



**Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council
December 9th, 2014
10:00 AM**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order - Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Attendance

Lt. Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts
Colonel Steven O'Donnell, Department of Public Safety/RI State Police
Jamia McDonald, Executive Director, RI Emergency Management Agency
Lt. Governor-elect Daniel McKee
James Ball, Department of Environmental Management
Alysia Mihalakos, Rhode Island Department of Health
Dawn Lewis, Hospital Association of Rhode Island
Joseph Baker, Rhode Island Department of Transportation
Vincent Marzullo, Corporation for National and Community Service
Erin Lambie, United States Coast Guard
Paul Stasiuk, National Grid
Alan Seitz, Department of Homeland Security
Brian Pires, United States Attorney's Office
Col. Michael Tetreault, Rhode Island National Guard
Shad Ahmed, Safer Institute
Elizabeth McDonald, American Red Cross – RI Chapter
Steven A Florio, Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Joe Arsenault, Community College of Rhode Island
Donna Longo DiMichele, Office of Library and Information Services
Christopher DeGrave, Governor's Commission on Disabilities
Pamela Marchand, Rhode Island Water Resources Board
Amy Grzybowski, Town of Westerly / RI Association of Emergency Managers
Kenneth Filarski, Rhode Island Architects Engineers Emergency Response Task Force 7
Mi Ok Song Bruining, Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Michelle Burnett, RI Emergency Management Agency
John Washburn, RI Emergency Management Agency
Tom Guthlein, RI Emergency Management Agency
Dave Eaton, RI Emergency Management Agency
Vladimir Ibarra, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Chair Roberts made a motion for the approval of the Minutes from October 14, 2014. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The Chair stated that today's meeting would serve both as a farewell to her administration and to focus on the opportunities that lie ahead. The Chair took a moment to thank the EMAC members and participants. She then reflected on some of the work of the Council to improve communications including the 2007 Snow Storm and some of the lessons learned, the H1N1 vaccinations, the March 2010 Floods, Tropical Storm Irene, Hurricane Sandy and blizzard NEMO in 2013.

The Chair commented that during her tenure the Council was able to engage multiple partners from elected officials, to police, firefighters, and first responders; the business community, and the community at large to move homeland security priorities forward. Some of the highlights include improvement of the alignment of Superintendents and working with the school system, the efforts to regionalize sheltering through statewide outreach, and the launch and success of the Special Needs Registry.

II. Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency Update – Introduction of Members

Chair Roberts introduced RIEMA Director McDonald and Colonel O'Donnell who thanked the Chair for her selfless efforts on behalf of the citizens of the state. The Chair then asked the members and participants to provide a brief introduction and to discuss their roles or functions with the Council.

III. Introduction of Lt. Governor-elect McKee

Chair Roberts introduced Lt. Governor-elect McKee who has spent his adult life fighting for positive change in Rhode Island. He has owned and operated a successful small business in the Blackstone Valley for the past 30 years. Prior to his election as Lieutenant Governor, he was serving his sixth term as Cumberland's Mayor.

Lt. Governor-elect McKee expressed the importance of the Council and his engagement during the 2010 Floods. He looked forward to getting updated on the issues and mentioned that his Chief of Staff, Anthony Silva is the former Cumberland Police Chief and Deputy EMA Director.

IV. Opportunities that Lie Ahead – Jamia McDonald, RIEMA Executive Director.

Director McDonald opened the meeting discussing the state efforts to address the Ebola crisis and understand the legal authorities. RIEMA and HEALTH created a Joint Planning Team to develop a Rhode Island Ebola Response Plan. Part of their task included developing supporting attachments including policy questions, contact identification, decontamination, medical waste transport, quarantine/isolation, outreach and education, and assessing local guidance on high risk contact housing.

The Director highlighted several programs that continue to develop including: First Net and efforts to create a nationwide, wireless, interoperable public safety broadband network. The Rhode Island Climate Change Coordinating Council continued work with state partners to assign responsibilities and action steps focused on the State Energy Plan.

The Critical Infrastructure program which recently identified threats and hazards within the state and established a working group to form sector leads for life-line sectors. Also, the Director mentioned changes to the RIEMA website to make it more user friendly and new interactive floodplain mapping tools.

Lastly, there are plans aimed at implementing a five year program through core capability priorities that will facilitate training and exercises from “No Notice” to “Full-scale.” Moreover, she highlighted that RIEMA is running a Statewide Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise that involves the business and finance sector next week, and would host a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Ebola Response Tabletop Exercise.

V. New Business, Member Comments, Suggestions

Chair Roberts thanked the Council membership and expressed how honored and humbled she was to have served for the past eight years.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.