



Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC) Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Date: 21 May 2019

Time: 1130 – 1330 hours

Location: Aeris Conference Room, Montgomery Park, 1800 Washington Blvd # 1B, Baltimore, MD 21230, USA

Attendees:

Name	Position Title	Designation
Clay Stamp	Assistant County Manager/Director of Emergency Services, Talbot County	Member (Chair)
Joe LaFleur	Manager, Crisis Management/Business Continuity/IT Disaster Recovery, GP Strategies Corporation	Member
Ronnie Gill	Director of Emergency Management/Deputy Director of Homeland Security, Prince George's County	Member
BG Adam Flasch	Director, Joint Staff, Maryland National Guard	Ex-officio
Jonathan Favorite	Director of Technical Services, Communications Electronics, Inc.	Member
Jennifer Martin	Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Baltimore City Health Department	Member
Jeff Donahue	HAZMAT and Debris Management Program Manager, MDE	Member
Stephen Wantz	Commissioner, Carroll County	Member
Thomas Moran	Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium	Member
Bunky Luffman	Special Assistant to Secretary Riccio, DNR	Attendee
Russell Strickland	Executive Director, MEMA	Ex-officio
Terry Thompson	Executive Liaison, MEMA	Ex-officio
Chas Eby	Deputy Executive Director, MEMA	Ex-officio
Kyle Overly	Director, Disaster Risk Reduction, MEMA	Attendee
JaLeesa Tate	State Hazard Mitigation Officer	Attendee
Myra Derbyshire	Executive Assistant	Attendee
Blake Langford	Maryland State National Capital Region Program Manager, MEMA	Attendee
Ben Grumbles	Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment	Attendee
Jeannie Riccio	Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources	Attendee

Not Present: John Allen Jr., Mike Berna, Timothy Cameron, Richard DeVore Jr., Howard Safir, Keith Whalen, David Willenborg

Minutes:

Welcome and Announcements:

- Introduction and welcome from Chairman Stamp

Maryland Department of Environment and Department of Natural Resources Discussion

- Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided a broad perspective of cost and impact of severe weather change
 - DNR articulated that the broad purpose of all grant dollars they receive in regards to severe weather change is to build/sustain resiliency across the State
 - To illustrate the use of grant funds during natural disasters, DNR described one program that assist local jurisdictions reduce impacts in flood-prone regions



- DNR also mentioned the Maryland Climate Leadership Academy as another program supporting resiliency
 - This Academy also supports the MD Climate Change Commission
- Other grants DNR receives are geared towards the conservation of land and forest as well as protecting the waterline
- DNR is building their grant management processes to support a pipeline of projects (i.e., “hopper”) that will be used to assist in quick prioritizations and allocations of grant dollars as they become available and in accordance with the most at risk portions of the State
 - DNR and MDE want to synchronize organizational workflows to support this grant management process
- MDE announced that Jeff Donahue runs the hazardous materials program and debris management program for MDE
- MDE announced that UMD is releasing a report on the health of the Chesapeake Bay
- MDE supports the Flood Insurance program
 - Provide mapping and regulatory assistance
 - GEMAC members asked for more information on the synergies between MEMA’s Mitigation program and the Flood Insurance program
- Both organizations agreed that future communications and partnership with the GEMAC could be useful
- MDE articulated, at the moment, their two main priorities are the Chesapeake Bay and climate changes
 - Supported through the Bay Cabinet and Climate Change Commission
 - Wetlands and waterways program – a national example of state agencies coordination
- MDE explained that mitigation is used differently in their organization that in the emergency management discipline – primarily related to greenhouse gas emissions
 - MDE is focused on eliminating the main drivers of climate change
 - MDE is starting to plan and consider for adaptation rather than focusing on impacts which has strong ties with MEMA’s Mitigation program
- Dam safety was cited as a big priority for both groups (Conowingo Dam cited)
 - Direct and/or related concerns included catastrophic failure, debris, leakage of nutrients and sediments, and stormwater and water management
- All Hazards Consortium was discussed
 - Is a Maryland based 503(c) multi-state issues that plague critical infrastructure on the east coast (electric, power, comms, fuel)
 - Based in Frederick
 - Original private sector group
- Commissioner Wantz asked if the DNR and MDE grants are available for local jurisdictions which spurred a discussion on how state and local governments can work together to find/share/market resources to help communities
 - Customer service was cited as a past issue with MDE
 - DNR Restoration Program was discussed in response to this question. This program can be accessed through a grants gateway
 - Carroll County (i.e., Cascade Lake Mitigation Project) is a good case study for pulling away lessons learned and improvements between DNR, MDE, and local government
- GEMAC recognized the accomplishment and importance of bringing together executive leadership at this meeting to foster interagency collaboration
- Preparedness in MDE world = Nuclear power plant preparedness (Share duties with MEMA)



- Mr. LaFleur noted the importance of “taking advantage of the 2-3 strong upcoming legislation sessions.”
- CoastSmart was cited as a program that is tied to legislation
- MDE commented that the State has no authority for local planning and zoning
- DRRA has huge implications for pre-disaster mitigation and weighs on the importance of creating effective/efficient grant management processes
- Critical infrastructure protection, cyber-attacks, and the Internet of Things we cited as serious threats and important areas for collaboration

SERC Business - Ronnie Gill, Vice Chairman, GEMAC

- Frederick is asking to modify and reappoint individuals to LEPC - approved
- HMEP Grant recommendation - approved
- What has this grant done over the past 40 years?
 - Training, exercises, and planning for Hazardous materials in specific
- MFRI adheres to Hazardous Ops NFPA 472 (most updated)
- How does MFRI fund HazOps training if they are only 13% funded through the HMEP?
- Leading Hazmat issues are mercury spills (small-scale)

Disaster Risk Reduction Directorate Overview - Kyle Overly, Director, DRR, MEMA

- Overview of the DRR branches
 - Risk Analysis first in the Nation with California
 - Discussion of Know Your Zone initiative through MEMA
- Questions:
 - Will there be a platform for locals to receive information from MEMA for mitigation projects
 - Yes it is part of the mitigation grant process
 - Is there a software for all of these?
 - Arc GIS based system (OSPREY)
 - Any plans on going to TV weather broadcasters with this information?
 - Yes, currently in process of building relationships
 - Clear Channel communications
 - Any consideration of allowing media to tap into software so that they may have real time updates
 - All programs are open to public and open source
 - Encourage media partners to use these tools
 - Communicate to media that these tools are available
 - Concern that not having detailed info in advance for planning, not sure if Know Your Zone is capable to that yet
 - Targeting is very important with current funds that are available

Wrap Up/Future Meetings

- GEMAC was asked to think about what they would like to focus on for the remainder of the year, how this would affect the focus for next year, and how they view the structure and purpose of the group moving forward
- GEMAC should consider developing a long-term strategy and workplan to frame agendas
- If we have subgroups then we will most likely need to have a more regular cadence to our meetings. We can meet virtually and determine our objectives, develop courses of action, and bring back to the group to integrate into total strategy.

Departed for Bay Cabinet Meeting at 1:30pm

(Bay Cabinet Meeting: Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology (IMET) 701 E Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21202)

