

WEMA Board Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2008

Board Members Present: Keith Butler, Randy Books, Fred Camacho, Cullen Peltier, Steve Haskell, Jennifer Lord-Kouraichi, Christina Peters, Jane Grabarski, Carl Stenbol

Members present: Jim Galloway, Ken Kortenhof, Matthew Marmor, Ken Kesler, Jan Victorson, Ron Schmid, Cheryl McCrary, Genevase Thompson

Others Present: Greg Engle (OJA), Ed Wall (DOJ), Johnnie Smith (WEM), Larry Reed (WEM)

Meeting was called to order at 4:32. Motion by Stenbol, seconded by Peltier to discuss ESF conversion first.

ESF conversion

WEM plans to roll out a template to all counties. There will be a 2 ½ year compliance process: September 30th, 2010 will be the final due date. Plans must be validated through a tabletop exercise by September 30, 2010. WEM will develop municipal planning course to train emergency planners how to convert to the new ESFs. WEM will release templates to counties on rolling basis, and WEM states that all of them will be released to counties, in their entirety by September 2008. WEM point of contact for questions is Bill Claire.

Peters expressed concern about part-time EM directors not being able to meet the same compliance deadlines as fulltime staffed counties. Reed says that WEM will negotiate hardship situations on a case by case basis. EM Directors must exhibit a good faith effort that they are trying to comply. Smith says that counties that have difficulty should contact WEM and let them know that they need help.

Johnnie says that they will try to involve WEMA members during the early stages of new project, so state-wide collaboration can occur.

Stenbol says there might be future exercise planning grants to test the plan. Butler says that WEM agreed to post draft version of ESFs on Esponder for feedback. Peters suggested that WEM should develop sample exercises to test specific ESFs.

A motion to endorse the ESF Plan that WEM and WEMA have negotiated was made by Peltier, seconded by Stenbol, all ayes, motion passes.

Approval of February 22, 2008 Minutes

Motion by Grabarski, seconded by Galloway to approve the February minutes. All ayes, motion passes.

Treasurer's Report

WEMA currently has a revenue balance of \$22,622.03, with 183 current members. Motion by Stenbol, seconded by Peters to accept the Treasurer's Report. All ayes, motion passes.

OJA Presentation: Greg Engle, OJA Homeland Security Director Update on FY07 Grants

The Exercise Grant second round will be due on May 31st. Counties should continue to work with WEM exercise officers to develop their exercises. Another round of radio grants will open up in May. Money will go to counties that submitted previous pre-applications. OJA will continue this grant program to fund radio purchases. Engle plans to commit money to fund radio purchases in the years to come.

FY 08 Grant Application

Currently OJA is in the middle of the application process. May 1st is the deadline for the investment justifications. The State Preparedness Report was due on March 31, 2008. Twelve investment justifications have been submitted to OJA, they will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee on April 11th.

Engle also discussed the MOU that WEM has been sending to counties for signature after an exercise. He explained that the MOU is being used to demonstrate the 80% pass through the federal grant programs require. OJA is working with WEM to make the language more specific, and in the future the document will be called a *funding acknowledgement*.

The long term power outage exercise program and other future programs will most likely also require a *funding acknowledgement*. WEM will look for MOU signatures for Esponder project as well. Tony Peterson, formerly of the Madison PD, has been hired to be in charge of the law enforcement grant program.

Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO) Program: What is it?

*Ed Wall, Special Agent in Charge, Wisconsin Department of Justice,
Division of Criminal Investigation, Investigative Services Bureau*

The TLO program is part of the fusion program. Eighty-six people from across the state have already participated in the program. More classes will be held in the future to train TLOs. Emergency Management Directors are welcome to participate in the training. Wall says that he wants to get as many people to participate in the program. Already the project has been paying off; there has been a dramatic increase in reports of suspicious activity.

If you have something going on in your county, whether it is terrorist related or a natural disaster, analysts are available to assist counties in their response. For more information, contact Ed Wall at 608-219-5006.

FEMA to Take over Mass Care Role Formerly Held by American Red Cross (Discussion)

FEMA has plans to take over mass care role. Some agency heads within FEMA are considering whether or not it is feasible to take over mass care from the Red Cross. Peters requested a discussion of this topic at the next WEMA meeting. Stenbol suggested that WEMA request someone from FEMA to address the group at the WEM Conference.

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Increase: Contact Federal Legislators

The EMPG will likely go up in the years to come. The Senate just approved \$487 million dollar request. Appropriations bill has to go to conference committee and then sent to the president for signature. Peltier says that emergency managers should be preemptive and approach local government to fund additional personnel, so that the match can be met.

WEMA Member's Ability to Vote (Discussion)

Changes are proposed for the bylaws that will allow anyone who pays dues to vote. Issue will be discussed at October meeting.

Statutory, Ad-Hoc Committee and Appointments' Reports/Issues

Conference Committee: Status/Update

The 2008 WEMA Conference will be in Madison on October 27 – 29. The theme this year is "The Anatomy of a Disaster: Catastrophic Planning & Response to a Long-Term Power Outage" The Planning Committee will meet after this meeting.

Report from NEMA DC Legislative Day:

Peltier and Lord-Kouraichi discussed the meetings with representatives and staff people. Peltier says thank you to WEM for allowing WEMA to attend the meetings. He says that the main consensus was that there will not be a budget signed this year, so continuing resolutions will likely be signed for the rest of the year, which is positive because it enables us to keep the same funding levels next year.

EPCRA

Stenbol requested a status of EPCRA funding report for WEMA. He believes that the plan of work will need to be renegotiated if funding decreases. Milwaukee County has experienced a 17% decrease in funding over the past year. Stenbol is also working on a county wide store battery plan, which will cover all commercial battery facilities in a similar fashion to the county-wide farm plan.

The next meeting date will be sometime in June 2008 in Stevens Point. Butler made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Stenbol. All ayes, meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Lord-Kouraichi
WEMA Secretary