

NEMA 2016 Mid-Year Emergency Management Policy and Leadership Forum
April 3-6, 2016
Hilton Mark Center Hotel, Alexandria, VA

General Session Minutes

April 6, 2016

Present **p = proxy**

Region I

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

Region II

New Jersey
New York

Region III

Delaware
District of Columbia
Maryland
Pennsylvania
Virginia
West Virginia

Region IV

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Mississippi
North Carolina
South Carolina

Region V

Illinois
Indiana
Minnesota
Ohio
Wisconsin

Region VI

Arkansas
Louisiana
New Mexico
Oklahoma

Region VII

Iowa
Kansas
Nebraska

Region VIII

Colorado
North Dakota
South Dakota
Utah
Wyoming

Region IX

Arizona
California – p
Guam
Hawaii
Nevada –p

Region X

Alaska - p
Idaho
Oregon - p
Washington

NEMA Vice President Wendy Smith-Reeve (AZ) called the General Session to order at 1:15 pm on behalf of President Bryan Koon (FL) and asked Secretary Bill Hackett (CT) to call the roll. There were 41 states/DC/territories present and 6 proxies. A quorum was declared.

Hon. Jeh Johnson, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Sec. Johnson began his remarks by sharing a statistic that public confidence in government has declined since the 1950s but confidence in emergency response is in the high 70s. He discussed a wide range of topics including counter terrorism and taking the fight to Yemen, Syria, Iraq and dealing with terrorist inspired actors in the homeland. Johnson referenced the increased coordination and information sharing between all levels of government and between federal agencies, and mentioned the important role of fusion centers. In reference to the President's proposed FY17 budget which includes significant cuts to homeland security grants, Sec. Johnson said it was a hard choice due to the Congressional budget deal but DHS still strongly supports the grant programs. He emphasized that active shooter events must

be prepared for and the importance of training and exercises. The travel of suspicious persons from 38 countries from which the U.S. doesn't require VISAS is of concern. He also mentioned REAL ID for which 23 states are compliant, others have been granted extensions and 6 states are not compliant. In the current global threat environment, you can kill the enemy without defeating it. Sec. Johnson went on to thank emergency managers for the work they do for the nation.

Partners' Panel: National Governors' Association, Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council, International Association of Emergency Managers, Association of State Floodplain Managers

Each association was invited to brief on their priority issues for the next administration and particularly those on which emergency management can collaborate to achieve mutual goals.

- NGA – Justin Stevens discussed the concern by the Council of Governors that the Department of Defense plans to reduce the number of National Guard technician positions and make them Federal civilian employees. This reduces the capabilities of the Guard. NGA has been working with Congress to address and hopes there is an opportunity to repeal the provision in the National Defense Authorization Act.
- GHSAC – Alisha Powell discussed FirstNet, cybersecurity and sharing key trends in cyber plans, as well as information sharing. Also mentioned the expansion of the NEMA-ASTHO Joint Policy Work Group to include GHSAC representatives, GHSAC membership on the National Homeland Security Consortium and participation in the development of their 2016 National Issues Brief. Powell also discussed grant reform, counter terrorism, border security, mitigation, and the cyber resource center and policy academy whereby NGA/GHSAC will provide technical assistance to five states.
- IAEM – Robie Robinson expressed IAEM's strong support for individual certification through their Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) program as well as program accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). He mentioned the value of regular information sharing between NEMA and IAEM through their respective Legislative Committees.
- ASFPM – Chad Berginnis spent a good portion of time discussing the importance of reform and reauthorization for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 2017. Also the need to remove disincentives for states and locals to implement mitigation measures as well as for individuals and businesses.

President Koon then shared with the audience the issues that NEMA addressed in its 2016 National Issues Brief which was shared with three presidential campaigns earlier in the week. They included: emerging threats, climate adaptation, cybersecurity, countering terrorism, support for EMAC and EMAP. NEMA met with senior representatives from the campaigns of Sec. Ted Cruz, Donald Trump, and Sec. Hillary Clinton.

Dr. Louis Uccellini, Director, National Weather Service

Dr. Uccellini highlighted the advancements in technology and the value they have brought to predicting extreme weather events. There is a need to show metrics to Congress for their continued funding support.

Hon. Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Fugate began his remarks by referencing the increasing number of emerging and nontraditional events but emphasized that "what's new is not really new" if emergency managers are focused on consequence management. He used West Nile and Zika Virus as an example – what's so different from an EM

consequence management standpoint? The cause of a power outage is less important than dealing with the consequences of the outage. Fugate spent a good deal of time discussing the reasons behind the FEMA proposed Public Assistance deductible concept and the fact that OMB, GAO, Congress and others have stated repeatedly there are too many disasters being declared and the cost of disasters needs to be reduced. Status quo is not acceptable for the long term. The PA deductible concept was intended as an alternative to raising the per capita threshold which would mean most large states would have extreme difficulty in getting a disaster declaration, and it provides states and locals with the opportunity to receive credit and buy down risk for mitigation and resilience activities and investments. He thanked NEMA for their input on proposal and welcomed any additional ideas for ways to reduce disaster costs. The balance of Fugate's time was spent engaging in Q&A with the audience.

NEMA Business Session

Secretary's Report – Hackett asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 2015 Annual Forum.

Moved: PA DISPOSITION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Second: VA

Treasurer's Report – Brad Richy (ID) provided the FY16 Year-to-Date Financial Report. The beginning fund balance for FY16 was \$1,179,340. The budget approved by the Board calls for spending down that fund balance by \$193,052. The YTD financial report reflects data available as of January 31 and during that month NEMA experienced revenue over expense in the amount of \$272,748. Much of that revenue is from Forum registrations and sponsor fees. All 50 states, DC, and 3 territories have paid membership dues. Expenses are on target with the budget. With regard to the FY16 Year-to-Date Development Report, NEMA has received \$2.480M dollars in federal grant awards.

Voting on Committee Position Papers and Resolutions

Mitigation Committee – Kris Hamlet (UT), Chair

Hamlet called for a motion to approve the position paper regarding FEMA's National Emergency Management Information System (NEMIS) and recommendations that FEMA:

1. Centralize systems and eliminate inefficient software capacity duplication
2. Update NEMIS to current technology standards, ensuring the NEMIS HMGP grant management module provides required information to FEMA, while also ensuring access and data entry efficiencies
3. Migrate NEMIS HMGP grant management module into a new or existing system such as EMMIE or eGrants

Moved: NC DISPOSITION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Second: NY

EMAC Committee – Angee Morgan (KS), Chair

Morgan called for a motion to approve a resolution on support of the urban search and rescue standards, use of the EMAC logo, and NEMA position on the EMAP US&R Program Review Committee.

Moved: AL DISPOSITION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Second: NC

President Koon thanked the attendees, speakers and sponsors for their active engagement and support throughout the week. He announced the dates for the 2016 Annual Forum in Chicago which are October 1-4, 2016. There being no further business, the General Session was adjourned.

Moved: NM
Second: VA

DISPOSITION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY