



## Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Description:** IEMAC Spring Meeting 2018

**Report Date:** July 3, 2018

**Location:** Halifax, Nova Scotia, CA

**Meeting Begin Date:** June 7, 2018

**Meeting End Date:** June 8, 2018

**Present:** See Attached Attendees List

**Regrets:** Suzanne Krauss (ME); Jean Bissonnette (QC); Perry Plummer (NH); William Hackett (CT)

### Invited Guests:

- 1.0 **Proxies:** Jennifer Harper for Perry Plummer (NH) & Suzanne Krauss (ME); Brenda Bergeron for William Hackett (CT)
- 2.0 **Approval of Minutes:** Fall 2018 (Vermont) minutes was approved – Massachusetts motioned 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](http://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, if available, will be posted in the member only section of the site.
- 7.0 **IEMG 101:** The PowerPoint presentation is available on the IEMAC website noted above. All newer delegates and/or partners to the IEMG are encouraged to review this PowerPoint.
- 8.0 **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 during the period of April 26 to May 14, New Brunswick experienced a historic flooding event which required a major provincial response throughout the Saint John River system. The province was augmented with federal assistance from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Transport Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard and the Department of National Defence. Estimated costs exceeds \$100 million and recovery will be ongoing for up to 18 months; In addition to the flooding event there were five activation for reasons such as Nor'easters and a butane gas line leak, most of which were handled at the local level; Several training and exercises throughout the province including ICS, Public Alerting, Exercise Brunswick Alpha which is being done jointly with the Joint Task Force Atlantic,

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and preparing for a major mandated nuclear exercise coming in the fall; NBEMO staffing budget has increased by 105% so staffing will be doubled in the coming months.

**NS** – Director Mason reported a four-day power outage beginning on December 25<sup>th</sup> was caused from a wind storm that toppled trees and knocked out power to more than 158,000 customers. Because of the cold temps that followed the storm, several comfort centers were opened; Additional smaller storms hit the area in January and March; NS participated in several trainings and exercises, including ICS trainings, during the reporting period; Several staff changes occurred during this time: Former EMO Director Andy Lathem retired, Terry Lynn Slaunwhite, who participated in IEMG for several years, left as well and several other positions lost to retirements. NSEMO has reorganized some including changing the title of the Operations Director to Director of Incident Management (Jason Mew). This change will put Jason in charge of three programs including Planning, DFSA and Information systems. Additional staffing in Incident Management, Planning, and communications also reported.

**MA** – Director Schwartz reported that the jurisdiction had 14 State EOC activations during the reporting period. One disaster was declared by the Massachusetts Governor in March due to a severe Nor'easter and coastal flooding storm that put downtown Boston under water. This was the worst coastal storm in decades and anticipate submitting request for a Major Disaster Declaration from FEMA for \$70-80 million in damages. Although 800-1000 homes were damaged by the flooding, the damages did not meet the state threshold so IA declaration was not awarded; MA continues to support evacuees from Puerto Rico estimating there are currently 10,000-12,000 in the state; MEMA hosted the Unified Coordination Center for the 2018 Boston Marathon and continue to support more large public events.

**PEI** – Director Campbell reported a fairly quiet reporting period with three partial activations, two for severe winter weather and one in response to NB floods in preparation for resource requests and support; PEI hosted several exercises and trainings during the reporting period, including a joint full scale exercise with the Charlottetown Airport Authority; Currently in planning stages to support a large four day musical event expecting 20,000-25,000 people in a very small community away from resources; A new wireless public alerting feature created extra media and public interest; staffing static.

**VT** – Director Bornemann reported that Vermont had a few EOC activations this reporting period. Preliminary damage assessments are underway for the May 4<sup>th</sup> storm. That storm was accompanied by strong winds, flash flooding and four to six foot waves on Lake Champlain; Experienced an Ice Jam flooding in February. Although there was no declaration made, there was significant local impact requiring state to state coordination for transportation permitting and USAR team deployments; VEM supported a total of nine missions through EMAC last year in response to hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands; VEM has hosted and/or participated in several exercise and trainings, including participation in the FEMA Region 1 Patriot Response and a Integrated Emergency Management Courses completed for VEM staff and others; The October 2017 storm and flooding event was federally declared on January 2, 2018; Interviews are underway to backfill vacant agency positions.

**RI** – Director Gaynor reported that the month of March was very demanding with four back to back storms with snow and power outages; RI had numerous exercise and training opportunities, including active shooter, “you’re the help until help arrives”, and “stop the bleed” throughout the state; RI is the 36<sup>th</sup> state in the US to become nationally accredited from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP); RI became the first state in the country to have all municipalities recognized as Storm Ready by the National Weather Service. This was an 18-month initiative that completed in February; RI accepted the First Responder Network Authority and AT&T plan to deliver wireless broadband network to the state’s public safety community, renovated the state radiological program, and supported the Volvo Ocean Race during this reporting period; RIEMA is almost at full staff due to several new hires.



**NH** – Assistant Director Jennifer Harper (proxy) reported that since May, there have been nine EOC activations, all winter storms; NH has had five disaster declarations in the last 12 months which is the most since 2005; NH conducted 28 exercises and 45 trainings during the reporting period including a Black Sky seminar, long term power outage, with the Governor and leadership; Governor initiated school safety taskforce is a group of state and local officials that will work together to develop stronger safety protocols for NH schools. There are 150 involved and four working groups in this taskforce; NH completed 473 school assessments, had 30 million appropriated for school infrastructure upgrades and a successful school resource officer conference; Had a very successful Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant graded exercise as there were 68 FEMA evaluators and no bad remarks or areas requiring corrective action; NH will be adding Cyber ESFF to the state plan in the coming months.

**ME** – Director Suzanne Krauss reported via email (was unable to attend meeting) there were no state EOC activations during this reporting period but MEMA did support the March coastal flooding event in York County which received a presidential declaration award on May 30<sup>th</sup>; ME also received FEMA declaration for the October wind storm that effected 13 of the 16 counties in Maine and approximately \$4.6 million in damages; The same May flooding event that affected the province of New Brunswick impacted the northern most county in the state but the damage amounts were not enough to support a federal declaration; ME facilitated several exercises and trainings, including ICS and participation in FEMA Region 1's Patriot Response and USCG Canuslant; ME hosted its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference in April with just under 700 total attendees and a focus on recovery; in May President George H.W. Bush returned to Maine for the summer; several staff changes during this reporting period including the addition of a new Director, new hazard mitigation officer, new individual assistance planner, and new dam safety assistant engineer and several vacant positions still needing filled.

**CT** – Brenda Bergeron, Proxy, reported there were 6 State EOC activations or disasters during the reporting period, with four of the six happening in the month of March for consecutive Nor'easters. There were two Governor's states of emergency declared but no federal declarations were declared. They may ask for PDA for May storm that resulted in four tornadoes, one macroburst and one microburst; CT participated in several exercises and training opportunities including school all hazard planning/vulnerability assessments; CT continues to address the Pyrrhotite and crumbling foundation issues, which has effected up to 30,000 homes state wide.

**NL** – Director McCormack reported Newfoundland Labrador had one Provincial EOC activation during this reporting period. A significant event in January brought 100 mm or rain and warmer weather, causing lots of snowmelt. The results of that storm caused eight local states of emergency and \$12-14 million in damages (cold weather returned shortly afterwards hindering the ability to assess damages). Recovery of the 2016 flood continues. A frozen water supply pond and equipment issues caused a local declared state of emergency and a fuel shortage on an island off the northeast coast which also caused a local declared state of emergency; Continue to work with municipalities and EM partners on emergency exercises and trainings including Fire and Emergency training school in May; NL experiencing a staffing shortage, including one position in Labrador.

**QC** – Report out via email (No Proxy assigned) the Province had four partial EOC activations that took place during the reporting period and no state of emergency or disaster declarations were declared by the province; Have been preparing since July 2017 for the G7 Summit which gathers heads of state and/or government of the US, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan including many other invited nation delegations, as well as their staff, family and heads of various departments. QC staff was mobilized 100% to ensure operational response; Hosted a public alerting exercise to test the new Canadian



alerting protocol to mobile phones, but experienced some technical difficulties. Other exercises focused on the G7 summit and spring flooding; Three new regional offices have been created and staffed and/or restaffed.

**Federal Partners:**

PSC - Large numbers of asylum seekers continue to cross the border and take a lot of staff time; however, a National Asylum Seeker Plan created a regionalizing plan for Ottawa and New Brunswick to be prepared for additional asylum seekers. Approximately 75 persons per day are crossing into Canada; Planning for anticipated changes to border services.

CBSA – Participated in several exercises including asylum seekers & highly toxic substances; Renewing mass migrant vessels.

FEMA- Because of last year’s hurricane season, FEMA became very short staffed and looking to augmenting staff; FEMA hosted a large exercise “Patriot Response” with several jurisdictions. Some jurisdictions could not participate because of another large scale regional exercise Canuslant; FEMA has an assigned customized team to each state.

DHHS – US – Continues to be lots of deployments because of last years’ events; DHHS intends to do more regional capabilities and mutual aid trainings and possibly adding more staff to accommodate; Strategic national stockpile program is moving from Center of Disease Control to the Regional Preparedness Program.

US Coast Guard: Joe Boudrow is the Co-chair of the regional response team. He reports the USCG co-led with the Canadian Coast Guard in the Canuslant Exercise (cruise ship/oil tanker collision scenario and a mass rescue operation) with heavy involvement from the State of Maine; Participated in several other exercises and trainings such as active shooter, pollution, ICS training and sunken vessel.

- 9.0 **Operations Manual:** The Operations Manual is available at [www.iemg-gigu-web.org](http://www.iemg-gigu-web.org). The document is now a mature document having been reviewed several times. Manual will be reviewed and updated as needed.
- 10.0 **Alignment of the three Regional Compacts:** Continued discussion about the three Canada/US compacts (IEMAC, NEMAC, PNEMA) in Ottawa last year. Aside from federal capabilities there may be requests and IEMAC is similarly replicated across the nation with the exception of Alberta. FEMA reports that the northern border initiative still says draft but does mention regional support and FEMA Region 1 does recognize the IEMAC/IEMG. New Brunswick did request, through the IEMG Co-chairs, a real-life assistance request through IEMAC after their historical flooding this spring. NB reported that the process was quick and easy and did eventually receive assistance from Nova Scotia (six persons).
- 11.0 **Strategic Plan:** Discussion took place regarding the strategic plan and this has been added to the agenda for the fall meeting. The last strategic plan was dated 2015.
- 12.0 **New England Governors Eastern Canadian Premiers Briefing:** Vermont will be hosting the NEG-ECP meeting in August 2018.



**13.0 Annual Report:** The 2018 Annual Report will be drafted by the co-chairs, to be completed by June 29, 2018, and sent to all board members for review and comment. The Annual report will be translated and presented in Vermont in the summer 2018.

**14.0 Presentations and Discussions:** Any presentations made available from the fall 2017 meeting in Vermont were posted to the IEMAC website in the member's only section. Not all presentations were available electronically.

- Todd Dupuis (NEG/ECP co-chair) presented on Reducing Risks in a changing climate. Discussion followed suggesting forming a working group and/or at the fall meeting bring subject matter experts and/or demonstrate best practices sharing and connecting;
- Jennifer Harper (NH) presented on the New Hampshire Fuel "delivery" Shortage. Discussion followed with other jurisdictions having similar situations during the cold weather period and how they best communicated, i.e. 2-1-1, virtual intake forms, or WebEOC boards;
- Rod Legge (NS) presented on Public Alerting Systems: Comparisons Canada and the US;
- Tanya Mullally (PEI) presented on both the IEMAC and non IEMAC "supporting roles" resource requests to New Brunswick to assist after the historic floods. An ad hoc working group consisting of representatives from PEI, Vermont, Massachusetts, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Public Safety Canada will report on pilot finding at fall session
- Group discussion on Spontaneous Donations and another on Comfort Centers: expectations, best practices and challenges.
- George Muise (NS) presenting on the 2016 Cape Breton Flood;

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

**15.0 Bi-Annual Communication Exercise:** This exercise was completed before the spring 2018 meeting in Nova Scotia. The host jurisdiction attempted contact with all 11 jurisdictions during off duty hours. All but two jurisdictions were properly connected during after-hours. One jurisdiction after hours call center misunderstood the call and did not know it was an exercise so asked the caller to call back during business hours, the other jurisdiction phone number was correct but not answered. Both jurisdictions were notified of the results and remediation made. Detailed report is available to the Board of Directors upon request.

**16.0 Additional Discussion:** Perry Plummer (NH) will remain the US Co-Chair until the fall 2018; Rhode Island wrote a donations management plan and will share on the IEMG website;

**17.0 Fall 2018 Meeting Dates & Agenda Items**

The Annual Fall Meeting will be held in Rhode Island on October 22-24, 2018; Monday travel day and meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday. Location has not been determined at this time.

Possible agenda items include: Strategic Plan session, Rhode Island's donations management plan, Exercise – long term power outage and use of the IEMG resource request forms (other exercise suggestions: heat emergency or large earthquake in RI or NL), Mitigation 'vs' adaptation discussion, Panel discussion/presentation on Handling of International Donations, as well as any updates from the Climate Change group. The agenda for the spring meeting will be developed by the co-chairs and host jurisdiction in the coming months.

**18.0 Appendix**

- Attendees list

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