



Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

Meeting Notice

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

February 8, 2011

10:00 AM

RI Department of Labor and Training

1511 Pontiac Avenue

Building 73, 1st Floor Conference Room, Pastore Complex

Cranston, Rhode Island

AGENDA

I. Call to Order / Attendance - Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Lt. Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts

Major General Robert T. Bray

Ed Johnson

Marian Juskov

Eileen Warburton

Ruairi White

Chris Sturgis

Matthew Ferraro

Theresa Murray

Robert Sturdahl

Christopher Hay

Alysia Mihalakos

Kim Harris

Larry Grimaldi

Gregory M. Scungio

Janice Pothier Pac

Joseph McCooey

Robert Leach

Donald Sansoucy

Robert Pesapane

Robert Seltzer

Pete Gaynor

James Lanni

Steven Preston
Robert Church
Gwenn Stearn
Christine Crocker
John Shealy
Joseph Arsenault
Dawn Lewis
Bill Bessette
James F. Vierra
Steve Florio
Paul Stasiuk
Peter Ginaitt
Alan Seitz
Jeffrey Ahern
Akosua Mensah
Vladimir Ibarra

II. Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2011

The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

III. Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency Update

Robert T. Bray, Adjutant General of Rhode Island

General Bray reiterated the importance of being up to date on cyber protection practices. He informed the council that the cyber threat is actually the third front of the Global War on Terror. General Bray advised members that there was a growing cyber protection presence in the military and they are also working to create a network warfare group in Rhode Island.

Ed Johnson, Deputy Director RIEMA

Deputy Johnson provided the RIEMA update since Director Smith was in Washington D.C. representing Rhode Island at the National Emergency Management Association Conference.

Deputy Johnson, spoke about the RIEMA's communications plans including conference calls between the different stakeholders which has been an opportunity to expand and improve on the current plans. He touched upon some of the challenges with the recent accumulation of snow in many areas throughout New England that have caused some agricultural buildings to fail. Deputy Johnson informed members that assistance/resources had been provided by the Architects and Engineers Emergency Response Task Force 7.

Lastly, Deputy Johnson updated members on some of the RIEMA's goals for 2011 and urged communities to take advantage of the grant application deadline for February 14 2011 for FEMA money from last year's floods.

IV. Regional Catastrophic Cyber Disruption

Theresa Murray, Regional Planning Coordinator, RIEMA

Sergeant Ken Bell, Rhode Island State Police Computer Crimes Unit

Lieutenant Governor Roberts provided a brief bio of both of the speakers.

Theresa Murray is a graduate of Salve Regina University with a BS in Criminal Justice. She had a 25 year career as a federal agent and worked for the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Offices of Inspector General for the US Department of Education and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

She retired as an Assistant Special Agent in Charge of Special Agents in Boston, New York and San Juan. She is a Certified Fraud Examiner and Boston Chapter President of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association. She joined RIEMA in June 2009 as the Regional Planning Coordinator.

Ken Bell: Detective Sergeant Bell is a nineteen year veteran of the Rhode Island State Police and currently serves as a supervisor in the Computer Crimes Unit.

The presentation focused on Rhode Island's efforts and work with computer crimes as breaches of data and corresponding consumer concerns have increased. The goal of the Computer Crimes Unit is to work with citizens on an individual level and to teach business owners how to protect online policy oriented activities and avoid legal nightmares. The computer crimes unit and the regional planning unit are teaming up with major partners to implement this goal.

The council was very receptive and several members inquired as to how their organization could become partners. Peter Ginnitt, raised a question about a computer incident that took place at Lifespan to which Sergeant Bell relayed how it was handled on the State Police end.

Ms. Murray and Sergeant Bell touched on the popular topic of social media sites and their vulnerability as even The Facebook founder's information was compromised. Along with the vulnerability of social media, the council discussed the possibility of a best practices list. The Sergeant agreed to put together something of that nature on the State Police website. He also encouraged everyone to obtain Microsoft Security Essentials and other security features to stay protected online.

V. New Business, Member Comments, Suggestions

Robert Leach, President of the Architects and Engineers Emergency Response Task Force 7, introduced their group and informed members of their involvement with RI EMA and the Rhode Island State Building Code Commissioner during the recent roof collapses.

Lt. Governor Roberts asked council members if there was any legislation the council should pay specific attention to.

Steve Preston brought up the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Bill (H5287 and S186) which never made it out of committee last year.

Lt. Governor Roberts also made comments on the recent storms and reiterated that clean up and preparedness was getting better. She emphasized on checking on elder frail neighbors with all the snow accumulation. She was very pleased that the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) stayed open during all the storms and providing good reliable service.

Gwen Stearn, a representative from the State Archives and Records Preservation Society informed the council of central records collection training in regards to disasters. She went on to speak about the great need that was seen for records in Hurricane Katrina, and that need is the reason for these trainings. The training will occur via webinar, with the two topics being covered are Essential Records and Records Emergency Planning & Response. For more information visit: <http://rc.statearchivists.org/Courses/Default.aspx>

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 8th at the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training.