



Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC) Meeting Agenda

Date: 24 November 2020

Time: 1200 - 1500 hours

Location: Virtual, Microsoft Teams platform

Call-In Information:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTcxNmVlMGU0tMWIzMC00Y2VlLTljNzEtNDlmMGZlMjc4MDRk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223dcd4a-7e4c-407b-80f7-7fb6757182f2%22%2c%220id%22%3a%227dc86587-7d21-4a8b-96f8-a3e3495f209e%22%7d

Invitees:

Name	Position Title	Designation
Adrian Grieve P	Division Disaster State Relations Director (PA, MD, DE, DC & FEMA RIII), American Red Cross	Member
Anna Sierra P	Director, Caroline County Department of Emergency Services	Member
Bruce Wahl P	Former Mayor of Chesapeake Beach	Member
Clay Stamp P	Assistant County Manager/Director of Emergency Services, Talbot County	Member
David Willenborg	Sr. Engineer, Technical Support, Department of Defense, NAVAIR	Member
Douglas Brown P	Deputy Director, Carroll County Department of Public Works	Member
Dwayne Freeman P	Director of High Homeland Security, Washington County Public Schools	Member
Earl "Buddy" Hance	Commissioner, Calvert County	Member
Jasper Jones P	Budget Analyst, USDOT	Member
Jennifer Martin P	Deputy Commissioner, Population Health and Disease Prevention, Baltimore City Health Department	Member
Johnathan Bratt P	Executive Director, UMB Office of Emergency Management	Member
Jonathan Dayton P	Volunteer Firefighter/EMT Allegany County; President, Allegany and Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire Rescue Association	Member
Jonathan Favorite P	Director of Technical Services, Communications Electronics, Inc.	Member
Joseph LaFleur P	Manager, Crisis Management/Business Continuity/IT Disaster Recovery, GP Strategies Corporation	Member
Kevin Simmons P	Director, Office of Emergency Management, City of Annapolis	Member
Mike Berna P	Fire Chief, Maryland Fire Chief's Association	Member
Robert Poole P	Retired Special Agent, ATF; ODNI, Insider Threat SME	Member
Ronald "Ronnie" Gill P	Director of Emergency Management/Deputy Director of Homeland Security, Prince George's County	Member
Ryan Miller P	Principal, Critical Functions, LLC	Member
Stephen Wantz	Commissioner, Carroll County	Member
Thomas Moran P	Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium	Member
Tiffany Green P	Fire Chief, Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department	Member
Timothy Cameron P	Sheriff, St. Mary's County	Member
Marverly Nettles P	Exercise Planner, Government Consulting Firm	Member
MG Timothy Gowen	The Adjutant General	Ex-officio
Walter Landon P	Deputy Chief of Staff; Director, Maryland Governor's Office of Homeland Security	Ex-officio
Russell Strickland P	Executive Director, MEMA	Ex-officio
Terry Thompson P	Executive Liaison, MEMA	Ex-officio
Chas Eby P	Deputy Executive Director, MEMA	Ex-officio
BG Adam Flasch	Director, Joint Staff, Maryland National Guard	Ex-officio
Alexandria Hopkins P	Executive Assistant to the MEMA Executive Director	Staff Support
Blake Langford P	Maryland State National Capital Region Program Manager, MEMA	Staff Support

Purpose:

- To fulfill the statutory requirement, as articulated in MD Pub Safety Code § 14-105 (2017), “the Council shall advise the Governor on all matters that relate to emergency management.”

Objectives (OB) and Intended Outcomes (IO):

Ref#	Objective with Intended Outcome
1	<i>OB-1:</i> Adjudicate and resolve any SERC Business <i>IO-1:</i> Meet all statutory and regulatory requirements
2	<i>OB-2:</i> Brief update on the State-Managed Disaster Assistance Fund Memo <i>IO-2:</i> Situational Awareness
3	<i>OB-3:</i> Review recent EM legislation and past GEMAC efforts with legislative impact <i>IO-3:</i> Gain situational awareness on current legislative efforts so that the group may discuss how best to utilize future council time and effort
4	<i>OB-4:</i> Receive and understand proposal to create a GEMAC Legislative Affairs Subcommittee <i>IO-4:</i> Group reach consensus on the disposition of the proposal and determine immediate next steps, as necessary.
5	<i>OB-5:</i> Review and comment on the GEMAC annual report <i>IO-5:</i> Situational awareness and opportunity to comment/provide edits
6	<i>OB-6:</i> Provide any other comments and/or information for the benefit of the council <i>IO-6:</i> Situational awareness, operational coordination for all members
7	<i>OB-7:</i> Determine and reach consensus on next steps <i>IO-7:</i> Shared understanding of future intent and interim task(s) required to achieve established goals, thereby establishing the council’s common operating picture

Agenda:

1200 hrs 1. Opening Remarks

Ronnie Gill - Chairman

1210 hrs 2. SERC Business

Douglas Brown – GEMAC, SERC Subcommittee Chairman

- SERC committee recommended approval for a 3 year term reappointment of the following individuals to the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) in Talbot County:
- Dr. Kelly Griffin, Superintendent Talbot County Public Schools, Christopher Durham, Public Health Emergency Planner, Talbot County Health Department, Micah Risher, Manager Eastern Airport Anthony Smith, Chief, St. Michael’s Police Department
- In addition, the Talbot County council recommended one new appointment for a 3 year term- Donald Cooper, Security Eastern Middle School
- SERC has endorsed the recommendation of those individuals to the LEPC in Talbot County
- GEMAC moved to recommend those individuals as well

1230 hrs 3. GEMAC State-Managed Disaster Assistance Fund Memo Update

Ronnie Gill & Governor's Office of Homeland Security

- The memo is having a positive impact on those who are contact with the Governor's senior team
- Secretary David Brinkley, Maryland Department of Budget and Management, is under the opinion that its too late to include additional items in this year's budget
- However, Secretary Brinkley will do what is necessary, along with Pete Landon's support in order to propose items for next year's budget
- Pete Landon, Deputy Chief of Staff; Director, Maryland Governor's Office of Homeland Security - Unfortunately, the time is off for this budget cycle. He hopes the timing and budget condition are better next year, due to the importance of the consideration. He believes everyone is on board, just need to determine the best way to plug the item into the budget.
- Blake Langford, Maryland State National Capital Region Program Manager, MEMA, provided a brief background of the memo- The memo proposed the creation of a disaster assistance fund. It discussed whether the fund would be capable in generating revenue or if it would be a commission to study how the fund could be proposed. The memo provided several courses of action to the Governor and his team for follow up.
- Blake Langford- The fund would help finance a portion of the cost-share for federal disasters. If there is 75-25% cost- share, the memo proposed the fund would subsidize up to half of the state shared portion of that money. This subsidization would relieve the financial burden of local jurisdictions and state entities. In addition, the fund could also finance disasters that had a significant impact on a locality but did not meet the federal disaster threshold for the entire state.

1240 hrs 4. Review of 2020 EM Legislation & A Look Behind and A Look Ahead

Blake Langford – GEMAC Staff Support

- Purpose- Providing situational awareness of legislation that has been proposed most recently and GEMAC next steps.
- Review upcoming legislation in 2021, the legislation passed in 2020, and what the GEMAC has done in the past that potentially impacted legislation.
- Unfortunately he was unable to obtain access to pre-filed legislation for 2021. Per Department of Legislative Services, pre-filed legislation is not publicly available until it appears on the Maryland General Assembly website. Usually pre-filed legislation appears on website a few weeks before session begins.

2020 Session

- Unique because the session was cut short for the first time since the Civil War due to COVID-19
- MEMA sponsored 3 bills that passed, and 1 that failed due to lack of time for submission process (p)- passed; (f)- failed
 - HB648/CH288 (P) – generally clarifies the responsibilities of MEMA and makes procedural and technical changes
 - SB80/CH287 (P) – Renamed MEMAC to MIEMAC. Made changes to provisions of the compact.
 - SB81/CH516 (P) – Requires each principal department of the Executive Branch to develop a continuity of operations plan. Establishes MEMA as the coordinating and adjudicating entity.
 - HB650 (F) – expanded Governor authority during a state of emergency and also authorized the Governor to issue an enhanced coordination order which allowed the Governor to take special actions prior to a disaster (e.g., pre-positioning resources, evacuations)
 - Chas Eby, Deputy Executive Director, MEMA- For clarification regarding the responsibilities of MEMA within the first bill, the law now states that any incident that requires two or more state agencies response outside of daily incidents, requires MEMA coordination by law. In addition to the name change within the second bill, it removes the burden from local jurisdictions declaring a local state of emergency in order to participate in MIEMAC. For the third bill, the law now requires MEMA coordination of COOP plans at the state level for principal departments.
 - Joe LaFleur, Manager, Crisis Management/Business Continuity/IT Disaster Recovery, GP Strategies Corporation- Will GEMAC have access to the final legislation as it was passed on the first three bills?

- Chas Eby- Yes the legislation is available and will be sent as a follow up
- Joe LaFleur- In reference to the bill regarding COOP plans, what is thought process going forward on the non- executive agencies, the judicial branch and the independent agencies?
- Chas Eby- Good question. The law itself does not require those agencies to have COOP plans. However, in practice, MEMA will provide templates as well as working sessions with the Executive branch agencies that are required by law as well as those who are not required. They will include other groups if they are willing to have technical assistance.
- Joe LaFleur- In regard to the bill that was not passed, what is the impact of COVID on this particular provision? Will that change your thinking in terms of the language when it is reintroduced to allow or expand to give certain authorities within MEMA in a COVID pandemic scenario. Or is there none?
- Chas Eby- The first bill that requires MEMA to help coordinate during large scale incidents was key. Even though COVID began before this was law, the spirit of the bill shows that even these large-scale incidents, like COVID necessitate a coordinating body. Because we knew this was coming, certainly the Governor's office was on board with MEMA helping to establish a multiagency coordination, which we have done with MDH and other pertinent agencies. Therefore, in practice, it is happening because of the acknowledgement of the COVID operation. While Public Health is bearing much of the response and their subject expertise is most critical, MEMA and other agencies have been involved and coordinating where we are expert. Therefore, he believes the first bill will help with incidents in the future like COVID.
- Joe LaFleur- Do we know if the fourth bill that did not pass, is going to be reintroduce?
- Chas Eby- Unsure if COVID will affect the fourth bill status or any final decisions. He believes for COVID, the first bill that passed helps explains what we are currently doing to respond to COVID.
- Joe LaFleur- What is MEMA's position on the fourth bill? Are you supporting some legislator to reintroduce or is it not necessary anymore?
- Chas Eby- MEMA likes the bill and we are currently in discussion on whether we need to move that bill forward right now. We are happy with the law as of 1st October that clarified MEMA's roles. Personally, he is happy with the way the multiagency coordination has operated. Now it has been a long incident, and we did have to iron out a few things a long the way. Overall, we are pleased with the amount of multiagency cooperation especially as we go through the Fall with

the new wave and critical juncture. Much of the first bill which is now law has been helpful with this incident and ones alike in the future.

- Blake Langford continued with the other bills of note:
 - SB721 (F) – Would have established a Chief Resilience Officer within MEMA. Develop a State Resiliency Strategy.
 - HB1183 (F) – Would have codified EO 01.01.2019.07, Maryland Cyber Defense Initiative. Each agency and unit of Executive State branch government to report to the Governor on the IT systems it uses, data it stores, and other similar data points
 - Blake Langford- Chas do you know when that Executive Order was released?
 - Chas Eby- Yes that was the second Executive Order from Cyber. He is unsure of the exact date, but the second Executive Order from Cyber was released in 2019.
 - Blake Langford- The bill codified who were the main players with the Maryland Cyber Defense Initiative: MEMA, DoIT, GOHS, MSP, and the MCAC. It established the roles of those agencies as well as created a Cyber Security Coordinating Council. If passed, it would have been codified into statute
 - SB5 (F) - Would have established the Maryland Cyber Reserve within the Military Department to prevent and resolve certain cyber attacks.
 - Blake Langford- There is also a provision that allowed the Governor to requisition certain cyber equipment from the Secretary Defense. It also would allow the Maryland National Guard to assist local jurisdictions in the event of a cyber disruption.
 - HB1618/SB1036 (F) - Would have established the Cybersecurity Coordination and Operations Office within MEMA. The bill would have expanded the definition of “emergency” as it relates to provisions governing MEMA to include a cybersecurity attack.
 - Blake Langford- These bills were included because they were cyber related. After looking through the last minutes from our prior meeting, there was a request to see what legislation was proposed. When GEMAC had their cyber meeting, there was a request to see what legislation is being proposed that will affect cyber in the upcoming session. As explained previously, we are unable to see legislation for 2021, therefore we have the legislation on cyber proposed in 2020.
 - Blake Langford- Unfortunately, I was unable to reach Chip Stewart to ask if he was looking to reintroduce this bill for this year. He can follow up, if this is something GEMAC would like to know.

- Joe LaFleur- Does the MEMA staff have a position about going back on any of the bills? Or which one is most important if you had to reintroduce one of the bills?
 - Executive Director Russell Strickland, MEMA- As far as it goes for the establishment of the Cyber Security Coordination and Operation Office, similar to what the OOC was with MEMA, I do not have a problem with that at all. Again, it speaks to multiagency coordination and I believe that is what we do best.
 - Joe LaFleur- Agrees the cyber bill should be reintroduced on behalf of MEMA.
- HB187/SB329 (P) – (Olivia’s Law), Requires each public institution of higher education to submit a specified outbreak response plan to the Maryland Department of Health by August 1st each year beginning in 2021.
 - Blake Langford- Spoke with the MEMA Preparedness Branch Manager regarding this bill and asked if they foresee and conflicts. Langford was under the impression that MEMA would be the central point for the plans.
 - Chas Eby- Olivia’s Law was a response to the adenovirus outbreak at the University of Maryland College Park campus. There were thoughts of having a quicker a response if there were requirements for planning. The planning would be centered around steps for identifying infectious disease outbreak on a college campus. From his understanding, this law was largely a response to a terrible circumstance of a College Park student death from adenovirus two years ago.
- HB1413/SB753 (P) – Includes the City of Laurel in MIEMAC
 - Blake Langford- This bill includes the City of Laurel as a participating entity within the MIEMAC. As Chas Eby explained, the bill also eliminates the burden of local jurisdiction declaring a local state of emergency in order to participate within MIEMAC.
- Misc. 911 Emergency Services bills, COVID19 bills, and environmental bills
 - Blake Langford- For brevity, this category contained three to four other bills regarding NG911, COVID-19 bills regarding financial items, and environmental bills. One of the environmental bills called for the Maryland Department of Environment to expanded authority for water infrastructure emergencies. He can provide the GEMAC with further information on these bills if needed.
- Blake Langford- This was a good snapshot of the legislation proposed in 2020. If anyone wants to conduct their own research, you can go on the

Maryland General Assembly website, go under 2020 session and filter by “emergencies” and “Governor. From there you will find several bills similar the ones discussed previously. The list found from the website was also cross referenced with the report from Center of Health and Homeland Security. They perform legislative analysis for the GEMAC

Past and Current GEMAC Actions

- Blake Langford- Here are the past and current GEMAC actions from looking through the archives from the last 10 years.
 - *State-Managed Disaster Assistance Fund Memo, 2020*
 - The memo was sent this year which is having an impact per Pete Landon and Ryan’s briefs.
 - *Meeting the Challenge, 2016 (complementary: see also James Lee Witt Report, 2008)*
 - Both address the potential of restructuring the Homeland Security Emergency Management apparatus within Maryland State Government.
 - *Effective Use of the Incident Command System in a Catastrophic Public Health Emergency, 2010*
 - In 2009 and 2010, there was a draft report and memo recommendation on the *Effective Use of the Incident Command System in a Catastrophic Public Health Emergency*. Both the report and memo are in the archives. If needed Blake can send them via email or you can find them GEMAC MS Teams website in the files.
 - Most of the items within the report were legacy concepts on how we utilize ICS, however some were still relevant, especially on how we utilize our unified area command. In addition, in 2009 and 2010 the GEMAC recommended the best way to manage a catastrophic public health emergency is through a unified area command. There were several other recommendations, however this one is relevant given the times we are in now.
 - *Issues & Recommendations Relating to Maryland’s Preparedness for and Response to the H1N1 Influenza Outbreak, 2009*
 - Many, many fruitful conversations and advice given to MEMA and other executive branch agencies on topics such as MEMS, MEMAC, NG911, State IMT and SAR.
 - Blake Langford- GEMAC has provided advice on several occasions to many Executive branch offices on various topics that had an overall high impact on moving things forward.

Welcome new GEMAC member, Marverly Nettles

Ronald Gill- Chairman

- Marverly Nettles currently serves as an Exercise Planner for a Government Consulting Firm and she is also an Emergency Manager. She has background working within a command center of a federal law enforcement agency, which was her first exposure to Emergency Management. She is also a participant in her local community emergency response team.

1240 hrs 5. Proposal for GEMAC Legislative Affairs Subcommittee

Johnathan Bratt – GEMAC Member

- Johnathan Bratt- Last meeting, I expressed interest in reviewing the proposed legislation for 2021 session. There was an important and active legislation session last year and he anticipates that it will be repeat legislation of bills that failed last year. In addition, I was aware of a few new bills that will have significant impact on emergency management in Maryland that will be proposed in 2021.
- Bratt wants to ensure the GEMAC is prepared with the proper documentation and that a group is researching through the proposed legislation to provide recommendations to the GEMAC. The recommendations will allow the GEMAC to make quicker action during legislative session to provide recommendations to the Governor's office.
- Proposal: Establish a GEMAC Legislative Affairs Subcommittee that may meet as necessary for the purposes of: (1) evaluating emergency management related legislation, (2) provide recommendations to the GEMAC on whether to support, oppose, or offer amendments to bills, and (3) enable the full GEMAC to provide those recommendations to the governor's office for consideration in a timely manner.
 - The timely manner piece is important as our next GEMAC meeting is in Feb 2021. The timeline for the legislative session is late in terms of getting the information to the Governor's office and waiting for a reaction/feedback.
- Blake Langford- In the past, I pushed back on the creation of subcommittees mostly because of the need of structure and administrative support. I did not feel I had the bandwidth to support another subcommittee along with other groups. However, he believed he has the bandwidth to help support the proposed committee and believes it is an excellent idea.
- Joe LaFleur- How will this new subcommittee fit with the administration's position on how it wants to handle legislation and the process the Governor generally uses. What is top level view?
- Russell Strickland- He believes the creation of a GEMAC subcommittee is a reasonable idea. The charge of the GEMAC is to give recommendations to the Governor. There is a quasi- normal schedule for the legislative session, and it does not matter what administration is in. However, there generally is a cut off date for departmental bills or bills that their interested in. Different legislators usually present around 01 Dec. We are behind the times for this session, although it does not stop the GEMAC from reviewing legislation as it is proposed and sharing those thoughts collectively with the Governor's office. The time to really start working on proposals would be the end of this legislative session as we go into the spring/early summer. He believes it's a good idea and John's proposal fits within the conception of what the GEMAC should be doing.

- Pete Landon- Joe brings up a good point and believes Johnathan and Russ are spot on. The GEMAC is one of the few advisory committees the Governor has and it is a smart and valid approach to give advice on legislative affairs. Proposing a subcommittee is a smart idea as Blake Langford has been completing the work on his own with our advice and or consent. Russ is also correct in his assessment of the legislative session and the scheduling behind that.
- Ryan Miller- Russell Strickland's answer, answered my question. I heard him speak before on some of the limitations of his team, and the legislative process. If its his opinion that creating a subcommittee would advance his team and emergency management within the state, then I support it.
- Anna Sierra, Director Caroline County Department of Emergency Services- The creation of the GEMAC subcommittee would be a nice complement to the MACO EM affiliate group. There is a legislative subcommittee with the Maryland Association of Counties where it's the appointed emergency managers and there is a legislative subcommittee that is regional in nature. The subcommittee makes recommendations to the larger MACO EM affiliate and they determine whether to support a given bill. This example is specific from the county side, however the GEMAC organization would be a great complement. Particularly, if there is a bill GEMAC agrees upon, having both the GEMAC recommendation to the Governor and the MACO affiliate recommendation to the committee the bill is heard within the legislature could make a powerful tool in our toolbox.
- Blake Langford- To ensure support of the group, he agrees to work with Russell Strickland, Chas Eby, Pete Landon, and Mark Hubbard on identifying timeline, schedules, and overall process of how the Governor's office works with proposed bills.
- Russell Strickland- Agrees to determining a timeline in order to include the GEMAC subcommittee and give them the opportunity to discuss with the MACO subcommittee. If we have a bill that both organizations can support, that would ideal. We basically know the deadline for the Governor's office and the legislators have deadlines, therefore we can take those dates and build a timeline.
- Joe LaFleur- Given we are the Governor's advisory council; we should remain sensitive and careful regarding senior officials as well as the Governor's office.
- Blake Langford- If anyone wants to volunteer to be chair of the subcommittee and or members that would be helpful.
- Ronnie Gill- As Johnathan proposed the subcommittee, I would like to see if Johnathan would be interested to chair this committee.
- Johnathan Bratt- I would be happy to chair the GEMAC subcommittee
- Bruce Wahl, Former Mayor of Chesapeake Beach- Moved to have Johnathan Bratt chair the GEMAC Legislative Affairs Committee.

- Jasper Jones, Budget Analyst, UDOT- seconded the motion
- GEMAC moved to have Johnathan Bratt be the Chairman for the GEMAC Legislative Affairs Subcommittee
- Ronald Gill- Now we are looking for those who would like to participant on the subcommittee. I personally would like no more than 5 people, unless someone objects.
- Johnathan- For those who are interested, contact me and we will coordinate a date to discuss next steps.

1310 hrs 6. Annual GEMAC Report

Alexandria Hopkins – GEMAC Staff Support

- Provided the GEMAC with a brief overview of the Annual GEMAC Report for 2020
 - The annual report is due to the Governor’s office 1 Dec
 - The report comprises of the following: GEMAC purpose, scope, List of GEMAC members and chairman, Summary of each GEMAC meeting that is held during the year, GEMAC prospective outlook and meetings for the following year.
 - Blake Langford- We do have a quick turn around time. The report will need to be submitted to Pete Landon before 01 Dec so he can send for distribution.
 - Pete Landon- If you can send the report to me by midnight the night before, that will provide me enough time to send it out.
 - Blake Langford- Alexandria and I will do a thorough quality assurance control to ensure all members titles are correct.

1320 hrs 7. Roundtable

GEMAC Members

- Joe LaFleur- Can MEMA provide an update on the operational status of the Governor's COVID activities?
 - Chas Eby- MEMA and all state agencies are focused on the response to COVID. MEMA enacted a Multiagency Coordination (MAC) command structure in which Executive Director Strickland and MEMA are one component of the MAC command as well as MDH, Pete Landon, and a few others. MEMA is running the MAC as well as holding responsibilities as the planning section chief and operations section chief positions. There are a number of groups under each of those that make up other state agencies especially from MDH and their various task forces. There is also a situational awareness section which MDH holds as the section chief. For the logistics section, MDOT holds as section chief and Department of Budget and Management is the section chief for Finance and Administration. In addition, there is a Joint Information Center.
 - The focus areas within the Operations Section are the Mass Vaccination Program. Maryland submitted our mass vaccination plan 3 weeks ago and that plan is publicly available. Subsequently, MEMA has conducted a number of exercises and planning efforts with MDH to ensure we can receive and coordinate mass vaccination across the state. This program is also in partnership with local health departments and pharmacies partners who direct ship from federal government.
 - Medical Surge/Hospital Systems- There is an epidemiology and lab team and contact tracing group that is working to supporting statewide testing efforts through contact tracing efforts. We had extremely high testing numbers over the last couple of weeks. The actual numbers of cases have been the highest levels of the pandemic. The positivity rate has increased over the last few weeks as well.
- Ronald Gill- Are the mass vaccination plans and exercises coming down to the local level?
 - Chas Eby- We are aware of some jurisdictions that have performed some internal efforts. The main purpose of the exercise performed at the state level is to prepare for the initial push from the federal government that we can distribute to the local jurisdictions. We will plan for other exercises; however the initial state level exercise has been focused on preparing the distribution to the local centers who will be performing vaccinations.
 - Ronald Gill- One of the assumptions his team is working through is the dosage amount. Has the state receive word what will be

received from the federal level. Is there a plan to determine how much each jurisdiction will receive?

- Chas Eby- There is a technical advisory group that will be partnering with MDH on prioritization schema and the exact amounts each local jurisdiction will receive. From his understanding population as well as special population groups will be two of the considerations. We do not have exact amounts from the federal government in terms of initial shipments. There are several candidate vaccines that have submitted their information. We are likely looking for initial shipments around mid December 2020.
- Johnathan Bratt- In terms of timeline, we may anticipate receiving that vaccine as early as next week. However, it will take time build capacity in order to distribute the vaccine. The first line in all documentation that is out from National Academy of Science, MDH, and our internal documentation, is prioritizing front line health care providers who are most at risk. In addition, at least the Moderna and Pfizer are two dose vaccines which will take time to build immunity. We also need to consider number we will receive the federal government, as well as compliance.
- Jonathan Favorite, Director of Technical Services, Communications Electronics- The AstraZeneca is also a two-dose vaccine. They are planning for 200 million dosage; however half will be in UK due to partnership with Oxford. Has there been any discussion passed the acute phase we are in, when flu season hits regarding testing?
 - Chas Eby- Yes absolutely. Very acutely the MDH lab administration has indicated massive amounts of testing likely due to the holiday season. They also are expecting a massive amount of testing during the height of flu season. MDH lab has built capacity to handle expanded testing for both COVID and the flu. MDH also developed a new flu surveillance dashboard that is new for this year that will publicly show where we stand with flu cases and surge if occurs. This will be a useful tool as flu season will be concurrent with COVID cases.
- Joe LaFleur- What is the dispensing mechanism?
 - Chas Eby- In short, it is a mixed model. There is an agreement with CVS and Walgreens for example, that will likely target long term care facilities. There are health care systems that will take care of priority staff and potentially patients. Local health departments are another identified group and later other groups may be identified. All will be registered through the MDH utilizing their system and process.
 - Joe LaFleur- Wanted to highlight a concern regarding testing and dispensing capabilities. There is a report from 2010-2011 performed with all county health departments in reference to another epidemic event. The concern then was testing and dispensing capabilities.

LaFleur wants to ensure the Governor's office is prepared and successful on those efforts for COVID.

1350 hrs 8. Next Steps

Blake Langford- GEMAC Staff Support

- Continue monitoring the recent submitted memo
- Call for agenda items for the next meeting
- Blake Langford will send legislative language that was discussed to the council
- Blake Langford will work with Johnathan Bratt in order to get the new GEMAC subcommittee operational. If volunteers will like to join, they can email Johnathan Bratt, Blake Langford, or Alexandria Hopkins
- Work to obtain all comments for GEMAC report and submit report to Pete Landon by 30 Nov.
- Ronnie Gill, Chairman- Once the subcommittee is formed, Blake Langford or Alexandria Hopkins will send out information to GEMAC members.

1400 hrs 9. Adjourn

Ronnie Gill – Chairman

- Ronnie Gill- Wish everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving. The next GEMAC meeting will be Jan/Feb 2021. Do not hesitate to reach out to anyone if you need something
- Russell Strickland- Wish everyone the best in this very difficult time for a holiday. Wear a mask and be careful. Also, Clay Stamp is the new County Manager for Talbot County. He is the second emergency manager in the state of Maryland who has move up in county government to assume that type of role. Clay you are model for all of us and congratulations.
- Pete Landon- Thank you to everyone on the call and Ronald's oversight of the committee. Congratulations to Clay as well.

Council adjourned 1412 hours.