

**NEMA 2016 Annual Forum
October 1-4, 2016
Chicago, IL**

Draft General Session Minutes

October 4, 2016

Present p=proxy

Region I

Connecticut
Maine - p
Massachusetts - p
New Hampshire - p
Rhode Island - p
Vermont

Region II

New Jersey
New York
Virgin Islands

Region III

Delaware
District of Columbia
Maryland
Pennsylvania
Virginia – p
West Virginia

Region IV

Alabama
Florida - p
Georgia
Kentucky
Mississippi
North Carolina – p
South Carolina – p
Tennessee

Region V

Illinois
Michigan
Minnesota – p
Ohio
Wisconsin

Region VI

Arkansas
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas

Region VII

Iowa – p
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska – p

Region VIII

Colorado
Montana - p
North Dakota - p
South Dakota
Utah

Region IX

American Samoa
Arizona
California
Guam
Hawaii
Nevada

Region X

Alaska
Idaho
Oregon - p
Washington

NEMA President Bryan Koon (FL) returned to the state of Florida early due to Hurricane Mathew, as did several other East Coast attendees. Vice President Wendy Smith-Reeve (AZ) presided over the meeting and asked Secretary Bill Hackett (CT) to call the roll. There were 37 states/territories present and 14 proxies. A quorum was declared.

Lessons Learned from the Flint, MI Water Emergency – Capt. Chris Kelenske, Deputy State Director, Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Capt. Kelenske shared state lessons learned from the Flint water emergency caused by unsafe levels of lead in the water system. The areas he touched on included:

- Value of GIS in mapping neighborhoods and homes to track delivery of filters

- Challenges with the federal/state Unified Coordination Group due to dual lines of command and control
- Ability to hire local personnel in an area with a very high unemployment rate
- Challenges with donations management. Standards had to be put in place for filters and bottled water donations.
- Investigations – death threats, cyber, fraud
- Translations, including deaf and hard of hearing populations
- Testing water quality at schools
- Agriculture – food businesses and pets

Kelenske advised emergency managers to identify Points of Distribution (POD) sites in advance and have agreements in place before an event occurs. He said that CDL class truck drivers to transport resources were hard to find so the state is now doing training.

A copy of the presentation slides is available on the NEMA website at www.nemaweb.org.

The Emerging Breadth of Emergencies and Disasters: Is the Role of Emergency Management Changing?

Glen Woodbury, Executive Director, Center for Homeland Defense and Security, Naval Postgraduate School; Richard Flinn, Jr., Director, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency; Mark Ghilarducci, Director, California Office of Emergency Services; Nim Kidd, Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management; Bryan Koon, Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management; Sima Merick, Executive Director, Ohio Emergency Management Agency

The panel discussed recent events that could be described as non-traditional for emergency management yet required involvement and coordination such as Zika and Ebola Viruses, unaccompanied minors crossing borders, active shooter incidents, and National Special Security Events.

Discussion highlights:

- The solution oriented process used by EM to prepare for all hazards is well suited to non-traditional events.
- Non-traditional events will soon become traditional. Emergency management's ability to coordinate will keep EM involved. Speed, accuracy, setting metrics and action planning are EM traits that are valuable to any response.
- Local organizational structures and capabilities vary county to county and state to state. This causes challenges.
- Emergency management should be the hub of the wheel and not a spoke. The hub is what holds the spokes (various disciplines) together.
- Governors' staffs know about every event, large or small, right away due to social media. Emergency management can't afford to have one person on call anymore. 24/7 watch centers are becoming news rooms due to cable news and social media.
- Ohio discussed their lengthy process to have the governor's office declare a state of emergency for the Republican National Convention (RNC) so that EMAC resources could be pre-positioned. It's a question of what message that sends to the public if you declare an emergency, but in this case it worked very well. This changed how they will approach pre-planned events in the future and how they message with the public. In Texas, they issue a "proclamation" instead of emergency declaration. The state encourages locals to proclaim an event, implement their plans, open the EOC and communicate they are

