

Minutes of the
July 20, 2017 meeting of the
State Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team

Meeting location: This meeting was held in Room #114 of the Donald N. Anderson Readiness Center in Salem.

The following people participated in the meeting:

State Resilience Officer (Governor's Office)	Mike Harryman
Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience (OPDR)	Josh Bruce
DCBS, Division of Financial Regulation (DFR)	Tracy Weeder
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Don Pettit
Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)	Jed Roberts
OHA – Public Health Division	Eric Gebbie (on phone)
Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)	Matt Crall
	Marian Lahav
	Dave Lentzner
	Tricia Sears
	Chris Shirley
OMD, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	Angie Lane (SHMO, Chair)
	Joseph Murray
Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)	Greg Ek-Collins
Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)	Keith Mills
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)	Eric Hartstein
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Brett Holt
	Jeffrey Hunt
	Cynthia McCoy
	Roxanne Reale-Pilkenton
	Amanda Siok

The following were distributed during or prior to the meeting:

- Meeting agenda
- 44 CFR 201.5 (agenda item #2)
- 2015 MITIGATION ACTIONS – PRIORITY (agenda item #3)
- *1st FEMA Review Priority List – Based on FMAG In First, Then DR 4258 Followed* (agenda item #5)
- *OREGON PERISHABLE DATA COLLECTION PLAN* (agenda item #7)

[Email joseph.murray@mil.state.or.us for a copy of one or more meeting handouts.]

1) Introductions

Angie opened the meeting approximately 9:08 a.m. with introductions.

2) Report on State Mitigation Program Consultation

Brett talked about a daylong meeting that had occurred the previous day during which FEMA Region Ten mitigation staff consulted with State of Oregon mitigation staff. He noted that we examined the enhanced status of the Oregon NHMP including grants management. In the afternoon we talked about how Oregon helps local governments with hazard mitigation, including training. We then talked about the status of actions in the Oregon NHMP. Brett mentioned there are only 12 enhanced states in the USA. In Region Ten, they are Oregon and Washington.

Mike asked if a report would be produced from the meeting. Brett indicated that FEMA will produce meeting minutes from the meeting and make them available.

Angie then added to Brett's comments by passing out the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) citations that relate to enhanced state mitigation plans. Angie talked about some of the requirements for states to maintain enhanced status. She talked about the challenges of keeping-up with grants management, and also some of the challenges of the Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) regulations. She talked about a workshop on EHP that she intends to do later this year.

Angie talked about subgrantees not doing a good job of following the budgets they developed for their projects and the trouble of moving money around. She then talked about her desire to do another loss avoidance study. The most recent one we did was in September 2009 focused on Tillamook County acquisitions and elevations.

Angie then talked about the benefit of receiving 20% versus 15% of "the total estimated eligible Stafford Act disaster assistance" following a Presidential major disaster declaration. It can mean millions of additional dollars to Oregon to accomplish mitigation. Angie noted that she needs more help managing the grants. Brett noted that he knows of no other enhanced state that runs mitigation grants on one staff member. Washington has at least five staff members doing that job. Iowa was also mentioned as having a lot of mitigation grants staff.

Josh talked about some of the things that California does to help local governments with mitigation match. Brett didn't know about California, but noted that Washington does pick-up half of the non-federal match. Josh felt that we ought to take this idea to the Oregon Legislature.

3) Oregon NHMP update

Marian provided a handout of the "priority" mitigation actions from the 2015 Oregon NHMP update, and said that 2016 was the year of risk assessments and public outreach. She talked about the analysis of state owned buildings and the statewide landslide analysis.

She then noted that in the next month or so, DLCD will need information on what portions of the plan each agency updated last time, and an estimate of the amount of work each agency sees needing to do for the 2020 update. Marian indicated that she will produce and distribute a list of questions.

Keith noted the need to focus during the Oregon NHMP update on a few areas that are really important. Joseph and Marian noted that during the most recent update, we really tried to do that. Marian said that management support went into prioritization during the most recent update. Matt said that a two-tier approach is really a good idea, and often happens in plans. Keep the long list of everything we want to do and the shorter prioritized list. Greg added that we did a lot of work during the most recent update to clean-up the list of actions. Don had questions about the Oregon NHMP actions table, which Marian was able to address.

Angie said that the next update will be completed using PDM17¹ funding. The work may require all of the planning portion of the PDM17 funding available. PDM17 applications will be due to Angie by October 6. Therefore the scope of work (SOW) will need to be developed quite soon. She intends to help DLCD with development of the application, including the scope of work. Angie hopes that she and DLCD staff will work side-by-side and put the application pieces into e-grants.

Josh noted that given that the state mitigation plan update is three years out, a lot of local governments also look to PDM to fund their NHMP updates, and also hope to get into the PDM17 application pool. One example is Eugene-Springfield. Chris mentioned the possibility of Baker and Grant counties. Chris and Josh both noted that those two counties no longer want to pursue the regional NHMP model. Josh gave an example of the time delays that are occurring on PDM grant applications, and how that is affecting the update process.

¹ PDM is Pre-Disaster Mitigation, a FEMA grant program.

Angie said that she would love it if the state could fund its own plan update, but that isn't going to happen. She asked "What do we do with this?" Josh said "Without a state plan, it doesn't matter what local governments do."

The cost of doing a local plan update was discussed. Chris asked "What does it cost?" Is it \$40K to \$50K on average? Joseph said his recollection is more like \$30K. Josh said that OPDR will scale the work to the funds that are available.

Chris talked about DLCD's interest in doing a statewide risk assessment and a methodology for risk assessment with federal grant funding.

Cynthia talked about a national initiative called the National Risk Index (NRI); she is working with FEMA's headquarters staff to make the NRI available to the states and local governments. This tool is expected to be ready to go on September 5. She talked a bit about what this tool does. Mike asked if this will automatically tie into other existing data sets. Mike and Cynthia then did a back and forth about what data has been integrated. The NRI will use ARCGIS that will allow users to pull in other data sets. It is being designed so one need not have GIS expertise to use the Index.

4) Discuss enhanced Oregon NHMP status

This was covered in #2 above.

5) HMA project funding update

Angie talked from a handout titled *1st FEMA Review Priority List – Based on FMAG In First, Then DR 4258 Followed*, going over the status of various applications. She also talked about projects that were "awarded" on July 18 funded via PDM16: two planning grants for DLCD that cover Oregon Natural Hazard Regions 5, 6, and 8; a planning grant to OPDR for the Clackamas County NHMP update; and to the City of Reedsport for the Elm Avenue Pump Station Seismic Retrofit.

6) Update on local mitigation planning

Josh said that PDM13 is closed, all the plans are approved, except Douglas County, which is working with OEM and OPDR to respond to the FEMA Region Ten review. With regard to PDM14 Linn County has come to the state for review, as has Salem and Polk County. A bunch of others developed or updated under PDM14 have received FEMA approval. Under PDM15 Josephine County has received its FEMA re-approval, and OPDR is closing-in on a final draft of Jackson County. PDM16 funding came-in so late for Clackamas County that OPDR is needing to rethink their approach and their scope-of-work.

...Angie provided a ten-minute break right here...

Tricia gave an update on Medford, which is currently responding to FEMA-required revisions. On PDM16, Tricia has eight counties (Gilliam, Harney, Hood River, Lake, Malheur, Sherman, Wasco, and Wheeler), and has been working under "pre-award" costs.

Don had questions about who is required to have plans and who – in fact – has plans. Various accurate answers were provided by Josh, Chris, Tricia, Marian, and Angie.

Marian then gave an update on Tillamook County, its cities, and two of its port districts. She mentioned an extension request likely to go to FEMA next week.

7) Flood Mitigation Subcommittee (FMS, aka "Silver Jackets") update

Chris provided the following updates:

* Multistate NOAA *Atlas* update effort

Chris said that this project has run into a funding issue. Keith talked at some length about this, saying that 45 states have an *Atlas*. The five that do not are in the West and Northwest of the USA. Oregon has an interim product. The proposed Oregon work on the *Atlas* would cost over \$1 million. ODOT was lukewarm, but the most supportive of the five highway departments. Keith said ODOT's data is better than the NOAA *Atlas 2*, which "is horribly out of date." Chris talked about how important this data is to flood modeling.

* Update on *Perishable Data Plan* (PDP)

Chris provided Oregon's PDP as a handout. Oregon is one of the few states that has one of these, so our PDP is becoming looked at as a national model. We are currently updating it. She passed around a couple of copies for people to look at.

* Projects

Chris also talked about the modeling done for the Carver Lake moraine dam, but noted that a recent discovery about a change in the topography will result in second look. The previous model examined the failure of the moraine dam. The new model looks at a landslide pushing the water out. There is to be a community meeting later this summer. FEMA maps show this as an advisory flood zone.

She also noted a project in the Johnson Creek area, one in Baker County, one on the Sandy River, and a post-wildfire floodplain management plan template. There are also two training events proposed, one a floodplain management flood course, and one on resilience planning.

Amanda noted the work that Community Engagement and Risk Communication (CERC) has done on post-fire guidance that she will share with Chris. Brett talked about a lot of good work that has been done in New Mexico and Idaho, which he will share.

The next FMS meeting is scheduled at OEM on September 12, and will be focused on levees. Some people had an interest in joining by telephone. Josh said that these meetings should be publicized to the entire State IHMT membership. Chris said she would take this as "homework."

Angie said that the Mitchell flash flood warning system project will be withdrawn due to the lack of a local champion.

The RiskMAP and risk assessment subcommittees the State IHMT were both noted. Neither has met recently.

Josh asked about the Madras floodplain management project. Chris said that this was funded under PDM12, not Silver Jackets.

8) Report on Jackson County Resiliency Workshop

Cynthia talked about the Jackson County resiliency event (Upper Rogue Watershed) that had occurred on May 10, noting that the first such Workshop had occurred in Tillamook County on April 4. A lot was learned from the Tillamook event. She talked about how these events are organized: federal agencies first talking about programs and resources, and then tables/groups discuss issues (focused discussions on local issues). She talked about the efforts being made to align these workshops with local NHMP updates. The next Workshop planned will be for the Lower Columbia and Sandy Watersheds.

Dave talked about how much the small communities in Jackson County appreciated being able to meet with federal agencies, have their say about the issues they face, and work on possible solutions. Dave thanked FEMA and CERC, and indicated how much he appreciates the flexibility.

Don said he had gotten feedback from Kate Jackson about the Upper Rogue event. He'd like to see agendas in advance and meeting notes after these events.²

Mike talked about the connections his position is making within the Governor's office and the Oregon Legislature. Mike noted his ability to make connections within the Legislature on hazard mitigation, including the need for funding.

9) Other business/round robin

a) Summary presentation on the Ashland LID project:

Josh indicated that his team had done a thorough review of Ashland ordinances and examination of ecosystem resources. Long story short, Ashland was already actually doing quite a bit, which challenged the University of Oregon's ability to develop new ideas. The OPDR team did come-up with: 1. increase floodwater storage, 2. expanding a green streets initiative, and 3. targeted low-impact incentives for private properties. The team then utilized FEMA's STAPLE/E as a way of ranking proposals. The main beneficiaries of increased flood storage turn-out not to be Ashland, but downstream communities like Talent and Phoenix.

They succeeded especially in getting non-traditional hazard mitigation people to the table, which led to making a lot of discoveries about resources we are typically missing. They also learned a lot about how to market things in a better way. Brett noted that this was one of two projects funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and that their staff are very interested in the outcomes of these two projects.

Don asked to have links to these projects provided to the State IHMT.³

b) Other:

Angie noted that she would like us to develop a Charter and more structure for the State IHMT

Keith noted that he worked for ODF on landslide matters for 27 plus years before going to work at OWRD six years ago. He was working at ODF when the November 1996 debris flows killed several people in Douglas County. He talked about the Senate Bill 12 (1999) Further Review Areas; he talked about how rapidly moving landslides can kill people. Maps were produced, but later rescinded. As a consequence, "Further Review Areas" largely do not exist. Joseph talked about how Governor Kitzhaber in his first term formed the State IHMT (then called the Governor's IHMT) largely to reduce the vulnerability of the state to rapidly moving landslides. Both Keith and Joseph expressed frustration that we have not gotten farther with this key State IHMT mission.⁴

Jed and Josh both noted that the time to starting working on concepts for the next session of the Oregon Legislature is now. Mike talked about the successes with OWRD bonding, Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program (SRGP) bonding, and the transportation package. Mike said that the Coastal Caucus is strong, and there is another strong group out of Central Oregon. Governor Brown will be able to propose five Bills during the 2018 short session. One of them will likely be on Climate Change. Each legislator also will get a small numbers of Bills, but if one can get an idea introduced during the short session, even if it doesn't go far, it can help when the longer session comes along.

² On July 21, Joseph followed-up with Cynthia on this.

³ Many or all of Josh's slides are contained within:

https://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/Portals/0/doc/presentations/Partnering_Opportunities_EPA.pdf

⁴ A state-run debris flow warning system was another result of the early State IHMT efforts; that system has been modified in a number of ways over the years.

Angie asked if “enhanced” means anything to the Oregon Legislature. Mike said, “Mostly no.” They tend to take our successes with mitigation for granted. We need to educate them in between sessions. Mike talked about various strategies to take with legislators. Don noted that generally there is little awareness as well about how emergency response works. Keith said that OWRD had a pretty good session. EAPs are now required for all high hazard dams in the state.

Angie is working with Kate Skaggs on one-pager success stories, such as City of Portland flood mitigation, Newport’s Safe Haven Hill, etc.

Jed talked about just completing a levee inventory; Chris added that Business Oregon’s Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) has funding available for levee projects.

Tricia mentioned the Earthquake Summit in Medford on September 26 and 27; Larry Masterman, the city’s emergency manager is the sponsor and host.

Josh noted that OPDR is doing more and more economic resilience work; he would like to see better participation by state economic development players on the State IHMT.⁵

Josh plugged the upcoming Oregon Emergency Management Association (OEMA) Workshop.

Eric Hartstein thanked us for the invitation, and noted that he sees some overlap with the work of OWEB.

Greg talked a bit about how the Legislative Session is going to affect ODOT’s work on resiliency. A lot of really good things are going to happen, including some from the resiliency plan. Greg intends to give reports to both OSSPAC and the State IHMT.⁶ This is their first comprehensive transportation package ever. It would not have happened without the help of OSSPAC, the bridge study, and to some extent the State IHMT.

10) Action on minutes of April 20 meeting

Joseph reminded everyone that we had agreed as a group to no longer print meeting minutes. They were attached to the meeting invitation. He heard from no one about revisions or additions needed. No one had any revisions or additions during this meeting either, and so these will stand as drafted.

11) Public comment

There were no members of the general public present at the meeting.

12) Adjourn

Angie adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

⁵ Joseph has noted this on his State IHMT task list.

⁶ This has been noted for the January 2018 agenda.