



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

Date & Time	December 17 th , 2024	10:00 am – 11:30 am
Purpose	LGEMAC bimonthly meeting	
Webpage	https://www.oregon.gov/oem/Councils-and-Committees/Pages/Local-Government-Emergency-Management-Advisory-Council-(LGEMAC).aspx	

Purpose

The mission of the Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Council (LGEMAC) is to provide advice and recommendations to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management regarding its emergency preparedness and response functions.

LGEMAC Members in Attendance

Chair - Jake Shores: Emergency Manager for Multnomah County, Clinical Quality Improvement Coordinator

Representing: Emergency medical service providers

Vice Chair - Bryan Lee: Benton County Emergency Manager

Representing: The public as a member with emergency preparedness or management experience

Kelley Minty: Klamath County Commissioner

Representing: Oregon counties

Matt English: Hood River County Sheriff

Representing: County Sheriffs

Dana Pursley-Haner: Sherman County Emergency Services

Representing: The public as a member with emergency preparedness or management experience

Mike Harryman: OEMA President, OREM Deputy Director

Representing: A statewide association of emergency managers, emergency responders, government agencies & elected officials

Thomas Roberts

Representing: The public as a member with emergency preparedness or management experience

Anthony Pierotti: Pendleton Fire and Ambulance Department Assistant Chief

Representing: Fire departments

LGEMAC Members Absent:

Helen Miller: Pediatric Medical Doctor, Retired Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT)

Commander for Oregon

Representing: Volunteer emergency medical service providers

Others in Attendance:

Jonna Papaefthimiou: State Resilience Officer, Office of the Governor
Erin McMahon: Director, Oregon Department of Emergency Management
Patence Winningham: Deputy Director, Oregon Department of Emergency Management
William Chapman: Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, DAS/OEM
Seiji Shiratori: Legislative Coordinator/Strategic Comms Manager, Oregon Department of Emergency Management
GT Auch: Regional Coordinator Program Manager, Oregon Department of Emergency Management
Bobbi McAllister: Strategic Planner, Oregon Department of Emergency Management
Carrie Karl: City of Bend Emergency Manager
Carole Sebens: SPIRE Grant Coordinator, Oregon Department of Emergency Management
Audrey DeWittie: Regional Coordinator, Oregon Department of Emergency Management
Dean Bender: Polk County Emergency Manager
Ian Thigpen: Klamath County Emergency Manager
Jenny Demaris: Emergency Manager, Eugene Water & Electric Board
John Wheeler: Washington County Emergency Manager
Randy Thorpe: Tillamook County Emergency Manager
Richard Higgins: Multnomah County Emergency Manager
Tait Schaffer: Mountain Wave
Bridget Good, Board Administrator Partner: Mitigation Program Analyst, OEM

Administrative Matters

a) Call Meeting to Order

b) Housekeeping, Roll Call: Board Administrator Partner

c) Old Business

I. Review and approval of October meeting minutes.

Mike Harryman made a motion to approve the minutes. Bryan Lee seconded the motion.

d) New Business

I. EMPG Funding Formula Discussion

- i. Carol Sebens discussed the four main funding formulas put forth by the committee and highlighted the two the committee felt were strongest. The committee requested that LGEMAC members provide feedback for a top recommendation. FEMA would like the formula to have a better equity lens.
- ii. Per Carrie Karl, under option A for a 50/50 split, the cities take the biggest hit. The primary concern with this option relates to the potential impacts to salary, particularly for larger cities.
- iii. Per Bryan Lee, there is not a representative for the League of Oregon Cities on the Council. There are conversations with the Sheriff's Association and OEM looking toward more reliable, stable funding moving forward. It's not in place now.
- iv. Mike Harryman asked about tribal impacts and conversations. Carole Sebens confirmed that the tribes receive funding based on base allocation rather than population.
- v. Seiji Shiratori asked at what level is the committee conducting consultations with the largest cities and counties regarding the potential decrease in their funding. Carrie said an October 17 feedback meeting had been held, open to all jurisdictions and following the meeting a survey went out to emergency management officials who reached out to their community leaders.
- vi. Tom Roberts cautioned whether the reductions from the larger cities in the current suggested amounts would be enough to make the needed difference for the smaller Eastern jurisdictions. He suggested moving away from the population split and moving toward an even splitting of the funds between all participants, as large disasters can happen in all areas regardless of population size.
- vii. Currently, any unspent funds go to OEM and there isn't enough time in the period of performance to redistribute, so the funding stays at the State level, per Carrie Karl. OEM does

- reach out for feedback on how to spend the funds but the committee is seeking to find a new avenue of distribution that doesn't end with unspent funds.
- viii. Matt English explained considerations for emergency managers east of the Cascades, as they often have only one employee handling the duties and that employee wears multiple hats. Also that counties "shall" have emergency managers and cities "may" and this creates more inequities among districts.
- ix. Carrie commented on those being a big part of the discussion and how Federally funded EMPG funds have requirements around capability gap closures that can create conflicts when also trying to meet state statutory requirements. It began a conversation as to whether to include cities or keep it at the county level.
- x. Bryan commented that this recommendation is for the coming year and work to the formula will continue to develop for longer term considerations. For inclusion of cities, we need to look at the requirements they have around the funding for an equity lens.
- xi. Mike Harryman supported a state-level focus, doing the best we can for the state and advocated for each member voting vocally so that only member votes were counted.
- xii. Patence Winningham thanked the EMPG Funding Formula Working Group. Per FEMA, this money from an audit standpoint, is not meant to sustain a position. With the new administration it may dry up. We need to focus through legislation for 401 statute. What do we do with unspent dollars? How often do we review these funds going forward? How do we help when communities can't come up with the match.
- xiii. Erin McMahon also thanked the group. She will make the decision, so the vote can be anonymous. The votes will help her make the decision. There is also a timeline. Big changes at this point would be difficult for the jurisdictions to manage. Small changes may facilitate and encourage further discussion.
- xiv. Matt English commented that the funds that are drying up really highlight that we need to find a more sustainable funding path from the state. Our over-reliance on EMPG funding is problematic.
- xv. Bryan Lee confirmed that state-level collaboration is currently in the works regarding future funding. Option A is a temporary fix that reflects survey results.
- xvi. Carrie mentioned that performance-based awarded funding would place a huge burden on OEM for oversight.
- xvii. Jake Shores: With all comments collected, recommended to vote. Matt English made a motion to approve Option A for the coming fiscal year. Mike Harryman seconded the motion. Kelley, Dana, Tom, Tony, Bryan, and Jake voted to approve the motion. The motion was approved.

II. Survey review and workplan development and refinement

- i. The council reviewed the options and the five survey results that were collected for workplan projects and goals.
- ii. Mike Harryman advocated focusing on the top-selected items from the survey.
- iii. Matt English requested a comparison of missions between EPAC and LMAC.
- iv. Patence Winningham:
 - 1. OERS has been pushed to July 1, 2026. This would be a great topic to prioritize. She advocated for an LMAC Workgroup or have a member as a representative in that group.
 - 2. OpsCenter replacement would also be helpful for workgroup input for OEM. Grant Management System is another project currently in the works with a tight 6-month timeline. It would be helpful to have an LMAC representative in that workgroup, as well.
 - 3. Another conversation, relating to SWIC is grant funding for communications equipment, such as tsunami sirens in jurisdictions that do not currently have them.
- v. Seiji commented on OERS, the governor's recommended budget stipulates that resources come in 2026, but legislatively, OEM is still supposed to take on the team in 2025, so deciding on a direction will be key for this legislative session.

III. OEM is recruiting for an Executive Support Specialist II to support all OEM boards and commissions. More information to come.

e) **Disaster Updates or Concerns from Council Members**

- I. Any thoughts or lessons learned from the December 5th magnitude 7.0 earthquake along the Mendocino

Fault?

- i. ODHS has 168 facilities. The Gold Beach facility triggered an evacuation zone after the alert. Briefing and communications happened in the 1st hour. Everbridge was used to communicate. Sent an all clear when issued. If seemed to go very well. Issues around Highway 101 being clogged up. That could have been very dangerous. This is an opportunity to increase communications for tsunami protective actions.

f) Requests for Topics for February Meeting

- I. Birol Yeşilada, Ph.D., Professor and Director of the Oregon Cybersecurity Center of Excellence & Mark O. Hatfield Cybersecurity & Cyber Defense Policy Center will present on hazards of Artificial Intelligence in the emergency management field. Contact: Birol Yesilada yesilada@pdx.edu
- II. ODEM Briefing on the scoping plan and timeline for the 2024 wildfire AAR
- III. Strategic Plan Draft, formal presentation by Bryan and Jake
- IV. Legislative Update from Seiji
- V. Kelley Minty: What major concerns do emergency managers have with the incoming federal administration and what it might do to our funding.

g) Actions Assigned

- I. Bryan and Jake will set a future date in the Strategic Plan for the council to review future EMPG funding formula recommendations.
- II. Mike Harryman offered to sit as a representative on one of the workgroups to be discussed with Patence at another time.

h) Comments from the public

- I. Per Sheriff English: Recognition of Bryan Lee for receiving the award of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association's Emergency Manager of the year. Congratulations to Bryan!

i) Adjourn meeting

- I. Jake Shores made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kelley Minty seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 am.