



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting Held

Thursday, October 29, 2015

2:00 P.M.

Clean Care New England
850 Wellington Avenue
Cranston, RI 02910

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Director Peter Gaynor at 2:00 P.M. and roll call was conducted, which indicated that a quorum was not met, with 10 members present and 25 members absent.

Council Members and/or their Representatives:

Lieutenant Governor – Present
Adjutant General – Absent
Director of Administration-Statewide Planning – Absent
Director Department of Health – Present
Director Department of Transportation – Absent
Director Department of Human Services - Absent
Superintendent of State Police – Present
Public Utilities Administrator – Present
Director Department of Environmental Management – Present
Director Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Dev. Disabilities & Hospitals – Present
Director Department of Elderly Affairs – Absent
Chairperson of the State Water Resources Board – Absent
Chairperson of the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities - Absent
Chairperson of the RI Public Transit Authority – Absent
Ex. Director of Coastal Resources Management Council – Absent
Ex. Director of the American Red Cross, Rhode Island Chapter – Absent
Ex. Director RIEMA – Present
State Court Administrator – Absent
Ex. Director of the Commission on Deaf & Hard of Hearing – Absent
Director Providence EMA – Present
Ex. Director of E-911 Emergency Telephone Division – Absent
Federal Security Director of the Transportation Security Adm. for RI – Absent
Rep. from the Electric Industry – Absent

Rep. from the Gas Industry – Absent
Rep. from the Phone Industry – Absent
Ex. Director of the RI Petroleum Association or other similarly situated person – Absent
(2) Reps from the General Public, (1) who shall have expertise in disaster preparedness – Present
Rep. from the RI League of Cities & Towns – Absent
Rep. from the Media – Absent
Rep. from the Water Supply Industry – Absent
Rep. from the Health Care Industry – Present
Rep. from the Firefighters Association – Absent
Rep. from the Association of Fire Chiefs – Absent
Rep. from the Ambulance Company – Absent
Rep. from Level One Trauma Hospital – Absent

Approval of Minutes from September 24, 2015:

Director Gaynor stated that no votes will be taken since a quorum was not met, but business will be continue. Minutes from September 24, 2015 will be approved at the next meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2015.

Subcommittee Reports:

Director Gaynor will be providing the each Subcommittee with deliverables regarding each report.

- Preparedness Subcommittee
- Mitigation Subcommittee
- Response Subcommittee
- Recovery Subcommittee
- Special Projects Subcommittee
- Regionalization Subcommittee

Old Business:

Storm Ready RI

StormReady RI is an initiative to improve community preparedness in order to save lives and property, before, during and after a disaster.

To date, 9 applications have been submitted, with 13% of the State now Storm Ready. All 39 municipalities have agreed to be a part of this initiative.

- PEMA has offered assistance to help with Storm Ready RI initiative.

Tiverton was recognized by National Weather Service for being Storm Ready. They have received \$2,500 no match EMPG award to use for storm ready supplies.

SHSP FY15 Update

Director Gaynor circulated a full disclosure document of the 2015 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) award recipients with the EMAC.

The total federal funding allocated to Rhode Island is \$3,734,500, which has no cost share/match. The total number of SHSP applications received was 76, with 43 applicants awarded.

Director Gaynor encourages those who submit applications to submit a proposal based on a 3-5 year plan that clearly details how the grant will be used over the long term, as opposed to a 12-month plan that only discusses how the grant will be used in the short term. This will set expectations when it comes to the grant program.

Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) funded 23 projects, roughly 60% of the total number of project proposals, which only 18 of the 39 emergency managers applied.

Operation Holiday Cheer – Troops' Wish List

The Lieutenant Governor's Office has spearheaded Operation Holiday Cheer in conjunction with the Rhode Island National Guard. Donations will be collected on November 21st and packaged and mailed on November 22nd. For more information, visit <http://www.ltgov.ri.gov/ohc/>

Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)

Providence Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) has been re-accredited by EMAP for another five years.

New Business:

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Dr. Scott Marshall, a State Veterinarian from DEM, spoke to EMAC about Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, also known as Bird Flu.

Avian Influenza started in Southeast Asia, with no reports of the flu in North America until December 19, 2014. When the flu hit North America, it originated on the west coast and spread throughout 21 states. The last detected case of the flu was on June 17, 2015, which is believed to be the cause of hot weather and migration.

The USDA classifies this as the worst case of the outbreak in history, with an upwards of 90% mortality rate.

- *Question:* Have you heard of any cases that harm humans?
- *Answer:* The H5N1 virus that started out in East Asia was known to harm humans. It was either transmitted from a pig or bird, most likely a bird. Once a human is infected, however, the virus cannot be passed to another human.

A total of 211 commercial and 21 backyard poultry premises in North America have been affected.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has put a halt on the exportation of poultry, with a total of 390 million trade restrictions.

Movement restrictions or quarantine via control zones makes up the Response Plan for infected poultry.

- Infected premises
 - Infected zone: 3K
 - Control zone: 10 K
 - If tests continue to be positive, zones will expand
- *Question:* Can quarantine be lifted after a certain number of days?
 - *Answer:* Yes, after all poultry is tested within the determined control zones. The chicken's tracheas will be swabbed and if the test comes back negative, the zones must be disinfected. The process usually takes about 3 months.

The challenge in Rhode Island is drawing the line between seasonal flu and bird flu. However, Rhode Island is in a good position in that analysts can track the virus's movement and learn from other states as to what works when handling the virus.

- *Question:* Are we tracking any wildlife? Can goose droppings be harmful to a pet, such as a dog?
- *Answer:* Yes, wildlife is being tracked. Hunters have agreed to test what they kill. Goose droppings are not harmful to a family pet.

Director Gaynor noted that this outbreak is not covered under the Stafford Act by Emergency Management.

- *Question:* Is there a law enforcement purpose regarding this flu?
- *Answer:* Yes, law enforcement will play a key role in establishing control of the areas.

Depopulation technologies have been created that aim to minimize animal suffering, limit human exposure to the A1 virus, and accommodate large scale eradication efforts. (Water-based foam and carbon dioxide gas, based on the side of the flock, local conditions, and applicable laws/regulations)

- *Question:* Is there a behavioral health component?
- *Answer:* Yes. Two things need to be developed for that purpose, an Operational Health Plan and a Behavioral Health Plan.

Director Gaynor stated that he will share the Avian Influenza After Action Report (AAR) from the September 21st Tabletop Exercise with the EMAC.

Announcements and Closing Comments:

On December 5th, there will be an exercise in Sterling, Connecticut in which a HazMat team will be used as mutual aid. DEM is planning on sending Hope Valley.

On December 9th, the Providence and Worcester Railway Exercise will be conducted. If interested, please register soon as space is limited (60).

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 2:00 P.M. at Clean Care New England.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Please note:

The Power Point presentation with more detailed information is on file and available in Lt. Governor's office.

DRAFT