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Minutes of the
April 17, 2014 meeting of the
State Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team

Meeting location: This meeting was held in the State Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) within the Donald N. Anderson Readiness Center in Salem.

The following people participated in the meeting:

Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience (OPDR)	Michael Howard
DAS – Chief Financial Office	Daniel Christensen
Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)	Ryan Scholz
DCBS, Insurance Division	Kevin Jeffries
	Tracie Weeder
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Don Pettit (on telephone)
Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)	Cindy Kolomechuk
Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)	Jed Roberts
OHA – Oregon Public Health Division	Jere High
Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)	Matt Crall
	Marian Lahav
	Steve Lucker
	Lisa Pepper
	Chris Shirley
Department of State Lands	Bill Ryan
OMD, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	Sean McCormick
	Joseph Murray
	Dennis Sigrist
Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)	Greg Ek-Collins
Public Utility Commission (PUC)	Rick Carter
Water Resources Department (WRD)	Alyssa Mucken
Benton County Emergency Management	Eric Rau
United States Geological Survey (USGS)	Tom Carlson (on telephone)

The following were distributed during the meeting:

- *Meeting agenda*
- *Draft minutes of the January 16, 2014 meeting (agenda item #2)*
- *FEMA-4169-DR Oregon Disaster Declaration as of 04/04/2014 slideshow (agenda item #3)*
- *Oregon NHMP Risk Assessment Update slideshow (agenda item #4)*
- *Memo to State IHMT dated April 11, 2014 from Marian Lahav (agenda item #5)*
- *2015 Oregon NHMP Update slideshow (agenda item #5)*
- *2012 Oregon Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Goals and Hazards (agenda item #5)*
- *Priority FOR IHMT Apr 17 AllHaz table (agenda item #5)*
- *FEMA ANNOUNCES FUNDING OPPORTUNITY... (agenda item #6)*

[Email joseph.murray@state.or.us for a copy of one or more meeting handouts.]

1) Introductions

Dennis opened the meeting at 9:03 a.m. with telephone and microphone instructions, followed by introductions.

2) Action on minutes of January 16 meeting

A draft had been distributed by email on April 11. The minutes were deemed acceptable as drafted.

DRAFT

3) Hazard mitigation for new Presidential major disaster declaration (FEMA-4169-DR-OR)

Dennis used a brief slideshow to organize this agenda item. He noted that Benton, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn are the declared counties. He said that Lane County not only has the most land area of these four, but also the largest losses, about 85% of the total. He noted that Oregon may appeal FEMA's denial to include Hood River County in this declaration. Dennis said that the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for this declaration is available statewide with an emphasis in the declared counties. Dennis said an Applicants' Briefing had occurred the day prior.

Michael asked if potential Lincoln County applicants will be affected by the expiration of the FEMA approval of their mitigation plan in July. Dennis agreed this may preclude applications from Lincoln County. There may be a way to place a "hold" on a project, however, until the NHMP is re-approved.

Dennis said that one emphasis will be on "undergrounding" of utilities. Dennis showed examples of past projects like this that have proven successful. Rick noted that he does not necessarily support undergrounding due to that action increasing susceptibility to earthquake and landslide risks.

Dennis said another emphasis will be on tying mitigation opportunities to projects being accomplished under FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program for this declaration.

There is a 7% set-aside for planning, and there are likely to be applications to develop or update/expand local NHMPs (Lane County and Oregon State University). There is also a 5% set-aside for non-traditional projects.

4) Oregon NHMP Risk Assessment update

Lisa noted that this is the first time that DLCD has had the lead role for an Oregon NHMP update, including the risk assessment. She presented a slideshow. She described the eight physiographic natural hazard regions we have long used in the Oregon NHMP. She said that this was done in order to meet a FEMA criterion related to evaluation at a "local" level.

She noted that climate change is covered in the introduction, and then integrated where it applies to the eleven hazards we analyze. She noted that Nancy Murphy at ODOT helped update the lifeline portion of "vulnerabilities." Lisa said that "the state facility vulnerability now includes text, tables, and maps." She noted that OPDR is currently updating the regional profiles. She referred to local hazard analyses that are based on local knowledge. She said that the state vulnerability assessment is done with "no standardized methodology using subjective expert knowledge." She then showed a slide "Comparison: State and Local RA Vulnerability."

She noted a Risk Assessment Sub-Committee (RASC) to the State IHMT met between March and August 2013, working with the University of Oregon InfoGraphics Lab. She noted a grant proposal made to NOAA to help fund risk assessment work in Oregon; we ought to know if we are awarded a grant for this work by the end of May.

She thanked the state hazard leads. Greg thanked Lisa for her patience with the state hazard leads.

Lisa distributed a paper survey; it is due back to Marian not later than April 24. She will also distribute it by email. It is already on the project website. Marian asked people to sign-up for the list_serv if they have not already done so.

DRAFT

5) Oregon NHMP Goals and Mitigation Actions

Marian showed a slideshow, and had three other handouts. There was a discussion around the first of three slides on decisions we have tentatively made, the first regarding "...three opportunities for state/local dialogue on local vulnerability assessments in the next year." Sean thinks this is achievable. He noted that both OEM and OEMA¹ hold annual conferences, which could provide two of the three. We then decided to drop the "in the next year" part of this.

Then there was a discussion centered around "collaborate with local governments to improve the accuracy of potential loss totals by more accurately identifying critical/essential facilities and determining their property values." "How do we establish values and what will the product/database be at the end?"²

We then talked about the decision "improve state agency procedures for tracking data on state-owned and state-leased buildings and critical/essential facilities." Daniel spoke-up, noting the work DAS is doing to improve data and data standards. He said that the vision "is to make our data as robust as possible." DAS wants input from DLCD and others on how to go about this. "We can swing the hammer if we need to." He noted that DAS is already working with DOGAMI on this. Don then spoke-up: he wanted to know more about the data being discussed. Daniel said, "statewide owned and leased building data." Daniel noted that he is the State Facility Planner at DAS. Don talked briefly about the state Hazards FIT³ and Preparedness FIT, noting that DOGAMI has the lead on the former and DEQ on the latter. Daniel noted that he has been working with Yumei Wang at DOGAMI. Joseph noted that Jed, Steve, and he are all members of the Hazards FIT. Matt invited Daniel to re-write this in the context of DAS objectives.

The next decision discussed was "develop an improved methodology for gathering data and identifying the communities most vulnerable to drought." Alyssa asked that the word "impacts" be added to this. She noted that one of WRD's Legislative Concepts has the goal of being able to "tell the drought story in a better way." She noted that with current resources, WRD cannot accomplish this within the next three years.

Finally, we talked about "establish a program for studying winter storms and their impacts statewide. Install snowfall sensors throughout the state to develop annual snowfall data." Greg modified this with regard to snowfall sensors, making it a bit broader. Dennis mentioned the NRCS snow data. Greg said that they have only about a dozen sites statewide, so in actuality we have almost no data. He went on to say that what NRCS data we *do* have is mostly in the Cascade Range. Jed noted that the OCCRI⁴ may be able to help or have an interest, and that this might be better if divided into two actions.

There was a discussion about whether we ought to do more analysis of the dust storm hazard. The tentative answer is that we have higher priority areas in which to focus.

Marian then asked if the State IHMT wishes to add any new goals to the Oregon NHMP (slide 11). In this context, it was noted that for "increase communication, collaboration, and coordination among agencies at all levels of government to mitigate natural hazards," the Flood Mitigation Subcommittee, also known as Oregon Silver Jackets (SJ), could be considered a success story. Marian noted that SJ is starting to drive actions in local NHMPs.

Marian then noted that the risk assessment has a relationship with the plan goals, which then drive our actions. She asked "should we prioritize the hazards?" Dennis asked if this would minimize our flexibility? He went on to say that the Oregon Legislature has prioritized earthquake as a hazard for us. There was a long and interesting discussion. Dennis and

¹ OEMA is Oregon Emergency Management Association.

² If this question was answered, Joseph's notes do not reflect the answer.

³ FIT is Framework Implementation Team.

⁴ OCCRI is Oregon Climate Change Research Institute.

DRAFT

Greg both noted that FEMA's main interest seems to be in recurring hazards. Lisa noted the RASC literature review, which includes information on which states prioritize hazards and how they go about it. She noted that she will make this information available. Eventually it was decided to pick-up this discussion again at the October meeting. Marian then asked that the State IHMT agencies with "lead" responsibility for actions do the following not later than April 30 for those actions:

- Review the Priority Worksheet for errors and completeness, redundancy, and for "SMARTness."
- Provide corrections, revisions, missing or necessary additional information, and recommendations for moving actions to Ongoing or Removed.

She then summarized "process and schedule" slides. Finally, Marian emphasized that comments on the Oregon NHMP update to-date, including the risk assessment are due not later than April 30.

6) Other business

Dennis thanked Tracie for her recent help with a non-NFIP⁵ policy ICC claim. Tracie then talked a bit about a change SAFECO proposes to make that would affect "tens of thousands of policies in Oregon," It has filed for a rate increase of up to 50% on earthquake policies. This proposal will be reviewed by Insurance Division actuaries; it won't simply automatically go into effect. Dennis noted and Tracie confirmed that some companies have started writing stand-alone earthquake policies in Oregon, and some have stopped writing new policies.

Tracie said that her agency is currently studying the saturation rate for various types of insurance policies in Oregon; she plans to share the results at a future meeting.

Chris noted that there is a new product called a "catastrophic peril policy" that includes flood losses with premiums less than NFIP policies, especially if your building is not in compliance with floodplain standards.

Dennis noted that the HMA-14⁶ application period will open on April 21 and close on July 7 (deadline to OEM) with an emphasis on certain types of applications. Information will be posted to the OEM website. The FMA emphasis is on Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties. We have about twelve of those in Oregon. Chris and Dennis will conduct outreach for FMA. Dennis and Joseph will conduct outreach to local governments for PDM planning applications. Dennis noted that HMA-13 has not been awarded by FEMA to date.

Cindy asked for a definition of SRL, which Chris provided. Sean asked if seismic projects still have a priority under PDM. Dennis said he does not know for "14," but will find-out and post an answer to the OEM website.

7) Discuss/develop possible agenda items for July meeting

Due to being over the scheduled time for the meeting, this agenda item was not covered.

8) Public comment

No members of the general public were present, so there was no public comment.

9) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

⁵ NFIP is National Flood Insurance Program and ICC is Increased Cost of Compliance.

⁶ HMA is Hazard Mitigation Assistance, which includes Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA).