



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL (EPAC)

### Minutes

July 28, 2025 | 1:00-3:00pm

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#### 1) **Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions:** Commissioner Buch

- a) Call to Order – Meeting recorded. Commissioner Buch called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.
- b) Roll Call (Quorum = majority of members)

#### 2) **Review, Approval of Minutes – Additions to Agenda:** Commissioner Buch

- a) Additions to Agenda - No agenda items requested to be added.
- b) Approval of May Minutes:
  - i) Justin Gibbs motioned; approved
  - ii) Mark Ferdig Seconded.
  - iii) No discussion
  - iv) No one opposed or abstained.
  - v) The Motion Passes

#### 3) **State Updates:**

- a) State Priorities Work Group: Alaina Mayfield
  - i. Reviewing data sources across the state to focus on mass care, public health, continuity of operations, trained emergency workforce, public information and warning, access and functional needs – subject matter experts
  - ii. Drafting a document to share with the full group
- b) Legislative Update: Seiji Shiratori
  - i. Not much policy changes – formalized definition of State Resiliency Officer to all-hazards. Formalized OEM's fleet of vehicles.
  - ii. OEM Budget: 5 new finance positions (efficient movement of money), SWIC move to OEM, OERS watch center moves to OEM in 2026. Expanding interoperability capabilities.
  - iii. Civil Air Patrol funding
  - iv. Crisis Management System update did not pass. Translations and interpretations funding did not go through.
  - v. Report on Critical Infrastructure Mapping in 2026
  - vi. Bonding for \$10 million SPIRE equipment, Stockpile \$5 million
  - vii. DPSST: Learning Management System
  - viii. SPARTICIS bill did not pass but could come back in future sessions
  - ix. DHS OREM: did not receive \$10 million for resiliency hub or permanent statutory authority
  - x. Business Oregon: \$3 million for infrastructure recovery in Harney County
  - xi. \$2.5 million Union County Fairgrounds resiliency, \$10 million CORE 3 in Redmond, \$70,000 for backup generator at school districts
  - xii. Emergency Board: \$150 million for state disasters – wildfire response typically, but written broadly
  - xiii. 2026: short session, focus on 2027
  - xiv. Commissioner Buch asked about the status of Federal funding. Seiji says it's too soon to

know.

- xv. Mark Ferdig: DHS and FEMA movement – HSGP not looking good
- xvi. NOFO went out recently – currently in review to determine next steps for accessing funds.

#### 4) **Other Agenda Items:**

- i) EPAC Mid-Year Performance Review: Discussion
  - What are the barriers holding us back as a group?
  - What is the most efficient way for the group to function?
  - Alaina: Flexibility in scheduling – not a standardized time. Barrier – duty of leader to find time.
    - Vision of the specific deliverable – shared vision
  - Ivonne: Focused meetings between main meetings keeps it less intimidating to speak up
  - Suggestions moving forward?
    - Should we pause or delay COOP? Is it still a priority or has something else emerged as a higher priority? Governor's direction for state agencies might mean the subcommittee is duplicating work
  - Subcommittee shared folder for files – IT Support?
- ii) EPAC Vacancies: Discussion
  - ODOT (Amy Ramsdell gone)
  - League of Oregon Cities
- iii) COOP Work Group: Discussion
  - Barriers: attendance even if responding to doodle polls
  - Is COOP independent? How is it supposed to work?
    - Gap in overall structure (potentially being addressed with SRO being oversight for continuity of government)
    - Each agency has to make their own COOP plan but needs to match the continuity of government (COG)
  - How can we meaningfully engage with the direction that's already out there? How does it integrate with COG?
  - Continuity Planners at OEM are overseen by Alaina
  - COOP Membership:
    - Expectations for EPAC: one subcommittee, attend regularly
    - Send Doodle poll to whole group

#### 5) **Round Table:**

- a) Justin Gibbs, Clatsop County: wants engagement from the Governor's office in this committee. Develop an understanding of the Governor's office's priorities. Avoid working in a vacuum, try to do work that creates impact. OERS incidents in Clatsop County – how can we help fill gaps in the system that currently exist?
  - i) Local jurisdictions don't have an identified advocate for funding – EPAC could be that voice. Strategy: benchmarks of potential changes (proactive). State-run programs aren't created overnight and we don't know how much advanced notice we'll have.
- b) Traci Naile, ODOE: Submitting 2025 Energy Security Plan Update. 2026 Update will be more extensive. Interim fuel planning and storage diversification – working with legislators and partners. Planning 3 exercises for 2026 – state agencies, Tribal and county partners, western states Petroleum Collaborative.
- c) Mark Ferdig, RDPO: Federal policy changes and funding – is there an effort underway, or will there

be, of how we begin to shape policy strategy and direction for state legislature if the state has to pick up the federal slack? Is there a place for EPAC to engage that somehow?

- i) Early stages of conversations. Looking for ideas on strategy because resources are scarce all around.
- ii) Local level unknowns: county partners are asking for guidance should funding become a problem to sustain the mission at a local level. EPAC and LGEMAC were built to shape and form strategies – how do we work together? Public assistance thresholds could change – do we need to stand up Oregon-specific public assistance or individual assistance?
- d) Mariah Rawlins, OSFM: Permanent ongoing funding for wildfire mitigation passed in the legislature. 2 new Fire Risk Reduction Specialist positions.
- e) Alaina Mayfield, OEM: Federally Declared Disaster for March Flooding (does not include Harney County). Preparedness national exercise support. End of fiscal year reports: Community Preparedness. Activated primarily for recovery efforts for the Rowena Fire.

**6) Future Agenda Item Suggestions:**

**7) Public Comment:** Public

- a) Natasha Fox, OEM: DEMAC seeking opportunities to engage with councils like EPAC.
- b) Patence Winningham, OEM: External engagement and communication.

**8) Next Meeting:**

- a) September 22, 2025

**9) Follow-up Items/Tasks for Next Meeting:**

- a) LGEMAC Meeting/Collaboration
- b) DEMAC Collaboration

**10) Adjournment: Commissioner Buch**

- a) Meeting adjourned @ 2:15 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

*Carissa Clarke, Recorder*

Oregon Department of Emergency Management

**07.28.2025 – EPAC Meeting Attendance**

A=Not Present, P=Present, R=Represented, V=Vacant Position

#	Representation – Council Members	Attendance	Council Member
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10	Local - Association of Oregon Counties	P	Heather Buch
13	Local - Emergency Management Organizations	P	Justin Gibbs
16	Local - Indian Tribes in Oregon	P	Danny Martinez
11	Local - League of Oregon Cities	V	VACANT
12	Local - Regional Emergency Mgmt. Organizations	P	Mark Ferdig
15	Nonprofit Community - EM Support Functions Responsibility		Denise Everhart
14	Private Sector		Will Gaston
2	State - Emergency Management	P	Alaina Mayfield
18	State - Energy	P	Tracie Naile
3	State - Fire Marshall	P	Mariah Rawlins
9	State - Forestry	P	Joy Krawczyk
6	State - Health Authority		Emily Wegener
17	State - Human Services	P	Ivonne Mora-Hernandez
8	State - Justice		Scott Burwash
1	State - Military	P	Lt. Col. Ryan Barton
4	State - Police		Nathan House
5	State - Public Safety Standards and Training	P	Michael Anderson
7	State - Transportation	V	VACANT

<b>Representation – State Staff</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>State Personnel</b>
State - Gov. Office - Resilience Officer		Jonna Papaefthimiou
State - Emergency Management		Director Erin McMahon
State – Emergency Management		Deputy Director Patence Winningham
State – Emergency Management		Seiji Shiratori
State – Emergency Management		Carissa Clarke
State – Emergency Management		Bobbi McAllister
<b>Representation – Members of the Public</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Guests/Public at Large</b>
Oregon Department of Emergency Management		Natasha Fox