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Minutes of the July 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)	Michael Howard
Department of Administrative Services (DAS)	Yumei Wang
	Alice Wiewel
Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)	Margaret Matter (on telephone)
DCBS, Insurance Division	Kevin Jeffries
Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM)	Terry Wolfe
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Don Pettit (on telephone)
OHA – Public Health Division (PHD)	Jere High (on telephone)
Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)	Marian Lahav
	Steve Lucker
	Chris Shirley
OMD, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	Dennis Sigrist
	Joseph Murray
	Althea Rizzo
Public Utility Commission (PUC)	Rick Carter
Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)	Greg Ek-Collins
Business Oregon – Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA)	Gloria Zacharias
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Kristen Meyers

The following were distributed during or prior to the meeting:

- *Meeting agenda*
- *2015 Oregon NHMP Update (agenda #3)*
- *DAS CFO Facility Planning Guidelines for Development with Natural Hazards (agenda #4)*
- *Flood Data Measurement Procedure and Form OLCC Example (agenda #4)*
- *NHMP DAS CFO Action Item List (agenda #4)*

[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) Introductions

Dennis opened the meeting just after 9:00 a.m. He noted that he would juggle the order of agenda a bit so that Kristen could be here for agenda items #3 and #4. (Kristen arrived about 9:30 a.m. due to the timing of her flight from Seattle.)

2) Action on minutes of April 16 meeting (a draft had been distributed by email on July 14)

There were no comments on the draft meeting minutes, so they were accepted as drafted.

DRAFT

3) Oregon NHMP implementation

Marian had a slideshow and handout that included information on where we are and where we need to go. She noted that we have received an “approvable pending adoption” (APA) letter from FEMA somewhat sooner than we had expected, so we now have final edits to make, but Governor Brown has already, in fact, adopted the plan (July 1, 2015). The copy edits are to be finished in late August or September. Dennis anticipates a media event when the plan is published.

Marian noted that we have a long list of things to do post-publication, including:

- Reviewing hazard information and prioritizing hazards
- Addressing public comments not addressed in the 2015 version of the plan
- Better taking into account climate change
- Exploring the idea of a new risk assessment model
- Better addressing cultural and historic resources
- Better addressing natural resource issues
- Better including the public health aspects of natural hazards mitigation

Marian said, “Dennis is to put together a workplan for us for the tasks that are ahead.”

In terms of a “living plan” Marian is looking for an on-line platform to accomplish this. DLCD will look at GovSpace as one possibility. “We are looking for options, so please let us know.” She then talked about the desire to have an action tracker that would include not only state actions, but also local actions. She also wants to include a “Land Use /Land Cover Database (LU/LCD).” She said that this information currently exists, but it is not all in one place. Steve said that DLDC has a prototype of LU/LCD delivered recently from LCOG¹. Yumei wants information on where the tsunami inundation meets the landslide hazard areas on the coast, something she called “a double-whammy.”

Marian then passed around what the action tracker may look like. It is and will be on-line. She talked about the reporting form, “which is not intended to be a burden.” It is based on FEMA’s state plan review requirements, but does not cover them completely; it just covers the more easy aspects. The reporting form is a very flexible MSword table. Consider it draft and recommend improvements to it. The first one will be due by the end of August 2015. Marian’s intent had been that the first would be due at the end of June, but we’re a little behind on getting started with this.

She talked about annual reports to be completed in Jan 2016, 2017, and 2018; after that, we’ll be fully underway with the 2020 update. The information from the reporting forms will inform the annual updates. Marian said that each state agency can choose to report quarterly or semi-annually, whichever works better for them.

¹ LCOG is Lane Council of Governments.

DRAFT

4) DAS CFO Guidelines for Planning and Development with Natural Hazards

Joseph noted a one-page handout that had been on the front table when people came in. Alice took the lead with this agenda item, noting that this is in response to Oregon NHMP Action #22, "Develop flood protection standards for state-owned/leased buildings." She talked about the DAS analysis that has occurred already to OLCC² facilities and others. The *DAS CFO Facility Planning Guidelines for Development with Natural Hazards* is intended to provide a step-by-step approach and best practices. This is a guideline, not a policy document. Alice noted that some policy already exists at DLCD. She hopes that having everything together in one comprehensive document will move the state forward on flood mitigation. She noted that the chief role of the DAS CFO office is prioritizing how the state spends money.

She noted that these guidelines were "thoroughly vetted by DLCD, OEM, and the Governor's Office." The idea is to direct state agencies "to look at these hazards before you ask for money to build something." Yumei then went over the handout in a big picture way.

Yumei showed a three-dimensional map of the 1% and .2% floodplains in the vicinity of the Capitol Mall. She noted that the state has many existing facilities within the 1% floodplain. She then showed the State Data Center as an example of such a facility, but it is elevated above the 1% base flood elevation. She showed a few photos of that facility, including photos of generators, water tanks, the below-floor electronic equipment, and server stacks. She then showed the Print Plant and the State Motor Pool, "which sits in a lake," and has experienced considerable losses in the past. She showed the Agriculture Building, which experienced losses in 1996. Chris talked about flood-proofing that has occurred for this building, some of which has been undone by the City of Salem. Yumei then showed several Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) campus buildings, including one for which ODF has recently asked for money to make some improvements in a basement.

5) Update on Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program (SRGP)

[This agenda item actually occurred second during the meeting.]

Gloria noted that Business Oregon received \$205 million during the recent session of the Oregon Legislature for school and emergency services building rehabilitation, but no new staff, so she will continue to run this program solo, at least in the first year, when Business Oregon plans to take applications from schools only, and only for the first \$50 million. In total, there is to be \$175 million for schools, and \$30 million for emergency services buildings. Business Oregon may ask for additional staff during the 2016 session. She noted that Ken Goettel's company has been retained to help with benefit/cost analysis.

Alice asked about whether deferred maintenance and the capacity of the school are considered as part of a grant application. Gloria's answer was, "Yes, applications include both a cost effectiveness analysis and an engineering study, which helps with these two concerns."

Jere requested that when the hospitals are being approached, the information go to the State IHMT. Gloria said, "Yes, I'll send it to Dennis so he can get the information out."

Dennis noted that the SRGP still cannot do "demo/rebuild" to move facilities outside the tsunami inundation zone (TIZ). Gloria said that there are actually not many schools in the TIZ any longer (with one city that is a well-known exception). "If the blue line moves, that could change."

Gloria noted that some people are not happy that there is a non-state match to these grants, but she said that often schools will fund projects well beyond the cost of the match required to the maximum state grant.

² OLCC is Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

DRAFT

Yumei congratulated Business Oregon for this success, and noted that OEM “pioneered” this grant program before it went to Business Oregon. Yumei said that “FEMA has been a huge supporter as well.” She went on to say “This is a huge deal.” Gloria thanked Senator Courtney and Senator Ferrioli, and also thanked OEM. She noted that Senator Ferrioli’s Bill asked for \$300 million. Gloria also thanked her management team, especially Paulina Layton.

Dennis noted the work OEM did in the past with universities on seismic retrofits, work which helped to establish the process for this grant.

6) Status of local NHMP development and updates around the state

Michael gave the following updates:

PDM³ 12 – A FEMA APA letter has been received for Deschutes County, which plan to adopt on July 20; Bend cannot adopt until September 2. An APA has also been received for Redmond. These local NHMP projects also included code update work.

PDM 13 – OPDR plans to submit Lincoln County and its cities to FEMA tomorrow. Michael noted that the school district here deserves kudos for getting their facilities outside of the TIZ. Coos and Curry county updates are underway and ought to be done by the end of summer. Douglas County is underway. Corvallis is also underway. Warm Springs still has some delays, but hope to be done by autumn of this year. There may be a need to extent this grant with FEMA.

PDM 14 – Benton County and several of its cities will be underway soon. Multnomah County is well underway with some help from OPDR. Marion, Washington, Polk, and Linn counties are also all in the queue with this grant, to be underway soon.

Yumei noted the fantastic job OPDR is doing with all this. She asked if OPDR has community meetings planned in Brookings/Harbor. Michael did not know the answer because Josh Bruce has the lead for Curry County. She then asked if there is tie to NOAA⁴ grants, RiskMAP, or other activities in Curry or Douglas counties. Michael said “Yes, there are links – maybe Steve will talk a bit more about the RiskMAP parts of this later.”

Dennis added that communities are encouraged to keep their plans current, in part due to the nexus to being eligible to apply for HMA, FMA, and EMPG grants.⁵ Dennis noted that DLCD is still waiting for their PDM 14 funding for the Medford, Tillamook County and cities, Beaverton, and Albany plan updates. OSU is also still waiting for funding.

Dennis said that PDM 15 is open right now. “We have reached out to Josephine an Jackson counties, and to Klamath County and the Klamath Tribe.” Dennis went on to say that Klamath County and Tribe are having a hard time identifying the non-federal match funding required.

Alice asked the extent to which the Tribes have been integrated with OPDR’s local government planning efforts? Michael said that there has been some interaction in Lincoln County via the City of Siletz, but that Lincoln County intends to do better next time. Michael said that OPDR tries to engage Tribes when it works with local communities.

Alice asked how we are doing consulting with the Tribes generally with our government mitigation planning. Dennis noted OEM’s Tribal Liaison (Erik Rau), and the direct nation-to-nation relationship Tribes have with FEMA.

³ PDM is Pre-Disaster Mitigation.

⁴ NOAA is National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

⁵ Hazard Mitigation Assistance, Flood Mitigation Assistance, and Emergency Management Performance Grants, respectively

DRAFT

7) HUD Resilience Status

[This agenda item was actually covered first.]

In addition to her spoken remarks, Yumei had a brief visual presentation. Yumei said that a lot has been going on, including this week. HUD had accepted our Phase 1 application, so we are developing a Phase 2 application. Governor Brown is quite pleased that we were selected to move to Phase 2, and issued a media release on June 26. She is very interested in making Oregon more resilient. Business Oregon was not designated as the lead for Phase 2. Governor Brown asked Yumei at DAS' Chief Financial Office (CFO) to lead the development of Phase 2. George Naughton, CFO, is supportive of that.

Yumei said that "Alice has been a phenomenal champion of this, and the reason 'we are where we are' is Alice bring this opportunity to the highest levels." Heidi Moawad, Governor's Office, sought to obtain funding from the Oregon Legislature for the Phase 2 application, but this did not happen. Therefore, Yumei will be asking state agencies to provide funding to further develop the Phase 2 application.

One consultant who has been secured is ICF International⁶; Ken Goettel's company⁷ will also be helping, doing the cost effectiveness analysis. "Dennis has been actively supporting this project; he is the technical lead on this project at the moment." Yumei noted that we will need a consultant to help with the environmental reviews required. She will be looking to Business Oregon or OEM to carry that contract.

Yumei asked Dennis to talk a bit about OEM's role. Dennis talked in a general way about OEM's experience managing federal grants, and with benefit/cost analysis. Dennis also noted OEM's experiences working with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Dennis said that 40 of the 64 applications were selected nationally.

Yumei said about ten projects are being considered; two of these are ODOT projects. One of those is to strengthen the Hwy. 101 Bridge over the Chetco River and/or the Hwy. 101 Bridge at Reedsport. Another possible project is levee work at Reedsport.

Yumei said that Oregon has "loads and loads" of comments from HUD on improvements needed to the application during Phase 2. For example, "We were lacking on leverage. We were lacking on community engagement. We were good on science."

The funding available nationally is still almost a billion dollars. October 27 is the Phase 2 application deadline.

Yumei has a "core team" and a larger "project team" assembled. She talked a little bit about the work that the local communities are doing currently to develop a good Phase 2 application. She noted that OPDR is a key partner, in part by making sure that the Phase 2 projects are included in local NHMP updates.

Yumei said that there is a workshop in Denver early next week that will have five Oregon participants. Two of those are Gloria and Yumei.

Alice and Dennis both spoke a bit about the limitations on our application that are caused by the short timeline for developing it and implementing projects.

⁶ <http://www.icfi.com/>

⁷ <http://www.kengoettel.com/>

DRAFT

8) Update on RiskMAP projects

Steve passed around updates to the DLCDC map and a schedule for RiskMAP in the state. He talked about the overlap of RiskMAP and local mitigation plan updates, and the attempts to integrate these two things, attempts often challenged by different schedules. Steve then said, "Every single RiskMAP project in Oregon is behind schedule." Steve talked a bit about RiskMAP actions that have occurred recently or are about to occur: Mid-Columbia, Klamath County, and Malheur County, and Neal Creek just outside of Ashland. RiskMAP is an all-hazards program, but the focus is on flooding. Steve then passed around a recent report generated by RiskMAP.

Dennis asked about RiskMAP funding and the extent to which lack of funding is causing the delays. Steve said more of it has to do with appeals, noting that Washington County has been trying to get preliminary flood maps approved for seven years now.

Steve talked about his desire to mesh the local NHMP update in Tillamook County with RiskMAP.

Yumei asked about RiskMAP activities in Reedsport. Steve said that the floodplain mapping has been mostly updated there, but they are taking a second look due to some new gauge information. Steve noted that Curry County is moving along with preliminary maps which are due at the end of this year. That process is to include a public meeting. Yumei would like to receive information from RiskMAP "Discovery." Steve said that information can be downloaded from the RiskMAP website.

Don commented to Steve about his interest in RiskMAP's all-hazards analysis. Yumei asked when to expect reports for Curry and Douglas counties. Steve said in the next year. Yumei asked Steve to do what he can to prioritize these two counties.

9) Other business

Dennis facilitated this agenda item.

Kristen congratulated Marian and her team for the Oregon NHMP update. Dennis said how much he appreciated the work of DLCDC and the State IHMT on this project.

Chris⁸ asked Dennis to make "Silver Jackets"⁹ (SJ) a standing item on these agendas. She then noted a SJ funding opportunity that currently exists: we are going to ask for money to do inundation mapping based on gauge data and for preparedness for a moraine dam on Middle Sister. Chris asked if we could send around the SJ minutes to the State IHMT distribution. Dennis said that we could.¹⁰ He noted that the next SJ meeting is scheduled for September 1 at the USGS in Portland. Both Dennis and Chris applauded the great work this group is doing. Dennis said, "It's a big deal." Dennis then talked briefly about the project underway to develop a flash flooding warning system for Mitchell.

Yumei asked that SJ address coastal flooding and tsunami flooding. Chris said the former is a good fit, but probably not the latter. Yumei wondered how the 1964 campaign went, and how well the SJ webpage is being used. Chris confirmed that there is a website, and noted that it has just recently changed. Chris noted SJ's interest in locations for high watermark (HWM) signs. Yumei said that she wants one in Brookings and another in Reedsport. Joseph noted that "the Chetco River is experiencing the lowest flows anyone has ever seen in early July."

⁸ Chris is the chair of the Oregon Silver Jackets Team.

⁹ Silver Jackets is the Flood Mitigation Subcommittee to the State IHMT.

¹⁰ As of 10-9-15 this has not occurred, but expect this to begin soon.

DRAFT

Alice talked about this being the 20th anniversary of the normalization of relations with Vietnam. She went to a meeting tied to this anniversary, and found the Oregon National Guard (NG) providing information on disaster resilience and how to prepare for flooding. She said that some of what the Oregon NG is doing with Vietnam is considered “best practice,” and is also considered a diplomatic coup for the USA.

10) Discuss/develop possible agenda items for October meeting

Dennis facilitated this agenda item, noting a report from the Oregon Silver Jackets Team will be added to our standing agenda items, and otherwise to get your agenda suggestions to Joseph or Dennis by email.

11) Public comment

No members of the general public were present to comment.

12) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.