



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Description: IEMAC Fall Meeting

Date: December 7, 2010
Begin Time: December 7, 2010
Location: Portsmouth, New Hampshire, US
End Time: December 9, 2010

Present: See Attached Attendees List

Invited Guests: Richard Serino, FEMA Deputy Administrator; Gilles Rheaume, Conference Board of Canada; William Irwin, Vermont Dept of Health; Rick Cricenti, NH DHHS; Capt. James McPherson, US Coast Guard; Thomas Smith, ME DEP; Colonel Joseph Czarnik, US DOD; Adam Wehrenberg, City of Boston

- 1.0 **Proxies:** Terry Lynn Slaunwhite for Andy Lathem (NS); Allen Phillips for Kurt Schwartz (MA); Edward Johnson for Dave Smith (RI)
- 2.0 **Regrets:** Quebec EMO, Connecticut EMA
- 3.0 **Approval of Minutes:** Spring 2010 - Accepted
- 4.0 **Annual Report:** Can be located on the website
- 5.0 **Definitions & Acronyms:** To be reviewed annually.
- 6.0 **Legal Status of IEMG:** Rhode Island continues to be the only jurisdiction that is not 100% on board.
- 7.0 **Administrative Support Position (Secretariat):** No changes as the State of Maine will continue to hold this position until an alternate solution is found.
- 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 now working website. Member only section contains non public information. Presentations from the Fall meeting are being posted in the member only section of the site.
- 9.0 **Telephone Exercise:** Results were not given during the meeting however NHEM conducted a communication exercise on November 30, 2010 beginning at 1000. Utilized contact numbers on guide on communications exercise previously developed. Summary - contact number listed for the jurisdiction of Rhode Island was incorrect (will be corrected), all other jurisdictions were either contacted at time of call or returned call timely.
- 10.0 **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 – More municipalities continue to migrate toward the use of common emergency management tools, including Sentinel System's Emergency Command Centre; continue to promote and develop MA- SAS; held LNG facility TTX.



PEI – Now delivering ICS 200 & 300 in partnership with PSC, Parks Canada and the RCMP. Hurricane Earl provided the first opportunity to open up access to Sentinel incident management application to IEMG directors for situational awareness; Have observed increased awareness around hurricane preparedness; Approved for federal grant for multi year project funding to enhance GSAR technologies, training & interoperability capacity; PEI GSAR deployed to NS to assist with the unsuccessful search for a lost hunter; The Maritime public safety radio project has progressed enhancing radio communications interoperability between emergency first responders, federal, provincial & municipal agencies; Currently undergoing project to centralize PSAPs into a single provincial communications center with a operational target date of April 2011.

ME – Complete political change including new Governor. However, Defense, Veterans & Emergency Management Commissioner and EM Director will remain same; Identified challenges for shelters housing special needs individuals; Working with FEMA on Risk Map program - making flood maps more accurate; Hoping for federal Grant approval for BIDP- Border Interoperability Demo Program - to install towers along the Canadian and Maine borders for better interoperability.

NL – Hurricane Igor on 9/21/10 impacted much of the province. 190 municipalities, 100+ roads, bridges private properties, and 1 fatality. PIO sessions dispatched to the 2 highest hit areas to answer questions for citizens; Significant progress with the Business Continuity Planning; 700+ registrants at the spring training school and 300+ at the fall session. These training schools are important because of such rural communities so commitment continues.

NS – Government changes including new deputy CEO resulting in budget reviews; Education and training continues to be supported; Rain event affected and isolated community bridge, Hurricane Egor shortly thereafter; November the province saw the worst flooding on the south side they have seen. All the Hydro stations breached and a Hazmat as a result; MA EMA employees were in the province for 2 conducting incident command training.

RI – Encountered a very difficult year with multiple weather events; Rewrite of the State EOP was done because of lessons learned during these events; Emergency Operations procedures were reviewed; New Governor elected however the Adjunct General and Emergency Management Director will remain the same.

MA – Governor re-elected; Acting EMA director Kurt Schwartz will most likely remain on a more permanent position; Long term recovery work continues with FEMA from the 2 largest events ever experienced in the state (Boston water main break & March 2010 floods); Worked closely with FEMA during August's Hurricane Earl. Identified that some efforts were being duplicated; using a state wide resource management database system. All 351 communities have access and ability to catalog resources; Reviewing earthquake notification & sheltering protocols; Conducted an EMAC/IEMAC 101 (Req A start to finish) session in September and expect to complete a couple more in the future.

VT – New Governor; EOC still located in temporary space as renovations continue; TTX VT catastrophic completed. 32 hours straight with 2 shift changes. Things went very well; Held state wide emergency management conference with 400+ participants, including DHS and Health Partners; FEMA preliminary damage assessment scheduled to begin for windstorm late November, which resulted in 40,000+ with out power; training and exercise events continue.

NH – Still in recovery from several disaster declarations; Fusion center is open – co directors Jennifer Harper and Chris Scott; State EOP in its final stages; Seacoast evacuation plan exercise conducted with participation from many communities and FEMA.

QC - Jurisdiction report offered by Aaron Campbell (PEI) for QC. Have introduced regulation regarding 911 for standardization and processing calls; In the process of developing a provincial Earthquake plan; Have recently conducted governmental debriefing on Haiti response, with an official report nearly complete; currently dealing with some flooding and landslide issues. Working with 3 municipalities regarding landslide that is threatening 300 homes; Looking forward to hosting Spring IEMG meeting in May 2011.

Federal Partners –Working with the FEMA training institute the Federal Partners group would like to bring an integrated Emergency Management course to this group. Will include cross border issues, key infrastructure issues, and will include Public Safety Canada, FEMA, and border control; ongoing planning within the group.



12.0 WORKING GROUP SUMMARIES

12.1 Board of Directors: US Co-Chair Robert McAleer Canadian Co-Chair Aaron Campbell

- Board collaborated through teleconference calls in between meetings to discuss outstanding tasks
- Board members held a session at the end of day 1 to discuss the upcoming Spring meeting. Board members from QC and CT participated via telephone.
 - Additional full day will be added to the schedule in order for Allen Phillips (MA) to conduct A-Team training
 - Second full day will be a functional exercise
 - Third full day and last half day will be regular business
- Functional Exercise scheduled for QC to include:
 - Test the updated IREQ form going through the whole process filling them out from start to finish and connect with own jurisdictions with these forms.
 - What was learned at the A-Team training
 - Setting up a number of A-Teams

12.2 Federal Partners: US Co-Chair Dan McElhinney Canadian Co-Chair Mark Pomeroy

- Information sharing discussed
- Working on Memorandum of Understanding between US and Canadian Governments. Lisa Khouri from Public Safety Canada is a liaison with direct access to FEMA

12.3 Legal Working Group: US Co-Chair Priscilla Fox Canadian Co-Chair Dianne Smith Q.C.

- Will present an education session at the spring meeting in QC regarding the IEMAC Compact and MOU for newer delegates and partners and refresher for all.
- Lengthy Health Credential Cross Border discussion. Wonder how much time and energy needs to be put into this discussion. Chances are requests for medical professionals would come from within own country. Dianne and Priscilla will keep abreast of this info.
- Indicated that the IEMAC is not the only group dealing with cross border issues and there is talk about looking for legislation rewrite.
- Some jurisdictions still need to submit their jurisdictional law links that will be placed on the IEMG website.

12.4 Administrative Working Group: US Co-chair Jennifer Harper Canadian Co-chair Tony Eden

- Would like to discuss with the Board the future of this working group

12.5 Education, Research & Exercise Working Group: US Co-Chair Vacant Canadian Co-Chair Vacant

- No representation present



**12.6 Operations Working Group: US Co-Chair Peter Coffey
Canadian Co-Chair Lisa Munn**

- IEMG IREQ form has been updated and will be put on the website. This updated document will be used during the functional exercise in QC. WG will look into tracking number system since there is not currently one in place.
- Identified the need to define public health triggers – at what point do jurisdictions get informed of happenings in other jurisdictions? At the national level, there currently is a direct exchange of information.
- Operations WG will continue to work on their assigned tasks

**12.7 Health Partners Working Group: US Co-Chair Mary Duley
Canadian Co-Chair vacant**

- Working group is unclear what they will be doing with the IEMG group and seeks guidance from the board.
- Still in need of Canadian Co-chair

13.0 Discussions:

Discussions took place on the following topics:

- New York joining the IEMG
- Public Health Information sharing – determined this group is not responsible for this as agreements are already in place state to state, province to province and country to country.
- New governments, travel issues

14.0 Presentations: Power Points of the presentations can be found on the IEMG website in the members only section

15.0 Additional IEMG Information:

Spring Conference 2011: The Annual Spring conference will be held in Quebec City, Quebec May 9-13, 2011. . The agenda will be focused on A-Team training, tabletop exercise, Strategic plan and progress on the overall Work Plan.

Board Conference calls will be scheduled during the weeks of Feb 14, and April 11th. WG co-chairs will be encouraged to call in.

16.0 Appendix

- Attendees list