



NEMA COMMITTEE REPORTS AND POSITION PAPERS

Legal Counsel Committee
March 20, 2017
Meeting Summary

Update from FEMA Office of Chief Counsel – Adrian Sevier

Adrian Sevier began the discussion by touching on numerous critical issues the Agency is reviewing. First, he highlighted the Public Assistance Disaster Deductible proposal that is currently open for comment in the Federal Register. The Supplemental Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (SANPRM) will be available for comment until April 12. Sevier urged all states and legal counsels present to review the proposal and the detailed supporting documents and submit thoughtful and deliberative comments. These comments will help refine and improve the proposal should the new political leadership decide to continue to pursue it.

Next, Sevier touched on executive orders from the new Administration that may have an impact on the emergency management community. The executive order garnering the most attention relates to the proposed restrictions aimed at “Sanctuary Cities” that would limit certain federal grant funds. Sevier referenced a few considerations including the lack of legal meaning/definition for “sanctuary cities” and the narrow and specific implications based on state and local ordinances. He agreed at this point there is no certainty around application and if/when clarity exists, FEMA will be able to better evaluate the potential impact on their programs. He also indicated the Agency is reviewing the EO related to rulemaking/regulations which will likely require the Agency to review existing and future regulations to ensure they do not have undue costs or unnecessarily restrict actions by businesses or government.

Sevier also highlighted progress the Agency is making with Procurement Disaster Assistance Teams. He explained that the biggest challenge for grantees continues to be centered around procurement violations and the Agency has begun to take proactive steps to provide training and guidance to state and local governments. So far, FEMA has provided training to over 3000 state and local staff and has dispatched various staff to JFOs. The Office of Inspector General continues to find violations so the Agency will continue to work with grantees to address problems before they can create problems down the line.

Lastly, Sevier indicated that Regional Counsels have been installed across the country and they would be reaching out to states regarding training opportunities, if they hadn’t already. Many around the table indicated their regional offices had already made contact and trainings were being scheduled.

UAS Discussion with the FAA – Dean Griffith

Dean Griffith introduced himself and kicked off the discussion by noting it was an exciting time for UAV use at the state government level. There are several uses for UAVs in a disaster response and Griffith discussed the waiver structure facilitated by the Public Aircraft Statute which can be used to address flood, fire, etc. He also touched on the issue of drone use over critical infrastructure. There is currently an emergency process that can be used but a more formal, permanent solution is under review. He noted the significant number of bills at the state and local level related to drone use and Congress has expressed interest numerous times by holding hearings in various Committees. There are competing bills in Congress that have varying degrees of the federal preemption standard.

Griffith also touched on the Drone Advisory Committee (functionally an Advisory Council) that includes representatives from industry, local government, etc. They provide guidance and advice on enforcement and discuss educational and technical challenges.

There was significant discussion from various states around the table. Samantha Ladich (NV) shared the issues that Nevada has struggled with related to their UAV laws, including the difference between laws related to local police powers and laws that may result in possible preemption due to federal regulation. Ladich recommended that states looking to create or amend state laws related to UAVs refer to the FAA document entitled, “State and Local Regulation of Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Fact Sheet” for the FAA’s perspective on state and local regulation –

https://www.faa.gov/uas/resources/uas_regulations_policy/media/uas_fact_sheet_final.pdf

Public Records Issues Related to Emergencies and Disasters – Holly Welch (OH)

Because of events in 2016 that illustrated the potential threat to personal information of first responders, Welch and other legal counsels are reviewing public records laws around the country to determine where there are exceptions or where there are limitations for withholding such information. She indicated this may be an opportunity for NEMA to conduct a survey and determine the way forward. This creates opportunities for engagement between states to share threat information related to EMAC deployments and to identify ways to keep critical information safe.

Cybersecurity and the Importance of Privacy Laws – Jill Talley (CA)

Jill Talley briefed the Committee on California’s recent cybersecurity efforts after CalOES was put in charge of statewide cybersecurity in 2015. The first questions that CalOES staff asked themselves included: What do we have? Where do we want to go? What are the risks associated with our options? Who needs to have access to information? This helped frame the way forward.

Talley recommended everyone review a state by state guide regarding laws for cybersecurity to identify existing laws that cover certain activities. There may be laws on the books that address concerns. She also discussed a multi-agency center for cybersecurity that the State constituted. This center facilitated close cooperation and coordination between the diverse stakeholders that are critical for success. This effort started as a Task Force but the State invested money and personnel. She admitted there are still challenges but it has been a great resource. She also touched on the collaboration with the National Guard and their efforts to integrate them into the vulnerability planning and assessments.

Cross Border Fleet Movement – Will Polk (NC)

Will Polk touched on an issue North Carolina dealt with during Hurricane Matthew. The challenges related to moving vehicle fleets across state lines were inevitable due to the multi-jurisdictional response required for a hurricane with a multi-state track. With the uncertainty, they faced, clarity was critical for ensuring a swift response. The challenges included transportation waivers and how the determination is made to seek/provide for one. The coordination is required by requesting and receiving states as well as “pass through” states that may be needed depending on the path of the fleet.

National Security Special Events (NSSE) – Anthony Crispino (DC)

Anthony Crispino briefed the Committee on lessons learned from DC’s recent inauguration experience and how they would advise other jurisdictions hosting NSSEs. First, while NSSE’s are national in scope, they are hosted by the state or local jurisdiction. Secret Service is responsible for what happens inside the perimeter but in many cases, the perimeter is soft and incidents won’t always be confined to that

perimeter. It's important to communicate the needs of the local jurisdiction and highlight potential challenges outside their immediate area of interest.

Second, he stressed the need to consider associated or tangential events being held around the time or in the vicinity of the primary event. In the case of the inauguration, there were planned events, such as the Women's March, that brought significant numbers of people to the city in the days following the inauguration. The considerations for these events often take a backseat but greatly stress resources and personnel.

Third, he recommended a review of mutual aid compacts to ensure they are up to date and reflect the needs associated with the upcoming event. Explaining costs and ensuring all parties are aware of existing relationships and requirements is critical and can facilitate a smooth process.

Shelter at Home – Danielle Aymond (LA)

Danielle Aymond briefed the Committee on a major effort undertaken by the State of Louisiana and GOHSEP to address needs stemming from major flooding across Baton Rouge. Seven trillion gallons of water inundated 91,000 households following a no notice and no name event. Immediately following the response efforts, the state and local officials were concerned about abandoned neighborhoods and long term impacts on the tax base of various locations. They decided to use a modified version of the Sheltering and Temporary Essential Power (STEP) Pilot Program that had been used in New York following Hurricane Sandy. This was triggered under PA category B, emergency protective measures, which would avoid the limiting IA caps. There were challenges related to duplication of benefits due to the very strict rules delineated by minimum temporary repairs definitions. Overall, the State assisted 12k single family homes at a total cost of around \$165 million over 7 months.

Aymond explained that they learned a lot from their counterparts in New York. They employed creative solutions to contracting which allowed them to encourage competition and get the best assistance possible for disaster survivors. They also hired and embedded state employees to ensure accountability and conducted surprise visits by state officials.

The State is building a playbook for other states to use should they be in this situation. The State is working under a 90/10 cost share agreement and has offset their 10% with volunteers and physical donations. They continue to have challenges related to duplication of benefits, specifically related to the NFIP. The majority of homeowners were not insured which made this program incredibly beneficial for those that would otherwise be without assistance for a significant portion of time.

Non-Traditional Disasters/Non-Stafford Act Support – Brenda Bergeron (CT)

Brenda Bergeron discussed an issue that had been raised at previous Forums related to non-Stafford events. There are many issues popping up around the country that require response from emergency management agencies but do not fall neatly into Stafford Act definitions of disasters. Bergeron specifically referenced the crumbling foundations issue her state has been tackling and while they have not yet secured a disaster declaration, she did highlight the assistance FEMA has provided, through the Region I Office, to identify and coordinate other federal assistance that could be available. She suggested the Committee continue to examine ways in which the Agency can provide support for these non-traditional events as they evolve.

Aging Equipment – Holly Welch (OH)

Holly Welch brought up an issue Ohio has dealt with regarding the valuation challenges related to vehicles or other equipment that while still usable in some form, no longer provide value for their intended purpose. Her example was a communication vehicle with outdated technology. The Committee will take this issue for action and discussion at a future date.

Duplication of Benefits/Multi-Agency Availability of Resources – Michael Kennett (FL)

Michael Kennett raised an issue regarding challenges Florida has faced when attempting to access funding from FEMA based on upon the Stafford Act's provisions related to duplication of benefits. Specifically, the Stafford Act states that an applicant may not receive assistance from FEMA if duplicative assistance is available from another source. Michael points out that "available" is undefined and can prohibit FEMA assistance when other programs are available, but not accessible, like when available assistance may not be possible due to funding issues, etc.

**Homeland Security Committee
March 21, 2017
Meeting Summary**

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman James Joseph (IL) and Vice Chair Chris Kelenske (MI) opened the meeting and welcomed all Committee members to the Mid-Year Forum.

Discussion with FEMA – Katie Fox & Bridget Bean

Katie Fox opened the discussion by noting that specific questions related to the FY18 Budget Blueprint would likely need to wait until May, as the skinny budget did not provide a great deal of detail. She indicated that when a full budget was released, they would be happy to engage with the Committee as needed. In addition, she touched on the impact of recent executive orders on the homeland security community. At this time, the Agency is working with DHS to understand the impact on grant programs (under Sanctuary Cities restrictions) and has been working with the Administration to implement the hiring freeze and regulatory restrictions in a manner that still allows the Agency to accomplish their core mission.

Fox moved on to the National Preparedness Report. She indicated the 6th iteration of the report was currently moving through the internal approval process. She identified cybersecurity, housing, and infrastructure as the items scoring the lowest overall which aligns with past years' rankings. Ms. Fox also touched on the challenges and opportunities related to grant effectiveness and the strategies the agency is working on through the Assessment Division. They are identifying compelling case studies and attempting to focus on specific, measurable results and plan to engage NEMA as they move forward.

Fox then introduced Bridget Bean, Acting Director of the Grants Programs Directorate. Bean highlighted key issues related to the various grant programs and efforts FEMA is undertaking to address challenges presented by the current Continuing Resolution and applicable Executive Orders. She highlighted the work the Agency is doing to be sure they can move quickly to release grants once Congress passes a full year appropriations bill and urged states to be prepared for a quick turnaround to help move money on a condensed timeline. She also indicated the Agency is increasing accountability and has undertaken a review and trend analysis effort to garner intelligence from OIG and GAO reports which may help them address common challenges and reduce recoupment in the future.

Partners Discussion with FBI – James Derrane

Mr. Derrane joined the Committee to discuss the FBI's efforts to engage regional and national partners through their field offices. He specifically focused on the role of the Crisis Management/Special Event Coordinator positions that support critical incidents and special events around the country. These coordinators interact with state and local public safety leaders on a range of events, including the 2016 RNC in Cleveland. Mr. Derrane recommended that all HSAs and emergency managers should connect with their FBI field office and specifically with the CMC/SEC liaison to understand how that partnership works and where collaboration is most critical.

Derrane touched on a few initiatives that the FBI has undertaken over the last few years including an increase in intelligence driven products to assist state and local partners, a new system (Orion) to help with command post organizations, a new access platform to improve information sharing between various groups in a crisis, and advancing operational capabilities using specialized teams.

DHS I&A Update – Kevin Saupp

Kevin Saupp returned to the Committee to provide an update on efforts at DHS related to intelligence and analysis. First, he mentioned that the President had just announced the nomination of David Glawe to be Undersecretary for Intelligence & Analysis. Glawe is a career member of the Senior Executive Service, currently serving as the assistant commissioner at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Intelligence. Saupp indicated that Glawe has two priorities that include increased support for operators in the field and an increased focus on transnational organized crime.

Saupp also touched on the work of the State and Local Intelligence Council, an advisory body made up of state and local representatives. Mark Schouten (IA) and James Joseph (IL) represent NEMA and James attended the most recent meeting in Colorado. This group is reviewing recommendations and identifying areas the group can provide counsel to advance the mission and vision of engagement efforts with intelligence consumers. DHS and NEMA representatives will continue to provide updates and identify progress.

Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council (GHSAC) Update – Perry Plummer

As the incoming chair of the GHSAC, Perry Plummer joined the committee meeting to provide an update on current initiatives and priorities as well as identify areas where NEMA and the GHSAC can continue to work together. Plummer indicated that the mission of the organization is to provide a unified voice on matters of importance to homeland security and ensure that Governor's and their staff understand the critical issues facing homeland security advisors across the country. Their efforts include various written products and symposiums/roundtables through the Center for Best Practices, two formal meetings per year, a recent school safety initiative, and various committees on topics like special/emerging issues, cybersecurity, etc.

Much like NEMA, the GHSAC engages with Congress through testimony and letters on various homeland security-related issues including cybersecurity, CVE, unity of effort at DHS, homeland security funding and programmatic challenges, emergency management, and border security to name a few. The value in increased cooperation and coordination between NEMA and the GHSAC will be found in that unified voice that can be a powerful message to Congress and the new Administration.

*Post-Forum Note: The GHSAC Executive Committee met in early April in DC. NEMA will continue work on a staff level with the GHSAC/NGA to identify areas where the two organizations can work collaboratively.

Coordination with NEMA Legislative Committee re: Homeland Security Legislative Priorities – Jeff Stern

Jeff Stern, Chair of the NEMA Legislative Committee, spoke before the Homeland Security Committee membership to identify areas of mutual interest and ask for cooperation on several issues. The two most critical areas of overlap over the next few years will come on the continued challenges related to grants and measuring effectiveness and a possible DHS authorization bill Congress has expressed support for in 2017. The conversation focused on how NEMA can best develop a clear argument for continued grant funding by identifying and developing metrics that illustrate progress since 9/11 and how national preparedness is advanced by continued commitment across the country.

Glen Woodbury highlighted several difficult questions for the Committee and challenged the group to identify new ways of communicating the value of these grant dollars. How can we use trends and patterns of response to a variety of hazards to illustrate progress bought by grants? How have grant

funds been used over time to build capability that did not exist before the grants existed (in their current form)? He indicated one of the goals of this effort must be to communicate that you cannot make progress towards national preparedness by robbing state and local governments of their preparedness capabilities. Many other committee members noted a similar theme in their comments – We all know these dollars are helpful, but we aren't answering the bigger, existential questions. What have these grants bought us and why is continued investment a critical function of the federal government?

NEMA members directed staff to work with a small working group to identify a way forward. NEMA must play a role in this discussion and identify key partners (including FEMA, NHSC, and others) that will help identify baselines for measurement, find and analyze compelling data, and communicate the national scope of this grant funding.

In addition to the challenges related to overall grant effectiveness and measurement, members expressed an interest in discussing challenges related to the 80% pass through and how to collect best practices for how states allocate that funding in a way that helps the state achieve national preparedness goals. Sharing best practices on this issue would help leverage unique approaches to this ongoing challenge. Another member raised the challenges faced by states to achieve statewide gaps with the remaining 20% of funding that is kept at the state level.

**Preparedness Committee
March 21, 2017
Meeting Summary**

FEMA Protection and National Preparedness Update

Katie Fox, Acting Associate Administrator, provided an update for the committee. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) update continues with recent revisions to make the guidance document less prescriptive. NEMA will be provided another opportunity for quick review and feedback on the most recent edits, mainly which revolve around emergency operation center (EOC) management. Fox discussed the emergency management academies at EMI (3 levels) and the fact that FEMA would like to better understand the training needs of state and local stakeholders as well as challenges to receive the training such as length of time required. The National Preparedness Report is undergoing final review internal to FEMA and will be published in spring 2017. The main challenges continue to be cyber, housing and infrastructure.

Preparedness Messaging: Key updates from FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division; Pennsylvania Survey on Targeting Messages/WEA Messages for Target Markets

Charlotte Porter with FEMA gave an overview of two new initiatives focused in improving preparedness messaging. FEMA is conducting a review of their ability to effectively message to underserved communities. A needs assessment is underway to determine what FEMA is doing well or not. Focus groups are being held with trusted messengers from local organizations (rather than FEMA) to give feedback on what messages work best. FEMA is also conducting a literature review. The second project is titled "You are the help until help arrives". The campaign describes 5 steps for the public to take to provide lifesaving assistance until medical help arrives on scene. The training is free and available online at www.ready.gov. Training is based on research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Rick Flinn, Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, described a survey they conducted to determine citizens' level of preparedness and how to best target their preparedness messaging. Key statistics from the survey:

- 80% of citizens think PA will experience a major disaster in the next 5 years
- 75% do not have an emergency plan
- Senior citizens and those living in urban areas are least likely to have a plan or be able to sustain themselves for up to 3 days after a disaster
- 80% did not know about the ReadyPA.gov website

PEMA is working with the Department of Aging on messaging to reach that population group. Flinn also discussed the need to incorporate greater use of social media in preparedness messaging. PEMA has had numerous experiences with winter storms and interstate shut-downs with stranded travelers and is now using geo codes associated with mile markers on highways and a phone app to convey road conditions.

Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)

Peter Gaynor, Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and member of the EMAP Commission provided an update. The next meeting of the Commission is April 24-28, 2017 is

Jacksonville, FL. Among the multitude of issues being discussed, 22 programs will be seeking accreditation before the different bodies. EMAP maintains a current cooperative agreement with FEMA to complete 14 baseline assessments for states, territories and urban areas through August 30th. Right now, EMAP has 3 remaining baseline assessment slots available. Any jurisdiction that would like to take advantage of a baseline assessment within this timeframe please let David Liebman (EMAP staff) know as soon as possible. EMAP is working with FEMA on what assessments may take place in another funding cycle so any states that are looking to complete a reaccreditation or a baseline assessment in the fall of 2017 or calendar year 2018, please let EMAP staff know. The Commission approved a new application fee structures for programs moving forward this year. There is a Classic Application for Accreditation and an Enhanced. The difference in the fee structures is the Technical Assistance and pre-reviews and EMAP staff can certainly answer any questions about the difference for interested programs. The 2016 Standard is out and the Commission is encouraging all Program Accreditation Managers to seek training opportunities on the this current edition of the standard language.

Virtual Operations Support Teams (VOST)

Cheryl Bledsoe, Executive Director, Virtual Emergency Management Association provided an overview of VOSTs and their value. The basic purpose of a VOST is to monitor social media and report on how messages are being received, threats and hazards. They provide real-time information as well as emerging trends that can aid response efforts. The number and variety of data streams are constantly changing. It's possible that VOST could function as the 911 of the future. There is a definite challenge in monitoring the amount of data available and determining what information actually saves lives. Bledsoe cited the states of Colorado, Oregon and Florida as models for VOST. The keys to success are to have top down support and cross train staff. VOST is to the point now where it could benefit from resource typing and credentialing. There are templates available for those that want to stand up their own VOST.

NEMA-DHS National Resiliency Foundation Project

NEMA consultants John Heltzel and John Madden reported that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has contracted with NEMA to assist with a national effort to identify technology solutions that will ultimately serve to lower the direct impact of emergencies and disasters and better prepare communities to rebound when faced with them. Using FEMA's Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) process as a guiding framework, NEMA will produce recommendations to achieve improved understanding of the risk environment and specify techniques for improving a community's resiliency posture. Heltzel and Madden reported on preliminary findings from the NEMA THIRA survey. They invited stakeholders to participate in an upcoming webinar series: repeat webinars focused on THIRA will be held on April 14 and 21; repeat webinars focused on data standards will be held on April 12 and 19.

EMAC Committee
Tuesday, March 21, 2017
Meeting Summary

Brian Satula called the meeting to order at 2:45 pm by thanking Bruce Fitzgerald, the Vice Chair, Angee Morgan, and Dave Maxwell, who was recently appointed as the Past President Liaison.

Angela Copple, NEMA, called roll. A quorum was declared.

EMAC Executive Task Force Briefing

EMAC Executive Task Force Chair, Jonathan York provided an update on the EMAC after-action conference and report for the Republican National Convention, the eLearning courses on the EMAC website, and operational activities. States have deployed 1,693 personnel through EMAC in five separate events.

Mr. York led a discussion on the summary discussions from the Special Assignment Task Force (SATF) on a process to identify resource providers who have completed a certification to verify their NIMS Type within the Mutual Aid Support System (MASS).

Transition of the EMAC Executive Task Force Leadership

Brian Satula asked Jonathan York if the EMAC Executive Task Force had a nomination for Chair-Elect. Jonathan responded that the ETF nominated Michelle Kuzera from the State of Michigan as Chair-Elect. Mike Sprayberry made the motion to accept Michelle Kuzera as Chair-Elect. The motion was seconded by Patrick Sheehan, Tennessee. All in favor. None opposed. The motion passed.

Strategic Plan Update on Priorities for the EMAC Committee

Brian Satula provided an update on the priorities identified by the EMAC Committee including education and training, information sharing, and resource typing and credentialing.

One of the lessons learned from the EMAC response to the Republican National Convention centered on NIMS Resource Typing. Using NIMS resource typing to request resources may limit the offers of assistance from the potential Assisting States.

The first ever Mission Ready Package Train-the-Trainer workshop will be held in Lexington this June. The course will be opened to the EMAC Advisory Group representatives first and then states if there are spots open.

Update from the FEMA National Integration Center (NIC)

Daniel Alexander from FEMA NIC provided an update. The FEMA NIC is working on the backlog of resource types to identify a process to expedite approvals. FEMA is also working on the NIMS refresh. The updated version will be released very soon for public comment.

The FEMA NIC is also rolling out the National Qualifications System, anticipating rollout of draft documents, doctrinal documents as well as tools such as job qualifications and position task books.

State Urban Search and Rescue (SUSAR) Update

Nichole Ishmael, EMAP, provided an update on the SUSAR project, the ANSI approved standards, and programs that are going through the peer review assessment process.

EMAP has recommended that the Mutual Aid Support System catalog certified resources.

Updated on International Mutual Aid Compacts: NEMAC, IEMG, PNEMA

Brian Satula provided an overview of the three international agreements. All three agreements are between US States and Canadian Provinces.

For NEMAC, the by-laws stipulate that there are co-chairs, one for each country, and two-year terms. Joe Kelly, MN, is the incoming chair for the United States. On April 6th, the three compacts along with Public Safety Canada and FEMA will meet to discuss standardizations. As the EMAC Committee Chair, Satula will represent EMAC at the meeting. The primary focus for NEMAC was to establish goals, identify documents to house on the EMAC website, integration with the EMAC Operations System, begin discussions with the other groups to gain consensus.

Bruce Fitzgerald, IEMG co-chair, provided an update from IEMG. New Brunswick is the co-chair for the Canadian side. IEMG meets twice a year, once in US and once in Canada. IEMG's latest project is working on cross-border utility needs. There's an existing mutual aid group just for utilities, but the companies start to go outside of the process when not enough resources are available. IEMG has been working on details to expediently get Canadian crews across the border to assist the New England states. IEMG has also been considering working on a cross-border hazmat project. IEMG had several subcommittees, but mostly due to staffing and budgets, the group now consists of the directors and a few support staff.

Robert Ezelle provided an update for PNEMA. PNEMA meets annually in conjunction with the Western Region Emergency Management Advisory Council. WA had the Chair of PNEMA for years, and just handed it over to OR. Over the last year PNEMA has been working on cross-border sharing of medical resources between BC and WA. The biggest issues center around licensure and privileges. PNEMA's membership is working through the issues but there is not yet a clear path forward.

Motion to adjourn was made by Idaho. The motion was seconded by Washington. All in favor. None opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm.

Response and Recovery Committee
March 22, 2017
Meeting Summary

Voting on the Earthquake Subcommittee Position Paper

Response and Recovery Committee Chair, Mark Ghilarducci, welcomed everyone and began the meeting by asking Robert Ezelle, Director of the Washington's Emergency Management Division and Chair of the NEMA Earthquake Subcommittee, to present a position paper on recommendations for enhancing the Nation's ability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from catastrophic earthquakes.

Ezelle began his remarks by explaining that the Earthquake Subcommittee has worked over the past year to create this position paper which focuses on recommendations for the National Hazard Reduction Program. The position paper included the following recommendations: 1) Maintain direct FEMA NEHRP direct State Assistance Program funding to enable State Earthquake Program Managers to successfully accomplish the intent of NEHRP; 2) Establish and empower an Earthquake Program Office within FEMA that coordinates all aspects of emergency management for earthquakes and develop earthquake program guidance that follows 44CFR 361, but is flexible enough to address regional program implementation priorities; 3) Urge Congress to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP); and 4) Encourage increased emergency management representation on the NEHRP Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazard Reduction (ACEHR).

The position paper was unanimously approved with a motion by Tennessee and seconded by North Carolina.

FEMA's Public Assistance Delivery Model Implementation Update; Phase 1 and Phase 2 Growth Comparison

Alex Amparo, Assistant Administrator of the Recovery Directorate at FEMA, started his remarks by thanking NEMA for the continued partnership on the new Public Assistance Delivery Model. Amparo explained that FEMA was focused on streamlining the process and mentioned that the 1,600-page guidance document had been trimmed down to 200 pages. He explained to the Committee the need for more trained program managers highlighting that currently there are 5 applicants to one program manager. FEMA was confident that the increase in administrative costs would be offset by a shorter lifecycle and closeout.

Currently, training of the new delivery model has occurred in 7 out of 10 regions. From the last NEMA meeting, FEMA received actionable items to apply to the next disaster. When the next disaster struck Georgia, FEMA implemented those action items to make the delivery smoother.

Following Amparo's remarks, NEMA President, Wendy Smith-Reeve, compared the process from the first disaster in Oregon to the second in Georgia. She explained that the experience in Georgia was completely different from Oregon. FEMA had figured out the process, created an analytic tool to utilize, and had the ability to make changes to the tool to benefit the process.

Smith-Reeve ended her remarks by explaining that training for the new model was still a concern, highlighting the need for consistency for the subgrantees and to provide the best customer experience possible.

Discussing State Best Practices, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

NEMA Vice President, Mike Sprayberry, took some time to discuss North Carolina's recent task of managing Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR). The North Carolina General Assembly had a special session in December 2016 and passed The Disaster Recovery Act of 2016. In this law, "...all Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program funds received by the Department of Commerce in response to the declarations and executive orders described in Section 3.1 of this act (Hurricane Matthew and Western NC wildfires, etc.) shall be transferred to the Emergency Management Division of the Department of Public Safety." With this legislation, North Carolina Emergency Management has been allocated \$198,500,000 with another congressional request for additional CDBG-DR funding.

Sprayberry mentioned that these funds were provided with the intent of long-term permanent housing to benefit low to moderate income communities. To receive these funds, North Carolina had to perform a risk analysis as well as a state action plan to ensure the state is capable to manage the money. North Carolina is working in coordination with the Department of Commerce as they handle CDBG-DR the most often. Sprayberry explained that the increase in administrative work would lead to the creation of 20 to 25 additional employees. They are also planning to utilize a partnership with the University of North Carolina's Development and Finance Institution.

New Information from the FEMA/NEMA Personal Identity Verification Interoperability Beta Test

Next, Ghilarducci introduced Adrian Gardner, FEMA's Chief Information Officer and Craig Wilson, ICAM Technical Lead for FEMA's Cyber Security Division, to provide the Committee with an update on FEMA Enterprise Identity Management System (FEIMS) modernization effort. The FEIMS modernization effort is to migrate exclusively to Federally-approved cyber-identity smart cards for seamless access to the FEMA Enterprise Network by all Federal and SLTT stakeholders.

Gardner and Wilson started off by explaining that FEMA hopes to enable the use of all Federally-approved cyber-identity smart cards for network log-on by June 30, 2017. They highlighted the work begin done by the Identity Credential and Access Management (ICAM) Sub-Committee as well as the work being done by Chis Geldart, Director of the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DC HSEMA). DC HSEMA in collaboration with FEMA was able to electronically validate ICAM Sub-Committee CAC, PIV, and PIV-I smart cards for unescorted access permissions on day 2 which paved the way for the Federal and SLTT augmentation support to for the 2017 Inauguration.

Geldart talked briefly about this effort and explained that it provided near-real time personnel accountability and situational awareness reports as well as post-event accountability reports for reimbursement claims.

Update from Our Federal Partners

Corey Gruber, FEMA's Acting Associate Administrator for the Office of Response & Recovery provided the Committee with an update on a number of ORR priorities. Gruber started off by explaining that the previous administration and current staff had done a lot of work to ensure there would not be a gap in service from FEMA's Office of Response & Recovery. He highlighted the discussions that had taken place earlier in the meeting such as housing solutions, disaster costs, the Disaster Deductible, and FEMA's response to non-Stafford events.

The Response and Recovery Committee ended with Ghilarducci thanking each of the speakers for their presentations and the audience for attending. He mentioned that each presentation could be found on NEMA's website.

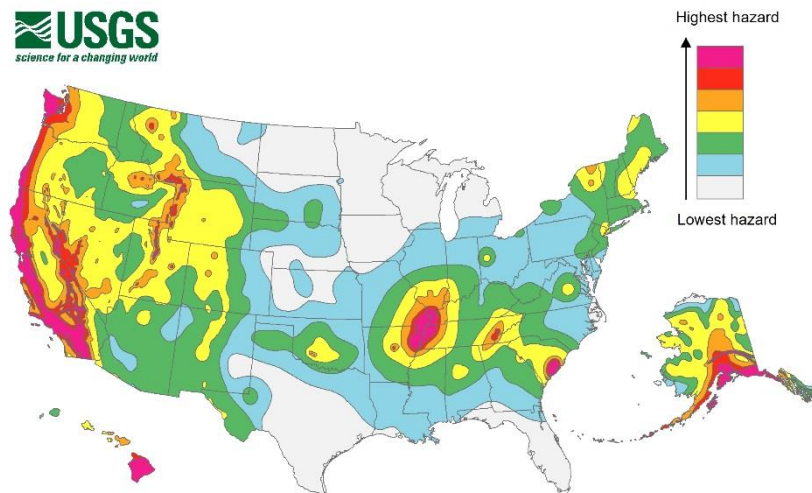
**NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
RESPONSE AND RECOVERY COMMITTEE
MITIGATION COMMITTEE**

POSITION PAPER

DATE: March 23, 2017

SUBJECT: Recommendations for Enhancing the Nation’s Ability to Mitigate, Prepare for, Respond to and Recover from Catastrophic Earthquakes.

DISCUSSION: Earthquakes occur with little to no warning and have the potential to cause enormous amounts of destruction and loss of life. The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) is a partnership of four federal agencies, whose mission is to improve the nation's earthquake resilience in public safety, economic strength, and national security. An important part of that program is the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Seismic Hazard Map released in



2014. Using the best available science, the map shows that nearly every state in the U.S. is affected by earthquake ground shaking.

This map serves as a reminder of the NEHRP program’s value to the nation and the challenge of preparing for a natural disaster of potentially unprecedented proportions never seen in U.S. history.

Given the nature of the national earthquake threat, state emergency management agencies continue working extensively on catastrophic planning and have conducted three large homeland security exercises. These included the National Level Exercise that focused on the New Madrid seismic zone in 2011, the Central United States

Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) Capstone Exercise in 2014 and the Cascadia Rising Exercise held in the Pacific Northwest to test the response to a 9.0 magnitude earthquake occurring along the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ). The lessons gleaned and tools and processes created from these exercises have fundamentally changed the way we plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters of all types.

Despite these successes, exercises also serve to identify the gaps in our systems and capabilities, as well as any inherent weaknesses in our critical infrastructure and life support systems. These exercises reveal that we are not adequately prepared as a nation for a catastrophic earthquake. Far too many structural vulnerabilities compromise our resilience, and NEHRP is potentially on a track which will not only see us lose the valuable gains we have made, but regress to a time that predates the establishment of the program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Encourage FEMA to maintain direct FEMA NEHRP direct State Assistance Program funding to enable State Earthquake Program Managers to successfully accomplish the intent of NEHRP. The State Assistance Program provided grant funds to States for core earthquake activities vital to the success of State programs. Without the funding of State Earthquake Programs, States' capability to protect lives and property could diminish.
2. Urge FEMA to establish and empower an Earthquake Program Office that coordinates all aspects of emergency management for earthquakes and develop earthquake program guidance that follows 44CFR 361, but is flexible enough to address regional program implementation priorities.
3. Collaborate with the NEMA Legislative Committee and FEMA to urge Congress to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) with a shift in funding emphasis and priorities from research to practical implementation with a focus on enhancing the Nation's ability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from catastrophic earthquakes.
4. FEMA should encourage increased emergency management representation on the NEHRP Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazard Reduction (ACEHR). Emergency Management is currently under represented on ACEHR yet plays a critical role in earthquake preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation.

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NEMA Secretary

NEMA 2017 Mid-Year Forum, March 19-24, Hilton Mark Center, Alexandria, VA

**Mitigation Committee
March 22, 2017
Meeting Summary**

Voting on the Earthquake Subcommittee Position Paper

Mitigation Committee Vice Chair, Kris Hamlet, welcomed everyone and began the meeting by asking Robert Ezelle, Director of the Washington's Emergency Management Division and Chair of the NEMA Earthquake Subcommittee, to present a position paper on recommendations for enhancing the Nation's ability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from catastrophic earthquakes.

Ezelle began his remarks by explaining that the Earthquake Subcommittee has worked over the past year to create this position paper which focuses on recommendations for the National Hazard Reduction Program. The position paper included the following recommendations: 1) Maintain direct FEMA NEHRP direct State Assistance Program funding to enable State Earthquake Program Managers to successfully accomplish the intent of NEHRP; 2) Establish and empower an Earthquake Program Office within FEMA that coordinates all aspects of emergency management for earthquakes and develop earthquake program guidance that follows 44CFR 361, but is flexible enough to address regional program implementation priorities; 3) Urge Congress to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP); and 4) Encourage increased emergency management representation on the NEHRP Advisory Committee on Earthquake Hazard Reduction (ACEHR).

The position paper was unanimously approved with a motion by Mississippi and seconded by Oregon.

Voting on the National Flood Insurance Program Position Paper

State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) Subcommittee Chair, Kelli Alexander, presented a position paper created by the SHMO's on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). She explained that the NFIP is in jeopardy of not being able to meet the needs of the country in recovering from floods. The program is over \$23 billion in debt with no clear path towards solvency. With the reauthorization approaching the SHMO position paper highlighted three areas:

- The Administration and Congress should address affordability and financial stability within the NFIP and work to subsidize mitigation and risk-reduction activities, not insurance, to promote safety and affordability.
- FEMA, and other federal partners, must prioritize flood mapping and risk communication.
- Encourage participation of the private market without limiting the success of the NFIP.

The position paper was unanimously approved with a motion from Kentucky and a second from Ohio.

Introduction of the National Resiliency Project; How States Can Become Involved

Next Hamlet introduced John Hetzel and John Madden on the National Resiliency Project. Madden and Hetzel explained that the project was the result of a contract from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and NEMA. They highlighted that the project was started to assist with a national effort to identify technology solutions that will ultimately serve to lower the direct impact of emergencies and disasters and better prepare communities to rebound when faced with them.

Madden and Hetzel explained that they would be using FEMA's Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) process as a guiding framework to produce recommendations to achieve

improved understanding of the risk environment and specify techniques for improving a community's resiliency posture.

The ended their remarks by highlighting upcoming webinars on April 21 and April 28. These webinars will focus mostly on the THIRA the outcomes of the recent NEMA THIRA survey. NEMA will utilize a cross functional policy workgroup to provide input throughout the project including state emergency management directors, state EM staff with expertise in related functional areas, as well as key partner organizations and stakeholders.

State Best Practices and Lessons Learned:

Hurricane Katrina Closeout in Mississippi

Lee Smithson, Director of Mississippi's Emergency Management Agency, highlighted the State's efforts to closeout of Hurricane Katrina and their on-going mitigation efforts. Smithson started off by providing an overview of the impact of Hurricane Katrina to Mississippi. He explained that the Hurricane, which was a category 1 when it went through, impacted 80 of Mississippi's 82 counties. The storm resulted in 12,000 project worksheets and the creation of an automated system that houses public assistance and mitigation projects. One of the best practices Smithson shared was the ongoing audits that the State had done. He explained that by not waiting to have an audit until the end, the State saved money and errors were avoided.

Smithson explained that the State was pushing for 2020 to be the final closeout of the Hurricane. With a full-time staff dedicated to Hurricane Katrina, there are 644 project worksheets still open. Since Katrina, Mississippi has had 15 disasters including the BP oil spill. Smithson said a few of the lessons learned from Katrina included motivating staff to closeout, managing the large quantities of paperwork, and have audits early and often.

Lessons Learned from the Historic Louisiana Flooding

James Waskom, Director of Louisiana's Emergency Management Agency, started his presentation by providing an overview of the recent Louisiana floods. In two days, the State received over 21 inches of water. That equates to roughly seven trillion gallons of water. Waskom explained that most Louisiana's parishes were impacted and this event was the fourth largest payout of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Waskom mentioned the State had and still has challenges in communicating flood risk to citizens. He said the State has taken on several efforts to highlight the importance of flood insurance and higher flood standards. Overall Waskom believes improvements could be made in the regional coordination on flood protection.

Currently the State is focusing their mitigation efforts on storm water drainage and outreach efforts to citizens to ensure that there is more participation in the NFIP. He ended his remarks by mentioning that long-term recovery has a large impact on the most vulnerable populations and that States must be aware of these costs and how to assist those in need.

Kentucky's Community Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Planning System (CHAMPS)

Mike Dossett, Director of Kentucky's Emergency Management Agency, presented on Kentucky's Community Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Planning System (CHAMPS) with the Committee. Dossett explained that the purpose of CHAMPS 1) create standards for mitigation planning and funding; 2) move from paper based mitigation plans to system based planning; 3) serve as community tool to capture

mitigation related information for future planning and projects; and 4) level the playing field for all counties community mitigation efforts.

Dossett mentioned Kentucky has 120 counties and an average of 12 flash floods a year. The basis for building a more resilient community starts with establishing a well-coordinated process for disaster management planning. CHAMPS provides a user-friendly platform and is offered as a free resource to Kentucky communities to enhance disaster management efforts based on the concept of understanding risk, then mitigating to reduce loss of life and property.

Dossett explained that the platform was funded by the 2008 Kentucky Hazard Mitigation State Plan and then by the Kentucky Department for Local Government; Center for Hazards Research; FEMA; the US Housing & Urban Development (HUD); the US Economic Development Administration (EDA); and Stantec. These partners helped develop and then train local emergency managers and community leaders on how to use the system.

Kentucky and its partners are preparing to roll out the model in Alabama and South Carolina and focus on a regional picture. More information can be found on NEMA's website and at this link: <http://kyem.ky.gov/recovery/Pages/CHAMPS.aspx>

Update from our Federal Partners

Hamlet thanked each of the State Directors and then introduced Roy Wright, Acting Associate Administrator, of the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration. Wright started his remarks by mentioning FEMA will maintain direct State Assistance funding to enable State Earthquake Program Managers to successfully accomplish the intent of the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program. FEMA sent out a survey for states regarding the cash match portion of the State Assistance Program. This update came on the 40th anniversary of NEHRP and Wright thanked the Committee for their efforts to have the direct funding returned.

Next Wright discussed the Presidents' 2018 Budget and mitigation grants. Wright explained that the budget, which proposed reduction or elimination of State and Local grant funding by \$667 million for programs administrated by FEMA, would likely see some changes. Wright concluded his remarks by an update on the National Flood Insurance Program. With the reauthorization slated for September of this year, Wright stated that FEMA had four priorities for the reauthorization: 1) on-time multi-year reauthorization of the NFIP; 2) expand the number of people who have flood insurance; 3) remove barriers to provide customers with the benefits they want; and 4) to provide transparency to the NFIP framework.

Hamlet thanked everyone for their presentations and the audience for attending. The concluded the meeting by mentioning that the presentations can be found on NEMA's website.

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
MITIGATION COMMITTEE
POSITION PAPER**

DATE: March 23, 2017

SUBJECT: National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Reform Recommendations

DISCUSSION: The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) plays a significant role in the disaster recovery and mitigation cycle across the Nation. The program impacts millions of homeowners and businesses across all 50 states and is responsible for billions of dollars in premiums and payouts each year.

Reforms have been implemented that are designed to stabilize the program to allow it to operate in the most efficient way possible, but more work must be done. Homes and businesses are still grossly underinsured against the threat posed by flooding, our most prevalent hazard. Time after time we watch as our communities flood, only to hear from residents that they did not have the appropriate coverage. In the absence of insurance, they are reliant upon their own fiscal ability, the generosity of the charitable organizations, and federal and state aid that is not designed to make them whole. Such situations delay the recovery of a community and threaten its very existence. We as a nation must redouble our efforts to design a system that helps people evaluate their individual risk and plan accordingly while simultaneously reducing our collective risk.

Without a strong insurance structure, uninsured risk could skyrocket and the impact will reverberate across various industries such as the housing market. Uninsured risk is a burden on communities and stresses local, State, and Federal disaster recovery budgets. Insurance payments are significantly higher than average Individual Assistance payments and can help communities recover much faster. Insurance is a key component of the recovery framework and the role of insurance in bringing down overall disaster costs cannot be overstated.

The NFIP is in jeopardy of not being able to meet the needs of the country in recovering from floods. The program is over \$23 billion in debt with no clear path towards solvency. Additionally, enrollment in the program has declined by nearly 10% over the last several years

as rate changes designed to shore up the program have resulted in policy holders dropping their coverage. This makes debt settlement even more unlikely. The NFIP is up for reauthorization by Congress in 2017 and the program's insolvency must be addressed.

Highlights

- The Administration and Congress should address affordability and financial stability within the NFIP and work to subsidize mitigation and risk-reduction activities, not insurance, to promote safety and affordability.
- FEMA, and other federal partners, must prioritize flood mapping and risk communication.
- Encourage participation of the private market without limiting the success of the NFIP.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Affordability

- The Administration and Congress should address affordability and financial stability within the NFIP and work to subsidize mitigation and risk-reduction activities, not insurance, to promote safety and affordability.
 - Examine the process by which Congress could forgive the current debt in the NFIP and create an automatic, long-term mechanism within the NFIP that ensures, after a certain threshold of catastrophic events, the debt will be paid by the US Treasury after consideration of the balance of the reserve fund, utilization of reinsurance, and ability of the policy base at that time to repay.
 - Identify limitations on current programs that reduce the impact of cost-saving efforts at the state and local level. For example, the Community Rating System (CRS) allows communities to achieve premium discounts for their policy holders by improving their resilience against flooding. Programs such as this must be reviewed to assure it is operating as efficiently as possible and are not limited by outdated stipulations.
 - The Community Rating System is designed to be cost-neutral, meaning that any discount that one community achieves is merely added to every other policy outside of that community to ensure that the total amount of premiums collected by the NFIP remains the same. This is counter-intuitive; if a community is reducing its risk, the overall risk to the program is reduced and the total amount of premiums should be allowed to decline. The stipulation that the CRS program is cost-neutral must be removed in order to ensure that appropriate premium prices are being charged.
 - Consider some limitation on the maximum number of insurance claims per property. This will help limit taxpayer exposure but any limitations should be tied to mandatory mitigation assistance or otherwise face full actuarial rates.
 - Explore providing low cost mitigation loans under the umbrella of existing mitigation programs in order to spur continued investment in risk reduction efforts. The property owner would repay the loan upon sale of the property.
 - Review the necessity of the policy surcharge imposed by the HFIAA 2014 legislation.

- After a Presidentially Declared Major Disaster for Individual Assistance, FEMA purchases a Group Flood Insurance Policy (GFIP) for any individual receiving federal funds and residing in a special flood hazard area who did not have insurance before the incident triggering the disaster. This policy costs \$600 and provides up to the maximum amount allowed for IA (currently approximately \$33,000) for 36 months, after which the insured is required to purchase a regular NFIP policy. The state is responsible for paying \$150 of the \$600 cost. This program has not been updated in over 20 years and provides inadequate and insufficient coverage. Now that a private market for flood insurance exists, states should be able to receive bids from the private market to determine whether better coverage for the same cost, or a lower price can be obtained for the same or better coverage. In addition to provide a better service for citizens, this will assist in growing and diversifying the private market.
- NFIP policies are capped at \$250,000 for the structure and \$100,000 for contents. These limits have been in place for a number of years and do not reflect the current market value in parts of the country. Congress should double the amount of coverage available in order to allow the NFIP to offer a more appropriate policy.
- In order to help pay off its debt, the NFIP now charges a \$250 for covering a second home. This penalty has nothing to do with the actual risk that home has of flooding and is actuarially unsound. It results in less coverage and shifts the burden to the homeowner and the community and should be reexamined. This fee should be reviewed and alternative options should be explored to insure these at-risk properties.
- Consider other ways to reduce premium costs, including higher deductibles and/ or mortgage-balance coverage that could provide options to homeowners.

Risk Reduction and Mapping

- FEMA, and other federal partners, must prioritize flood mapping, risk reduction, and risk communication.
 - Flood insurance mapping is woefully underfunded, untimely, and inaccurate. The funding, methodology, terminology, and technology for flood mapping must be reconsidered and revitalized in order to ensure success. FEMA must incorporate best available data and look at future conditions to ensure maps truly inform sustainable infrastructure and development.
 - Over the past few years, the nation has experienced a significant number of “1,000 year” floods, or floods with 1-in-1,000 chance of happening in any given year. This is evidence that we are not truly evaluating our risk through the flood mapping program, and that we must do a better job of understanding the frequency and severity of the events that will cause this flood. Appropriate investments must be made in the National Weather Service, the US Geological Survey, FEMA, and other responsible agencies to ensure that we are better to understand and communicate risk to citizens.
 - Create new flood zones to better reflect risk (such as those for residual risk areas), and prioritize high quality topography and future data to accurately depict flood hazard areas.
 - Incentivize State and local officials to collaborate across government agencies to invest in mapping technology that benefits a variety of disciplines and leverages limited funding.
 - Require FEMA to reevaluate the FMA grant funding priorities. Many states do not have repetitive or severe repetitive loss properties but there is still an interest from homeowners who participate in the NFIP to conduct mitigation activities. Allow for

acquisition/elevation of any structure so long as they participate in the NFIP regardless of their status.

- Require FEMA to develop and execute a comprehensive repetitive loss strategy including a requirement to go to full actuarial rates unless mitigation occurs after a certain number of claims.

Private Sector Involvement in NFIP

- Encourage participation of the private market without limiting the success of the NFIP
 - Ensure parity between private sector flood insurance and the NFIP to protect homeowners and continue critical investments in various priorities. Require an equivalency fee (equal to the current federal policy fee) on any private flood insurance policies to help pay for critical data for flood maps and activities related to floodplain management.
 - FEMA's regulatory relationship with Write-Your-Own insurance companies participating in the NFIP is governed by a number of specific rules and contractual obligations. These rules are often out of date and do not reflect the flexibility inherent in the realities of the private market and may hinder or discourage participation in the program by critical private sector partners. These requirements must be reviewed regularly to achieve maximum results.
 - FEMA currently pays Write-Your-Own insurance companies a specific percentage of the premiums collected in order to administer the program. This figure must be routinely evaluated in order to ensure that it is appropriate and is not discouraging private insurers who are bearing their own risk from entering the market.
 - Ensure that consumers know limits, exclusions, and other differences between private flood insurance policies and NFIP policies. Consumer-centric focus should be paramount as major changes to the program will be followed by a transition period where confusion could create challenges for many homeowners.
 - In order to allow the private insurance market to accurately price flood policies, they must have access to previous claims information. Americans have spent tens of billions of dollars subsidizing this program and deserve a fiscally-solvent road ahead.
 - Ensure federal lenders and GSEs have flexibility to make their own risk management determinations, and are not forced to accept any policy approved by state insurance regulations

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NEMA Secretary

NEMA 2017 Mid-Year Forum, March 19-24, Hilton Mark Center, Alexandria, VA

**Private Sector Committee
March 23, 2017
Meeting Summary**

Chair: Shandi Treloar

Vice-chair: Jonathan Monken

The meeting was brought to order by Committee Chair Shandi Treloar. Treloar welcomed those in attendance, described the purpose of the committee and the committee's role within NEMA. The chair then introduced Joel Thomas for an update on the Information Sharing Task Force.

After a brief overview of the working groups progress, Thomas announced a surprise, no-notice exercise to prompt discussion and collaboration between the public and private sector members of NEMA.

This exercise took several major problem statements developed by the Task Force as the basis for the exercise. The participants attending the committee meeting were asked to divide up into one of six groups. The participants were asked to pick one of the following segments that they felt fit the segment the best represented or the one that they were most interested in learning about.

- Communications and Cyber
- Retail and Commodities
- Transportation and Supply Chain
- Utilities
- Corporate Community Support
- Marketplace and Banking

The discussion was broken into three modules and each group was provided with an iPad and a link to a survey. The groups were asked to answer the questions in the survey for each module. After each module was complete groups were asked to brief out what the discussion was for their segment. The discussion helped facilitate discussion between public and private partners, but also provided some insight and understanding of the commonalities in identifying priorities, between the public and private space as well as the interdependencies not only across market segments, but also between the public and private.

Overall, the exercise was well received and the discussions were robust. Many people shared that they learned something they didn't know and met people they hadn't met.

Additional Materials on NEMA website:

- Survey
- Comprehensive survey results
- Individual segment results

Legislative Committee
March 23, 2017
Meeting Summary

Committee Chair Jeff Stern from Virginia opened the session with welcoming remarks and introduced the speakers.

Preview of the 115th Congress: Discussion with Key Committee Staff

Matt Cowles from Senate Appropriations Committee staff led the speakers with comments on the emergency management landscape in terms of legislation. He started off by stating that the outlook is ultimately uncertain because everything is on the table in terms of grant funding, as outlined by the skinny budget. He noted that DHS is also operating on \$700-900 million deficit for 2017, and reauthorization is no longer a must pass. The Department is ultimately about \$2 billion in the hole, Cowles stated.

Drenan Dudley, the Minority staff counterpart, followed up by reaffirming that what states do offsets FEMA costs, and that states must use hard data to demonstrate their effectiveness to federal partners. An issue she mentioned was wildfire management paid for by the Disaster Relief Fund, and how the Fund is depleting, and the Budget Control Act cap on it.

House Homeland Security Committee staffers Kerry Kinirons and Moira Bergin spoke next. They emphasized the importance of directors talking directly to Members of Congress while they are in their districts. They then brought up the need for a strong and experienced FEMA Administrator, and noted that the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee has held multiple hearings on the need for an Administrator so they understand the urgency in filling the position. Lastly, on the topic of grants the staff stated that they are “force multipliers” highlighting their necessity and the need for adequate funding. They also mentioned the need for a children’s administrator which has been something House committee members have been discussing for years now.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staffer Dan Matthews, who handles the Emergency Management and Recovery subcommittee, spoke next. He highlighted that the new Administration has an intense focus on border security, as Secretary Kelly’s background is border security. Matthews then brought up the talk of the impending budget showdown. He stated that entitlement spending is squeezing out discretionary spending, and that is why this year’s budget debate will be particularly intense. It was also noted that Trump’s budget proposal repurposed money, did not necessarily cut items. On the issue of disaster costs, Matthews was clear that states need to be involved in efforts encouraging the federal government to take steps to cut costs—whether that is the disaster deductible or another proposal. He noted though, that it is hard to do compassionate things in the short-term, so states should not be hoping for a big fix from Congress. He then mentioned that big disasters are the reason costs are high, and cited the fact that if you removed 85 percent of disasters, the cost needle would not move significantly. On the topic of mitigation, Matthews stated that we have the capability to build for most things, it is often a matter of will.

FEMA’s Legislative Priorities in the Trump Administration

Next, Stephanie Tennyson from FEMA provided an update on various FEMA initiatives and efforts that impact state emergency managers. She reminded the directors that NFIP Reauthorization talks are to happen this summer, and states should be doing all they can to prepare for that. On the topic of other

FEMA legislation, she mentioned HR 1214, which raises the small project threshold for disaster recovery. On the issue of foreign mutual aid, she stated there is legislation on the docket addressing such, but FEMA has put forth a legislative proposal.

Opportunities for Partnership with Key Stakeholders

Lanita Lloyd from IAEM spoke and reiterated much of what was said and stressed the necessity of a unified front in addressing these issues. Lanita focused heavily on areas where NEMA and IAEM can work together over the coming months, including the recently released EMPG report to Congress. Our organizations align on many significant issues and will be a powerful force when we combine efforts to combat proposed cuts to critical emergency management programs that support local efforts for disaster and terrorism preparedness. She highlighted Thad Hughley taking over for Martha Braddock as the lead Government Relations point of contact for IAEM.

Committee Discussion on NEMA's Priorities for 2017

Directors proceeded to start discussing action items. It was noted that President Trump seemed to signal support for the emergency management community as he ran on a platform of national security. However, he diminished many critical grants in his budget proposal, so directors discussed how to combat this. Director Albert Ashwood from Oklahoma stated that states need a unified message. Director AJ Gary from Arkansas urged states to use a strong narrative to tell their stories. Director Andrew Phelps from Oregon suggested states be consistent in their message, since all states use similar federal funds. Director James Waskom from Louisiana brought up the fact that states should highlight other places money comes from like Housing and Urban Development (HUD), not just FEMA. Waskom stated that high prices of community development block grants (CDBG) could also be traced back to lack of adequate, affordable housing already in the area—leading to higher demand of short term shelter post disaster.

Some key takeaways for emergency managers from the guest speakers was to keep doing things like the EMPG report. Surveys that show return on investment are critical to Hill staffers to relay to their bosses, said one speaker. Director James Joseph from Illinois suggested that NEMA do a survey on the return on investment from preparedness grants. Another suggestion was a consolidation of data on state disaster costs to better understand the issue and it was noted that the Pew effort may be helpful if states participate.