

Unapproved WEMA Board Meeting Minutes February 22, 2008

Board Members present: Ben Schliesman, Keith Butler, Randy Books, Fred Camacho, Cullen Peltier, Steve Haskell, Jennifer Lord-Kouraichi

Participating via conference call: Julie Loeffelholz, Jane Grabarski, Carl Stenbol, Lori Hucek

Members present: Nick Flugar, Jim Galloway, Eric Bermeister

Others present: Jeff Whitlow(WEM), Rob Rude (WEM)

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

Fred Camacho made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Cullen Peltier, All ayes, motion carries.

Approval of Oct. 31, 2007 Minutes

Motion was made by Randy Books, Seconded by Nick Flugar to approve the minutes of the October 31, 2007 meeting. All ayes, motion carries.

Treasurer's Report

Donna Haugom resigned as treasurer due to an increased county workload caused by the loss of an important staff member. Lori Hucek has kindly agreed to serve as treasurer until an election can be held at the annual meeting.

Total Account Balance is \$21,197.72. Total membership is 179. Members who neglect to pay their dues by May will be off membership list. Motion by Cullen Peltier, Seconded by Fred Camacho to approve the Treasurer's report. All ayes, motion carries.

WEM Presentation: Jeff Whittow, WEM Fiscal Specialist

Dollars have been increasing—EMPG was \$3.6 million for 2007 in Wisconsin. Supplemental funding check will be coming separately from second half payment. Separate check with separate letter will arrive approximately at the same time as the second half check. If the counties do need their numbers for the check, please call Jeff at jeffrey.whittow@wisconsin.gov 608 242 3218. 2008 funding for Wisconsin will be around \$5.3 million. Percentage increase from 2007 is about 18.5 %. Rob rude said that 2009 funding will probably be at the same level as 2008, however, President Bush's proposed budget significantly reduces EMPG funding, however, Rude feels strongly that Congress will not cut funding.

Update on future of ECRA Funding

EPCRA funding is running low. WEM is trying to make it last as long as it can. It's getting tougher and tougher to make the dollars stretch. WEM is looking at strategies to increase the funding. WEM needs county-level emergency management assistance to try to increase the funding. Ben says that WEMA may try to encourage the Legislature to increase EPCRA funding. Whittow says

that it is getting more difficult to manage the money. Group determined that an increase in reporting fees would help bolster the funding. However, manufacturing companies and big box retailers are against any increases, so it would take a grass roots effort by WEMA members. Stenbol says that Wisconsin regularly exceeds the requirements of the Federal and State laws, and proposes that we ask WEM to decrease the workload to meet those requirements.

Motion was made by Carl Stenbol, seconded by Randy Books to have WEMA put forth a proposal to WEM for a Plan of Work initiative on EPCRA based funding with recognition of decreased funding. All ayes, motion carries. Stenbol will do a presentation at the Governor's Conference meeting in April regarding his proposal. After that the group will discuss his ideas.

Dollars for updated WEMA Display/Booth

John Elliott has graciously agreed to manage the development of the WEMA Banner. Group suggested pictures from disasters, highlight main activities, have two boards; both will have EM logo, four cycles of EM.

All Hazard Alert Radio Survey Presentation – Steve Haskell

Steve Haskell distributed NOAA Weather Alert Radio survey to group. Almost 2,000 people were surveyed in all 72 counties. The majority of the responses came from businesses. The survey indicated that most of the respondents were unfamiliar with the SAME Technology, and did not program their radios to receive alerts for their specific county. Also, respondents were not familiar with non-weather alerts that the radios are capable of, so more education is needed to let people know that the radio features alerts for non-weather emergencies such as an Amber Alert or hazardous material spill. Also, only 11% of the respondents have attended the Spring Weather Spotter Workshop, so more outreach work is needed to promote storm spotter school. An electronic copy will be posted on the WEMA Website sometime next week. Steve plans to work with the Wisconsin Hospital Association to conduct a survey with all the hospitals in the state.

EOP to ESF Conversion

Jim Galloway (Vilas County) from the ESF Review Committee came to present some of his concerns regarding the conversion to ESF process that WEM is proposing. Galloway's concerns are that there is not enough time for full-time EM directors to carry out the conversion in fiscal year 2009. The federal government has indicated that there is no immediate requirement to change to the ESF format. However, WEM is adamant that counties convert to the ESF format in FY 2009. Galloway says that there is not enough time to convert all plans to this format in one year. In the FEMA document "Producing Emergency Plans," it states that there is no requirement to convert the documents immediately. Galloway outlined the ESF Review Committee's activities. Galloway says that the committee is getting the 4-6 ESFs to review the week before the review team meeting. WEM does not give the review committee enough time to properly review the ESFs. Galloway maintains that the county templates are too generic, and do not accurately represent the planning needs of counties. In regards to tribal ESFs, Flugar says that they received the templates from WEM this week. Eric Bermeister (Marinette County), also from the review committee says that using templates is not recommended by FEMA, in fact they say that using templates can lead to a flawed emergency response. Galloway asked the groups how we should plan, and questioned if using a template is the best strategy for county planning. He says that perhaps we are expecting too much from WEM, to ask them to design county ESF templates. Jim Galloway asks for an

opportunity to have a WEMA single agenda meeting to discuss the planning process. He wants to fully discuss the planning process.

Discussion:

Stenbol says that the City of Milwaukee has already designed ESFs for the city. David Mack from Racine County has already created 28 ESFs for his county. Stenbol says that the current EOPs meet the NIMS requirements by adding a crosswalk to the Basic Plan. Stenbol says that counties are repeatedly asked to produce more work than is required by the federal government. He contends that a "cookie-cutter" approach is not needed. Counties need to be allowed to practice home rule and conduct their own planning. Milwaukee County has developed a cross walk to make their plan NIMS compliant. Carl will submit it to Trina to place on the website. Peters says that it is unfair to give counties such a short timeframe to update their plans.

Motion:

Motion was made by Fred Camacho, Seconded by Christina Peters to have WEMA conduct a special meeting of the board and ESF Review Team to review the project in March. All ayes, motion carries

Conference: Status/Update

WEMA made \$3, 292.37 in profit on the 2007 conference. This is an all-time high profit for WEMA Conference.

March Congressional Meetings

Motion was made by Christina Peters, seconded by Keith Butler to allow Jennifer Lord-Kouraichi to attend legislature meeting in Washington DC on behalf of WEMA. All ayes, motion carries.

911 Funding

Motion was made by Jennifer Lord-Kouraichi, seconded by Keith Butler to have WEMA partner with APCO and Wisconsin NENA to ask the legislature to extend Wireless 9-1-1 funding beyond 2008 and to pursue asking the State Legislature to allow counties to receive a portion of the landline 9-1-1 money for County PSAP operations. All ayes, motion carries.

Membership & Information

Hucek asked if we can change the voting to open it up to associate members being able to vote. We also need to solicit more vendors and vendor ads on website. Peltier says that we should promote WEMA during Public-Private partnership activities. Hucek agreed that we should start promoting WEMA to the Public-Private partnership activities. Schliesman says that he will look into allowing all members to vote at the annual meeting for the annual meeting in October. Changes to the bylaws need to be in the hands of the members 30 days before the annual meeting.

WEMA Website

Website averaging 16 visits per day. Vendor ads have decreased. The Yahoo Listserv traffic is extremely slow.

WEM/OJA NIMS Advisory Committee

2008 Compliance materials came out this week.

Homeland Security Council

Ben Schliesman formally thanked Johnnie Lee Smith for being proactive on winter weather emergencies.

President's Report

OJA is putting together an operations committee under the SIEC to manage the new state-wide system--trying to develop a working plan. Greg Engle is still looking for more people to be on this committee.

Discussion Items

PSIC Funding:

WEMA Board Members reached a consensus that the governance group that oversees the state-wide trunking system should be completely autonomous from the SIEC.

Critical Infrastructure Exercises:

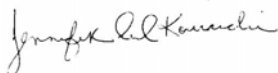
WEMA Board Members reached a consensus that more state wide exercises for local delivery are needed (like the DNR water exercises). A possible scenario could be a long-term power outage caused by a winter storm or terrorist attack. Could use something like model city to conduct the exercises.

Regional Planning Workshops:

WEMA Board Members reached a consensus that regional planning workshops are needed to give emergency response organizations an opportunity to strategically plan together. This could include the development of regional SOGs and plans to respond to specific types of incidents, such as evacuation or long term power outage. Peters says we should take planning to the regional level for specific incidents.

Motion to adjourn was made by Randy Books, seconded by Christina Peters. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 12:44 pm. The next Meeting will be held before the Governor's Annual Conference on Emergency Management/Homeland Security, Monday April 7th, 4:30 PM at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Lord-Kouraichi
WEMA Secretary
Clark County Emergency Management Director