

REVISED (revisions are in **bold type**)

Minutes of the
April 18, 2013 meeting of the
State Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team

Meeting location: This meeting was held in the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) of the OMD, Office of Emergency Management, in the Donald N. Anderson Readiness Center (DNARC) in Salem.

The following people participated in the meeting:

Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience (OPDR)	Josh Bruce
DAS, Risk Management	Michael Howard
Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)	Jeanette Fish
DCBS, Building Codes Division (BCD)	Chuck Leonard
DCBS, Insurance Division (ID)	Jerod Broadfoot*
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Tracie Weeder
Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)	Kevin Jeffries
Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)	Bruce Gilles
OHA, Oregon Public Health Division (OPHD)	Tom Fields
Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)	Travis Medema
	Nick Yonker
	Rachel Smith
	Jere High
	Matt Crall
	Marian Lahav
	Steve Lucker
	Lisa Pepper
	Chris Shirley
	Bill Ryan
	Kiri Carini
	Paulina Layton
	Joseph Murray
	Althea Rizzo
	Dennis Sigrist
	Rick Carter
	Lori Koho
	Greg Ek-Collins
	Karen Peterson

* Jerod participated by telephone.

The following were distributed during the meeting:

- *Meeting agenda*
- Draft *Minutes* of January 17, 2013 meeting (agenda item #3)
- 2015 Oregon NHMP Update (agenda item #4.b)
- Draft Scope of Work, 2015 *Oregon Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan* Update (agenda item #4.b)
- *Project Work Program* (agenda item #4.b)
- *Project Timeline* (agenda item #4.b)
- *OR NHMP Risk Assessment* (agenda item #4.c)
- Draft letter to Brad J. Kieserman, Chief Counsel, FEMA (agenda item #5)

[Send an email message to joseph.murray@state.or.us for a copy of one or more meeting handouts.]

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1. Introductions and history/background on the State IHMT
 - Dennis, chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. with introductions.
 - He then gave a brief history and background on the State IHMT, which grew out of the three “Presidential” declarations in Oregon during 1996. One of those – the declaration for the February flood event – ended-up with 27 of Oregon’s 36 counties declared. Dennis held-up a copy of the mitigation *Early Implementation Strategy* from that declaration. He noted that this was during Governor Kitzhaber’s first term; the Governor wanted a strong emphasis on loss reduction, and directed a number of state agencies to conduct certain mitigation actions by means of a press release in March 1997. The first meeting of the State IHMT as it exists today occurred in May 1997.
 - Dennis noted that certain types of federal mitigation grants require that the state have a FEMA-approved mitigation plan. The first version of the Oregon NHMP¹ was developed following a 1990 Presidential declaration for a flood event on the North Coast.
2. Overview of State Emergency Coordination Center (ECC)
 - Jim Adams of the OEM staff provided an overview of the ECC, including the AV equipment.
3. Action on revised minutes of January 17 meeting
 - There was one additional revision to the January meeting minutes; Josh asked that Geoff be shown as an OEM intern instead of a member of the OPDR student team. With this change, the minutes were accepted.
4. *Oregon Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* (Oregon NHMP)
 - a. Introduction of Marian and Lisa
 - Matt introduced his new staff, Marian and Lisa, and thanked Dennis for the history.
 - b. Kick-off of the 2015 Oregon NHMP update
 - Marian presented and handed-out a printed version of a slideshow that included:
 - i) Project goals
 - ii) Draft scope of work, work program, and timeline
 - iii) Expectations
 - iv) Working together
 - Marian noted that the 2012 version of the plan contains about 150 actions. These need to be evaluated to see if they are SMART: specific, measurable, **achievable**, realistic, and **time-oriented**. They then need to be prioritized. Like several other State IHMT members, she thinks we should have fewer, **more strategic** actions.
 - The current plan is about 1,200 pages in length with considerable redundancy; one of her goals for the project is to streamline the plan. She and her agency also want more of a “living plan” that is able to be continuously updated.
 - She noted that we are going to use the DLCD website for public access to the plan and GovSpace to share information and documents among the State IHMT staff and others working on the 2015 version of the plan.
 - Dennis talked about the FEMA grant funding that is helping with this plan update, and lauded DLCD for coming-up with considerable non-federal match that is required. Dennis said that the FEMA funding is tied to the Presidential declaration for the January 2012 flood. He then thanked OPDR for their good work during the past two plan update cycles.
 - Marian said that she would post the 2012 Microsoft Word documents that comprise the Oregon NHMP on the GovSpace website.
 - Josh noted that the entire 2012 version of the Oregon NHMP is up on the OPDR website: http://csc.uoregon.edu/opdr/hazard_mitigation/state_mitigation_plan/current
 - Marian asked for formal State IHMT approval of the scope-of-work, which was granted unanimously.

¹ NHMP is natural hazards mitigation plan.

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- c. Risk assessment update
 - Lisa presented and handed-out a printed version of a slideshow.
 - She talked about the team of people working on the Oregon NHMP risk assessment, the FEMA requirements for the risk assessment, and the challenges we face in doing risk assessments for this plan.
 - She also noted that a University of Oregon student is conducting a literature review, which is to be finished by the end of May.

- d. Summary
 - Matt then summarized that this is *our* plan: “we need to meet the federal requirements, but how does this plan help us?” He also emphasized that we need to build mitigation into our day-to-day stuff.
 - Greg talked a bit about his work with the Cascadia earthquake and tsunami resiliency planning, noting especially the great mismatch between money needs and money available. He emphasized that we need to seize mitigation opportunities when they present themselves.
 - Dennis confirmed the opportunistic nature of this work, pointing to Vernonia putting-up a local bond and FEMA kicking-in an additional \$10 million Flood Mitigation Assistance appropriation.
 - Rick talked about energy assurance work the PUC did over the past three years and how local communities add to their vulnerability by allowing development in ways that aren’t wise.

- 5. March 1 Proposed Rule “Change in Submission Requirements for State Mitigation Plans”
 - Dennis handed-out a draft letter to Brad Kieserman, FEMA’s Chief Counsel, noting that the comment period ends on April 30. There were two suggested revisions to the letter: 1) Josh suggested that we turn the second paragraph, which reads negative into something that reads positive, and 2) Rachel suggested the “Copy to:” names on the letter be revised into a list.
 - There was unanimous support for sending the letter as revised. It was agreed that the State IHMT membership would receive a PDF of the signed letter with a copy to Kristen Meyers and Brett Holt at FEMA Region Ten.
 - Tracie noted the importance of regaining “enhanced” plan status. Dennis said that we can regain this status at any time, and noted that FEMA has a grants monitoring visit scheduled this summer at OEM. Once OEM is **performing** grants management to the standard required by FEMA, there need to be four consecutive quarters of such performance. At that point, the state can again seek enhanced plan status.

- 6. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) reform update
 - Chris used a Microsoft PowerPoint slideshow, but did not distribute it on paper [Ed. Note: Joseph has it available upon request.]
 - She noted that the legislation causing this reform was part of a March 28 transportation bill.
 - She said that all pre-FIRM² buildings will require elevation certificates “at \$600 to \$1200 a pop” in order to be rated.
 - She showed a very interesting map of the state that displays “estimated percentage of households without required flood insurance.”
 - She said that banks will be fined \$2,000 per incident for not enforcing compliance. In the past, the fines have been so low that banks just considered them a “cost of doing business.”
 - Dennis talked a little bit about the Repetitive Loss, Severe Repetitive Loss, and Flood Mitigation Assistance grant programs and the ability to do projects that make the biggest difference in terms of claims against the NFIP.
 - He also talked about some of the issues that cause local government reluctance to manage projects including loss of tax base (home and business acquisitions), potential costs and liabilities with owning open space properties, and the challenges of managing federal grants.

² FIRM is Flood Insurance Rate Map, a reference to buildings constructed before these maps were in effect.

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7. ESA update
 - Chris gave an update on the Endangered Species Act lawsuits that affect the NFIP. She noted that “Section 7” consultation has begun between FEMA and the National Marine Fisheries Service. She expects a draft Biological Opinion in June. She expects a “Jeopardy Opinion.”
 - She reminded us that DLCD has an Endangered Species Workgroup, which is advising FEMA, and plans to do a careful review of the Biological Opinion.

8. Other business
 - a. Josh gave an update on OPDR’s work with local governments, making a general note about the challenges at the local level finding the resources needed to maintain NHMPs:
 - i) Clackamas, Jackson, and Wasco counties NHMP updates – have all been FEMA reapproved during the past quarter
 - ii) Gilliam, Harney, Sherman, and Wheeler counties NHMP updates – have all been sent to FEMA for pre-adoption review
 - iii) Jefferson, Lake, and Malheur counties NHMP updates – these are all underway
 - iv) Baker, Grant, Union, and Wallowa counties – the existing NHMP is Oregon’s only truly regional NHMP; these counties are having capacity challenges, so Josh asked for help in identifying stakeholders and possible steering committee members
 - v) City of Eugene – OPDR is assisting with a risk assessment
 - vi) Cities of Eugene and Springfield – OPDR is assisting in their comprehensive plan update, especially with respect to Goal 7
 - vii) North and South Coast – ORDR has a key role in resilience projects
 - viii) Clackamas, Coos, and Douglas counties – working with these emergency management offices on strategic plans
 - b. Dennis talked briefly about the Harney Electric Coop mitigation project that is tied to Harney and Lake counties’ NHMP updates.
 - c. Dennis said that the City of Beaverton is moving NHMP actions into their comprehensive plan.
 - d. Dennis then noted that we have just signed for the purchase of the Waldport High School, which was both at seismic risk and in the tsunami inundation zone; the students are moving to a new, safer school in September.
 - e. Greg said that we need more funding for the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program.
 - f. Althea noted that the state will be holding a drop, cover, and hold drill during the October 17 State IHMT meeting.

9. Discuss/develop possible agenda items for July meeting
 - Matt noted that he would like a legislative recap on the July agenda, and Dennis noted that he would likely give an update on the FEMA grants monitoring visit.
 - Dennis said the July meeting will probably be back in the OEM conference room. Joseph noted that we may have outgrown the conference room in terms of capacity, and that he would likely do a “poll” to see where people would like to meet. [Ed. Note: this poll has not occurred to date and the July 18 meeting is in Room #172 at the DNARC.] Joseph asked if people are comfortable meeting in the ECC, and most heads nodded “yes.”

10. Public comment
 - No members of the general public were present at the meeting.

11. Adjourn
 - The meeting ended at 10:50 a.m.