

Emergency Management Council Minutes

October 9, 2025

Call to Order

The meeting was held on October 9, 2025, via Microsoft Teams. It was called to order at 9:00 am by EMC Chair, Kirk Holmes. Jessica Callahan, EMD, drafted the minutes.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the June and August 2025 EMC meetings. A motion was made to approve June's minutes by Fred Brink and seconded by Mark Ozias. A motion was made by Cherrie May to approve the August minutes and seconded by Fred Brink. The motions carried without opposition.

Opening Comments

Major General Gent Welsh, The Adjutant General of the Washington Military Department, provided opening remarks. General Welsh expressed appreciation for the Council's continued dedication, discussed the state's preparedness posture, and noted upcoming winter weather considerations.

FEMA Region 10 Information Sharing

Vince Maykovich, Acting Regional Administrator for FEMA Region 10, was unable to attend the meeting due to the U.S. government shutdown.

Reports

2026 Legislative Session Preparation – Presented by Jim Baumgart, Intergovernmental Affairs and Policy Director

Baumgart provided an overview of legislative planning for the upcoming short session. Key priorities at the time included: integrating the Civil Air Patrol into the Military Department, enhancing public records protections for critical infrastructure, and addressing long-term recovery gaps.

Grant Litigation Review and Status Update – Presented by Tyler Roberts, Assistant Attorney General, Complex Litigation Division

Roberts briefed the Council on ongoing litigation related to federal grant requirements. He confirmed no immediate action was needed from local jurisdictions while state-level discussions continue.

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Threats and Hazards Preparedness Framework – Presented by Alexa Bach, EMD Planning Program Supervisor

Bach discussed the evolving role of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) in emergency management, highlighting state efforts to identify potential risks and coordination measures to strengthen preparedness.

Work Sessions

WAMAS Charter and Operations and Deployment Guide Review – Mark Douglas, EMD Logistics Program Supervisor

Douglas presented updates to the WAMAS Charter and Operations Guide, reflecting statutory changes from RCW 38.56 and procedural improvements to deployment coordination. Two motions were made; a motion was made by Fred Brink and Mark Ozias seconded to approve the revisions and approve the charter. A second motion was made to approve the WAMAS Operations and Deployment guide. The motion was made by Cherrie May and seconded by Quyen Thai. Both motions carried, and the Chair was authorized to sign the updated Charter.

Review of Proposed 2026 Meeting Calendar – Facilitated by Kirk Holmes, EMC Chair

Chair Holmes presented the draft 2026 EMC meeting calendar for consideration. The Council agreed to review the schedule, with a formal vote planned for the December 11, 2025, meeting. The item for decision and voting is to decide when there will be the one in-person meeting as in past years; dependent on FIFA WC26 activities and involvement. Consensus was to look at April for the in-person meeting for 2026 and vote in December to finalize the EMC 2026 meeting schedule.

Nomination of Candidates for Vice Chair Position – Facilitated by Kirk Holmes, EMC Chair

Chair Holmes opened nominations for the Vice Chair position. Elections will be held during the December 2025 meeting. Chair Holmes nominated Mark Ozias as a candidate for EMC Vice Chair with Sharon Wallace seconding the motion. No opposition was noted.

Establishing a Subcommittee on Legislative Planning and Action – Facilitated by Sharon Wallace

The Council discussed establishing a Legislative Planning and Action Subcommittee to strengthen coordination between EMD, local and Tribal emergency managers, and policymakers. A motion was made and seconded to approve the formation of the subcommittee. The motion carried. Sharon Wallace was tasked with organizing the subcommittee.

EMC Cybersecurity Advisory Committee Update – Tristan Allen, Cybersecurity, Private Sector, and Infrastructure Manager, EMD

Allen provided updates on cybersecurity coordination with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), current state initiatives, and planned exercises to enhance response capabilities.

Election Preparedness – Stuart Holmes, Director of Elections, Office of the Secretary of State

Holmes presented an overview of statewide election preparedness and contingency planning. He emphasized collaboration between the emergency management community and election officials to ensure resilience and operational continuity.

EMD Customer Service Survey – Presented by Sharon Wallace, EMD Deputy Director

Wallace introduced the draft EMD Customer Service Survey. She described its focus areas: communication and information sharing, support and partnerships, policy development, emergency management services, grant administration, and innovation. Fred Brink suggested adding a branching question regarding transparency; Wallace agreed. Kyle Bustad offered to share the survey with WSEMA members.

Open Public Forum

Chair Holmes invited public comments, reminding participants to keep remarks brief. No comments were received.

Adjournment

Chair Holmes thanked presenters, members, and EMD staff for their contributions. A motion to adjourn was made by Quyen Thai and seconded by Sharon Wallace. The motion carried without opposition, and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Next Meeting: December 11, 2025

Attendance

Please see the final two pages for attendance details.

EMC Membership Attendance

Name	9-Oct
Fred Brink	P
Terri Cooper	P
Mark Ozias	P
Wayne Fournier	P
Chief Scott Engle	P
Chief Peter Fisher	A
Chief John Batiste	P
Captain Matt Fehler or Asst Chief Shane Nelson	A
Robert Ezelle	A
Sharon Wallace	P
Jim Pendowski	A
Jacob Rain	P
Chief Chad Cross	A
Melissa Gannie	P
Chief Michael Harris	A
Chief Leonard Johnson	A
Casey Hanell	A

Alex Steely	P
Alysha Kaplan	P
Kyle Bustad	P
Deanna Davis	P
Amy Allbritton	P
Lt. Trent Stephens	P
Nathan Weed	A
Travis Nichols	P
Quyen Thai	P
Mizael Acevedo	A
Greg Welch	P
Dru Garson	P
John Himmel	A
Kirk Holmes	P
Kristi Oosterveen	P
Anna Marie Dufault	A
Amber Wynn	A
Annie Pillers	P
Christie Masters	P

VACANT	
VACANT	
Cherrie May	P
Katy Wolf	P

Guest Attendance

Nick Bacon

Gabe Baez

Jim Baumgart

JoAnn Boggs

Hannah Cleverly

Nicholas Gibbons

Stuart Holmes

Elizabeth King

Brendan McCluskey

Sarah Nuss

Tyler Roberts

Adenea Sellars

Maj Gen Gent Welsh

EMD Staff Attendance

Tristen Allen

Alexa Bach

Jessica Callahan

Tim Cook

Gail Cram

Mark Douglas

Joel Haarstad

Jonathan Holmes

Sierra Wardell

Adam Wasserman

Kathryn Zetzer