

**NEMA 2019 Annual Forum
October 27 – 29, 2019
Coeur d’Alene, Idaho**

General Session Minutes

PRESENT p = proxy
October 27, 2019

Region I

Connecticut
Maine – p
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island – p
Vermont

Region II

New Jersey
New York

Region III

Delaware
District of Columbia
Maryland
Pennsylvania
Virginia
West Virginia

Region IV

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
North Carolina
South Carolina
Mississippi
Tennessee

Region V

Illinois
Indiana
Michigan
Ohio
Wisconsin

Region VI

Arkansas
Louisiana
New Mexico
Oklahoma

Region VII

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

Region VIII

Colorado
Montana
North Dakota
South Dakota
Utah
Wyoming

Region IX

Arizona
California
Guam
Hawaii
Nevada
Commonwealth of
Northern Mariana
Islands – p

President Brad Richy called the forum to order at 8:30 am and asked Secretary Dossett to call the roll of the states. A quorum was declared. Forty-four states/territories/DC were present along with three proxies.

A Conversation with FEMA - Brad Richy, Director, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security; Hon. Peter Gaynor, Acting Administrator, FEMA; Hon. Dan Kaniewski, Acting Deputy Administrator, FEMA; Keith Turi, Deputy Associate Director, Response and Recovery, FEMA

A panel discussion with FEMA focused on issues related to resilience, disaster recovery, FEMA staff capacity, community lifelines, lessons learned from Hurricane Dorian, and implementation of the

Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA). Gaynor announced that the National Level Exercise for 2022 will feature an earthquake, tsunami and hazardous materials spill in the Cascadia Region.

BRIC:

FEMA is already using the funding set-aside for BRIC to advance the objective of reducing disaster risk. This September, the Agency made \$250 million available for pre-disaster mitigation under our existing grant program – including \$125 million specifically for infrastructure projects. This funding also included up to \$12.5 million to help states, localities, tribes, and territories develop future mitigation projects. The application period for this year’s pre-disaster mitigation grant program is currently open for all states, tribes, and territories. These new authorities have also provided significant support for mitigation efforts after a disaster. Earlier this year, FEMA was able to expand its post-disaster mitigation program to areas impacted by wildfires, in addition to areas that receive a major disaster declaration for storms (Provision 1204). The legislation also authorizes funding for additional activities that will reduce the risk from both wildfires and windstorms. Since May 2018, FEMA has funded an additional \$86.2 million in wildfire mitigation for 228 projects, providing increased protection to nearly 2,500 properties (Provision 1205).

Response:

Revisions to the National Response Framework will help fill critical gaps in incident characterization and resource prioritization (Lifelines), as well as a new Emergency Support Function - 14 - on private-sector coordination. The NRF 4th Edition and ESF-14 Annex are with DHS for final approval. FEMA is updating the Community Lifelines construct based on significant stakeholder outreach, lessons learned, and hot washes from real-world operations and exercises. The Emergency Management community has embraced the Lifeline construct at an exceptional rate, prompting additional doctrinal development (Incident Stabilization Guide) to provide further direction for Community Lifeline integration into response operations. Toolkit 2.0 is expected to be released within the next month. During Dorian, FEMA and its partners pre-staged resources and continued to relocate the staging locations further north as Hurricane Dorian’s track and threat shifted. FEMA is confident, if Dorian’s course or intensity had shifted west, enough resources would have been available to support response requirements. The activities that the agency undertook in preparation for Dorian landfall gave FEMA a great opportunity to test many of our processes and procedures. Specifically, in Recovery, FEMA exercised many surge options to increase call center capacity, talked through processes to reduce the need for in-person inspections, and prepared to exercise staffing protocols to ensure we had enough staff to support a major impact.

Expanding our National Vision for Resilience - Mark Harvey, Senior Director for Resilience Policy National Security Council

Integration being based on a 4-step plan to build resiliency efforts in the nation:

1. Anticipate

- Making sure that we are aware of these ever-occurring problems and being ready to handle them in any way that can happen will happen
- How can resiliency efforts be used to anticipate these large-scale threats?
- Cascadia Subduction Zone and building resilience around a large problem we know will occur

2. Adapt

- What happens when it hits the fan and we need to change what we are doing
- Plans only work until they don’t, and training and exercises are the best opportunity to learn
- Talks about the exercise they did in which they failed, and it was the best one they ever did

- Recognizing the problem before they occur is crucial
 - That's the purpose of exercises and making sure that partners get a chance to be aware of the surroundings and what they will fail at before it happens
3. Withstand
- When the disasters happen how can we manage to harden those targets to protect from either a natural disaster or a physical attack
4. Evolve
- Looking for new ways to build resiliency across differing sectors and the country
 - Making sure that the private sector is involved in this part
 - Looking to universities to provide innovative solutions.
 - Over 100 billion dollars are going through 90 different programs for resiliency
 - This is not just a task for the emergency managers and is one that will continue to grow and evolve as more sectors see the impact with climate change and resiliency efforts
 - How can emergency managers lead the way for these efforts?
 - The 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act created opportunity zones, many also being recovery zones, which can be used as sources of Emergency Management funding
 - How do we continue to challenge ourselves in this space?
 - Make sure that you continue to build those relationships with both the private sector and the federal government so that you can get the resources needed to continue to advance resiliency practices

Agricultural Disasters: Recovery Lessons Learned from the Midwest Bomb Cyclone - Ellen M. Gordon, Associate Director, Executive Education Program, Center for Homeland Defense and Security; Joyce Flinn, Director, Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Department; Bryan Tuma, Assistant Director, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency; Ron Walker, Director, Missouri Emergency Management Agency; Todd Barrett, Division Chief, Emergency Programs Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- States were unprepared for the complexities of the bomb cyclone and its after-effects. If grain was not stored from previous year's harvest, farmers lost 2 years' worth of revenues. Farms that are still underwater are unable to plant next year's crops as well.
- Economic impact from the loss of poultry is estimated to be in the billions. Many states were unfamiliar with Stafford Act declarations under the USDA, as policies are different than typical FEMA declarations.
- It is not necessary for the government to declare a disaster in order to receive quarantine, conservation, loans or relocation services because these issues are typical. However, many farmers do not wish to take on loans and push themselves deeper into debt.
- State universities in Nebraska provide access to resources that will allow farmers to recoup losses as well organizing hay donation services and fence restoration through extension services. Public policy colleges assisted with grant applications and counseling services.
- Legacy services in many states are helping farmers to achieve crop insurance for next year to mitigate the economic loss.

- From a recovery standpoint, communities are struggling to return to pre-disaster conditions. Leaders are engaging stakeholders in order to facilitate these efforts. Strategizing long-term recovery efforts with state hazard mitigation plan.
- Recovery is dependent on levee protection in order to ensure farmers can return to their farms and help the economy recover.
- Nebraska established a long-term housing task force. Emergency managers in the state were experienced in the field and did not have to engage private sector resources in order to recover from the bomb cyclone.
- Massive impact in Nebraska regarding affordable housing. as estimated by HUD, over half of all affordable properties were destroyed.
- It is important to recognize that agricultural disasters take much longer to recover from because the impacts have long-term implications. Other disasters have much more dramatic coverage in the media, whereas agricultural disasters are less so.
- Bankruptcy among farmers and ranchers are much higher than previous years. Mental health counseling has been emphasized as a result. Farmers are proud by nature and unwilling to accept help as readily, which is putting stress on recovery efforts.
- States are realizing that resilience building is the future of pre-disaster mitigation efforts in the wake of bomb cyclones.
- Programs and protocols are being updated as managers realize this disaster pointed out gaps in their emergency preparedness. Especially regarding severe weather preparedness.
- Learning that communication prior to disasters must be improved in order to reduce the need for communication after a disaster takes place when it is more difficult.
- Chemical and propane containers washed away by the floodwaters created an environmental hazard and resulted in EPA officials having to intervene with the collection of hazardous materials.
- Managers realize that exercises involving both first responders and the impacted citizens must be conducted to prepare in the event of future disasters.
- Raising awareness to citizens in rural areas outside of typical media coverage zones. Enabling them the same access to government programs as citizens residing in populated areas. This information is critical to recovery efforts.
- Clearing up confusion about levee ownership to ensure that these are repaired.

October 29, 2019

Because several voting Members had to depart the forum prior to the election of officers and left proxies, a second roll call was conducted to ensure a quorum was present.

Region I

Connecticut
 Maine – p
 Massachusetts
 New Hampshire
 Rhode Island – p
 Vermont

Region II

New York - p

Region III

Delaware - p
 District of Columbia
 Maryland
 Pennsylvania
 Virginia

Region IV

Alabama
Florida - p
Georgia
Kentucky
North Carolina
South Carolina
Mississippi
Tennessee

Region V

Illinois
Indiana
Michigan - p
Ohio
Wisconsin

Region VI

Arkansas
New Mexico - p
Oklahoma

Region VII

Iowa - p
Kansas
Missouri - p
Nebraska - p

Region VIII

Colorado
Montana
North Dakota - p
South Dakota
Utah
Wyoming

Region IX

Arizona
California
Guam
Hawaii - p
Nevada
Commonwealth of
Northern Mariana
Islands - p

Business Session

Reports by Officers:

Secretary's Report – Mike Dossett

Secretary Dossett presented the draft minutes for approval from the 2019 Mid-Year Forum. Kris Hamlet (UT) asked that Utah be added to the list of states as present.

A motion was made to revise the draft minutes and approve.

Moved: SD DISPOSITION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Second: AZ

Treasurer's Report – Robert Ezelle

FY19 Year-End Financial Report - NEMA was projected to spend down the fund balance in FY19 by over \$82,000. Instead the year ended with revenue over expense in the amount of \$177,218. NEMA was fortunate to have record attendance and full sponsorship for both forums last year which played a part. Grants provided an additional source of funding to cover staff salaries which gave relief to the general fund. NEMA received \$2.639 million in grant funding. Ezelle thanked funders: FEMA, Department of Energy, CDC and HHS.

FY2020 Year-to-Date Financial Report - NEMA started off FY20 with a fund balance of \$1,672,755. As of August 31, NEMA had revenue over expense of \$476,096. To date, a total of 52 states have paid dues including DC and 3 territories. Also, to date, NEMA has received grant funding in the amount of \$2.3 million.

Election of Officers – Wendy Smith-Reeve

The candidates for each NEMA office are as follows:

- Vice President – Erica Bornemann, Vermont; and Mike Dossett, Kentucky
- Treasurer – Robert Ezelle, Washington
- Secretary – Bill Hackett, Connecticut

As there are two candidates for the office of Vice President, votes will be cast by secret written ballot. According to Robert’s Rules of Order, Smith-Reeve three times asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, she asked for a motion to close nominations.

Motion to close nominations:

Moved: VA DISPOSITION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Second: TN

Voting by secret ballot ensued. Past President Wendy Smith-Reeve and NEMA Executive Director Trina Sheets left the room to tally the votes. After a second tally to ensure accuracy, Smith-Reeve returned to the general session meeting room and announced that Erica Bornemann had been elected as Vice President and congratulated all the officers.

Outgoing President Brad Richy then presented the NEMA gavel to incoming President Sima Merick. Merick encouraged everyone to work together and with FEMA over the next year to address issues and challenges facing emergency management. She also encouraged State Directors to bring more of their staff to NEMA forums so they too can learn and develop professionally.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the forum.

Moved: AL DISPOSITION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Second: TN