

Minutes of the
July 15, 2021 meeting of the
State Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team (State IHMT)

Meeting location: webinar only

The following people participated in the meeting:

State Resilience Officer (SRO)	Mike Harryman
Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI)	Meghan Dalton
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Don Pettit
	Wes Risher
Division of Financial Regulation (DFR)	Tracie Weeder
Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)	Bill Burns
Oregon Health Authority (OHA)	Emma Hollar
	Candy Cates
	Ericka Mason
Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA)	Gloria Zacharias
Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)	Matt Crall
	Celinda Adair
	Katherine Daniel
	Pam Reber
	Tricia Sears
	Chris Shirley
OMD, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	Amie Bashant
	Jason Gately
	Joseph Murray
	Stephen Richardson
	Althea Rizzo
Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM)	Erik Rau
Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)	Jenna Trentadue
Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience (OPDR)	Michael Howard
Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC)	Lisa Gorsuch
Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)	Jessica Gourley
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Edgar Gomez
	Rynn Lamb
	Laura McSweeney
WSP USA (formerly E&E)	Trevor Clifford

1) Welcome

One minute after 9:00 a.m., Amie Bashant (OMD-OEM), SHMO, welcomed everyone to the July quarterly meeting.

2) Introductions

Joseph Murray (OMD-OEM), State IHMT Staff, facilitated introductions using the webinar logins as a guide.

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

Celinda Adair, DLCD, noted that her agency has received a new grant from FEMA to conduct statewide floodplain management, including CAVs. She noted that DLCD has a lot of training planned for the new grant cycle including in-person training. She talked about support DLCD has been providing post-fire. She noted that NFIP Risk Rating 2.0 goes into effect in October; she has distributed information about it; if you don't have it, let her know. She then talked about the strategic planning Silver Jackets has been doing. Finally she talked about floodplain mapping that is underway.

4) Report from FEMA Region Ten Mitigation Division

Rynn Lamb talked about RiskMAP work that continues in the Silvies Watershed, appeals occurring in Klamath County of the newly proposed floodplain maps, a revised preliminary map in Lane County, a Benton County Discovery Report that is under revision, and BLE currently being developed for watersheds in Wallowa County. Celinda and Rynn talked a little about what Base Level Engineering (BLE) means.

Edgar noted that his team is pulling together the post-consultation notes. These ought to be out by early August. FEMA and the State IHMT ought to then begin to start doing follow-up on the various actions recommended.

5) After-Action Reports (AARs) and hazard mitigation for ice storms and heat waves: next steps

Mike Harryman talked about various post-disaster AARs, another one coming soon on Reopening Oregon. He noted the AAR on the wildfires has been completed focused not so much on firefighting, but on the enterprise response. He said the Governor's Office is hiring a consultant to do the AAR on the ice storms – if you did not receive an invitation to participate in this one, let Mike know. Any or all of AARs may contain recommendations that result in new legislation.

Mike then noted that Oregon has a great state mitigation plan, a great climate adaption plan, and now we need to go after mitigation funding to implement them. He then talked about the Regional Resiliency Assessment Program (RRAP), which ties in well with these two plans. He talked about being cheerleaders for mitigation. Don asked about how to get access to the RRAP report? Mike said the report is still under review in Washington DC, but will be publicly released fairly soon. He will distribute via the State IHMT and other bodies. He also plans to present the RRAP at the OEMA Conference in October.

6) FEMA Consultation with Oregon: next steps – collaboration, training, equity, and climate change

Stephen Richardson talked about Oregon losing “enhanced” state NHMP status shortly after the September 2020 wildfire declaration. He talked about how critical the State IHMT will be to getting enhanced status back. He said OEM needs to make sure the right people are on the roster and participating in the State IHMT. He'd like feedback on who is missing.

He then noted that the mitigation team is expanding at OEM, which has an additional six positions. Stephen talked about the important addition of Jason Gately to mitigation planning, and Jessi Weaver on the grants side, focused on close-outs. He talked about Nic Roberts who is taking over the quarterly reporting. This will be a major assist to Nicole Hansen, OEM's mitigation grants accountant.

Another new position will be assisting on climate change adaptation implementation. He then talked about the regional mitigation and recovery team, led by Amanda Mathis, with a total of six team members. These people will help bridge capacity.

Stephen noted that in March of this year OEM began “Plan to Action.” It used to be that with local or tribal NHMP approval the momentum stopped. Not anymore. With OEM’s new Plan to Action initiative, once the plan is FEMA approved, Stephen is then promoting mitigation grants. OEM wants to help local governments and tribes to take action with their new or updated mitigation plans. Stephen said it is being very well received by the jurisdictions. He talked about the role of FEMA local hires in making this happen, and the transition coming from FEMA local hires to the new OEM staff. He talked about a few specific examples of mitigation grant funding that has recently been awarded, including a \$4 million WUI project for Ashland.

Stephen then talked about putting out FAQs, and work he is doing with OEM’s Public Information Team to produce YouTube videos on mitigation and grant funding.

He noted that Anna Feigum is away today at an Environment and Historic Preservation (EHP) class, which is part of the critical path for mitigation projects.

Stephen then talked about equity. Why is mitigation money mostly going to only a few jurisdictions? What can we do to make sure that the less populous jurisdictions can successfully access mitigation funding? He talked about the many Q&A sessions OEM has been doing.

Stephen then addressed the recent heat wave: climate change is a real thing. It is covered by the Oregon NHMP, but what are we going to do about it? What are the next steps?

Mike asked what the timeline and roadmap are for regaining enhanced status? Stephen said the trouble goes back about three years. OEM’s roadmap was launched back in March, and the plan is to regain enhanced status within 24 months.

7) ODOT Mitigation Revamp

Jessica Gourley talked about the mitigation experience she brings to ODOT from her previous position with the City of Eugene. She talked about an internal mitigation team that ODOT has put together. One focus will be scoping projects with the intent of then applying for mitigation grant funding. They are focused on long-term mitigation, projects that will pay dividends over at least 15 to 20 years.

8) Mitigation grants update

Amie Bashant provided an update. She asked Joseph to distribute her PowerPoint presentation and Microsoft Excel table because Amie was unable to share her screen. [These and other documents shared during this agenda item are attached to the calendar invitation for the October 21 meeting.] She talked about the great progress that is being made. She said it is okay to submit subapplications early (before the deadline). She talked about the upcoming BRIC¹ and FMA² NOFO³ in late summer.

¹ BRIC = Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

² FMA = Flood Mitigation Assistance

³ NOFO = Notice of Funding Opportunity

Amie noted that OEM will need to activate the State IHMT Mitigation Grant Review Board soon for HMGP on FEMA-4562-DR-OR and also for BRIC and FMA 2021. She noted Oregon has received one FMAG declaration thus far this fire season and others are pending, so Oregon will be receiving additional funding for HMGP via FMAG later this year.

9) Oregon NHMP maintenance and implementation

Stephen talked about discussions that are occurring with DLCD staff focused on how to get enhanced status back. He talked about forming workgroups, and developing metrics. Stephen then talked about hitting timelines and OEM's objectives. He talked about the interstate work OEM is doing with Washington State, which has asked OEM for peer review of their work.

10) Other business/round robin

a) Update on local mitigation planning

[A file named "DLCD-OPDR Mitigation Planning Update for State IHMT 7-13-21 for 7-15-21" was provided with the calendar invitation for the July 15 meeting. If you do not have it, and want it, send a request via email to Joseph Murray.]

b) Relaunching the State IHMT Mission-Goals and Operating Guidelines projects

Jason Gately will reach-out once the new OEM mitigation staff have settled-in and then set a date to work on these two projects.

c) Other

Erik talked about his new role at the OSFM and his interest in better connecting the fire risk reduction mission of the OSFM with the work of the State IHMT.

11) Develop agenda items for October meeting

Nothing was offered during the meeting; Amie asked people to submit ideas/requests by email.

12) Public comment

No public comment was offered.

13) Minutes from Jan. 8 (tabled previously) and April 15, 2021 meetings (provided with the calendar invitation)

This was tabled for action NLT the October meeting.

14) Adjourn

Amie adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.