



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held

Thursday, June 25, 2015

2:00 pm

Providence Emergency Management
591 Charles Street
Providence, RI

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice Chairman Peter Gaynor, Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, at approximately 2:05 p.m.

Attendance:

Peter	Gaynor	RIEMA Director & Vice-Chair
Shad	Ahmed	Safer Institute
Joe	Arsenault	CCRI/
Michael	Borg	Providence EMA
Arthur	Bovis	RIDOT
Jack	Chartier	State Fire Marshall
Steve	Charvat	EMAP
Craig	Dwyer	Lt. Governor's Office
Susan	Earley	BHDDH
Capt. Dennis	Fleming	RI State Police
Peter	Ginaitt	Lifespan
Barbara	Goodrich	Lt. Governor's Office
Paulette	Hamilton	N. Smithfield Town Adm./League of Cities & Towns
Vladimir	Ibarra	Providence EMA
Erin	Lambie	USCG
James	Lanni	DPUC
Dawn	Lewis	HARI
Lawrence	Macedo	RIEMA
Elizabeth	McDonald	American Red Cross

Alysia	Mihalakos	Health
Lori	Needham	Broadcasters Assoc.
Anthony	Silva	Lt. Governor's Office

It was noted that a quorum for the council had not been met.

Approval of Minutes:

In review of the minutes for the meeting held on May 28th, it was noted that on page 3 under Review of the RIEMA Strategic Plan, it should read "Rhode Island Emergency Management will need to be accredited in order to receive funding". The minutes were approved with the correction.

*Please note that Director Gaynor presented a power point presentation and provided a hard copy of the presentation for the meeting to the SBAC members in attendance. A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes.

Sub Committee Reports:

A list of those who had volunteered to serve on the following committees was provided to members of the council:

- Preparedness Working Group
- Mitigation Working Group
- Response Working Group
- Recovery Working Group
- Special Projects Working Group
- Regionalization Working Group

Those present were asked to make any corrections to the contact information listed. Also, those who had not signed up were told they were welcome to place their name on any of the Working Groups.

It was explained that the Special Projects Working group will be comprised of two people who will act as anchors. Other members may vary depending on the subject matter and the required expertise.

Old Business:

Director Gaynor stated that the process has begun for RIEMA accreditation adding that this is a detailed process. Realigning the EMAC is a component of this process and goals have been set to establish and meet the criteria.

New Business:

A discussion took place pertaining to EMAC membership and its composition of members. Director Gaynor asked the council to review the existing membership structure. The power point presentation (and hand out) addressed this in detail. In summary, there are presently 40 members on the list, 22 members are Ex Officio and 18 members serve At the Pleasure of. The Director is looking for

recommendations for deletions and additions noting he personally feels that 40 members is too large a working group and also creates a problem meeting a quorum for voting. The council was informed that letters have been sent to agencies who have not attended or participated. Thoughts and comments from the group included the following items:

- Does the statute allow a designee to vote?
- How do other states structure their council?
- A comprehensive change will be needed to present for legislative change as well as make EMAC more manageable.
- Why is education not represented?
- Should a two tier membership (voters and non-voters) be considered?
- This group's core function should be collective networking.

Director Gaynor stated a cross representation of the entire community should be considered as well the ability to provide valuable feedback to RIEMA.

Members were instructed as their first Special Project to provide an itemized list of recommendations to the Director with context in order to build argument.

New Business:

RIEMA, in conjunction with the RI National Guard, has scheduled five information workshops throughout the state to review procedures for requesting and deploying National Guard assets to local communities. This will provide municipal leaders with a guide to maximizing emergency management resource requests during a major incident. The schedule is listed in the attached presentation. Director Gaynor asked members of the council to share this information with their contacts and encourage them to attend.

Closing Comments:

RIEMA is hosting its first ever two-day Annual Preparedness Conference on August 25 and August 26 at CCRI's Knight Campus. All members of the EMAC council should try to attend.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Goodrich
Executive Assistant to Lt. Governor Daniel J. McKee

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