



RI Emergency Management Advisory Council

February 11, 2014

10:00 AM

HEALTH's Department Operations Center

MINUTES

Attendance

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts
The Adjutant General Kevin R. McBride
Jamia McDonald, RIEMA Director
Jack Chartier, State Fire Marshal
John Kondratowicz, United States Coast Guard
Peter Gaynor, Providence Emergency Management Agency
Alysia Mihalakos, RI Department of Health
Erin Lambie, United States Coast Guard
Jim Ball, RI Department of Environmental Management
Dawn Lewis, Hospital Association of Rhode Island
James Lanni, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
Gregory Scungio, RI E911 Uniform Emergency Telephone System
Thomas Kogut, Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
Alan Seitz, Department of Homeland Security
William Mullen, Department of Homeland Security/TSA
Brian Pires, U.S. Department of Justice
Joseph Arsenault, Richmond Emergency Management Association
Elizabeth McDonald, American Red Cross
Erin McDonough, RI Medical Reserve Corps / RI DMAT
Susan Earley, Dept. of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
Shad Ahmed, Education
Jeff Hatcher, RI Architects Engineers Emergency Response Task Force
Paula Montgomery, American Red Cross
Jay Burdick, RI Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters / United Way 211
Lori Needham, RI Broadcasters Association
Mike DeMello, South Kingstown Police Department
Steven Florio, RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Mi Ok Bruining, RI Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Gwenn Stearn, RI State Archives
Pam Marchard, RI Water Resources Board
Ken Burke, RI Water Resources Board

Donna DiMichelle, RI Office of Library and Information Services
Theresa Woodmansee, Protecting the Past RI
Joseph McCooey, RI Courts
Stephanie Stabile, Maritime Education
Kyle Aptt, Maritime Education
Karl Harris, United States Coast Guard
John Saporita, RI National Guard
Claribel Serrano, Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Vladimir Ibarra, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

I. Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Chair Roberts thanked Ms. Mihalakos for providing the venue and was pleased with the outcome of winter storm Nika as there were no major glitches despite the low temperatures. The Chair highlighted how today's meeting would be one of the most policy driven meetings we have had. RIEMA Director McDonald will brief the Council on: a) the structural changes to RIEMA and b) policy changes related to the restructuring of the Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee Groups to align with Emergency Support Functions. The Chair encouraged participation so that members would get the most out of the presentation and opened the floor to Major General (MG) McBride.

II. Approval of Minutes from December 10, 2013

The minutes from December 10th were unanimously approved.

III. Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency Update

MG McBride agreed with the structural changes highlighted in the Governor's Budget Article 18 of relocating RIEMA from under the auspices of the National Guard to be its own agency. He reiterated how it complements the long-term reorganization aims of the Agency.

Director McDonald provided an overview of RIEMA's organizational chart and the budget recommendations. For fiscal year (FY) 2014 there was an increase of 5 full time employees (FTEs) to transition core tasks performed by contractors to FTEs in order to stabilize agency functions. Also, a request was made for a capital investment for RISCON FY16-FY19 to further enhance the system. RIEMA is conducting a system-wide audit to ensure the creation of a long-term plan for the system.

Director McDonald explained the statutory changes in the budget include modifying the head of the agency from the TAG to the Executive Director. There are no other structural changes as the Agency continues to be a function of the Governor's Office. The Director went on to discuss the current federal and state audits. The audits will increase and ensure compliance with federal cost principles while ensuring compliance with purchasing regulations and establish appropriate policies and procedures to achieve grant objectives.

Lastly, Director McDonald provided recent internal updates to RIEMA including an increase of the WebEOC and use of Social Media, a reduction in the number of conference calls during events that were redundant and unnecessary. She also reported an increase in the development of situational reports, updates of the evacuation maps/routes, School Safety and Dam Emergency Action plans.

IV. Emergency Support Functions / Domestic Preparedness Subcommittees

Realignment Jamia McDonald, RIEMA Executive Director

Chair Roberts discussed how we have a unique opportunity with the structural changes at RIEMA and with the culmination of her administration at the end of the year, to lay the foundation for its successor. The coming months will be an opportunity to work with the Governor, the TAG, RIEMA and our stakeholders to improve processes. Therefore, she asked for participation and feedback as we propose relocating functions to better serve our intended purpose.

The presentation provided a crosswalk of ESF and Subcommittees to maximize Council input and integrate feedback for implementation and improvements for Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Director McDonald discussed how the duty of EMAC was to advise on all matters related to disaster preparedness and improve the comprehensive planning approach to emergency management. This is accomplished through the coordination of stakeholders named by law comprising of federal, state, local, private and public support. While Emergency Support Functions (ESF) workgroups are tactical and planning for the improvement of EOP. The Director compared the current subcommittee structure and the ESF functions in an effort to understand the subcommittee's scope of work to align to support ESF:

ESFs & Lead Agency(s)

ESF 1 - Transportation RIEMA

ESF 2 - Communications RIDOT

ESF 3 - Public Works and Engineering Fire Marshall

ESF 4 - Firefighting RIEMA

ESF 5 - Emergency Management RIEMA

ESF 6 - Mass Care, Housing and Human Services RIEMA

ESF 7 - Resource Support DOH/BHDDH

ESF 8 - Public Health & Medical Services RIEMA/USAR/State Police

ESF 9 - Urban Search and Rescue DEM

ESF 10 - Oil and Hazardous Materials Response DEM/RIEMA

ESF 11 - Agriculture and Natural Resources OER

ESF 12 - Energy State Police

ESF 13 - Public Safety and Security RIEMA

ESF 14 - Long-Term Community Recovery RIEMA

ESF 15 - External Affairs

The coordination of effort ensures the Governor and RIEMA benefit from EMAC, and she asked the council members for input as to whether they saw gaps in the process, were these the proper subcommittees and if there is a need to create/combine/eliminate groups to better support policymaking.

There was a robust discussion in regards to how do individuals/subcommittee members become part of the ESF structure if they are part of several subsets/groups? How do we best select policy issues pertinent to our current work and threat landscape, how do these changes affect funding, SOPs, and what would be the process to cover those needs.

The Director explained that this is a working model and once we agree on what the subcommittees should be, there will be many steps to follow to represent the 40 stakeholders. Nevertheless, in an ideal environment, once the committees are re-designated, the lead from RIEMA would host the Chair at their ESF working group meetings as the EMAC-designee to those workgroups. In turn, those leads would work closely with the RIEMA lead to outline needs/gaps/feedback loops and issue identification.

V. New Business, Member Comments, Suggestions

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 11 at 10:00 a.m.
