



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Description: IEMAC Fall Meeting

Report Date: December 3, 2014 **Location:** Boston, Massachusetts, USA
Meeting Begin Date: November 18, 2014 **Meeting End Date:** November 19, 2014

Present: See Attached Attendees List

Regrets: Guy Laroche (QC); Andrew Lathem (NS)

Invited Guests:

- 1.0 **Proxies:** Terry Lynn Slaunwhite for Andy Lathem (NS)
- 2.0 **Approval of Minutes:** Spring 2014 (NL) minutes were approved. Final document will be translated and posted to the IEMG website.
- 3.0 **Annual Report:** The next annual report will be available for review June 2015.
- 4.0 **Bi-Annual Telecommunication Drill:** This was not completed by host jurisdiction. Secretariat will confirm telecommunication emergency numbers.
- 5.0 **Definitions & Acronyms:** To be reviewed annually.
- 6.0 **Legal Status of IEMG:** All 11 jurisdictions are officially full members of the IEMG.
- 7.0 **Administrative Support Position (Secretariat):** No changes as the State of Maine will continue to hold this position.
- 8.0 **Website:** Web address is www.iemg-gigu-web.org. The website continues to be utilized as a central depository for documents. Everyone is encouraged to view the website. Member only section contains nonpublic information. Presentations from this meeting are being posted in the member only section of the site.
- 9.0 **Report from Each Jurisdiction:** Each Jurisdiction Director gave a summary of what has been going on in their jurisdiction with staffing, lead changes, financial matters, disasters, and upcoming exercises/events. Key comments listed below:

ME –Director Fitzgerald reported that the period was rather quiet but had several small events resulting in multiple day power outages. Utility and debris removal crews were brought in to assist in restoration; During the most recent storm , November, utility crews were allowed absentee voting; Partial activation of Maine CDC EOC for Ebola planning and response; Several political pre-election visits; Acadian World congress held in Maine’s northern most county; Changing EOC Activation Levels based on guidance from NH; Notorious “Ebola Nurse” in northern town of Fort Kent created National media coverage; Several vacant positions have been filled and others in the process.



MA – Director Schwartz reported that they partial activated for several weather events and a tornado in the town of Revere; no major staffing changes but due to the election of a new Governor he is unsure of future staff including the director position. Patriots Day Bombing AAR (after action review) revealed there was a lack of firearm discipline; The 2015 marathon planning has already begun; Lots of ongoing planning initiatives – housing, commodity distribution, recovery processes, statewide ethanol incident planning; New ‘real time’ power outage website activated. This was a coordinated effort with the utility companies and mapped by communities; Participated in a joint exercise with NHEMA on the Seabrook Nuclear station; Catastrophic planning grant became available and MEMA is currently planning a large statewide exercise on mass care and sheltering.

NB –Director MacCallum reported that New Brunswick has had 2 major activations for a hurricane and shooting event in Moncton; Pulled together provincial health committee regarding Ebola; Review of Security measures on security, planning, and procedures based on the recent Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) events; Major exercise being planned for the Point Lepreau Nuclear Power plant late 2015, with several smaller exercises preparing for this event; Recent Provincial election resulted in new cabinet; Staffing changes with the addition of an Interoperability Coordinator, moving forward with common operative awareness; Sentinel Service (operating system in the OPS center) is currently being used.

NH – Director Plummer reported that NH has had a busy summer but fortunate no big disasters; Continue working with Vermont in the decommission of Vermont Yankee; Several State EOC partial activations for events such as the Canadian Premier visit, Two NASCAR races and a few weather events; April rain event causing over \$1.9 million in damages was denied presidential declaration; Several training opportunities and Exercises completed; Governor Hasson re-elected for 2 more years; launched State Emergency Alerting program mobile App “Code Red”; Jennifer Harper promoted to Assistant Director and several other staffing changes and vacancies.

NL –Director McCormack reported there have been no activations since last meeting in May but actively monitored a few events such as Hurricane Gonzalo, 2 HazMat events, and a local public water event; several local government exercises completed including a very large exercise with the City of St. Johns using the MASAS system; 300-350 participated in the Fire and Emergency Management Annual Training School; Provincial wide 9-1-1 system set to become active soon; New Premier and new Minister in the province; EMO has moved from Municipal Affairs to the Public Safety base.

NS – Terry Lynn Slaunwhite (proxy) reported the province had a quiet summer dealing only with Tropical Storm Arthur, which was undeclared. Some political issues ascended surrounding the definition of vulnerable population and will be further discussed; Large exercise, dealing with very heavily traveled Halifax Bridge, held. Halifax Bridge has some 200,000 daily crossings. 80+ participants; New Municipal Affairs Deputy Dan McDougal; The NS 911 system went through a major overhaul last spring. Key deliverables: Introduction to texting 9-1-1 for hearing and speech impaired, and a suicide line.

PEI – Director Campbell reported that they had a fairly quiet summer. EOC activations for a High Profile Royal visit by Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall and Tropical Storm Arthur during the Cavendish Beach Music Festival; Several exercises and training events; Announcement of resignation by the Provincial Premier; Jurisdiction looks forward to hosting the next IEMG meeting in the Spring and have already started brainstorming for the exercise portion of the agenda.

RI – Director McDonald reported that RI activated their EOC one once during this period for a Presidential visit; No current declarations but continue to process older declarations; Exercise on Ebola specific plan held based on the fact that RI has the highest per capita Liberian population nationally; New staffing to include a new National Guard Coordinator; Annual school safety conference successful; Adjunct General asked Director to present overview of EMAC and IEMAC.

VT – Director Flynn reported that they partially activated their EOC for the Vermont Marathon. This marathon allowed some individuals who were unable to finish the Boston Marathon compete; No new declarations but still working several previous declarations; Ongoing planning for the Vermont Yankee exercise scheduled for early next year and Vigilant Guard in 2016; Held a very successful Emergency Preparedness conference; Vermont Governor’s race will be decided by the Legislature via secret ballot;



VTEMA hosted the president of Senegal (coordinated effort with VT National Guard) and sent 3 teams to Macedonia; Continue to discuss the decommissioning of Vermont Yankee; Fairpoint strike is an element of concern so EMA staff keeping informed; Deputy Director Ross Nagy retire early 2015.

10.0 Operations Manual: The May 2013 version is available at www.iemg-gigu-web.org. Bylaws indicate that the Operations Manual needs to be reviewed annually. There were several revisions made after the last meeting based on recent events and trying to get non-emergency/non declared assets across the border. These changes were reviewed by the board with no issues resulting. There was additional discussion on Operations Manual definitions, mainly the definition of an emergency as well as documentation on Non-Emergency use of IEMAC. Further discussion at the board level is required as well as review from the Legal Working Group. The current published version does not have any revisions noted above.

11.0 Strategic Planning: The group agreed that the existing strategic plan requires re-tooling and re-prioritizing the work in the coming 3-5 years. Tony Eden (NS) and Jennifer Harper (NH) facilitated the strategic discussion hoping to identify what is achievable moving forward. Some suggestions moving forward were a FAQ section on the IEMG website and sitting co-chairs calling any new directors and walk them through the website, where most documents and historical information is located. Several items were discussed and it was decided that a board conference call in December was necessary before moving forward.

12.0 Board of Directors

Discussions on hazmat resolutions, annual report, contributions to IEMG, Tribal Entities across Jurisdictions, Legal working group, strategic planning, and the Canadian Co-chair.

Hazmat Resolutions: 3 resolutions were endorsed by the board of directors. Hazmat Operations Plan Annex, Acknowledgment of Outstanding issues to enable the function of the HazMat Operations Annex and Direction to PEI to pursue supplemental resources to resolve identified barriers to Hazmat Interoperability.

Annual Report: Co-chairs developed a report out form for directors based on conversation from previous meeting. This will assist in the development of the annual report which is submitted annually to the Eastern Canadian Premiers and New England Governors. Standard reporting dates were set June thru May. It was suggested that the IEMG schedule to be on the ECP/NEG meeting agenda every 3 years and continue to send them the IEMG report annually.

Contributions to IEMG: Research and discuss contributions to IEMG to hire a project manager specific to the IEMG, possibly again through NESEC. This has been discussed several times over the years and the problem isn't the lack of funding, but the legal movement of funds.

Tribal Entities Across Jurisdictions: Board agreed that tribal interest by FEMA were already represented by FEMA Region 1 participation in IEMG, (Dan McElhinney)

Legal Working Group: There is an immediate need again for the IEMG Legal Working group to discuss and review the recent changes to the Operations Manual.

Strategic Planning: Board will discuss early 2015.

Canadian Co-Chair: Current sitting Canadian Co-Chair Dave McCormack will maintain Co-chair seat through May 2015. Dave will reach out to the other provinces and discuss.



- 13.0 Presentations and Discussions:** All the presentations provided electronically from the spring 2014 meeting in Newfoundland Labrador are now posted to the IEMG website.

Greg MacCallum presented on a shooting event in Moncton and Hurricane Arthur. Mark Gillan from Emergency Solutions International presented a follow up to “Hazardous Materials Interoperability and Economic Analysis”. Paul Rooney from the US Border Service facilitated a discussion on Customs Border Protection best practices. Ellen Mecray from NOAA and Elizabeth Hanson from the Massachusetts Executive off of Energy and Environmental Affairs presented on Climate Change. Sam Sleiman from the Massachusetts Port Authority presented an overview of how climate change would affect local infrastructure including the Logan Airport and the Maritime Shipping containers. The FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force presented on Unclassified Terrorism Treats (no visual presentation).

Presentation noted above, if provided electronically, will be made available on the IEMAC website.

- 14.0 Public Health Discussion:** Group discussion on Ebola. Facilitated by the Public Health Agency of Canada, US Health and Human Services and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

15.0 Additional IEMG Information:

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is partnering with the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS) to offer a Master’s Degree Program for local, state, tribal and federal government officials (civilian and military) with responsibilities in homeland security. This program is offered to both US and International candidates. International students from non-English speaking countries will be required to validate their fluency in English through the Test of English as a Foreign Language. Online application information is available at <http://www.chds.us/?masters/apply>. Application deadlines are May 1 and December 1 annually. Visit the Center for Homeland Defense and Security’s website at www.chds.us to learn more.

16.0 Fall 2015 Meeting Dates & Agenda Items

The Annual Spring Meeting will be held in Prince Edward Island June 2-3rd. This is slated to be 2 full days with a Monday travel day. An exercise will be planned building on situational awareness, mutual aid, training and exercise coordination, and assets crossing the border. High level objectives will include disruption of the International Bridge, which is the longest water span bridge in the world. PEI requesting any exercise developmental assistance. Maine is scheduled to host the fall of 2015 (tentative Sept 2015).

- Operations Manual Updates
- Strategic Planning Moving Forward

17.0 Appendix

- Attendees list