



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Description: IEMAC Fall Meeting 2017

Report Date: December 12, 2017 **Location:** Fairlee, Vermont, USA
Meeting Begin Date: November 7, 2017 **Meeting End Date:** November 8, 2017

Present: See Attached Attendees List

Regrets: Paul Mason (NS); Peter Rogers (ME); Jean Bissonnette (QC); Dave McCormack (NL); Perry Plummer (NH)

Invited Guests: Chris Herrick, Deputy Commissioner, VT Dept. of Public Safety; Todd Cosgrove, the Vermont HazMat Team Chief; and Mike Kline & Peter Walke from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

- 1.0 **Proxies:** Adi Jakupovic for Jean Bissonnette (QC); Jennifer Harper for Perry Plummer (NH) & Peter Rogers (ME); Aaron Campbell for Dave McCormack (NL); Lori Errington for Paul Mason (NS)
- 2.0 **Approval of Minutes:** Spring 2017 (New Brunswick) 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. Brenda Bergeron (CT) indicates there are no legal impediments to report. The Canadian Legal Council has said the “cross border” processes have been the best. The work that everyone has done as been successful.
- 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 **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 New Brunswick had no full activations, but there was a community black out in August which activated the EOC at Level 1, enhanced monitoring; Several exercises and

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training performed, ICS courses, decontamination training sessions, drone training and NBEMO staff attending Maine's Fire and Ice Exercise in June. It was good to compare notes and found many similar issues; A big initiative is Ground Search and Rescue at the Provincial Level Academy, offering 60-70 courses; Had a joint task meeting at St. Andres to validate plans and evaluate the scope and number of players. In the Atlantic Region they had a large-scale exercise with all 107 municipalities; Worked with utilities and sent out a document on Household Emergency Planning. Next month will be a Carbon Monoxide Corp approach to making utilities more resilient.

NS – Proxy Lori Errington reported that Paul Mason is the Acting Executive Director since Andrew Latham's retirement in June. Several vacancies remain at NSEMO but have recently hired an Emergency Planning Manager, Lori Errington, and Environment Canada added one full time employee in the office. Filling vacancies will be the number one priority; Following floods in Cape Breton in Fall of 2016, EMO has processed 1,185 disaster financial assistance claims and has paid nearly \$14 million. This event was determined to be the highest number of claims of any DFAA program in the Province's history. May lessons were learned, specifically with communications; EMO continues to provide a variety of training and exercise opportunities; 2 EOC activations were reported during this reporting period both referencing phone outages. The EMO activated its Provincial Coordination Centre on August 4th, to respond to a widespread phone outage that affected internet, cellular service, and some landlines to Atlantic Canada; this event lasted about 5 hours.

MA – Director Schwartz reported that the jurisdiction had one partial activation of the State EOC to monitor Hurricane Jose. No declared federal disasters in 2 – 3 years, however because of severe flash flooding on September 30th, it is anticipated that Governor Baker will formally ask the SBA to issue a physical disaster declaration for Essex County MA; 20 exercises and 29 training opportunities were completed during this reporting period; Other major events were Sail Boston 2017, July 4th Celebration (Boston), and the Big E; Hurricane Preparedness webinars were used during the recent hurricane events. National Guard and police resources deployed to Florida and Puerto Rico via EMAC; Massachusetts has been supporting evacuees as well, 1600 as of Monday, with daily flights carrying several hundred people a day. Discussion about the difficulty of people donating goods versus money. The cost of shipping, personnel, place to store donations, dumping fees for unusable donations, etc. creates a "second disaster".

PEI – Director Campbell reported on August 4th the telecommunications in Atlantic Canada had a disruption of cell service for 6+ hours through the business day requiring a Level 2 EOC activation. There were minor disruptions in New England. Impacted cell, fibre op landlines, Provincial Radio Systems and some banks were affected by downed landlines. The interruption has been explained as being accidental in nature; PEI provided aid to Puerto Rico in the form of a food donation which was also sent to Texas. Working on a strategy to get ahead of the curve.

VT – Director Bornemann reported that Vermont has been very busy since a disaster at the end of July, incurring \$6.5-\$7 million in damages. Like several other jurisdictions, the October 30 storm, hit the east coast of Vermont hard causing massive power outages. Preliminary Damage Assessments are ongoing; There were several EMAC requests in which Vermont responded with Swift Water Search and Rescue Teams to Texas for 10 – 12 days. Deployable assets were sent to the Virgin Islands (medivac unit), Florida (Volunteer Manager), and Puerto Rico (Communications packages – 87 cell repeaters deployed to rural areas); Had a successful Emergency Preparedness Conference at the Lake Morey Resort in September; Introduced VEM's new Deputy Director, Chip Deasy.

RI – Director Gaynor reported that since May, Rhode Island has had a relatively quiet spring and summer. There were no disasters but the recent power outages posed a challenge; RIEMA underwent a minor



reorganization and in that process have hired 17 full time employees; After two years of hard work with the staff, 51 COOP plans were completed; RIEMA continues to concentrate on multiple initiatives including EMAP accreditation, Storm Ready Rhode Island which is a forward leaning community preparedness project that encourages all Rhode Island communities to proactively protect their citizens during severe weather, and Powered for Patients which is a playbook for safeguarding emergency power for Rhode Island's critical healthcare facilities during extended power outages; Several training and exercises; and the EM Department is in the process of moving to a new building which will be a better suited space for operations.

NH – Assistant Director Jennifer Harper (proxy) reported that since May, there have been 9 EOC activations, one Presidential declaration (\$7 million+/-) and the October 30th storm which left 300,000 without power and is estimated at \$14.2 million, a Presidential declaration will be requested shortly; Experienced a smooth process with border crossings, with utility crews coming from Canada. Conducted an exercise on civil disturbance and the issue of protestors as to whether they got a permit or were denied one, showing up and causing issues; lots of lessons learned and will be continuing this discussion to include a written plan and will be followed up with an exercise in the spring; The online Emergency Management Academy, has 4 levels and is very successful. HSEM underwent a change when Diane Becker, the Chief Tech for Hazmat retired, however she is back as the lead HSEMs accreditation process. 419 schools have had a physical assessment as part of our School Readiness Program and are eligible to apply for \$6 million made available for school infrastructure improvements (such as bulletproof glass, access cards, security related items). The Governor will decide which schools will get funded and how much will be funded. Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training is being conducted monthly for state employees; 400 in Legislature trained as well to-date. The 13th annual EM Preparedness Conference has held in June with 850+ attendees, the 14th annual EM Preparedness Conference will be held on June 5, 2018. The decision to 'opt out' of the FirstNet proposal was recommended to the Governor, he put together a committee to evaluate any economic impacts so that he can decide by the end of December. 23 exercises were conducted and 25 training classes presented ranging all aspects of emergency management.

ME – Acting Director Peter Rogers reported via email (was unable to attend meeting). Bruce Fitzgerald, former Director, left MEMA in September; There was one full State EOC activation beginning Monday October 30 in response to a major wind and rain storm which resulted in a state of emergency followed by a disaster declaration request for 13 out of 16 counties. Currently awaiting presidential approval. President & Mrs. George HW Bush, whose summer residence is in Kennebunkport, departed for Texas for the winter; Maine held several exercises including areas such as Hazmat response, communication drills, active shooter, pet sheltering and drought response. MEMA's exercise series "Fire & Ice" featured several sessions with Session 1 based on 1998 ice storm scenario response, Session 2 based on the recovery of ice storm, Session 3 based on a solar storm response and Session 4 recovery phase, all of which had great participation and feedback; Several staff vacancies and/or upcoming vacancies in Dam Safety, Mitigation, Individual Assistance, Cyber Security and Hazmat.

CT – Director Hackett reported there were no State EOC activations or disasters during the reporting period, but the jurisdiction had 160,000 outages resulting from the October 30th storm; Connecticut had a successful "After Sandy" exercise. They are finalizing the Governor's Annual Emergency Planning and preparedness exercise to be held in the late fall and preparing for the Atlantic Hurricane NLE in 2018; An RFP is out for FirstNet Broadband and is to be submitted by December 28th. Cyber Security working group is creating a response plan and the National Hazard State Mitigation Plan is to be completed by January 29th 2018; Brenda Bergeron discussed issues surrounding evacuees and families from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands coming into the State. They are receiving an average of two planes a week creating housing, medical, employment issues. There has been some assistance from the Federal Government for the short

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term but long term recovery would be without government aid; The compound Pyrrhotite, which can be found in soil from quarries, has effected up to 30,000 homes, deteriorating concrete and steel structures to the point of failure. FEMA is bringing other agencies together to help with this problem, including the Army Corps of Engineers. They are working on testing standards and discussing mediation. William J Hackett was named Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, since serving in an acting capacity roll since January 2017. Deputy Commissioner Hackett is responsible for the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and will continue to serve as State Emergency Management Director.

NL – (Via email report) Newfoundland Labrador had no Provincial EOC activations during this reporting period but there was a storm in September that did cause some minimal flooding; The Province has one Federal Disaster Financial Assistance claim open from an event in 2016 and working on provincial disaster financial assistance claim from the Mud Lake flood event from May 2017; Continue to work with municipalities and EM partners on emergency exercises and trainings; One event worth noting is the St. John's airport went from October 12, 2016 until June 8, 2017 (34 weeks) before recording four straight hours of sunshine.

QC – Adi Jakupovic (proxy) reported the Province had one partial EOC activation that took place the last week of October, and no State of emergency or disaster declarations were declared by the province; Currently planning the “Great Shake Out Week” exercise and also planning HAZMAT exercises with Vermont and another that could include Maine all scheduled for 2018; Currently working on legislation giving increased responsibilities to municipalities with regards to training and facilitating their emergency plans (only about 50% have satisfactory plans currently) and developing alerting and mobilization protocols to ensure the safety of their population; The Government of Quebec is coordinating the massive influx of asylum seekers who fear they will be deported back to their country of origin from the USA. Immigration authorities are managing temporary shelter for over 70,000 people, mainly Haitians, that have entered Quebec since the beginning of this episode. The Canadian Red Cross has been overextended and losing some volunteers due to exhaustion. Shelters have been opened at the border and in Montreal and some people sent to different municipalities; Assistance has been offered to Texas, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Florida, Haiti, and Cuba in the wake of the hurricanes and earthquake and extending resources to California on combatting the forest fires; Although the office is currently understaffed, there have been some staff changes including a new Regional Manager and two Emergency Management Officer positions.

Federal Partners: PSC-Large numbers of people are coming over the border, which the government was not necessarily prepared for. It was a “knee jerk” response in the beginning. PSC created a National Asylum Seeker Plan created a regionalizing plan for Ottawa and New Brunswick to be prepared for additional asylum seekers; Integration has been inundated with people coming in legally at the border crossing and requesting their right to a hearing.

FEMA-Working on a cross border resource assessment program. Looking at the building capacity at the regional office with the focus on NISAC (National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center) and cyber needs. Holding “Active Shooter Training” which has spurred a lot of interest. Looking at soft target engagement at large venues, of which there are 10 locations across the country, two of which are in New England. Could be partnership opportunities (NY City as an example). State or sector profiles such as Lifeline and the Health Care Sector – looking at how one sector can affect another. As a U.S. rep, we recognise there are a lot of resources we can tap into.

DHHS – US – It's been very busy responding to Puerto Rico, Florida and Texas with operational and medical support. Moved air frames to Puerto Rico to move supplies as well as people. Supporting grass

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roots versus a template for Chemical Defense Program, providing tools for state level, as well as local level groups.

- 9.0 Operations Manual:** The Operations Manual is available at 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 3 Regional Compacts:** Discussion about the three Canada/US compacts (IEMAC, NEMAC, PNEMA). What are the next steps? There may be an opportunity for future grant potential. A late June presentation was made to the Canada US Interoperability Communications Working Group, looking at communications and working together. There will also be an Emergency Management Consultative Group (EMCG) meeting in Ottawa in December. Looking at Canada and US agreements will change to reflect hands on resources locally that can help with cross border emergencies. US DHS indicates it is the governments priority and want to support all three separately or as one. There is a lot of turnover at all levels of leadership, so this would be a good opportunity to educate them. Director Kurt Schwartz (MA) asked what is the objective of these groups coming together? Is it to broaden opportunities? He also states IEMG is robust, mature and on solid footing, whereas the cohesion of the three compacts are still getting sorted out. IEMG has a lot to offer, Federal partners are actively engaging with us will help assist in developing areas but what if anything would the IEMG gain by aligning compacts?
- 11.0 Patriot Response 2018 -US National Level Exercise:** FEMA is facilitating a 2018 National Level Exercise and there has been discussion about the IEMG being involved in it. The board feels this three-phase exercise is an excellent opportunity and would like to see all the IEMG jurisdictions play in some aspect. The exercise will be based on a large-scale hurricane with long term power outages with a focus on lessons learned and real world events and set with three phases. Phase 1. Pre-landfall activities Phase 2. Response and initial recovery operations and Phase 3. Long term recovery (via time jump). Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Brunswick have already committed to participating. Kurt Schwartz (MA) will plan to make some resource requests through IEMG as part of the exercise and Stacy Cooling (NB) suggesting sending a non-utility resource (person(s) down to work in an EOC) across the border. Further discussion is needed by the Board on the next steps and a conference call will be scheduled to determine what the group would like to see tested. Jennifer Harper (NH) will reach out to FEMA Region 1 and advise of the interest in IEMG participation.
- 12.0 New England Governors Eastern Canadian Premiers Briefing:** PEI hosted the NEGECP meeting on August 27-28, 2017.
- 13.0 Resource Management:** 10 Common Resources and Functional capabilities spreadsheet will be added to the secured section of the website. (with disclaimer)
- 14.0 Annual Report:** Annual Report 2017 minutes were approved on November 7, 2017 – New Brunswick motioned to approve, Quebec seconded; motion carried. Final document was previously translated and will be posted to the IEMG website. Compilation began on the 2017 Annual Report which was written by the co-chairs and presented in PEI summer 2017.
- 15.0 Presentations and Discussions:** All the presentations from the Spring 2017 meeting in New Brunswick that were available in electronic format were provided are now posted to the IEMAC website in the members only section. Not all presentations were available electronically.

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Peter Walke (VT Agency of Natural Resources) presented on the Cross Border climate change adaptation action plan and the NEGECP Committee on the Environment; Todd Sears (VEM) presented on the Vermont Local Emergency Management Director program; Matt McCann (US DHS) presented on the Regional Resiliency Assessment Program; and Mike Kline (VT Agency of Natural Resources) presented on Reducing Flood Impacts through post flood protection and restoration of Vermont Rivers, River Corridors and Floodplains; Several discussions, including IEMG exercising, cross border planning and funding, and the alignment of the three regional compacts.

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

16.0 HazMat Update: The hazmat initiative project is winding down. There are seven project deliverables and all seven documents are currently available on the secured side of the IEMG website.

17.0 Bi-Annual Communication Exercise: This exercise was completed before the Fall 2017 meeting in Vermont. The host jurisdiction attempted contact with all 11 jurisdictions both during regular working hours and off duty. All jurisdictions were properly connected during regular working hours and after hours. 10 of the 11 had the IEMG Operations Manual and knew how to request assistance. The one jurisdiction who didn't, was just unaware but would follow up. Connection times varied from immediately to two and half hours. Detailed report is available to the Board of Directors upon request.

18.0 Additional Discussion: Perry Plummer (NH) will remain the US Co-Chair for an additional year; Discussed the development of a training and exercise distribution list. Maine will develop and suggestion of a Bboard conference call mid to end of July to discuss.

19.0 Spring 2018 Meeting Dates & Agenda Items

The Annual Spring Meeting will be held at the Four Points Sheraton in Halifax, Nova Scotia June 6-8, 2018; Wednesday, travel day and meetings on Thursday and Friday.

Possible agenda items include: Strategic & Operational Planning, exercise schedules & opportunities, National Level Exercise follow-up discussion. The agenda for the spring meeting will be developed by the co-chairs and host jurisdiction in the coming months.

20.0 Appendix

- Attendees list