



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Council (LGEMAC) Minutes

February 21, 2023

The virtual meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm

LGEMAC Members Present:

Chair—Patence Winningham: representing members of the public with experience in emergency management

Vice-Chair—Laurie Chaplen: representing Oregon cities

Dave Busby: representing statewide association of emergency managers, responders, government agencies & elected officials

Matt English: representing Oregon county sheriffs

Kelly Minty: representing Oregon counties

Dana Pursley-Haner: representing members of the public with experience in emergency management

Thomas Roberts: representing members of the public with experience in emergency management

Jake Shores: representing emergency medicine

Mark Spross: representing 9-1-1 dispatchers

Helen Miller: representing volunteer emergency medicine

Anthony Pierotti: representing Oregon fire department

Others in Attendance:

Matt Garrett: OEM Interim Director

Stan Thomas: OEM Deputy Directory of Mitigation and Recovery

Good, Bridget: OEM Executive Assistant and LGEMAC Board Administrator Partner

Shafer, Tait: Representative from Mountain Wave

Greg Walsh: Marion County Emergency Manager

Kelly Burns: City of Ashland Emergency Management Coordinator

Doug Grafe: Office of the Governor, Wildfire Programs Director

Opening comments and Introductions

Bridget conducted roll call. Patence requested a change in the agenda to have an OEM update prior to other council business. Request was approved by the members of the council.

Approval of December 13th, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were approved by Matt English, seconded by Dave Busby at 3:35 pm.

Update from Matt Garrett

Director Garrett provided an update for the Oregon Department of Emergency Management. He discussed the agency's involvement in Governor Kotek's Executive Order 23-02. OEM and the Department of Housing and Community Services have been tasked with addressing the homelessness crisis. Multiagency Coordinating (MAC) Groups have been established to assist in the initiative. OEM will be working on this order through 01/10/2024. This effort requires a significant lift from the agency. Stan Thomas and Shawna Jepson have taken point. Three MAC

Groups working Continuum of Care are in the Portland Metropolitan area. Washington, Marion/Polk, Lane, Jackson, and Central Oregon also have MACs for a total of eight in the state.

The agency is tracking roughly 50 bills that mention emergency management. The Executive Leadership has testified before the House and Senate Policy Committees. Most of the emergency management related legislation will come into play later in the session in late March, early April. A similar timeframe is expected for the Budget Committee/ Ways and Means Committee and Public Safety Subcommittee.

The agency hopes to grow from its current staff of roughly 90 to about 130 positions. We are addressing some color of money issues that have needed to be updated post the OMD/ODEM transition.

Mark Spross: 9-1-1 funds were previously incorrectly used to fund emergency management positions, an action that goes against federal law. This has been addressed by OEM, whose staff are doing a phenomenal job transferring the funds back to the 9-1-1 budget, but it is an issue that needs to be monitored closely going forward to avoid a repeat. 9-1-1 has a large project in the works and an already-lean budget.

Matt Garrett: “We want to make sure that this this agency is building a strong foundation, both operationally, financially, and politically, and that that’s the discipline the leaders of this organization are engaged in, as we speak.”

The Governor’s office has brought in a recruitment firm to assist in hiring the next OEM Director. It is possible the firm will be reaching out to members of the council. Director Garrett requested that conversations be open, honest and straightforward.

Council Priority Areas

After meeting with other councils, Patence met with Doug Grafe, the Wildfire Response Liaison for the Governor’s Office, as well as Director Garrett to discuss a list of priorities for the council. EPAC will be working on some preparedness and response objectives. LGEMAC will finalize priority areas during the March meeting at Oregon Prepared. The conference will also provide an opportunity for members of EPAC, LGEMAC and OSSPAC to meet and learn about each other. The hope is to avoid duplication of efforts by looking at what other councils are working on, and also aligning with OEM’s priorities to see where the council may be of best use.

Bridget Good will send out an invite for the Oregon Prepared meeting when a room and time have been reserved by the OEM planning team.

LGEMAC Bylaws

Patence: All recommendations will be made to the OEM Director.

Stan: ODEM (rather than OEM) should be used on all official documents referencing the agency.

Mark: There is a need to determine scope and that we aren’t just focused on response or recovery. If there is legislation we would like to address, what’s our authority? Can we go directly to the Office of the Governor?

Patence: Yes, there is a second bullet in the law that speaks of emergency preparedness, planning and response efforts, so the types of recommendations we can make cover a broad spectrum. Need a list of term dates for members. Are expenses reimbursable? Bridget will look into it. How often do we want to meet? The group agreed LGEMAC is unlikely to meet under an “emergency” timeframe. Ended at Article 4.

Helen: It’s better to be general in the Bylaws because they are harder to change than the council’s policies and procedures, so meeting “at least once per quarter” would work. Perhaps change the sentence about absences to be centered around a requirement that no council member can miss more than 25% of meetings in an unexcused status. Clarification is needed to show that we offer only recommendations and do not possess authority to direct action. Also, majority could change to consensus in the wording. Specific days and times do not need to be included in the bylaws.

Dave Busby: serves on the bylaws committee for the OEMA committee and will provide Patence with the wording they use for the attendance rules.

Patence: While primarily meeting virtually, it would be ideal if we could meet in person once per year.

Kelley: Suggested wording to the effect that the council will meet 4 to 6 times per year. Does funding require more?

Open Discussion Items

Website: Council members agreed that having who they represent, based on the House Bill, as well as their current employment should be included on the website. A line should be added that clarifies that the representing description comes from the House Bill directly. We will revisit these at the next meeting.

Introduction from Doug Grafe: Serves as the Governor's Wildfire and Emergency Response Advisor. All states are experiencing more disasters and that trend is expected to continue. He will work alongside the State Resilience Office when that position is filled, to aid in uplifting emergency management throughout the state. He is working to fill council vacancies. He has an open door policy and invites dialogue and is grateful to the council members for their volunteer time. He looks at: Is the state communicating across accounts? Are we putting out energy and funding on priorities? Are we seeing communities gravitate toward being ready for emergencies? How are we measuring success in our programs?

Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned by Tom Roberts and Dave Busby at 5:00 pm.