



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Meeting Date, Location, and Purpose

Date: 10/16/2025

Location

Hybrid: Teams at OEM in room 208

Time: 09:00 am – 11:00 am

Purpose: State Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team (State IHMT) 2025 Quarterly Meeting

Minutes

1. Welcome/Opening Comments

a. *Erin McMahon, OEM Director*

i. Director McMahon acknowledged the changes affecting emergency management throughout 2025 and expressed gratitude for the ongoing work. She and Stephen attended the 2025 NEMA conference where the future of mitigation was heavily discussed. There is a need for states to solidify their own EM programs. Oregon has really done that, successfully receiving federal mitigation grants. In the future, this team will inform priorities for the governor as we move out to a direct funding model where funding comes into the state and is then managed at the state level. In the past, priorities were organized by Oregon but then chosen based on policies and priorities of the federal government. Having the decision at the state level will benefit the state. She thanked the team and thanked Marian for joining as a co-chair.

b. *Stephen Richardson and Marian Lahav, State IHMT Co-Chairs*

i. One of the goals of this group going forward is how we will inform the Governor's office as we move programs forward, and how do we collect success stories.

c. *Jonna Papaefthimiou, State Resilience Officer*

i. Jonna expressed gratitude for the work of the team, through a hopeful and long-term frame.

2. Introductions

a. *Bridget Good, State IHMT Secretary, OEM*

i. State Resilience Officer Jonna Papaefthimiou (GOV)

ii. Director Erin McMahon (OEM)

iii. Deputy Director Patence Waddingham (OEM)

iv. Stephen Richardson (OEM)

v. Bridget Good (OEM)

vi. Rhiannon Bezore (DLCD)

vii. April Brewer (PUC)

viii. Bill Burns (DOGAMI)

ix. Heide Caswell (PUC)

x. Candy Cates

xi. Trevor Clifford

xii. Mike Crop (OEM)

xiii. Kail Beers (OEM)

xiv. Jason Gately (OEM)

xv. Jessica Gourley

xvi. Marjorie Cheng-Leever (USACE)

- xvii. *Clair McGrew (OSFM)*
- xviii. *Joseph Murray (OEM)*
- ix. *Annette Patton*
- xx. *Paul Sclafani (USACE)*
- xxi. *Don Pettit (DEQ)*
- xxii. *Jennifer Potter (DAS)*
- xxiii. *Sophi Beym (OEM)*
- xxiv. *Erica Evans*
- xxv. *Hannah Fattor (OEM)*
- xxvi. *Lisa Gorsuch (PUC)*

3. Act on July 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes

- a. *Stephen Richardson, State IHMT Chair, Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM)*
 - i. *Bill Burns, move to approve the notes*
 - ii. *Clair McGrew seconded the motion*
 - iii. *Minutes were approved*

4. Silver Jackets and RiskMAP updates

- a. *Paul Sclafani, USACE*
 - i. *Last year's work is wrapping up. Changes have impacted the program at the beginning of the federal year due to the shutdown and changes in schedules, so this years program goals are in development. The main activity currently underway is flood preparation for the upcoming flood season. Working to put together alerts that go out to floodplain managers and to counties to prepare. Another distribution will go out to emergency managers, as well. Both will entail a briefing on the expected seasonal forecast, the [tools](#) that community officials have to monitor the floods, how do they get that information, and what is the pathway to get the alerts set up, and how to do a once-over of decision support tools. They have a [StoryMap](#) to help walk through tools like the FEMA map, USGS gages, and Weather Service alerts and information.*
 - ii. *Many members attended the Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association (NORFMA) regional [conference](#).*
 - 1. *From this they learned about a company called [Forerunner](#), working with Cottage Grove and a few other Oregon communities to help assemble different GIS layers, floodplain management codes, and building codes and they get flood maps into a comprehensive database. It provides a parcel by parcel assessment of risk interface for the communities, and they will be providing the Silver Jackets with a demonstration of their products.*
 - 2. *At the conference a few communities expressed concern about how building permits don't always trigger floodplain management permits. They will be reaching out to Albany and Tillamook to provide procedural assistance.*
 - iii. *FEMA BiOp: Comment period has closed on the environmental impact statement and the implementation of that. FEMA has not selected an alternative for the implementation. The shutdown may affect timing, but an alternative should be forthcoming.*
 - iv. *Weather service announcement to backfill the regional hydrologist position, which is a very important role for the Silver Jacket's group, as a connection to forecasts and meteorology. The hope is the position will be filled by flood season.*
 - v. *They plan to attend the Winter Weather Advisory Meeting on 11/20 from 1:00 – 4:30.*
 - vi. *Since 2015, Paul has been the Silver Jacket's coordinator working in the Portland district. He is still going to maintain the coordination role, but he is not with the Portland district anymore. He is now at the Institute for Water Resources HQ, working with the Oregon Silver Jackets, as well as the National Silver Jackets team, trying to align flood mitigation across the country. Marjorie (Jorie) Cheng-Leever will be stepping in for the Portland district and may be transitioning to giving the brief in the future.*
 - vii. *Silver Jackets still has weekly open hours on Fridays.*

b. *Hannah Fattor (OEM)*

- i. *RiskMAP Projects are continuing, despite funding uncertainty, and remain on track. Lane County recently released mapping updates and an open house for the Amazon Creek projects. There was another open house in Benton County, and Sherman County has approved and adopted their flood mapping. Work is being done in Umatilla County, for the Umatilla River, and in Clatsop County with their levee rehabilitation planning.*

5. Update on Non-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants

a. *Jon Wiebe, OEM*

- i. *BRIC 2024, really no change. The program has been cancelled. Oregon has joined the multi-state litigation on BRIC. At this time, HMGP remains the primary alternative and OEM is helping eligible applicants identify potential funding sources outside of FEMA where applicable.*
- ii. *FMA 2024. The program is suspended. Program suspended – Region X reporting NOFO to be reissued since May. Pending FMA projects: \$15m pending plus \$46m +/- in potentially redirected BRIC. Impact: degraded confidence in federal program mechanisms*
- iii. *FY2020-2023 active subawards:*
 1. 2 PDM legacy subawards
 2. 10 subawards between programs (SMC not included)
 3. 3 BRIC 2021
 4. 1 FMA 2021
 5. 3 BRIC 2022
 6. 3 FMA 2023 pending award
- iv. *Looking ahead*
 1. FEMA uncertainty, miscommunication and delays. FEMA Go is down.
 2. FEMA early out's and RIFs driving capacity loss
 3. Declining subapplicant programmatic confidence
 4. N-D focus on compliance monitoring
 5. NEMA conference
 6. Program Administration by States (PAS) pilot program as likely evolution of HMA
 7. Currently only 5 states implement PAS
 8. Flexibility and ownership vs. readiness and capacity
- v. *Per Stephen, this program is very fluid without a clear path forward in 2026. OEM is noting its impact on items like mitigation plans. Visit OEM's [Federal Updates](#) page for the latest information.*

6. Update on Post-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants

- a. *Kail Daniel, OEM*
- b. *HMGP-DR-4854-OR Overview*

Disaster-Related Dates & Information

Incident Period	July 10, 2024, to August 23, 2024
Type of Incident	Wildfire
Declaration Date/Pre-award costs start	January 1, 2025
Directly affected areas	Gilliam, Grant, Umatilla, Wasco, and Wheeler counties
Total Federal Funds Available; 6-month estimate	\$7,902,923.63
Federal Funds Available by Proposal Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5% : \$395,146.18• Plan: \$553,204.65• Advanced Assistance (AA): \$1,975,730.91• Codes & Standards: \$395,146.18• Projects: \$4,583,695.71
Cost Share	75% Federal; 25% Non-Federal

- c. /
 - i. *6-month estimate \$7,902,923.63*
 - ii. *January 2026 12-month lock-in*
 - iii. *Total pre-application request \$35,552,694.83*
 - iv. *Eligible activities \$27,542,694.83*
 - v. *Directly affected areas \$8,569,672.50*
 - vi. *Total suggested pre-applications to move forward \$11,446,757.33*
 - vii. *\$3,543,833.70 over 6month estimate*
 - viii. *Seven alternates*
 - ix. *Creation of "shovel ready" sub-applications if all alternates do not get funded under DR4854*
 - x. *Critical Infrastructure: back up power projects*
- d. *Recommendations were provided to IHMT Members through an Excel file. Kail reviewed the spreadsheet tabs and requested the members review and provide feedback by end of business. Due to the tight timeline for the grant round, chosen applicants will be notified on Monday.*
- e. *Deputy Director Winningham asked where impacts to critical infrastructure are captured in the application process. Kail explained these are captured in detail in the subapplication, but not in the preapplications.*
- f. *Stephen and Marian are working on creating a grant review committee. In 2026, the team will be looking to be very strategic and intentional in how grants and projects are being prioritized. Current needs far outpace funding availability, and a formal committee can help align priorities. The actions that we've listed in our plans will help drive these efforts and the overall goal will be to further Oregon's resilience. Marian and Stephen will send out a draft proposal for the State IHMT to review in setting up the grant review subcommittee. This committee can assist in grants at other state agencies, as well, and will not be specific to OEM.*

7. Oregon NHMP Update

- a. *Joseph Murray (OEM)*
- b. *The Oregon NHMP was reapproved by FEMA, effective 9/15/2025 -9/14/2030. DLCD staff is working on getting it ready to post online. It should be ready by the end of October.*
- c. *Stephen Richardson thanked all parties who helped with the new plan. The plan was successfully reduced from 1,800 pages down to 800. Each agency has separate programs and missions. As we move through the next biennium, how many achievements can we mark off the State NHMP as they are completed? How do we capture those success stories to inform and amplify mitigation funding. Did the funding received at the local level accomplish the goal? One example is the Flat fire where 28-30 homes in Sisters were directly saved due to good mitigation BLM, SFM, etc. What are some things we've done in the past that directs water away from homes or elevated homes to help with flooding?*

This will be critical for post-disaster funding. Going forward, we will need to provide information in Presidential Declaration Requests of current or past mitigation projects in the effected areas that are requesting the declaration. Were the projects successful and what is that community's commitment to mitigation? OEM was recently denied our first HMGP grant under 4881, the Douglas County flooding event. We are navigating the appeal process and have not heard back, but the feedback for the future is that awards are going to be tied to these plans to justify the funding.

8. Risk Assessment Project Update

- a. *Stephen Richardson, OEM: Christine is working to finish the project. We have the part for the state plan completed. The next phase is for local entities to use.*

9. Local Mitigation Planning Report & Risk Assessments

- a. *Joseph Murray, OEM. Report was included in meeting materials. Mitigation plans that DLCD is working on. "Current" means that the update is progressing based on the current SOW and schedule. It does not mean that the plan itself is current. They are working with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Plan should be approved March of 2026. Harney County is not currently approved. Under the current SOW it should be approved in July 2027. We may need to speed the timeline. Grant, Harney, Lake and Malheur are 20% complete based on DLCD's most recent quarterly reports. These should all be reapproved in the summer of 2027 based on current timelines. Hood River County is a bit unusual. They took a lead with the plan and that is unusual and it was reapproved in July. OPDR assisted in the work, as well as Lincoln County update, which came in at 1,200 pages. There were 7 cities, 14 special districts plus the county involved. It is in APA status, and the jurisdictions are beginning the adoption projects.*
- b. *Bill Burns, DOGAMI on Risk Assessments. There are 4 post-fire debris flow studies which are very close to being completed. Final presentation should be held in early November. These are mostly 2020 wildfire burn areas, as well as Eagle Creek. Hazard analysis, risk analysis, and risk planning. There are a couple of channel migration projects; one in Umatilla which is close to being done. Another is in southern Lane County and is just at the starting phase. Meetings will begin in early 2026.*
- c. *Bill Burns OLRRT Update. The Oregon Landslide Risk Reduction Team, which is a subgroup of the State IHMT, and Bill was the lead of the group. It was smaller and new participants and goals have been added. Jessi Wilder and Annette Patton joined. They will be Co-Chairing the group and provided the overall goal to better collaborate landslide research across groups.*

10. Public Comment

- a. *Stephen Richardson facilitating*
- b. *Each public speaker is limited to three minutes, unless the time is extended by the Chair.*
- c. *Stephen requested information: At the next State IHMT meeting in January, having an agency spotlight. Building Codes was requested as the first topic. How do we do good mitigation to lower insurance premiums in certain neighborhoods? How do we let homeowners know when wildfire mitigation is done? Example as Ashland. City of Eugene for Amazon Creek. Can we open a communication line to insurance companies? This will incentivize mitigation.*
 - i. *Claire McGrew OSFM, they have been having several conversations with the Building Codes Division around fire home hardening. What happens on the house and how it transitions to defensible space.*
 - ii. *Stephen will email BCD to see if there is interest.*
- d. *Public facing publications: GIS Tools, Power BI, Maps, and being able to share with other agencies. How can we show projects and which locations are getting the most mitigation funds? On our dashboards we would like to show the projects being done throughout the communities. The request is that if other agencies have dashboards with those projects, please drop a link in the chat or reach out through email. We would love information we can share at shows and conferences.*

11. Other Business

- a. *Stephen Richardson facilitating*
- b. *Federal Update: There are a lot of rumors, and we are trying to conduct rumor control and source out the information we are hearing. Program Administration by State (PAS) is a potential new direction that funding may be headed. It is in line with a block grant mechanism, giving more authorities to the*

states to administer. Programs are being scrutinized at a higher level than we have seen in the past. Climate adaptation and climate change are not being allowed. Funding sources are being taken away. If this comes to fruition and we have that extra authority, the State IHMT will be the backbone and driving force of developing strategies and action plans. We don't have enough information to proceed yet, but this is good to have on the radar. Oregon is spotlighted as having a throughout, forward thinking, strategic mitigation approach, from a state-wide collaborative approach. It is being noticed across the country.

- c. Claire McGrew: OSFM received some community risk reduction dollars during the most recent legislative session through 3940. They have been doing some focus group conversations with partners, Oregon fire service, boots on the ground to determine the best strategic investments. This is part of the home hardening work that has transferred from BCD and is in process of being stood up.

12. Great Oregon ShakeOut

- a. 10:16 – 10:19 | Great ShakeOut Drop, Cover, and Hold: Participation in the Great ShakeOut! Consider your workplace strengths and areas for improvements for earthquake response and take a picture for our OEM PIOs!
- b. 10:19 – 10:30 | Building Evacuation: We will **activate the fire alarm system** to notify staff to evacuate the building.

13. Adjourn