

Minutes of the
Thursday, January 19, 2023 meeting of the
State Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team (State IHMT)

Meeting location: Zoom webinar

The following 32 people participated in the meeting:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Don Pettit Wes Risher
Division of Financial Regulation (DFR)	Karla Martinez
Building Codes Division (BCD)	Jeremy Payne
Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)	Bill Burns
Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA)	Gloria Zacharias
Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)	Cynthia Smidt Deanna Wright Katherine Daniel Marian Lahav Susan Millhauser
OMD, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	Stephen Richardson Althea Rizzo Janine Mayer Jason Gately Anna Feigum Joseph Murray Jessi Weaver
Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM)	Claire McGrew
Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)	Christie Shaw
Oregon Health Authority, Public Health	Candy Cates
Burns Paiute Tribe	Manuel Mose
Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation	Bob Fosseck
Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians	Douglas Ladd
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Danny Martinez
Clackamas County Disaster Management	Gianna Alessi
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Erin Cooper Mary DeBacker Rynn Lamb
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Paul Sclafani
WSP USA (formerly E&E)	Trevor Clifford Dane Kovaleski

1) Welcome

Stephen asked, "Where do we want the State IHMT to go in the year ahead?" How can we improve the Grant Review Board? Stephen noted the change in OEM Director and the delay this has put on the Charter.

2) Introductions

Joseph used the webinar chat to facilitate introductions.

3) Act on draft minutes from the November 3, 2022 meeting

Katherine moved the minutes as drafted and Gloria offered a second. The motion passed.

4) Public comment

No members of the general public made any comments.

5) Silver Jackets (Flood Mitigation Subcommittee) and NFIP updates

Deanna talked about a new floodproofing certificate that will be released fairly soon. She is preparing for a couple of Community Assistance Visits (CAVs). She noted that the flood annex of the State EOP still needs to be updated and is still on her radar. Joseph provided some context about the flood annex of the State EOP.

6) Senate Bill 762 initiatives, resources, and grants at the Office of State Fire Marshal

Claire noted that most of SB 762 is now part of the OSFM Statutory Authority. She noted the six regional risk reduction staff in the field, as well as the deputy state fire marshals. She talked about an assessment tool. The goal is to create one universally recognized assessment tool for Oregon. It will be tied to parcel level public assistance grants, coming out spring of 2023. They are also working with Tribal Nations. So far, the work has begun with the Umatilla Tribe and with Warm Springs. Individual meetings with the other seven tribes are scheduled over the next few months. What is needed may vary with each Tribe. Danny plans to invite Claire to an upcoming meeting at Siletz.

7) Consumer Advocacy Team

Karla had a slideshow (distributed with these meeting minutes). She talked a bit about the roles of the Division of Financial Regulation (DFR). Their main section is consumer advocacy. They have people who specialize in certain things. She gave mortgages as an example. The majority of the complaints they get are insurance related. They also do licensing, exams, enforcement, and investigations.

Karla talked at considerable length about how they address consumer complaints. She noted their webpage is currently being redesigned. There is a “get help” function. Karla is part of their education section. They do education around insurance and financial services and foreclosure prevention, debt management, and how to prepare for a natural disaster. One focus is encouraging consumers to check their insurance regularly to make sure they have adequate coverage.

They do a lot of public events, and welcome invitations to events that are related to the work of DFR. “Lots of boots on the ground.” She noted that most of their work post-disaster tends to be 15 to 30 days out after the event. They need to wait to see what happens with the claims filed.

Karla noted that they recently rolled out an exciting program, the Outreach Sponsorship Program. She talked about their social media presence, including a YouTube channel. Deanna offered her help to DFR with flood insurance questions. Deanna noted that reaching out to flood insurance providers is part of her mission.

Bill wanted to talk about landslides, mudflows, debris flows and insurance. Karla suggested that Bill approach her after the meeting, and Karla will connect Bill with the right person. Deanna noted she has contacts on this topic as well. Rynn talked about the fine line between mudflow and debris flow having to do with the water content, which can be a tricky thing to prove after the fact. Several people agreed to a follow-up mini-meeting on these topics.

8) Report from FEMA Region Ten Mitigation Division

Rynn did not have slides (she usually does). She gave an update on Siuslaw and Umatilla watershed projects, and floodplain map related work in Hood River, Sherman, and Wasco counties. She noted that the flood maps are in the appeals phase for the Coast Fork Willamette and Silvies rivers. She noted that “There is lots going on around the state.”

She then talked a bit about Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) projects: a climate resilience study and workshop for Coos Bay that was led by IPRE at the University of Oregon. She noted that DOGAMI has done a lot of recent work and is involved in a lot of current work. She noted the RiskMAP Coordinator position at OEM. Stephen noted that job announcement will probably go out the following day. She noted LIDAR covering gaps in Jackson County is an upcoming project. She said the NW HAZUS Users’ Group is about to be reactivated with quarterly meetings having a technical focus. She is gearing up for the FY 23 grant cycle on CTP with applications due on January 31. She has been hosting a number of calls with potential partners.

Erin then talked a bit about expecting the Harbor Water District and Marion County NHMPs, and awaiting revisions from Coos County and City of Albany. They are about to issue a FEMA Approval Letter for Jefferson County and its participating jurisdictions. She noted that the FEMA Integration Team (FIT) Planner recruitment package has made it through another hoop at FEMA Region Ten.

Erin noted that this Spring will bring the official policy cutover for local and state NHMPs. Anything approved on or after April 19 will need to meet the new policy. She noted the tribal policy was undated in 2018 and is currently being “re-visited.” It may change in a couple of years: 2025? She noted that FEMA is planning for its annual consultation with the State of Oregon.

9) Local mitigation planning update for DLCD and OPDR

Joseph displayed a statewide table put together by Marian (and Michael Howard); Marian gave people an opportunity for questions or comments. (The slideshow is distributed with these meeting minutes.)

10) *Oregon NHMP* update

Marian led with the update to the risk assessment, noting that we have been awarded an HMGP grant to update it. She noted that we have not yet received the BRIC grant for the update to the overall Oregon NHMP. That grant ought to come through from FEMA later this year. She noted the need to separate the work on each grant. DLCD will be sending out invitations soon to State IHMT members and others outside the State IHMT to be on the Risk Assessment Work Group (RAWG). She said “We need your help and brain power. This is an exciting project with a lot of cutting-edge things. It’s fun to collaborate with your peers!” The first meeting of the RAWG will likely occur during February.

11) Update on Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grants

Anna displayed the following image:

In 2022:

- 36 post-disaster subgrants awarded (10 above end of year report)
- Across 5 grant rounds (DR4432, DR4519, FM5327, DR4562, FM5394)
- End of Year Report:
 - Total Federal: \$8,312,611.15 + \$4,486,301.20 = **\$12,798,912.35**
 - Total Management Costs: **\$260,292.13** + additional (up to 5% for each subgrant = max **\$224,315.06**)
- Overall, 75+ subapplications are in FEMA review queue (\$90+ million in federal funds) over 6 grant rounds (above plus DR4599)

Anna noted January has been a very busy month with BRIC and FMA deadlines looming. Anna noted there are no open grant rounds currently on the post-disaster side of the house.

Jessi then jumped-in with BRIC: subapplications were due Jan. 13, and OEM is processing them now. She expects to submit 27 subapplications for \$325 million. We ought to start hearing back on their status during July 2023. The BRIC 23 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will be dropping in mid-August, so OEM will open pre-applications about one week later, probably open for about one and one-half months. BRIC is an annual program. Complex projects are often sent to BRIC. Start thinking about developing projects now.

Stephen talked about better using the Grant Review Board.

12) Update on the State IHMT Charter

Stephen noted that the draft charter was included with the MSoutlook meeting invitation. He hopes to have it signed by the Interim or Deputy Director. Once the Charter is signed, it will be folded into OAR. Stephen wants feedback by March 15; return feedback directly to Stephen, and he will take comments back out to the subcommittee that drafted the Charter.

Stephen said we'll do elections at the next State IHMT meeting. He'll ask for nominations in the meantime via a follow-up email message.

Danny noted that the draft Charter has one permanent chair (OEM staff) and two elected officer positions. Stephen said a treasurer position may be added later. Marian wrote in the chat "I notice that the Risk Assessment Subcommittee is not on the list of current subcommittees." (At one time in the past, the State IHMT had such a subcommittee.)

13) Other business

Paul noted that USACE is updating the Emergency Action Plan for Lookout Point Dam, which will be followed by other dams. He also said that USACE is doing consultation on the effects the dams have on the environment, doing an EIS on the entire Willamette Basin Project.

Gloria noted that the Infrastructure Finance Authority has received 104 Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program applications (\$47.6 million in requests) for emergency services facilities; awards will be made in April.

14) Develop agenda items for April meeting

No agenda items were offered, but Stephen noted the need to have an agency step forward to be highlighted at the April meeting.

15) Adjourn

Stephen adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.