

Minutes of the  
Thursday, April 21, 2022 meeting of the  
State Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team (State IHMT)

Meeting location: webinar only

The following 27 people participated in the meeting:

Governor's Office, SRO	Mike Harryman
University of Oregon, OPDR	Michael Howard
Department of Administrative Services (DAS)	Darrin Brightman
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Don Pettit
Division of Financial Regulation (DFR)	Tracie Weeder
Building Codes Division (BCD)	Jeremy Payne
Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)	Bill Burns
Oregon Health Authority (OHA)	Candy Cates
	Amelia Reynolds
Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)	Matt Crall
	Cynthia Smidt
OMD, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	Stephen Richardson
	Andrew Phelps
	Janine Mayer
	Jason Gately
	Joseph Murray
	Althea Rizzo
Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM)	Tom Welle
Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)	Jenna Trentadue
Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)	Jessica Gourley
Oregon Water Resources Department (OWDR)	Alyssa Rash
Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS)	Kim Travis
	Alex Campbell
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Karla Martinez
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	John McCandless
	Rynn Lamb
	Laura McSweeney

1) Welcome

The meeting was underway a minute or two after 9:00 a.m. Joseph said a few words about the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State IHMT. Joseph displayed the March 4, 1997 press release which Governor Kitzhaber issued during his first term in office that directed OEM to “make the Governor’s Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team a permanent body. Direct the team to establish regular meeting dates...” Joseph noted he had recently found the roster from the first meeting in May 1997, and also information about early projects we worked on. Joseph said that among current State IHMT members, only he, Keith Mills (OWRD), and maybe Bill Burns (DOGAMI) go back to the beginning. The State IHMT grew out of similar policy level groups Governor Kitzhaber had assembled due to the flooding, landslides, and debris flows of February and November 1996.

OEM Director Andrew Phelps talked about becoming much more intentional about reducing risks to hazards, and about OEM being better resourced to do hazard mitigation. He talked about developing Key Performance Measures (KPMs) for hazard mitigation including having Oregon NHMP<sup>1</sup> enhanced status. He noted that in the past, we have sometimes had to de-obligate hazard mitigation funding because we were unable to spend it; we will track and try to prevent doing this moving forward. He talked about the importance of BRIC.<sup>2</sup> He talked about the next 25 years and how proud he is to be a part of our mitigation efforts. He thanked everyone for their efforts and innovation.

Stephen then talked a little about H.R. 2471, The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 which provides a 90% federal cost share for emergencies and major disasters declared or having an incident period between January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021.

## 2) Introductions

The webinar chat was used to facilitate introductions.

## 3) Act on draft minutes from January 20, 2022 meeting

Candy moved the minutes from January as drafted; Jenna seconded. Stephen talked about the fact that OEM is revamping the State IHMT website, and other hazard mitigation pages on its website.

## 4) Public Comment

Joseph noted that most of the participants today are State IHMT members, but there are a few non-member public participants. Stephen provided an opportunity for comment, but no one spoke-up. Stephen talked about other groups that do mitigation work in Oregon including REMTEC; he plans to add them to the interested parties' distribution.

## 5) Report from FEMA Region Ten Mitigation Division

Rynn introduced herself and then displayed a slideshow. Once she arrived at slides having to do with mitigation planning, John took the lead. Not on the slides, he also talked about the very recent release of the FEMA's new guidance on local and state mitigation planning, guidance that was released on April 19, 2022, but is going into effect one year later.

Stephen noted that Oregon has about a 50% turnover rate among Local Emergency Program Managers (LEPMs), so OEM is doing a lot of education on mitigation planning including our intent to conduct a "318"<sup>3</sup> course late summer or autumn.

## 6) Landslide mitigation

Bill said there are three big landslide projects currently. He talked about the landslide warning system being one of the State IHMT's very first projects back in 1997. Last year, DOGAMI led in the review of the changes the landslide warning system has gone through over the years and asked for

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<sup>1</sup> NHMP = Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

<sup>2</sup> BRIC = Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, a FEMA grant program

<sup>3</sup> FEMA G-318, Local and Tribal Mitigation Planning Workshop

recommendations for improvements, which were made. He noted that this resulted in a new Open File Report 0-21-01 < see <https://www.oregongeology.org/pubs/ofr/p-O-21-01.htm> >

They also just finished landslide inventory mapping in Clatsop, Lincoln, Lane, and Douglas counties, mapping thousands of slides. That leaves only Coos County on the coast without new LIDAR-based landslide data.

He then noted Special Paper 53, a method to analyze channelized debris flows. It is being implemented in the fire burn scars and elsewhere. He noted the debris flows that Eagle Creek have produced since the fire there. He talked about new LIDAR being collected in that burn scar to account for changes since the fire.

#### 7) Update on maintenance and implementation of the Oregon NHMP

Stephen noted that the Oregon NHMP was re-adopted and re-approved in September 2020, and our current focus is maintenance and regaining enhanced status. Jason reemphasized those words, saying between updates we do “monitoring and maintenance” especially on the mitigation actions. Jason said that out of approximately 180 actions in the Oregon NHMP, about 80% are led by OEM, DLCD, or DOGAMI. OEM has been reaching out and people have been responding with updates. He encouraged people to go to the DLCD website and take a look at the actions assigned to their agency. OEM will continue to reach out to all relevant state agencies. [Jason, Stephen, and Joseph have divvied-up the list of state agencies for reach-out.]

Bill noted the recent response DOGAMI provided to Joseph to meet this request for updates. [ODOT also just provided an update to Joseph.] Stephen said that this work will make the big update due in 2025 much easier.

#### 8) Update on State IHMT Charter Project

Stephen noted that we decided late last year to formalize the State IHMT. An initial draft of a Charter for the State IHMT has been produced by a subcommittee helping with the work. He asked if there are particular areas people want as part of the Charter or changes people want to how the State IHMT operates? Stephen wants more outreach to outside groups doing similar work. [No input was really provided to Stephen’s question.] Stephen said the Charter will eventually lead to an Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR).

#### 9) State IHMT member update: Oregon Department of Forestry

Jenna had a formal presentation<sup>4</sup>. Please see that presentation for information about this agenda item.

#### 10) 2020 Wildfire Recovery: HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery/Mitigation Action Plan Feedback

Alex introduced himself. Kim also participated. Alex covered a formal presentation.<sup>5</sup> The grant has a 15% mitigation component (in another slide, this was shown as 10%). This grant application will be off to HUD by June 8. Kim noted the formal public comment period, and that OHCS is interested not

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<sup>4</sup> This slideshow has been distributed to the members and interested parties by email.

<sup>5</sup> This slideshow has been distributed to the members and interested parties by calendar invitation.

only in the input of this group, but also the network that this group reaches. A draft to be published on May 2. Alex noted eligibility in the eight Individual Assistance (IA) counties. Alex noted he already has about 1,000 email addresses of potentially interested parties. During the week of May 16 in-person public hearings are scheduled.

Bill noted the work DOGAMI is doing with post-fire debris flow mapping and analysis in the burned areas. He wondered if the money could be applied to people whose property ends-up in mapped hazard areas? Alex noted that local or state agencies could apply to help with that sort of thing, but individual property owners could not. He did note, however the ability to do buyouts. For more information, see: < <https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/housing-assistance/Pages/CDBG.aspx> >

#### 11) Other business

Stephen noted that he'd like a presentation similar to Jenna's each meeting: he is looking for a volunteer for the July meeting. [No one volunteered.]

Stephen noted that the State IHMT website will soon be linking to the websites of each of its member agencies, and when possible, specifically to their mitigation work.

Stephen then said we may move to in-person meetings soon. What are your thoughts? He noted these could be hybrid type meetings. He noted that OEM will be moving to a new facility. Jessica and Don both want an option for remote participation. Cynthia agreed. So did others. It sounded like the consensus is a hybrid format.

Stephen talked about OEM staff being on the national BRIC panel.

Tom noted he had been referred to this group by Erik Rau (also of the OSFM). He talked about training the OSFM is doing for the fire service and others in wildfire mitigation, including science-based best practices for preventing structural ignitions. He noted that they have seven regional field specialists, all finally on-board. His focus the past few months has been on hiring. He'll tie-in with Erik when he cannot make these meetings. OSFM also has a \$25 million program to purchase and strategically place new firefighting equipment across the state. OSFM will hire a grant manager to run this program. Tom also has a \$7 million operational budget for defensible space kinds of projects. They also have a new program for schools and hospitals. Jenna asked for a future presentation from Tom or his designee on the OSFM programs and initiatives. Jenna said it will be important for the OSFM to continue to connect with the State IHMT on implementation of these efforts.

#### 12) Develop agenda items for July meeting

No one had any to offer; Joseph asked people to let him know by email.

#### 13) Adjourn

Stephen adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

**The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**