DRAFT

Minutes of the
October 16, 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)	Josh Bruce
	Michael Howard
Department of Administrative Services (DAS)	Darrin Brightman
	Daniel Christensen (on telephone)
DCBS, Insurance Division	Kevin Jeffries
	Tracy Weeder
Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM)	Terry Wolfe
Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)	Cindy Kolomechuk
Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)	Rachel Smith
	Yumei Wang
OHA – Oregon Public Health Division	Jere High
Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)	Lisa Corbly
	Matt Crall
	Marian Lahav
	Steve Lucker
	Chris Shirley
OMD, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	Joseph Murray
	Erik Rau
	Dennis Sigrist
Public Utility Commission (PUC)	Rick Carter
Water Resources Department (WRD)	Alyssa Mucken
Business Oregon – Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA)	Gloria Zacharias

The following were distributed during or prior to the meeting:
- *Meeting agenda*
- *Oregon's Top 10 Liquefaction Research Priorities*
- *Community Vitality, "Experts warn that we need to prepare now"*

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

1) Introductions

   Dennis began the meeting about five minutes late due to AV/IT challenges; he facilitated telephone and in-person introductions.

2) Action on revised minutes of July 17 meeting

   Joseph noted a draft had been distributed on October 13, and a revised draft to fix typos was distributed on October 15. The minutes were accepted as revised.

3) Top-10 priority needs on liquefaction and lateral spreading
   [The following is a very brief summary of this agenda item; a .pdf of the PowerPoint presentation noted below will be available upon request.]

   Yumei worked from a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, and had a handout titled *Oregon's Top 10 Liquefaction Research Priorities*. She explained what liquefaction is, saying that there are three elements to liquefaction: earthquake shaking, loose sands, and saturated conditions. She noted the Scientific Earthquake Studies Advisory Committee of The National Academies of which she is a member. She talked at some length about the history of seismic mitigation legislation in Oregon, and in response to a request, agreed to share a document on this history that she has put together. She will send the document to Joseph at OEM and he will distribute it to the State IHMT.

4) Flood Mitigation Subcommittee (Silver Jackets) Report

Dennis introduced Chris. She noted that Silver Jackets is a subcommittee to the State IHMT, and that it is a USACE initiative. She welcomed participation from anyone on the State IHMT who is interested. She talked about her experience at a recent conference and about the wide range of projects this subcommittee takes on: from outreach to really technical work. She noted that there is competitive grant funding available every year.

The development of RAFT[1] was funded via one of these funding competitions. She noted that RAFT has been rolled into RAPTOR.[2] She went on to note that we have recently been funded to do a study in the Johnson Creek Watershed, and that we are currently vetting a lot of proposals for a new round of funding competition.

Yumei asked if RAFT can be expanded to include tsunami inundation? Chris said she is not sure.

Chris then talked briefly about the *Perishable Data Plan* (flood data) and the collecting of high water marks (HWMs). She noted that we are currently developing a website as well. The next meeting of this group is November 4 from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m. at WRD.

Rick noted that Les Miller, USACE, has announced his retirement.

5) 1964 Flood Campaign planning

Chris gave a brief report on this campaign that the USACE is orchestrating. She requested that anyone with good pictures or good stories send them to Amy Echols, one of the USACE Portland District's public information officers, and provided her telephone number. Amy would like these by the end of the month. Chris noted that the USACE is especially interested in photos from the Southern Willamette Valley.

6) Mitigation grant updates

Dennis covered this agenda item.

a) HMGP update, including period of performance extensions

i) FEMA-1956-DR-OR

Dennis said that this disaster is closed to new applications. He is working with the sub-applicants to continue to implement their projects. This event was the January 2011 flooding, mostly in Clackamas County, including the Sandy River. One project was the acquisition of three substantially damaged homes; another project is a warning system; and another an evaluation of erosion occurring along the Sandy River with the idea that this project will drive future mitigation.

ii) FEMA-1964-DR-OR

This disaster is also closed to new applications and project implementation continues. This was the March 2011 Tohoku Tsunami; it includes the "safe haven" project in Newport.

[1] RAFT is Rapid Assessment Flooding Tool.
[2] RAPTOR is Real-Time Assessment and Planning Tool for Oregon.

iii) FEMA-4055-DR-OR

This is also closed to new applications. Dennis is working with the sub-applicants to continue to implement projects. This includes the Oregon NHMP update for which we are requesting to FEMA a period of performance extension. Dennis noted that we picked-up two years via the CFR[3] change that puts state NHMPs on a five-year cycle, i.e., an extension to March 2017, but the grant-funded work is about to bump-up against a deadline. Dennis noted that the Oregon NHMP update work will probably extend throughout the 2015 Oregon Legislative Session so we can use the plan update as a good education tool with legislators and their staffs.

iv) FEMA-4169-DR-OR

This was the February 2014 winter storm that mostly affected the Southern Willamette Valley. Dennis noted that rural electric coops "carried the disaster." He said that the application period ends on April 4, 2015, and that he is working with the electric coops to develop good applications.

b) HMA13

Selected for FEMA funding in January 2014, this includes the Lincoln County and cities NHMP update. Dennis went on to say that under the FMA piece of HMA13, a severe repetitive loss (SRL) property in Linn County, which was not selected, has been resubmitted under HMA14, where it was selected at a 100% federal share due to the repetitive loss strategy in the Oregon NHMP. Dennis noted that there are less than a dozen SRL properties in Oregon.

c) HMA14

Dennis said that he received three applications for mitigation planning: 1. OPDR for several communities, 2. DLCD for several other communities, and 3. OSU for their campus facilities. This grant opportunity started with $25 million competitively available nationally, and additional money was added later. Dennis said, "If you had a good planning proposal, it was probably selected given FEMA's priorities for the money."

d) HMA15

Dennis said that he doesn't know when this will be offered; the timing depends on Congressional action.

Yumei asked a general question about PDM *project* applications: have there been any, and if not, why not? Dennis noted that FEMA has made planning applications a priority.

7) HUD's new competitive disaster resilience grant

Dennis noted that this grant competition is tied to federal funding provided due to Superstorm Sandy. HUD has about $1 billion in unspent Sandy money being made available via this grant. The White House decided to make about this $800 million of this available outside of the area affected by Sandy. Dennis noted a very condensed timeline that includes a two-year performance period and three application phases.

Dennis said that HUD "drills-down" in ways different from FEMA, and that HUD is concerned with impoverished communities and unmet disaster needs. Dennis thinks we will end-up with very few eligible sub-applicants in Oregon. Dennis noted the partnership we have with DLCD and asked Chris to talk about eligibility determination, which Chris called "pretty constricted." DLCD is doing outreach in levee-affected communities.

[3] CFR is Code of Federal Regulations.

…the Great Oregon Shakeout, drop, cover, and hold drill occurred at this point in the meeting…

The first phase is between September 17 and November 3 – during the first phase HUD will decide which sub-applicants are eligible; the state will submit a letter to HUD (a 45-day letter) – it isn't clear right now which state agency is going to send the letter. The second phase runs through March 2015; this will be a public process that could result in a sub-applicant being deemed not eligible. The third phase is project development and implementation.

There are 48 states that had disasters that make these states eligible to apply. HUD expects a total of 62 applicants to include other pre-identified areas and territories.

Dennis noted that the Reedsport levee has lost its FEMA certification; DLCD and OEM have been working with Reedsport to figure-out if HUD is likely to deem the city eligible.

Yumei asked how we are going to meet the requirement that "at least 100 homes were damaged (impacted?)." Dennis noted that this is a real challenge; we may not be able to meet this. Josh noted that the program requires that the impact must still exist. Matt noted that this program is really for recovery, not resilience. Dennis agreed that the intent is to build resilience into recovery, but the funding is really tied to recovery.

8) Update on Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program and recent applications

Gloria said that she works with Paulina Layton - formerly of OEM - and that she also worked with Kiri Carini - formerly of OEM - before she left. There were 56 applications by schools amounting to about $45 million for the current $30 million that is available. IFA received 12 applications for $9.4 million for emergency services buildings, but they have $15 million available. Since here is no quick way to move money between these two categories, IFA found a way to re-open the grant for emergency services facilities into November. IFA plans to assemble a committee to review and select applications.

She noted that Senate President Courtney's focus on is on schools, and he is going to try to obtain $200 million in bonding authority during the 2015 Oregon Legislative Session for schools.

Jere said he would make a push with the hospitals if Gloria will send him the information he needs to do that. She indicated that she would.

Grant awards are 100% state money, but capped; any costs beyond the cap are not state funded. Gloria talked briefly about the importance of the benefit/cost analysis in having a successful application.

In response to a question, she noted she has applications for Curry, Coos, and Douglas schools, but no application from hospitals in Curry County. In response to another question, she noted that she received no applications in Deschutes County, but did receive some applications within Lincoln County, including one for an emergency service facility. She said that almost all of the emergency service facility applications are for fire halls. She said IFA is especially interested in helping the Santiam Hospital, with which she has had some contact. The Salem Hospital is interested in mitigation for their old building, but they haven't been able to figure-out how to cover for those beds while the work is done. Dennis noted that the Salem Hospital still has some floodplain issues to overcome too. Gloria agreed that IFA won't fund seismic mitigation for a facility that is likely to flood.

She said that they cannot do any project within the currently in effect tsunami inundation zone line. The current law does not allow "demo-rebuild" – it allows rehabilitation only. This is in the State Constitution, so it would take a vote of the people to change this.

Yumei said that IFA is "doing a super-great job with this program."

Gloria noted that she learned over time to place more emphasis on the guidance pieces on their website, and more emphasis on how to go about completing the benefit/cost analysis (b/ca). She plugged the "How To" guide. She said there are lots of fire departments that make b/ca mistakes by not counting the value of their volunteers. IFA has given a two-week grace period for applicants to correct their b/ca before the selection committee meets.

She finished by saying that the eight-page application is fairly easy and straight-forward, and that the b/ca is an easy fill-in the blank Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. She said that there is a requirement to also include an engineering analysis of each proposed project.

9) Other business

Dennis facilitated this agenda item. Cindy noted that fire season was really bad this year and that this year combined with last year was "the worst in a century." She talks about the many partnerships that had to occur this year, and says "thank you." She noted that they had five conflagrations and five "FEMA fires" this year. Dennis noted that ODF "burned through" their insurance deductible. ODF buys "excess coverage with a $20 million deductible," and then is into the General Fund to pay. This season burned through more than $45 million, and ODF's premium is going up and up. It was about $4 million, but is likely to be much higher for next year. Washington State and ODF collectively paid more than $85 million in suppression this year. Cindy notes that ODF protects BLM[4] "on the west side" and often helps the U.S. Forest Service as well on the west side when ODF has better resources close to the fire. Dennis talks about the El Nino Winter we are predicted to have which is likely to be milder and drier than average.

Rachel plugged their LIDAR calendar, which is for sale at the Nature of the Northwest store; this may be the last year for the calendar because DOGAMI is running out of ideas for the calendar. She noted that her last day with DOGAMI is October 24. She said that Yumei will continue to be a State IHMT representative, and that there is likely to be another person designated as well.

Josh noted that the Deschutes County NHMP update will include a tie to the county comprehensive plan. Dennis praised this integration. Dennis noted the two-day training we did in Bend on mitigation planning that also served as a Deschutes County plan update kickoff. He said the training also had participation from Washington State and Alaska.

Dennis noted money OEM recently spent from its disaster account in Westfir and for Vernonia Schools. The Westfir problem is a water intake that is too high for the current river levels.

Dennis noted a meeting he has later today on a warning system under development for Mill Creek; the most recent flood event affected Salem and Turner, and included over $1 million in losses to cars at the State Motor Pool.

10) Discuss/develop possible agenda items for January meeting

Dennis facilitated. Joseph apologized for the various IT issues that caused us to start a few minutes late, and then talked about the four agenda items for January that are already on the table.

11) Public comment

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

12) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

[4] BLM is Bureau of Land Management.