



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Description: IEMAC Fall Meeting 2015

Report Date: January 12, 2016

Location: Portland, ME, US

Meeting Begin Date: December 1, 2015

Meeting End Date: December 2, 2015

Present: See Attached Attendees List

Regrets: Andrew Lathem (NS); Louis Morneau (QC); Jean-Thomas Bilodeau-Fortin (QC); Dan McElhinney (FEMA)

Invited Guests:

- 1.0 **Proxies:** Terry Lynn Slaunwhite for Andy Lathem (NS); Jennifer Harper for Perry Plummer (NH)
- 2.0 **Approval of Minutes:** Spring 2015 (PEI) minutes were approved – Maine moved to approve, Vermont seconded; motion carried. Final document will be translated and posted to the IEMG website.
- 3.0 **Definitions & Acronyms:** To be reviewed annually.
- 4.0 **Legal Status of IEMG:** All 11 jurisdictions are officially full members of the IEMG.
- 5.0 **Administrative Support Position (Secretariat):** No changes as the State of Maine will continue to hold this position.
- 6.0 **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 will be posted in the member only section of the site.
- 7.0 **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:

NB –Director MacCallum reported that New Brunswick had 1 activation during the reporting period and that was for Hurricane Joaquin (the event that cancelled the originally scheduled meeting). That event featured 215 millimeters of rain in some areas, isolated damages and an \$11.5 million price tag; NB had no Provincial Declarations of State of Emergency; NB held several exercises and trainings and also participated in other agency events (Bakken Crude Oil, Dam failure). The biggest exercise was Exercise Intrepid 2015 which was a full scale graded exercise for the response to an event at the Point Lepreau nuclear power facility, with emphasis on communities exercising their emergency plans; The National Disaster Mitigation (federal program) was initiated recently. This is a cost sharing program between the government of Canada and provinces to undertake mitigation proposals to improve flood preparedness and recovery; Established a roundtable on Emergency Management and Resiliency with participation by all levels of government, private sector, industry, first responders, and EM practitioners; The department of



Public Safety has a new Deputy minister Ms. Johanne Bray as well as two new operations officers and 1 nuclear preparedness EMO office staff.

NS – Terry Lynn Slaunwhite (proxy) reported the province did not have any activations during the reporting period, however they did monitor a few times. Halifax Bridges Update- complete re-decking project is underway. Continue to monitor and work closely with the bridge commission. At the start of the project there was significant delay but the planning completed ahead of time. Communication was fantastic; Honorable Minister Churchill is the new Minister for the department; EMO had a full scale Business Continuity Program audit completed in September 2015. Work is now underway for a full audit of the Critical Infrastructure Program; Use of the Everbridge communication system will continue as it is working well. Also use social media and work together with media outlets; several training and exercises for ICS have been completed, supporting ICS training at the provincial and municipal level; Utilized ICS as the management platform for a Syrian Refugee Resettle program that was established. EMO worked in conjunction with Immigration department to manage the receipt of families as well as the donations management of supplies for the families as they arrive.

MA – Director Schwartz reported that the state is still working the 169 million dollar snowstorm disaster from 2015. Current EMAC costs are estimated at 10 million (Heavy Equipment); Preparedness focus on Avian Flu, mass care and evacuations; Vermont Yankee decommission causing some financial challenges for the state as they will lose agency direct revenue as a result; Upcoming exercise includes simulated 6.5 magnitude earthquake scenario; Hosting meetings for leading response agencies to review protocols for “Terrorist activity” and “What to do in the first few hours “.

PEI – Director Campbell reported that there have been no activations since the last reporting period; During the spring IEMG meeting the province exercised the closing of the bridge and did again for a fundraising event in September; Continue business continuity planning; Federal level tours of the province took place during the elections; ICS training is ongoing and they implemented province wide communication interoperable communications.

VT – Director Herrick was introduced to the group from former IEMG Co-chair/EMA director Joe Flynn; Planning continued with the Vermont National Guard for Vigilant Guard '15 in July 2016, may send EMAC request asking for state assets to evaluate the exercise; Conducted a drill simulating the relocation of the State EOC, concluded about 90% effective; Continue to expand Vermont Alert with cooperative effort with DOT radio communications; During the reporting period there was 1 EOC activation for Amtrak train derailment. No fatalities and no serious injuries reported and no environmental impacts. Vermont is now EMAP accredited; Current governor is not running for re-election meaning the future of current director is uncertain.

RI – Director Gaynor reported that Rhode Island had a partial activation for a severe thunderstorms causing record number of power outages. Response was very quick and mutual aid was accepted from 8 other northeastern states and the province of Quebec; Several trainings held this reporting period including hurricane training, FEMA integrated Emergency Management Course sent 60 persons to Emmitsburg, MD; Ongoing challenges with railway cargo/HAZMAT; Annual preparedness conference was successful, hosting over 350 professionals, 32 exhibitors, 31 training courses and 3 keynote speakers; Rhode Island is on path for EMAP accreditation and will continue to work towards that goal.

NH – Assistant Director Harper (proxy) reported that Perry Plummer would be attending later in the day; Had 2 EOC activations during the reporting period for 2 NASCAR events but no disasters; Still recovering from the January 2015 Blizzard with costs approaching \$7 million; Numerous training and exercises



completed including active shooter, health department, community emergency response course and joint information; Continuing State Preparedness Campaign “Ready NH”; Currently updating the State Operations Plan Continuity of Operations. Also 6 staff members assigned to School Preparedness; New Fusion Center Director who is very engaged; Significant number of Presidential candidate visits in prep for Nov 2016 elections.

ME – Director Fitzgerald reported that there were no new activations or declarations this reporting period; Sent State Disaster Relations Coordinator (American Red Cross liaison) to Alaska for 2 weeks under EMAC to assist with volunteer agency liaison duties following major wildfires and also sent Individual Assistance Officer to California for 3 weeks under EMAC to assist with IA recovery issues following major wildfires; Continues to administer funds for the January 2015 blizzard disaster now close to the 5 million dollar range; Several exercises and training conducted in ICS, NIMS, Dam Safety and Hazmat; Participated in nationwide Virtual TTX focused on recovery from Avian Flu; Full ERT participated with NB’s 2 day Exercise Intrepid and also 1 day Seabrook nuclear Power Station exercise; 2 capstone exercises for Border Interoperability Demonstration Project (BDIP) western border with QC and eastern border with NB; President George HW Bush was in residence at his summer estate in Maine between May and October; Several staff changes – Finance, Operations, Planning, and cyber security officer and also 2 additional vacancies projected early 2016 – Individual Assistance and PIO.

CT – Director Hackett reported no new activations, declarations, states of emergency this reporting period; Several exercise and training during this time including annual statewide exercise with a focus on unified command at the municipal level to handle a school security event, Avian Flu preparedness, implementing a school security grant that calls for training for school districts across the state, completed two radiological emergency preparedness exercises in June, with a state EOC activation and a host community/reception center exercise at a local university; Also CT is reviewing guidelines, procedures and resource availability to handle a civil unrest incident with workshops/tabletops being planned; continued monitoring with the state Fusion Center.

NL - Director McCormack reported that NL saw record setting, below normal temperatures through the month of July, with only six days on no measurable precipitation for that month; No provincial activations or states of emergency during the reporting period; Conducted various training and exercises including Exercise Vigilance where all partners used MASAS (Multi Agency Situational Awareness System), an information aggregation system that facilitates sharing situational awareness within the public safety community. This exercise was an extensive undertaking by a wide ranging group of emergency management partners and the feedback has been extremely positive; NL hosted NEG-ECP conference in August, the IEMG was afforded an opportunity to present to the forum and a resolution was adopted continuing support for cross-border mutual aid among the IEMG jurisdictions and ongoing IEMG work around HazMat awareness and response.; Fire and Emergency Services-NL has a new Assistant Deputy Minister and the transition has been going well and as of the November 30 general election, there is a new government elect that will lead to additional changes as the transition proceeds.

QC – Not present.

- 8.0 Operations Manual:** The Operations Manual is available at www.iemg-gigu-web.org. Bylaws indicate that the Operations Manual needs to be reviewed annually. Updates were made in 2015 and acknowledged. The newest version is now available online.
- 9.0 Forms & Border Crossing Review:** Dialogue to create a working group to include border crossing agencies and federal partners was discussed. Potential working group members are Paul Rooney (US CBP),



Shawn Cox (CBSA), Bruce Fitzgerald (ME), Greg McCallum (NB), Chris Herrick (VT) and possibly someone from QC. Proposed determining some forms to include in the operations manual and share with utility companies. Follow-up during the spring meeting required.

- 10.0 Mission Ready Packages (MRP) Discussion:** The goal of this discussion was to identify “What is the IEMG going to do going forward?” Resource typing had been previously attempted but because of the differences in definitions/resources it was found challenging. Suggestion was made to follow the EMAC/NIMS typing because it works. It look as if most jurisdictions have the same goal which is to type mission ready inventory, however the process is cumbersome. Some jurisdictions have typed resources they thought were most important, but would the requesting jurisdiction have the same info? Discussion then focused on what IEMG can do? Identify capabilities and what these jurisdictions can offer to each other without losing sight of the importance of typing resources. Discussion on re-establishing working group, or use of the THIRA (Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment) or SPR (State Preparedness Report) which includes a section on typing of resources, or hosting a crosswalk on the IEMG website where information can be imported and compared by both countries.
- 11.0 Resource Management:** Kurt Schwartz (MA) opened discussion regarding EMAC and Canadian participation/interest. Canadian jurisdictions expressed interest in having access to the EMAC site which provides visibility of what is out there for resources and the paperwork to coordinate. Kurt will discuss with NEMA about the Canadian Jurisdictions getting “read only” access EMAC A-Team training can be done in Canada or US.
- 12.0 Presentations and Discussions:** All the presentations *provided* electronically from the spring 2015 meeting in Charlottetown, PEI, are now posted to the IEMG website.

Joshua Frances from Maine Medical Center presented on Federal Medical Station Field Hospital. Dr. Edward Sihler from the University of Southern Maine presented on Cyber Security. Ronnie Djoukeng from FEMA Headquarters presented on International Assistance System (IAS). Greg MacCallum (NB) presented on Exercise Intrepid 2015.

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

Greg MacCallum led a discussion on ICS Implementation “Field Uses –vs- EOC uses. Summary by jurisdiction: NB – has adopted ICS and used regularly by 1st responders and encourages other provinces to get on board. VT – Cannot think of a reason not to use ICS. MA – field use is different than EOC use however 4 people or 300 people forced to have structure and span of control. CT- brought ICS into the EOC as everything they do is unified command/decision making. Works very smoothly but a growing process. NH – notes that the field understands it so the EOC should use similar terminology, same control span and in end everyone is on the same page. NH had to rewrite the state EOP with ICS model and since then everything moves a lot smoother. NH also wrote a template in hopes to use in local EOC’s. PEI – current ICS user and use for the annual music festival. Has taken about 7 years to work through and incorporate. NS – Used ICS to establish Syrian refugee program, which is working very well. Public Health Canada is current ICS user.

There was also discussion on the Canadian Position on Syrian Refugees.

- 13.0 Table Top Exercise:** After Action report from the Confederation Bridge Exercise in PEI was presented and is available on the IEMAC website. Take away from the exercise was the importance to exercise IREQ



forms. Kurt Schwartz (MA) offered his office to create an exercise to test the forms, possibly delivered via web conference March timeline.

- 14.0 US Co-Chair:** Perry Plummer (NH) is now the new US Co-Chair, moved by Chris Herrick (VT), seconded by Bruce Fitzgerald (ME); motion carried.

15.0 Fall 2016 Meeting Dates & Agenda Items

The Annual Spring Meeting will be held in Quebec City, Quebec, on June 1-3, 2016. This is slated to be 2 full days with a Wednesday travel day.

Possible agenda items include cross border arrangements going forward, creating a working group for resource typing, TTX for IEMAC/EMAC forms (Kurt Schwartz MA)

16.0 Appendix

- Attendees list



IEMAC FALL CONFERENCE, PORTLAND, MAINE
 DECEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 2, 2015
 LIST OF ATTENDEES

Last	First	Agency	Jurisdiction
Ayotte	Tara	Emergency Management	ME
Bergeron	Brenda	Emergency Management & Homeland Security/DESPP	CT
Bolduc	BG Gerard	Acting Commissioner and Adjunct General DVEM	ME
Campbell	Aaron	Public Safety/ Emergency Management	PEI
Cimini	Josie	Canadian Consulate General, Boston	New England
Cooling	Stacey	Emergency Measures Organization	NB
Cox	Shawn	Canada Border Services Agency	Canada
Dickie	Sheldon	Defence Research and Development Canada Centre for Security Science	Guest
Djoukeng	Ronnie	FEMA	
Doyle	Christi	US Customs and Border Protection	Guest
Fitzgerald	Bruce	Emergency Management	ME
Flynn	Joe	Emergency Management and Homeland Security	VT
Ford	Paul	DHS/FEMA Region 1	Fed
Francis	Joshua	Maine Medical Center	Presenter
Gaynor	Peter	Emergency Management	RI
Greenlaw	Jacqueline	British Consulate General, Boston	New England
Hackett	Cindy	Emergency Measures Organization	NB
Hackett	William	Emergency Management & Homeland Security/DESPP	CT
Harper	Jennifer	HSEM	NH
Herrick	Christopher	Emergency Management Homeland Security	VT
Hyland	Mark	Emergency Management	ME
Kempton	Steve	Public Health Agency of Canada	Guest
MacCallum	Greg	Emergency Measures Organization	NB
McCann	Matt	FEMA Region 1	FED
McCormack	Dave	Fire & Emergency Services	NL
Packard	Christine	Emergency Management	MA
Petley	Naomi	Emergency Management	ME
Plummer	Perry	Department of Safety, HSEM	NH



Robichaud	Claude	Public Safety Canada	NB
Scharf	Jo-Anne	Public Safety Canada	NS
Schell	Robert	Emergency Management Homeland Security	VT
Schwartz	Kurt	Emergency Management	MA
Sihler	Dr. Edward	University of Southern Maine	Presenter
Slaunwhite	Terry Lynn	EMO Nova Scotia	NS