

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2013, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

TVFR Command and Business Operations
Center, 11945 SW 70th, Tigard, OR



RDPO

Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization

Unified. Prepared. Resilient.

Attendance:

Steering Committee Members

1. Scott Porter, *Washington County Representative and Steering Committee Chair*
2. Nancy Bush, *Clackamas County Representative*
3. Eric Corliss, *At-Large Representative, Non-profit Sector*
4. Bob Cozzie, *Public Safety Communications Representative*
5. Chief Mike Duyck, *Fire & EMS Representative*
6. Dave Ford, *At-Large Representative, Private Sector*
7. Rebecca Geisen, *Public Works Representative*
8. Chief Erin Janssens, *Program Committee Chair*
9. Carmen Merlo, *City of Portland Representative*
10. Anna Pendergrass, *Clark County Representative*
11. Joe Rizzi, *Multnomah County Representative*
12. Larry Stevens, *Public Works Representative (Acting)*

Regional Staff

1. Denise Barrett, *RDPO Administrator/Grants and Finance Committee*
2. Allison Boyd, *Regional Strategic Planning Coordinator*
3. Mike Maloney, *Program Coordinator based in Multnomah Co. EM*

Guests

1. Adrienne Donner, *Program Committee Vice Chair*
2. Jay Wilson, *OSSPAC Vice Chair, Clackamas County Hazard Mitigation Coordinator*
3. Dave Houghton, *RDPO MACS ConOPs Task Force Chair*
4. Sarah Stegmuller Eckman, *Clackamas County Emergency Management*

1. Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review [Scott Porter, Steering Committee Chair]

Scott Porter opened the meeting with introductions and a review of the agenda.

2. Review of Minutes from the Previous Meeting [Scott Porter]

Scott Porter asked if anyone had any changes for the minutes from the previous meeting and there were none. Rebecca Geisen moved to accept and Chief Duyck seconded. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

3. The Oregon Resilience Plan [Jay Wilson, Vice Chair of Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC)]

Jay Wilson gave a presentation on the recently completed Oregon Resilience Plan similar to what was recently presented to the Oregon Legislature. The Plan was developed through the work of 169 volunteers over one year with no budget. The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC) was tasked by House Resolution 3 to develop this Plan. OSSPAC, which consists of a Steering Committee of 18-19 members, formed an Advisory Panel and eight Task Forces representing broad stakeholder participation to develop the Plan. The Plan outlines the risks of the Cascadia Subduction Zone and provides recommendations to be implemented over the next 50 years to build resilience in Oregon. Recommendations include creating a State Office of Resilience to oversee implementation, inventorying critical infrastructure and facilities seismic risk, developing

a program of capital improvements, and other, more specific, recommendations. The Plan can be downloaded at <http://www.oregon.gov/omd/oem/Pages/osspace/osspace.aspx>.

Question and answers followed the presentation.

- There were questions regarding outreach to the public. The Plan was created as a public document and there has been some media dissemination. The presentation will need to be reconstituted for different users, such as the business sector. OSSPAC's Outreach Task Force will be working on this. The personal preparedness message of being prepared for 1-2 weeks versus 72 hours is important for public outreach. This change in baseline expectations may not be realistic for all portions of the population, however.
- There were also questions regarding structural building safety and resilience standards. It was noted that disaster resiliency should be under the umbrella of sustainability. There is not a design standard currently for 4-5 minutes of shaking. Top standards are modeled on California earthquake lessons learned not the standards necessarily in line with the impacts of a Cascadia earthquake. Chief Duyck pointed out that public policy decisions based on cost-benefit should be made in some cases of determining the standard of seismic safety needed. For example, fire stations have a 50 year lifespan due to the need to adjust locations for fastest response times, so maybe these facilities should be built to life safety standards and do not need to be built to standards wherein the buildings would be undamaged. Standards should also be adjusted over time to be in line with most current knowledge.
- There was a concern that the Plan contains no estimation of costs to implement the recommendations. Jay said that drilling down to an accurate cost estimate would have been very difficult to accomplish for this planning process. Also, because of the long implementation timeline, the cost of the recommendations will be a moving target.
- It was asked whether FEMA had provided feedback yet on the Plan. Jay said the Plan was just recently sent to FEMA so they haven't heard any comments yet.

4. Grants and Finance Committee/UASI Grant Report [Carmen Merlo, UASI Administrator]

A. UASI FY2010 Reprogramming

Carmen Merlo gave a report of the recent reprogramming process including an overview of the range of projects that were submitted.

B. Grants and Finance Committee

Carmen Merlo also reported on the status of the expanded Grants and Finance Committee, which now includes the following members:

- Washington County: Angelina Catabay
- Clackamas County EM: Sarah Stegmuller Eckman/Toni Hessevick
- Multnomah County: Leslie Ryan
- Clark County: Lana Hobson
- Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue: Claire Doolittle
- Portland Police Bureau: Veronica Nordeen
- Portland Fire Bureau: Evelyn Brenes-Eayrs
- Columbia County: pending

C. THIRA Conference Call

A conference call was held between FEMA Region X, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, and the RDPO THIRA team to discuss FEMA's evaluation of the Portland Urban Area THIRA. Denise Barrett sent this report to the Steering Committee via email. There were some areas of improvement identified; however, these were identified for most THIRAs that had been submitted, e.g., integration of whole community. FEMA Region X staff asked for feedback on challenges of the THIRA process. Those were provided in the conference call and included the difficulty of setting targets for the core capabilities. The THIRA will need to be updated if FY2013 UASI funding is received by the region.

D. PBEM Program Coordinator for Grants

Carmen Merlo explained that Deborah Harrison's former position in the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management was not filled a year ago. With increases in grant program requirements putting more pressure on her finance team, she has decided to utilize funds from the Management and Administration line of the UASI grants to hire a program coordinator for grants compliance.

E. UASI FY 2013

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released draft Threat and Risk Assessment Profiles for FY2013 that rank UASI regions across the U.S. and guide grant appropriation decisions. The drafts are released each year prior to grant guidance, which is expected to be released this year in mid-May. The Portland Urban Area's rank fell from 25 last year to 29 in 2013. This dramatic change in ranking is pertinent because 2013 funding may be limited to the top 25 UASI programs due to limitations included in the Appropriations Bill. FEMA has allowed until April 6 to submit additional information that may affect the draft Profile. It is unlikely the Profile scoring can be changed since most of the score is based on national, open source, data and the threats index is based on classified terrorism information.

Two potential options for seeking UASI FY2013 funding were shared:

- 1) \$188 million in discretionary funding that was included in the Appropriations Bill for the DHS Secretary to apply to any grant program. We can propose that some of that funding be used to fund additional UASI regions beyond the 25.
- 2) The region can lobby to have the language on funding only 25 UASI regions taken out of the Bill's explanatory statements and ask that the same number of regions be funded as last year, which was 31.

Carmen Merlo, Scott Porter, and Denise Barrett have drafted talking points for working with our congressional delegation and the Steering Committee is being asked to comment on these prior to distribution. They are working through the city of Portland's legislative affairs staff to reach out to the congressional delegation. It was discussed at the meeting that a representative from each of the counties will begin the same process so a unified message from the region is reaching the congressional delegation. Other avenues of advocacy were discussed, such as reaching out to the International Association of Emergency Managers and International Association of Fire Chiefs. Other arguments for funding the Portland Urban Area were also

raised, such as the reduction in overall preparedness funding and capabilities for other parts of the state if the region isn't funded through the UASI grant.

5. Program Committee Report [Adrienne Donner, Program Committee Vice Chair]

Adrienne Donner provided a summary of the work the Program Committee has been doing regarding RDPO strategic planning. The last two meetings of the Program Committee have included presentations from each work group to hear what they are planning to work on and what their priorities are. Now, the Program Committee has reached the stage of combining the inputs that have been provided and identifying emerging themes and potential task forces. There were seven overarching themes of the priority initiatives proposed by the work groups. One of the major themes is increasing cross-discipline awareness and collaboration. The desire to do more interdisciplinary work is a great sign of a maturing organization. There were 14 initiatives identified by the individual work groups in which some degree of interdisciplinary coordination will be necessary. Next steps are to review these themes then the Program Committee and Steering Committee will meet jointly on May 6 to further refine the strategic planning inputs.

6. RDPO Organizational Development Report [Denise Barrett, RDPO Administrator]

Denise Barrett gave a report on the progress of various organizational initiatives. The logo process has been finished and the final style guide has been distributed. The logo files will be available on the RDPO website which is currently under development. Until then, staff can assist with any logo or template needs.

The Policy Committee vacancies are being filled. All seats have been filled except for the city of Portland representative and the Clackamas County representative. A full list of current Policy Committee members can be obtained by contacting Denise. The Policy Committee will meet on June 14, 9-11 am, at the Port of Portland. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair have not been closed yet and so far there has been only one nomination – Tony Hyde, Columbia County Commissioner.

Scott Porter reported on the REMTEC and Emergency Management Work Group consolidation process. Everyone has been in agreement on consolidating. We are in the process of getting detailed feedback from the groups involved. Another meeting will be set to discuss the transition timeline.

7. Regional Exercise Update [Adrienne Donner and Scott Porter]

Adrienne Donner reported the exercise planning is in its final stages and the Final Planning Conference will be on April 17. Scott Porter reported the recent Master Scenario Events List (MSEL) meeting was not successful due to a technical difficulty with the MSEL tool. The health and medical portion of the exercise is the only regional aspect remaining. All exercise budgets have been approved and Environmental and Historical Preservation Screening forms are being submitted and reviewed.

8. MACS ConOps Project Update [Dave Houghton, MACS ConOps Task Force Chair]

Dave Houghton reported on the recent cross-jurisdictional and cross-discipline forum that was held to discuss the Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) development for the region. There was strong consensus that currently there is no adequate mechanism for regional policy decisions on critical resource allocations after a disaster. The forum participants agreed with the planning assumptions that were presented and agreed that the MACS was needed. The result of the forum was direction on a list of things to work on including refining responsibilities and authorities. Participants thought the composition of the regional MAC Group should be multi-disciplinary, multijurisdictional, knowledgeable, available during the disaster response phase, credible, familiar with assets, and represent a strategic policy level. Trust and credibility were identified as key components for the MACS to work.

Next steps will be for the MACS Task Force to begin populating plan content based on an options approach so stakeholders can review and test, e.g. MAC Group membership models. The forum was seen as a success with good participation and consensus on support to move forward with the project. Law enforcement was the one discipline group that did not have good showing at the forum due to a scheduling conflict so the Task Force will meet separately to get more feedback from that group. A separate meeting was also held with Martin Plotner, Oregon Emergency Management Director, and the State Fire Marshal to ensure there is state support for the MACS project. Both were very much in favor.

9. Other Business [Scott Porter]

There were no good of the order contributions. The next Steering Committee meeting will be May 6 with an extended time from 1-5 pm at TVFR.

10. Meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm.