon Wallace confirmed a quorum was present.

Robert Ezelle called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for taking the time to join today.

Robert Ezelle opened the floor to accept a motion to approve the August 4, 2022, EMAG minutes as submitted.

Scott Johnson motioned to approve August EMAG minutes as submitted.

Curry Mayer seconded the motion.

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

Opening Comments**Chandra Fox**

Chandra Fox discussed additions to the EMAG Charter that added language for the reallocation of EMPG dollars.

- Any awarded reallocation funds will be expended within the designated performance period with no opportunity for extensions.
- If you are awarded out reallocation funds and are not able to expend your total EMPG award, meaning your original contract amount plus your reallocated funds down to one percent or less, then you will not be allowed to reapply or to apply for reallocation funds for the next two EMPG grant cycle years.

Chandra Fox opened the floor for comments.

Deanna Davis asked with regards to being able to apply within two grant year periods. Is the state willing to track that?

Sierra Wardell answered that that the state would do that.

Chandra Fox opened the floor for a motion to accept the changes to the guidelines and have them added to the charter.

Scott Johnson motioned to accept the recommended changes and add them to the EMAG Charter.

Scott McDougall seconded the motion.

Without objection, the EMAG unanimously approved changes to the charter.

EMC Meeting Recap**Chandra Fox**

Brigadier General Dan Dent, Assistant Adjutant General, gave opening remarks on behalf of Major General Daugherty and thanked everyone for attending the meeting today. He was pleased to announce our continuing relationship with the Secretary of State for Election Security. We're proud of the small communications contingent that was sent to Florida in support of Hurricane Ian.

Sonja Hallum, Office of the Governor, gave an update on getting ready for the legislative session. The Governor's Office is focusing on developing the budget due on December 20. For this upcoming session the Governor is going to be focusing on four primary areas: housing and homelessness, the public safety area to include primarily law enforcement, staffing issues, and firearms, focus on issues related to reproductive rights and finally, environment and climate issues.

Willie Nunn, FEMA Region X provided an update for FEMA Region 10. Mr. Nunn announced the CREW Act was passed by Congress and signed by President Biden. The purpose of that legislation is to protect FEMA reservists' jobs when they go out on FEMA assignment so that their regular jobs are protected while they're out.

Chandra Fox discussed the WAMAS subcommittee membership vacancies – struggling to reconstitute that important subcommittee. The challenging piece is to sit on that committee, you do need to be sitting in an EMC position so.

Robert Ezelle added we need the WAMAS Subcommittee going because we've got to look at the law, open it back up, and address some of the structural deficiencies of WAMAS.

- The task force has been doing a lot of work in the equity space hearing from the various communities that have been impacted by the pandemic and listening to the stories and identifying themes that will underline the work that we're going to be doing in all the different spaces that were outlined by the budget proviso.
- Item C concerned the regionalization of Emergency Management. Ruckelshaus has been contracted separately by the legislature to do a separate study into crisis decision-making and how that was managed through the pandemic.
- Putting out an RFP for a consultant to help write a report that is going to capture the lessons learned, capture all the various equity issues, the disproportionate impacts on the Community, and then be able to synthesize that into recommendations we can all stand behind.

Chandra Fox added that time has been allotted in the December EMAG meeting for Phyllis and Eric Holdeman to discuss and understand where emergency managers are regarding our experience with the decision making and information sharing that either happened or didn't happen during the pandemic.

Brendan McCluskey shared that we want honest information coming from the Emergency Management community about what went well, what didn't go well, and what changes could be made. Most of the work on the task force has not been surrounding emergency management, or the effects that pandemic had on relationships and things like that. We need an honest assessment of what can be done better.

EMD Program Updates**Select EMD Staff**

Operations**Response – Stacey McClain**

- SEOC - Currently activated at level 2 – partial activation:
 - Wildfire Season – Evaluating posture for the end of fire season, a determination will be made with DNR and the State Fire Marshal's Office to lower activation
 - COVID Response – October 31, Governor Inslee's proclamation ends
 - On PPE, we're working with DOH. There was an e-mail about the public assistance program to all the EMS and all local health jurisdictions explaining what that means by the end of the proclamation. We're working on updating our pace plan for the redundant and resilient communications with all the partners, AWC, and the SEOC
 - Monkey Pox Virus – DOH remains activated in support of the Monkey Pox Virus

Scott Johnson asked if we're going to deploy people out if we need to get into the credentialing. If not, we just tick the box that says I'm participating in the state program.

John Nowak answered that is a requirement for fiscal year 2023 for all jurisdictions to have an implementation plan.

Public Assistance – Joel Haarstad

- Five open disasters plus COVID out of the JFO.
- Closed the AFO in Whatcom County at the end of September.
 - FEMA personnel re-located back home, to other missions, and to the Lacey JFO.
- Two FMAGs declared this season, working with jurisdictions for long-term recovery efforts.
 - Lind Fire, Adams County
 - Bolt Creek Fire, Snohomish/King County

Mitigation/Recovery – Joel Haarstad

- Received and reviewing approximately 100 BRIC and FEMA pre-applications on September 19.
 - Target date of October 12 for decision letters.

Human Services and Individual Assistance Program – Joel Haarstad

- We have a contractor to help us build our state Individual Assistance Program Plan.
 - Target date of October 12 for decision letters.
- Looking at other States requirements so that we have a good plan to go back to legislature and get some earmarked funds for this program, so we have money available when we assist.

Preparedness – Troy Newman

- First public sessions following CR22 as we reviewed the summary of conclusions and the after-action process.
 - Identify a work plan associated with that and then publish it late Spring 2024.
- Great Shakeout is coming up on October 20.
 - Good reminder for teams to make sure we're earthquake ready.
- Columbia Generating Station evaluated exercise is October 25.
- We're on the final edits of the report that will come out for the Integrated Preparedness Plan.
 - Published later this month.

Preparedness Grants Funds Update (slides presented)

Sierra Wardell

20EMPG Status

- **Passthrough funds:**
Allocation: \$ 4,554,995
Expended as of 10/5: 4,367,404
Balance: \$ 187,591
- **Period of Performance ended 9/30/22 – in closeout**
 - \$137,005 preserved (cancelled CEMNET project)
- **Final closeout documents due to FEMA 1/28/22**

21EMPG Status

- **Passthrough Funds:**
Allocation: \$ 4,585,203
Expended as of 10/5: 2,478,947
Current balance: \$ 2,106,256
Goal: all final reimbursement requests processed/paid by end of December

21EMPG-ARPA

- **Passthrough Funds:**
Allocation: \$ 1,724,847
Expended as of 10/5: 311,570
Current balance: \$ 1,415,838

22EMPG

- **Received 69 applications (64 local, 5 tribal)**
- **Tribal applications**
 - Reviewed, scored, ranked by panel
 - Almost \$200K requested more than available
- **23 approved**
 - Pausing to focus on HSGP and NSGP

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant (SLCGP)

- EMD will be SAA
- FY22 application submitted 11/15
- Solicitation for local projects will begin when required Cybersecurity Plan is drafted
 - 80% Passthrough requirement
 - 25% Rural Entities

Chandra Fox asked how the Notice of Funding Opportunity is defining rural for the Cyber Security Grant.

Sierra Wardell answered that rural is defined in the Homeland Security Act.

EMAG Position Vacancies

Chandra Fox

- **New Members**
 - Kevin Lowery joins us as the Emergency Manager for NEMCO, serving as the alternate member for Consortia.

Chandra Fox displayed the EMAG Membership to show current vacancies

- **Eastside Counties**
 - SC Tier 1 needs alternate positions filled
 - Medium County Position 1 and 2 needs alternate positions filled
 - Large needs alternate positions filled
- **Westside Counties**
 - Medium needs alternate positions filled
 - Large Position 1 and 2 needs alternate positions filled
- **Cities**
 - Medium Cities need second primary position filled, as well as two alternates.
 - All Medium Cities are located on the Westside.
- **Consortium**
 - CRESA
- **Tribes**
 - Position 1 needs an alternate position filled
- We need city representatives in these groups as we provide EMPG funds to cities.

Sandi Duffey answered that she has selected her alternate, **Maurice Goodall** of Okanogan County.

Amending The Chair Election Process

Chandra Fox

Chandra Fox discussed amending the chair election process. Since Chandra is the inaugural chair of the group and is East side, our Chair-Elect, who will be transitioning to the position in January is Scott Johnson from CRESA, that's West side. We would like then to go back and have our next Chair-Elect be from the Eastside and start that continual alternation between East and West. Chandra will draft the language for the addition to the Charter and send that out, so we meet our 30 days' notice and vote to add it or not to the Charter at our December 1 EMAG meeting.

Chandra Fox accepted nominations for Chair-Elect and nominated **Deanna Davis** from Benton County as the Chair-Elect. **Deanna Davis** accepted the nomination.

Chair-Elect to be voted on at the December 1 EMAG meeting.

DOH Medical Reserve Corps Bill Discussion (slides presented)

Andy Rose

- DOH has a decision package going into the legislature for session focused on an important lesson learned from the pandemic. Washington state does not currently have a mechanism to register training, exercise, deploy medical and non-medical volunteers in Washington.
 - During the pandemic response, there was a need and a request for critical non-medical volunteers that we couldn't register and provide the liability protections to support them.
- Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioner Act or the 7015-legislation used during the pandemic.
 - Needs a governor's proclamation of emergency to be spun up in public health.
 - Often, we are dealing with a communicable disease outbreak or another special pathogen in communities across this state that may not rise to the level of COVID or monkey pox to require proclamation.
 - Allows us to enhance the local capability. This is what we call a 'force multiplier' not only just during response but having a state medical reserve corps and having state infrastructure both on the technology and the FTE side.

Chandra Fox asked if there were something in this proposal that would help to build a structure where our health care facilities would be more willing to accept the help of MRC volunteers?

Andy Rose answered that it was not specifically articulated in the bill or the proposal, but DOH been in discussions with hospitals, healthcare stakeholders, and associations about how the state MRC can help support. Andy also offered his email (andy.rose@doh.wa.gov) for any additional follow-up.

Open Public Forum

No discussion presented during the open public forum.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Chandra Fox

Reminders for December 1 meeting:

- We will have the additional draft language for the Charter ready for review and vote.
- Elections for Chair-Elect.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

