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Minutes of the April 16, 2015 meeting of the State Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team

Meeting location: This meeting was held in the State Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) within the Donald N. Anderson Readiness Center in Salem.

The following people participated in the meeting:

Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience (OPDR) Department of Administrative Services (DAS)	Michael Howard Yumei Wang Alice Wiewel
Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)	Ryan Scholz Margaret Matter
DCBS, Insurance Division Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)	Tracie Weeder Terry Wolfe Teresa Alcock Jenna Nelson
Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)	Matt Crall Marian Lahav
OMD, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	Dennis Sigrist Joseph Murray Erik Rau Althea Rizzo Daniel Stoelb Zach Swick
Public Utility Commission (PUC) Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Water Resources Department (WRD) Business Oregon – Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA)	Rick Carter Greg Ek-Collins Alyssa Mucken Gloria Zacharias

The following were distributed during or prior to the meeting:

- *Meeting agenda*
- *COMMENTS & RESPONSES: DRAFT 2015 Oregon (NHMP¹) – Posted February 2015 – Additional Comments Received after the Deadline (agenda item #4)*
- *COMMENTS & RESPONSES: DRAFT 2015 Oregon (NHMP) – Posted April 2015 (agenda item #4)*
- *STATE OF OREGON Executive Summary Phase 1 Application – Oregon Rural Resilience Incubator (agenda item #6)*

[Email joseph.murray@state.or.us for a copy of one or more meeting handouts; he also has some or all of the presentations given that were not included among the handouts.]

¹ NHMP is Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

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1) Introductions

Dennis opened the meeting just after 9:00 a.m., and facilitated introductions.

2) Action on minutes of January 15 meeting (a draft was provided by email on April 14)

Dennis asked if anyone had any additions to these meeting minutes. It was noted that Greg had been present at the January meeting. The minutes were accepted as revised.

3) West Wide Wildfire Risk Assessment (WWRA)

Teresa provided a robust presentation. She said that the WWRA is a risk assessment for 17 western states and specific USA islands which was delivered as a regional multi-state assessment. It allows for the comparison of fire probabilities in terms of suffering harm or loss. This is modeled by multiplying the fire environment probability times the consequences (or fire threat) times fire effects; all of which equals a fire risk index.

She noted that the WWRA contains GIS products/layers that examine four different climate possibilities or scenarios, and that there is work occurring at Oregon State University (OSU) to take this forward in time. She showed the national GIS products, followed by Oregon. Much of the threat data is organized by long-established weather zones. She talked a bit about the influence of lightning, and noted that the current version may underplay the effects, especially on the west side of Oregon. Teresa said that this work has been included in the risk assessment to the new draft Oregon NHMP. The WWRA fire risk index may influence grant funding; another reason it is important to get it right. "There are all kinds of goodies in the data set that may be useful." Teresa then showed the comprehensive modeling effort flowchart.

Alice asked, "Who looks at urban fire risk?" Alice talked a bit about recent urban fire examples and the notion that the risk is increasing. Teresa gave a nod to the OSFM and work done by local fire agencies to assess risk.

Teresa talked about the deliberative process that went into how to weigh various values at risk. She showed various data maps that have come out of the risk assessment work (aka, Data Visualization Maps), e.g., forest resources, riparian areas, drinking water, flame lengths, etc. Information on "where homes are" was developed to some extent by using "satellite nightlight imagery." Much of the data has not been officially released and so far there has been little in the way of a public push. The data will go on the Oregon Explorer at OSU, along with community wildfire planning tools.

Daniel asked, "When?" Teresa said, "Probably winter due to funding cycles, but I can make it available sooner." The "live web service" is the piece that needs to be developed. Daniel – "Will the next version take into account the Drought Monitor?" Teresa – "ODF does want to look at this." Teresa then noted her limited authority to make the decision, saying "It's a collaborative process."

Erik talked briefly about the role of County Fire Defense Boards in integrating risk assessment information.

4) Oregon NHMP update

Marian noted two handouts; one of 12 pages with red line at top, and the other four pages. She reminded everyone that we are nearing the end of this update to the Oregon NHMP. Today she would like final State IHMT comments and direction for submission to FEMA for pre-adoption review.

Marian summarized the comments that DLCD had received recently. Many of them had to do with the risk assessment. A lot of them had to do with formatting errors. Comments and how they were addressed will be posted to the project website.

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With regard to the risk assessment methodology and model, DLCDC has asked the Legislature for funding to continue and refine this work. Marian noted that we need to work with the Land Use/Land Cover Framework Implementation Team (FIT) to include that data in the risk assessment.

There were comments about how climate data was included, and comments on employment, regarding “rain on snow” events, and climate refugees; there were comments on how demographics were broken down, and on how non-English speakers “consume” media. There were comments about how this plan update will affect local comprehensive plans. There were comments about how the plan addresses various kinds of flooding, levees, and also how the plan addresses the Community Rating System, and questions about how we address invasive species (or don’t). Many of the comments received this time cannot be addressed in this version of the plan, but probably can be addressed in the next version.

Marian said that the City of Portland has expressed an interest in better integrating their plan with the state plan. Dennis noted that we need to remain realistic about what we can include in the state plan. Marian asked for formal approval to make changes and submit, which was quickly granted. She then showed the revised schedule.

Marian then talked about giving each state agency their pieces of the mitigation action tracker as well as a reporting form to make quarterly reports. These reports will probably begin with the quarter that ends June 30, 2015 (i.e., the current quarter). Teresa suggested maybe go semi-annual; Dennis encouraged quarterly. Marian took a vote and had three votes for each.

Marian spoke about DLCDC’s interest in prioritizing the hazards; this is due to the fact that we have really good data on some hazards and very little data on others. There are also proposals to add dam failure, levees, and radon as hazards covered by the plan.

Erik talked about the work Zach is doing on the state Capability Assessment Tool (CAT), and noted possible cross-overs. He suggested that Zach present to this group on the CAT in the future.

5) Local hazard mitigation planning update

a) Department of Land Conservation and Development planning update

Matt confirmed that Lisa Corbly has taken a job with Multnomah County. Matt noted that FEMA has not obligated the money yet, so the DLCDC projects are not underway: Albany, Beaverton, Medford, and Tillamook County and its cities. Matt said that DLCDC will be recruiting for a new planner starting July 1. It is a PFT in the Governor’s Recommended Budget, but we don’t know if the Oregon Legislature will approve it. Steve is working with Albany. Marian is working with Beaverton. Chris is working with Medford. (OPDR is working with Jackson County.) Matt notes Tillamook County will be complicated because so many different parties are working there on related things. Steve has the lead on this one.

b) Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience planning update

Michael talked briefly about the three open Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grants:

‘12 – Deschutes County was added to this grant; they are almost done with this one, which also includes doing a code review.

‘13 – Eugene-Springfield is finished; Lincoln County is nearly done; this grant also includes Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties, all of which are underway. Corvallis is about to be underway, along with Benton County. Dennis noted that Portland is underway too, especially with their risk assessment.

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'14 – Multnomah County is getting underway this month. Linn, Marion, Polk, and Washington counties will all be underway by the end of summer. We are also working on CWPP²-NHMP integration, with a pilot perhaps in Washington County. We are working with the Confederates Tribes of the Warm Springs; this project has had a couple of delays. We are also a Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) with FEMA on RiskMAP in Tillamook County – this work is slated to be underway soon, and then in Clackamas County next year. Dennis noted that Oregon State University is also waiting on PDM '14 funding for three campus mitigation planning projects.

Dennis then spoke briefly about the FEMA G-318 class to be held here in the State ECC on April 29 and April 30. It is intended primarily for the PDM '14 local government jurisdictions, but others have applied for the class. Michael noted that Joseph has been recruiting for this class.

c) PDM15 and the next round of local planning

Dennis expects a planning focus from FEMA for this grant. Dennis hopes we again receive a state set-aside of \$250,000 to \$500,000, and a nationally competitive component as well.

6) Update on HUD NDRC³

Dennis introduced Alice and Yumei, and noted that Phase 1 closed during March.

Alice was the first presenter and said how nice it is to meet this group. She looks forward to collaborating with us. The work we are doing is relevant to the NDRC. She talked a bit about the place she works, which primarily manages state owned and leased facilities, their role in being a good steward of those facilities, and to also do planning for new facilities. Former Governor Kitzhaber asked Alice and her staff to lead this process, and also to take a strong lead on natural hazards risk assessment for state facilities. Yumei came on board to help-out. Ken Goettel⁴ is helping with benefit-cost analysis work related to these projects. Others involved include Business Oregon; Alice thanked Gloria. Alice then turned the podium over to Yumei.

Yumei had a very nice presentation (*Oregon Rural Resilience Incubator*); she focused on Brookings and Reedsport. She talked about the sea level rise influence. She said that in some places along the Oregon Coast, sea level rise is being outpaced by tectonic uplift. She talked about the many partners. She then talked about a Governor's Resilience Cabinet and the work being led by Heidi Moawad of the Governor's Office. She talked about how tough the eligibility criteria are for this competition.

Yumei summarized the Phase 1 challenges, including a compressed timeframe: Alice started in November and Yumei in January for a project that had a March deadline. "We have been very understaffed to work on this. New Jersey had about 40 staff working on a similar grant application. We were also challenged by the fact that there is no CDBG⁵ Oregon disaster baseline data, and there were numerous HUD 'clarifications' about the grant application requirements."

Yumei talked about the potential Reedsport projects: flood protection, transportation reliability, and water security. She then summarized the potential Brookings projects: sewer infrastructure, transportation reliability, emergency medical system improvements; and coastal bluff stability.

Althea congratulated Alice and Yumei on this work, which elicited a round of applause.

² CWPP is Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

³ HUD NDRC is (United States) Housing and Urban Development (Department) National Disaster Resiliency Competition.

⁴ Goettel and Associates of Davis, California: <http://www.kengoettel.com/>

⁵ CDBG is Community Development Block Grant.

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7) Other business

Dennis asked Daniel to provide a RAPTOR⁶ update, which he did (counties that have declared drought; the Drought Monitor; and new Japanese tsunami debris).

Dennis gave the update that as of February 27 FEMA has again recognized the current Oregon NHMP as an “enhanced plan.” He then talked about what this could mean in terms of money.

Dennis noted that OEM has closed – with 100% FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance funding – on the severe repetitive loss property in Linn County. He will continue to work with Chris Shirley, DLCD, to fund the next one!

Dennis talked about the \$3 million FY 2010 wildfire treatment grant application for several counties in Central Oregon (Crook, Deschutes, and Klamath). We are simply waiting for FEMA to move the money. One delay has been the FONSI.⁷

Dennis mentioned the Westfir water emergency; the city needs to extend their water intake. They need a United State Forest Service permit, which means NEPA⁸ and ESA⁹ reviews. Dennis noted that Business Oregon and OEM are both slated to provide funding to help Westfir with this. The population of Westfir is about 250 people.

8) Discuss/develop possible agenda items for July meeting

Dennis asked people to send ideas to Joseph.

9) Public comment

No members of the general public were present to comment.

10) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned approximately 11:10 a.m.

⁶ RAPTOR is Real-Time Assessment and Planning Tool for Oregon.

⁷ FONSI is Finding of No Significant Impact.

⁸ NEPA is National Environmental Protection Act.

⁹ ESA is Endangered Species Act.