

**NEMA 2013 Mid-Year Emergency Management Policy and Leadership Forum
March 18-22, 2013
Alexandria, VA**

Draft General Session Minutes

March 20, 2013

*P = proxy

Region I

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts (P)
Rhode Island
Vermont (P)

Region II

New Jersey
New York
Virgin Islands

Region III

District of Columbia (P)
Maryland
Pennsylvania
Virginia (P)
West Virginia (P)

Region IV

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Mississippi
North Carolina
Tennessee

Region V

Illinois
Indiana
Michigan
Minnesota (P)
Ohio
Wisconsin

Region VI

Arkansas
Louisiana
New Mexico
Oklahoma

Region VII

Iowa
Kansas
Nebraska

Region VIII

Colorado
Montana
North Dakota (P)
South Dakota
Utah (P)
Wyoming (P)

Region IX

American Samoa
Arizona
California
Guam
Hawaii
Nevada

Region X

Alaska
Idaho
Oregon
Washington

NEMA President John Madden called the meeting to order and asked Treasurer John Heltzel to call the roll. There were 40 states and territories present and 9 proxies and a quorum was declared.

Lessons Learned from Superstorm Sandy

Moderator: Charley English, Director, Georgia Emergency Management Agency. Panelists: Jerome Hatfield, Deputy State Director, New Jersey State Police; Greg Brunelle, Acting Director, New York Office of Emergency Management; The Honorable Richard Serino, Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency; Mike Byrne, Federal Coordinating Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency; and John Heltzel, Director, Kentucky Division of Emergency Services.

New Jersey Lessons Learned:

- The New Jersey Regional Intelligence Support Center was the central point for all information sharing in support of Hurricane Sandy.
- Twelve percent of communities were impacted but Sandy wasn't catastrophic in New Jersey. The response to Hurricane Irene the previous year had prepared the state through corrective action. The response posture was very aggressive with accelerated timelines for response. Executive leadership was visible from the state to the local level.
- The private sector has been critical to the response and recovery.
- EMAC provided critical resources to the state.

New York Lessons Learned:

- EMAC provided the backbone of the response and helped to support the state.
- Recommended making decisions early i.e. hospital and health facility evacuations.
- To increase visibility and coordination with New York City, the state forward deployed into Manhattan.
- Roads and bridges into Long Island were closed which caused challenges in delivering supplies and fuel. Ran out of generators and light towers. FEMA provided adequate amounts of food and water.

FEMA Lessons Learned:

- FEMA was able to provide fuel to first responders but met challenges with distributing amounts needed for the public. The agency may not be best suited for this mission.
- FEMA materials in the New York impacted areas had to be translated into 25 languages. Hired many local individuals due to their knowledge of the community and ability to speak the same language.
- From a FEMA headquarters perspective the three things most evident in the response were: 1) leadership; 2) innovation; and 3) disaster survivor centric mentality.
- FEMA Corps deployment was highly successful. FEMA learned many new things from the younger Corps members who were adept with technology and developed applications on the fly.
- FEMA will change the way they implement community relations and disaster recovery centers in the future based on this experience.

FEMA Update – Administrator Craig Fugate

Administrator Fugate provided a budget update and at the time a year-end continuing resolution was being debated in Congress. Once a CR is in place FEMA will have the authority to distribute grants. They are working to be able to get the grants guidance and awards out as quickly as possible once the CR is in place. He indicated that the Disaster Relief Fund has an adequate amount of money due to a change in the appropriations process for the Fund, and he doesn't expect shortfalls or project funds delays this year.

The Sandy Recovery Improvement Act gave tribes the ability to request and receive direct federal assistance. Two tribal declarations have already been given. The FEMA Regional Administrators should inform state emergency management directors about tribal requests and declaration decisions.

Recent GAO reports have criticized Public Assistance Program criteria and FEMA is required to submit a report in one year. The question is whether the federal government is looking to reduce the number of disasters declared or be clear about the declaration criteria. Administrator Fugate would like to work collaboratively with the states on PA criteria, identify shared responsibility and communicate with legislators on that that level of responsibility and the associated costs.

Fugate also discussed trends in audit reports issued by the DHS Inspector General. Some of the most common findings focused on contracting practices, contract monitoring, ineligible costs, not applying insurance, and unsupported costs. FEMA will share these trends with NEMA and encourage states to do more education with subgrantees in order to reduce such findings in the future.

EM Priorities for the Future – NEMA President John Madden

President Madden summarized the consensus and priority issues that were identified coming into and through the course of the Mid-Year Forum.

- THIRA linkages to the private sector and mutual aid and enhancements to the process
- Cyber consequences (NEMA Phase 2)
- EMAC “Ready” concept
- National Strategy on Reducing Disaster Costs and NEMA input
- Sandy Recovery Improvement Act and NEMA input on specific provisions related to IA, PA, HMGP, etc.

Business Session

Committee Position Papers

The EMAC Committee Chair, John Heltzel, presented a position paper recommending establishment of a North American mutual aid agreement.

Moved: IL DISPOSITION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Second: CO

Discussion: The Virgin Islands requested that NEMA engage with the Department of Interior who deals with the Caribbean territories.

Treasurer’s Report – John Heltzel

NEMA began fiscal year 2013 with a fund balance of \$1.156 million dollars. The budget approved by the Board called for spending down the fund balance by as much as \$85,000. As of January 31, NEMA had \$191,729 revenue over expense for the month. The majority of that revenue includes registration and sponsor payments for the Mid-Year Forum. To date, 49 states, DC, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa paid membership dues this year. Expenses are in line with the budget. In addition and as of January 31, NEMA had secured \$2.136 million dollars in grants and contracts. NEMA’s fiscal year ends on June 30, 2013 and an audit will follow.

Secretary's Report – John Heltzel on behalf of Sec. Rob McAleer
Draft minutes from the 2012 Annual Forum were presented for approval:

Moved: AR DISPOSITION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Second: GA

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the general session.
Moved: KY DISPOSITION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Second: IL