

Approved

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2014, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Portland ECC – Executive Conference Room

9911 SE Bush St., Portland, OR



RDPO

Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization

Unified. Prepared. Resilient.

Attendance: [Quorum was present - 15 of 16 members.]

Steering Committee Members

1. Bob Cozzie, Chair and Public Safety Communications Representative
2. Carmen Merlo, Vice Chair and City of Portland Representative
3. Scott Porter, Immediate Past Chair and Washington County Representative
4. Chief Mike Duyck, Fire/EMS Representative
5. Dave Ford, At-Large Representative: Private Sector/Utilities
6. Dave Houghton, Multnomah County Representative
7. Jason Gates, Law Enforcement Representative
8. Mark Daniel, Program Committee Chair
9. Kathryn Richer, Health System Representative
10. Chief Mike Greisen, Columbia County Representative
11. Rebecca Geisen, Public Works Representative #1: Water
12. Peter Wojcicki, Public Works Representative #2: Transportation
13. Jessica Sampson, proxy for Cara Sloman, At-Large Representative: NGOs
14. Scott Johnson, Clark County Representative
15. Nancy Bush, Clackamas County Representative

Regional Staff and Guests

1. Denise Barrett, RDPO Manager
2. Dave Kirby, Special Agent-In-Charge, Oregon Department of Justice

1) Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review – Bob Cozzie, Chair

Bob Cozzie opened the meeting at 1:02 pm. He welcomed all and asked for self-introductions. Bob acknowledged that this was Peter Wojcicki's first meeting with the SC. Peter is the Portland Bureau of Transportation Street Systems Division Manager, who recently joined the SC to serve in the Public Works #2 position, representing transportation.

Bob then briefly reviewed the agenda, calling for any additions. Hearing none, he proceeded to the next agenda item.

2) Meeting Minutes – Bob Cozzie

Bob asked the SC if they had any changes to the November 3, 2014, meeting minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve them. Carmen Merlo motioned for approval of the minutes as written; Chief Mike Greisen seconded the motion. The SC unanimously approved the minutes.

3) **“Think Big, Act Small, Meet in the Middle: *Response and Recovery Lessons from Christchurch*”** – Carmen Merlo, Director, Portland Bureau of Emergency Management/Vice Chair and City of Portland representative to the SC

- a) Carmen Merlo gave an in-depth PowerPoint presentation on the response and recovery lessons learned from the multiple earthquakes that struck Christchurch, New Zealand, and the surrounding Canterbury Region from September 2010 to December 2011. She had traveled to the region this past fall, so incorporated several firsthand photographs and anecdotes. She also drew many similarities between Christchurch and Portland, especially around population size, concentration of unreinforced masonry (URM), seismic setting and liquefiable soils. The final presentation will be available by Dropbox link in early January 2015. Below are the highlights:
- i) **Impact statistics:**
 - (1) 185 deaths and 6,659 injured (of the 42 deaths caused by URM, 83% occurred outside and were due to falling façades)
 - (2) 1,241 commercial buildings demolished/partially demolished
 - (3) 6,000 businesses/51,000 central city jobs temporarily or permanently displaced
 - (4) \$40 billion direct recovery cost
 - (5) 10,000 residential buildings demolished
 - (6) 528 km (328 mi) of sewer pipes damaged
 - (7) 895 km (556 mi) of roads damaged
 - (8) 124 km (77 mi) of water mains damaged
 - ii) Many **heritage buildings** damaged or destroyed: façade retention is a major goal; several examples of temporary reinforcements to these buildings using shipping containers or iron scaffolding.
 - iii) **Common URM failures:** walls, gables, ornament, chimney and parapet collapses; façades collapsing onto sidewalks and roads; anchorage failures (wall-to-floor; wall-to-roof).
 - (1) Several examples of rows of buildings where URM building sandwiched between other buildings collapsed due to outside buildings shaking/pounding them to the ground.
 - (2) Several examples of salvage (disaster debris) reuse, such as bricks.
 - iv) **Building Act of 2004:**
 - (1) A building is “earthquake prone” if in a moderate earthquake *the building* is likely to collapse causing injury or death, or damage to any other property.
 - (2) “Moderate earthquake”= generate shaking at the site of the building that is of the same duration as, but 1/3 as strong as, the EQ shaking that would be used to design a new building *at that site*.
 - v) **Performance of retrofitted URMs:**
 - (1) 73% of URMs strengthened to at or better than 100% of the National Building Specification (NBS) sustained insignificant levels of overall damage.
 - (2) 72% of URMs strengthened between 33 and 67% of the NBS sustained heavy or major levels of overall building damage.
 - (3) URMs strengthened to less than 33% of the NBS did not perform appreciably better than those with no retrofitting.
 - vi) **Performance of non-ductile reinforced concrete (NDRC) buildings:**
 - (1) NDRCs posed greater risk to life-safety than URMs, as was evidenced in the high death tolls of two key building collapses: the Pyne Gould Corporation Building (18 fatalities) and the Canterbury Television Building (115 fatalities). Both had been inspected multiple times between the various earthquakes.
 - vii) **Some key observations/lessons learned:**

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- (1) Constructing to building code does not mean “earthquake proof.”
 - (2) Many buildings performed well but still had to be demolished.
 - (3) Current performance standards primarily focus on life safety, **not saving the building** and its critical function.
- viii) **The Christchurch Central Business District (CBD):**
- (1) Various parts cordoned off for 859 days (2 years, 4 months); major disruption to the economy. Important to understand how a similar disaster in Portland’s central business district would impact the metropolitan region’s economy.
 - (2) 1,291 CBD buildings impacted; 1,085 demolished.
 - (3) USAR teams paired with engineers.
 - (4) Text EOC at 90-120 minute intervals with status and safety updates.
 - (5) On-call rapid response teams.
 - (6) Operation Shop/Operation Demolition: Rapid response teams aided business owners in retrieving important documents and preparing for damage assessments.
 - (7) Indicator buildings were used as a litmus test for how a certain type of building might perform from earthquake to earthquake.
- ix) **Damage assessment lessons learned:**
- (1) Develop guidelines to assess when and how to enter a damaged building.
 - (2) Need for centralized and accessible database of building information.
 - (3) Clear system of placarding.
 - (4) Effect of no emergency declaration on damage assessment process – referring to the fact that on the December 26, 2010 earthquake, the government did not declare an emergency/disaster.
- x) **Other observations and lessons learned:**
- (1) Public-Private sector partnerships are critical to rebuilding efforts.
 - (2) Must balance speed of rapid assessments to resume economic activity with life safety.
 - (3) Public engagement is critical in the recovery process. Was incorporated in Christchurch for the CBD but later the national government in Wellington took over; they said the City and the people’s vision was not good enough. National government emphasis is on anchor projects and precincts. A more compact CBD.
 - (4) Temporary relocation of businesses to the suburbs (in the Re:Start Mall) was a great way to help businesses survive. Long-term plan for these businesses is needed.
 - (5) Greatest damage to residential areas: those along the rivers (soils prone to liquefaction – similar to Portland’s situation).
 - (6) Where is the progress? Horizontal infrastructure – sewer, water and road infrastructure. More than 600 public works projects.
 - (7) Zoning changes: moving businesses to suburbs.
 - (8) Wage subsidies: \$650 for 12 weeks after the September 2010 earthquake helped provide critical cash to people at a time when their lives/livelihoods most disrupted.
 - (9) Huge mobilization of volunteers, especially youth, to remove silt from homes.
 - (10) Abundant creativity: Cardboard Cathedral across the street from the TV building that collapsed; colorful murals all over town covering damaged buildings; new green spaces; etc.

4) Program Development Update: ***Building the Projects Pipeline*** – Mark Daniel, Program Committee Chair

- a) For his presentation, Mark referred to the handout: *“Fall-Winter 2014 Call for Project Concepts: Steering Committee Review on December 1, 2014.”*

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- b) Mark explained that the document contains 18 project concepts with a total value of \$1,065,000. He said that the Program Committee approved these project concepts at its November 17, 2014, meeting, and prioritized four for potential UASI FY'14 reprogramming funds anticipated to become available in February 2015. He said the PrC now seeks the Steering Committee's feedback and support to continue developing these concepts into full project designs.
- c) Rebecca Geisen mentioned that [the Regional Water Interconnections Study Project](#) would better align with an anticipated FY2015 UASI grant timeframe (early 2016 – early 2017), and so asked that the project be removed as a priority under FY'14 UASI reprogramming. The SC concurred. [Note: given the removal of this project from the list of prioritized projects for UASI FY'14 reprogramming, the SC recommended that the PrC continue prioritizing projects in the pipeline to fill the gap.]
- d) Scott Porter expressed concern about the [Community Resilience Online Platform Development Project](#), due to past failed efforts in the region to develop a regional messaging strategy. RDPO Manager Denise Barrett helped allay his concerns by offering a summary of justifications for the project, including the strong motivation and intention of the Regional Disaster Preparedness Messaging task force, the innovation intended by the project and the trend of moving away from fear-driven models of preparedness messaging to resilience-, social cohesion-centric models. In the end, the SC gave its support for the project.
- e) The SC concurred with the PrC's decision that the [Fire/EMS WG's Large Diameter Hose Project](#) needs to be integrated into the Regional Water Interconnections Study project, or, at minimum, integrate joint fire-water-emergency management planning into the project.
- f) The SC agreed that the [Public Health Work Group's project](#) to develop a consolidated regional public health and medical preparedness program and the EMWG/REMTEC's [Access and Functional Needs Planning Compliance Project](#) were timely and important projects. They concurred with the PrC's proposal to prioritize the two projects for FY'14 UASI reprogramming.
- g) The SC expressed no other concerns and gave general consensus approval of the 18 project concepts and those that the PrC has already prioritized for funding.
- h) Mark concluded this agenda item by explaining that the PrC plans to continue accepting project concepts over the next month. Ultimately, the aim is to have pre-approved, shelf-ready projects in place for both UASI FY2014 reprogramming and the UASI FY2015 application.

5) RDPO Organizational and Other Program Updates – Denise Barrett, RDPO Manager

- a) Denise shared a list of the jurisdictions that have (to her knowledge) signed the RDPO IGA so far: Clark, Clackamas, Columbia and Washington Counties; Portland and Gresham; Metro; and the Port of Portland. Two Core Group members, Multnomah County and TriMet, still need to sign the agreement for it to go into effect. It is anticipated that Multnomah County will approve the IGA on December 4, and that TriMet Board will approve it at its January 2015 meeting.
 - (1) Scott Porter mentioned that he intends to circulate the document to cities and special districts beginning in January. Other county representatives were encouraged to do the same. Scott Johnson mentioned that he had already circulated the IGA to cities and special districts in Clark County and that we can expect to hear at least from Vancouver, which has expressed its intention to sign.
 - (2) Denise said that the hiring process for a new regional planner to replace David Gassaway was nearing completion. She is currently checking references of two top candidates from an original pool of 65 and hopes to appoint one of these to the position by mid-December. We can expect the new planner to start in late January 2015.

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- (a) Dave Ford asked where the funds were coming from to hire this new staff. Denise explained that this was budgeted under UASI FY2014, which the SC approved.
- (b) Dave asked that the SC receive a financial update on a quarterly basis. Denise said she will work with PBEM Finance to make that happen.
- (3) Denise and the THIRA Task Force are finalizing this year's update, which will be submitted to Oregon Emergency Management on December 15, 2014. Denise said the data is presented in an Excel document known as the Universal Reporting Tool (URT). Following upload into the URT, Denise will produce and circulate a Word version of the 2014 THIRA Update (on an "official use only" basis).
- (4) Denise explained that the City of Portland just passed the ordinance to receive the UASI FY2014 award. The IGA between the City of Portland and the Counties and select regional entities and special districts should be available later this month. The goal is to get the IGAs signed by March 2015 so that project funds can begin to flow. All training, exercise and equipment projects need to be completed by December 30, 2015, while planning projects that hire contractors have until February 28, 2015, to wrap up.

6) Good of the Order – Bob Cozzie

- a) Bob called for SC members to share news or other items of interest.
- b) Dave Houghton said Multnomah County is now receiving applications for the Director of the Office of Emergency Management. He expects the position will be filled in January or February 2015.
- c) Carmen Merlo mentioned that PBEM received nearly 200 applications for its Disaster Resilience Planner. This position will be filled in early 2015.
- d) Scott Porter said the Washington County Emergency Fuel Capability Assessment is in final draft. He will share the document once his Board has approved it.
 - i) Dave Ford mentioned that fuel contingency planning is a major priority for PGE.
 - ii) The SC was reminded that the RDPO will take up a regional fuel contingency planning project once the regional planner is on board. The process will start with a concepts and objectives conference in the spring.
- e) Denise asked if SC members had received the survey Dr. Paul Lewis planned to circulate to obtain feedback on Ebola information sharing (an action item from the last meeting). Kathryn Richer confirmed that the survey had not gone out yet. She agreed to follow up with Dr. Lewis, who was unable to attend today's meeting.
- f) Denise mentioned that Mark Daniel will be completing his term as PrC Chair at the end of December and that Sue Mohnkern will matriculate from PrC Vice Chair to Chair on January 1, 2015. Denise Barrett thanked both Mark and Sue, who stood in for Mark as Chair while he was away last year at the FBI Academy, for their leadership of the Program Committee in 2014.
- g) Dave Kirby, who presented at the November SC meeting, expressed his continued interest in receiving input from SC members to help improve the TITAN Fusion Center's performance and build a collaborative partnership.
- h) Bob mentioned the January 5, 2015, SC meeting will be his last meeting as SC Chair. Carmen Merlo will assume the Chair position as of February 2015.

7) Adjourn: with no other business at hand, Bob closed the meeting at 3:06 pm.