

Minutes of the
Thursday, November 3, 2022 meeting of the
State Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team (State IHMT)

Meeting location: webinar only

The following 30 people participated in the meeting:

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| Department of Administrative Services (DAS) | Jenny Potter |
| Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) | Don Pettit |
| Division of Financial Regulation (DFR) | Karla Martinez |
| Building Codes Division (BCD) | Jeremy Payne |
| Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) | Bill Burns |
| Oregon Health Authority (OHA) | Candy Cates |
| Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) | Gloria Zacharias |
| Dept. of State Lands (DSL) | Lauren Brown |
| Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) | Matt Crall |
| | Deanna Wright |
| | Katherine Daniel |
| | Marian Lahav |
| OMD, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) | Stephen Richardson |
| | Althea Rizzo |
| | Janine Mayer |
| | Jason Gately |
| | Joseph Murray |
| Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) | Nancy Taylor |
| Oregon Health Authority, Public Health | Ericka Mason |
| Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) | Jessica Gourley |
| Oregon Water Resources Department (OWDR) | Alyssa Rash |
| Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) | Renee Davis |
| Burns Paiute Tribe | Manuel Mose |
| 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 |

[There was also a person on the webinar who did not identify himself, logged in as JackSowd.]

1) Welcome

Stephen welcomed everyone to the November special meeting of the State IHMT. The meeting was underway a few minutes after 9:00 a.m.

2) Introductions

The webinar chat was used to facilitate introductions.

3) Act on draft minutes from July 21, 2022 meeting

The draft meeting minutes were adopted as written.

4) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5) Silver Jackets (SJ, aka the State IHMT Flood Mitigation Subcommittee) update

Deanna introduced herself. She noted a new SJ project for flood story maps with the primary audience being local floodplain managers, scheduled for release later this month. There are about 250 floodplain managers in Oregon. DLCD has a listserv for this audience. If you want to be added to it, email Deanna at deanna.wright@dlcd.oregon.gov. She noted DLCD is hiring a new Planner2 to help with NFIP implementation in Oregon. This recruitment will close November 17. Help Deanna spread the word! Deanna noted the standard elevation certificate currently in use expires at the end of November; she will push out a new one as soon as it becomes available.

6) Report from FEMA Region Ten Mitigation Division

Erin introduced herself. She leads the hazard mitigation planning program for FEMA Region Ten. She noted that Edgar, the hazard mitigation planner for Oregon, has left FEMA. She is working on filling that position during the next few months. The position will be based at the OEM office. She had previously done endangered species work at FEMA. She noted that FEMA is also hiring for new positions that will be focused on climate, equity, social and economic development.

Rynn talked about the Middle Columbia-Hood watershed project. She noted the Hood CCO¹ meeting just occurred. Wasco and Sherman are to be scheduled, the latter maybe in person. She talked about the Central Lane Open House that occurred recently:
<<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4b7f576f061e41a8923801723c19f431>>.

There is mapping occurring for Amazon Creek; it's currently a LOMR.² Rynn explained what a LOMR is; a way of updating flood maps between major updates, which can take up to ten years to roll out. LOMR is a much faster process for smaller watersheds.

Rynn also gave an update on FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP), noting that DOGAMI has several projects, one to fly new LIDAR in Jackson County. This will assist with future hazard mapping. There is a detailed landslide project in Hood River County, and another in the Creswell-Cottage Grove area.

Rynn provided the following weblink:

<<https://fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=5e6e5010753540c19d2af39fd4885658>>

¹ CCO = Community Coordination and Outreach; CCOs occur with local officials prior to the public open house.

² LOMR = Letter of Map Revision

7) *Report from the Landslide Mitigation Subcommittee (aka, Oregon Landslide Risk Reduction Team)*

Bill showed nine slides from a presentation named “Recent Observations of Post-Fire Debris Flows in the Western Cascades, Oregon.” [They were distributed under separate cover.] Bill noted the mega fires, followed by the post fire debris flows in the Columbic River Gorge, one of which led to a fatality. Nancy asked Bill to give this presentation to her entire agency, noting ODFW staff are very interested in this topic and data.

Matt asked for more information about the instruments. Bill said precipitation gauges and also temperature, snowpack, and soil moisture sensors. Typically, instruments are put near each other in burned and unburned areas.

Don noted the atmospheric river headed our way this very weekend. There is a little, but not a lot of snow on the ground right now.

Paul asked whether we are collecting information on the snow delta? Increasing or melting? It was noted that we are.

8) Local mitigation planning update for DLCD and OPDR

See the handout provided by Marian, which was distributed under separate cover.

9) Update on the *Oregon NHMP* update!

Marian talked about the two grants DLCD has applied for, the first to update the state’s natural hazards risk assessment. We may not receive the money for the second, the state NHMP update until September 2023. She noted that new FEMA policy goes into effect April 2023. We expect to finish the Oregon NHMP update by Jan. 2025, which will be a very short timeline. She will initiate the risk assessment workgroup soon to begin work on that piece. When the plan update grant comes through, DLCD will activate a bunch of workgroups with a lot of work to do in a short period of time. She talked about the workgroups which will be involved: Enhanced Plan, Risk Assessment, Public Engagement, Mitigation Strategy, and State/Tribal/Local Coordination. Marian then talked in some detail about what each workgroup will do. She said that for more information to see her slides from the April 2021 meeting and she asked Joseph to redistribute the April 2021 slides.

10) Update on Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)

Stephen noted that Jessi is now the Deputy SHMO³ with the OEM lead for the non-disaster grants, i.e., BRIC and FMA. OEM had 45 entities invited to submit sub-applications for BRIC. OEM is going to go through the BRIC subapplications in early December.

On the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Stephen noted that OEM prioritizes the affected counties first, and the projects that address the hazards that led to the funding. Stephen noted that some of these grants are slow and this leads to projects being withdrawn, therefore OEM always has alternative projects parked so that the state doesn’t give any mitigation

³ SHMO = State Hazard Mitigation Officer

funding back to FEMA. OEM is getting ready for FY 23!

Nancy asked about fuel reduction work that led to trees being removed that were not actually hazard trees. How do we make sure this does not happen with FEMA grant money? Stephen talked about using arborists. He also talked about the FEMA EHP requirements that are intended to keep that sort of thing from happening.

Nancy asked about the work of the Grant Review Board. Stephen said OEM is taking an internal look at how this should work. Should we continue to do this ad hoc, or do we need to formalize who is on it? What procedures and guidelines does its work need to follow?

Manuel asked about funding for prescribed burns. Stephen said fuels reduction is generally an eligible project area for which eligible applicants can submit pre-applications to OEM.

11) Update on the State IHMT Charter project, OAR, and upcoming survey

Stephen said OEM has a final draft of the Charter, and will move on to having the Charter implemented in rule. The State IHMT will have a vice-chair. The State IHMT is not intended to be simply the voice of OEM. Think about who ought to be the vice-chair. The secretary will be up for vote. Joseph could run if he wishes to. There will also be a treasurer position. The Charter will go out to everyone for one last look. We'll have elections early in 2023, maybe at the January meeting.

Stephen said he is working on building a survey. He asked what mitigation areas ought we be working on? What should our standing agenda items be? He noted that other groups with similar interests will be invited to the table. He talked about the changes in state government brought about by SB 762.

Bill said DOGAMI is the lead on tsunami preparedness and mitigation. Will their tsunami staff be involved in the State IHMT. Stephen said "yes, of course, along with Althea Rizzo of the OEM staff." There will also likely be more of a focus on adaption to climate change.

Nancy asked if the State IHMT could intervene when state agencies or state versus federal agencies have different propped approaches to addressing the wildfire hazard? Stephen noted he wouldn't speak for those agencies. Stephen asked Joseph to talk about what the State IHMT has done in the past. Joseph noted that the State IHMT has at times had conversations about policy, but has not – in the past – had any legal authority to resolve disputes.

Renee believes there is a better place to have that discussion: the Shared Stewardship process that includes USFS, BLM, NRCS, ODF, ODFW, and OWEB. That is a strategic leadership group process that includes agency heads.

12) Other business

Stephen talked about the OEM office move. He also noted that OEM received a FEMA Grant to hire a RiskMap Coordinator for the State of Oregon. OEM is working on getting the position created and hired while in the midst of its transition.

Manuel noted in the meeting chat, “I am interested in how tribal contributions are going to be helpful on a state level for FEMA purposes. Tribes do have access to FEMA resources, and some of the requirements are different than it is for counties and states.” Erin wrote, “feel free to reach out to chat more about tribal/state/FEMA coordination.”

Renee recommended <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/05/climate/fire-forest-management-bootleg-oregon.html>

13) Develop agenda items for January meeting

Stephen noted his interest in having partner agencies do presentations on the mitigation work their agencies do, one at each meeting, but no one volunteered for the January meeting.

14) Adjourn

Stephen adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

DRAFT