

EMAC Committee Meeting
Monday, October 18, 2010
8–10 a.m.

Called to order at 8:07 a.m.

Angela Copple called roll. The following EMAC Committee member state directors were in attendance:

John Heltzel (KY)
Angee Morgan (KS)
Kurt Schwartz (MA)
Ed Tinsley (MT)
Doug Hoell (NC)
Nancy Dragani (OH)
Dave Smith (RI)
Mike Hinman (WI)

Chair Kris Eide was unable to attend, so co-chair John Heltzel led meeting.

- **EMAC update: NEMA strategic plan.** EMAC identified two goals on which to focus: objectives 1.4 and 1.5.
 - Objective 1.4: EMAC is working hard to promote EMAC through web site; NEMA Twitter; EMAC Facebook page. A regional training schedule for A-Team training has been established. EMAC staff is close to introducing an online training course on basic EMAC. EMAC has conducted several Webinars on EMAC.
 - Objective 1.5: NEMA has given PNEMA and IEMAC permissions to use EMAC forms. Working on international agreement.

- **NLE2011.**
 - Paul Bertovitch spoke regarding NLE2011. A resource allocation workshop is coming up at the end of November/beginning of December that engages federal partners. In early January, another workshop. Then national tabletop exercise. Main exercise May 16–19. Following this, state recovery exercise and then national recovery exercise, then national recovery workshop. Then after-action conference, then national lessons learned workshop.
 - Heltzel gave kudos for the support received from FEMA. Question was raised of whether there will be any consideration for international deployment or private sector. Heltzel said there will be opportunity for private sector. The real focus of attention is on the delta of what won't be provided.
 - Nancy Dragani asked if there is intent to use EMAC without computerized request and offer. Heltzel said we will play day 1 dark but, otherwise, no. Heltzel said if a huge earthquake happens, neighboring states likely would be immediately moving to contact.
 - Doug Hoell said that with this allocation workshop, you're looking at federal response. As we do the plan, we should look at the shortfalls and come to the regions and say, "Here's what we need; what can you provide?" Want to do these things in a managed way with the outside states.
 - Dave Maxwell noted the importance of pre-scripted mission assignments.

- **ETF report.**
 - Kim Ketterhagen (EMAC Executive Task Force Chair) gave an update on SATFs for reimbursement. Noted that the reimbursement SATF had designed guidelines for reimbursement timelines at all stages. These timelines are suggested; the 45-min timeline was debated at yesterday's ETF meeting, and provisions for waiver in the REQ-A were added to the guidelines to help states that know they cannot meet the 45-day limits. The guidelines document was passed in ETF meeting to move to EMAC Committee. Heltzel asked for nomination. Nancy Dragani moved that the EMAC Reimbursement Guidelines be adopted by the EMAC Committee. This was seconded by Barb Farr. Motion was passed.
 - NEMA's membership submitted comments on the draft recovery policy 9523.6 to FEMA through the federal register. The big issues for EMAC are the lack of addressing EMAC as a contract under contract law.
 - The Reimbursement SATF also recommended that finance/administration personnel be listed on the EMAC web site just like the legal contacts, Authorized Representatives, and Designated Contacts.
 - Another issue identified by the Reimbursement SATF was the bundling of small project worksheets under FEMA from single states which results in a large project threshold. In the public assistance policy, it states that the processing of project worksheets are to be in the best interest of the state. If a state does not want to bundle the projects, they need to make clear that it is not to be done. NEMA staff can develop educational guidance on this topic if the EMAC Committee feels it is warranted. Doug Hoell said the biggest problems in this area are in the large-scale disasters. If we focused on MRPs, we could decide in advance what an eligible mission is before reimbursement is an issue. If you need a resource and ask for it, you have an obligation to pay. Don't rely on FEMA payments to reimburse assisting states. Glade Mylar (Nevada) noted the legality of REQ-As as contracts was verified by Fugate but questioned during Legal Committee meeting.
 - The Outreach SATF is chaired by Joyce Flinn, Iowan. The group has been working with FEMA to develop course on the intrastate mutual aid legislation and the in-state implementation of EMAC. A private contractor was selected by FEMA and the course is in the early stages of development. Also, once the new EMAC web site is completed, there will be a quarterly EMAC newsletter that will be emailed to the membership.
 - Heltzel gave kudos to Kim Ketterhagen and the SATFs for their progress in the past 6 months.

- **Training and exercise update.**
 - Cross Border Mutual Aid Agreement update. In March 2009 the decision was made to develop an international mutual aid agreement that is open to all states. In January 2010, a working group was formed that is in preliminary stages now. Barb Farr (Vermont) introduced a map that illustrated the international mutual aid plans currently in place. The template being developed is somewhat a merger of PNEMA and IEMAC information; it will be a voluntary agreement. Cultural and political issues must be considered. Carole Cameron of FEMA International noted that this is a long-term project. We have participation from USAID now, and we have participants from Canada and Mexico's southwest border. Farr noted that some regions on the provided map also have health mutual aid agreements. Mylar noted that most Mexican border states are currently revising their constitutions, so this might also be taken into account.

- **REQ-A and operations system updates.** Goal for updates to REQ-A, web site, operations system, and online training center is February 2011. EMAC will also provide training to states on how to use these tools.

Dave Miller asked about use of electronic signatures. Angela Copple noted that because not all states can do that, we've provided two options for states to add the signed REQ-A to the EMAC system instead of an e-signature option. However, if both party states could accept it, there would be no reason why a state couldn't use it.

- **Budget.** NEMA received a \$4 million grant for EMAC. NEMA is now looking at a grant opportunity for a second pilot of the EMU, with larger grants than the first pilot.

NEMA is also requesting suggestions on capacity building projects in which NEMA could fund money to states to work on specific projects. Dave Maxwell noted that we need to share info so we are not all doing the same project. Maxwell noted we're working for line-item funding for EMAC and to keep that in mind. John Madden wanted to note that the Pacific and Territorial Caucus is looking on how to deal with their needs that are not met by federal; skills-driven needs, not just commodities and materials needs. Dave Smith (Rhode Island) noted that multiple grants per region would create an opportunity for a crosswalk between resources and the people who go with those resources. Maxwell said there's a big training component in this regard. Mylar asked if an extension might be available; Angela said no, unless FEMA also extended NEMA's grant.

- **Closing notes and questions.** Nancy asked about ETF transition exercise. Kim responded by explaining what the ETF is and details of the transition of ETF chair and NCG state. Dave Smith asked if the EMAC involvement in the Haiti operations had been outside Stafford Act. Kim responded that Haiti was different from anything we've done before. We didn't send EMAC resources to Haiti; we supported the states that supported Haiti; we also placed an NCT in the NRCC when it was activated.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Doug Hoell. Motion seconded by Dave Smith.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.