

Policy Committee Meeting

September 26, 2014

9:00 – 11:00 AM

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



RDPO

Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization

Unified. Prepared. Resilient.

Meeting Summary

This meeting summary serves to inform the many Policy Committee members (mostly representatives of the cities) who were unable to attend the September 26 Policy Committee meeting, and other interested RDPO stakeholders, of the meeting's presentations, discussions and outcomes. It was believed that many of those absent were attending the 89th Annual Conference of the Oregon League of Cities; meeting planners were not aware of this conflict in schedules. The official minutes will be finalized in due course.

Members present:

1. Tony Hyde, Commissioner, Columbia County and Chair of the RDPO Policy Committee
2. Kathryn Harrington, Councilor, Metro
3. John Ludlow, Commissioner/Chair, Clackamas County
4. Dick Schouten, Commissioner, Washington County
5. Larry J. Smith, Councilor, City of Vancouver
6. Raffaele Timarchi, proxy for Loretta Smith, Commissioner, Multnomah County

Note: David Madore, Commissioner, Clark County attempted to participate by WebEx but technical difficulties prevented his full participation.

Several Steering Committee members were also present.

I. Presentations on Local Incidents:

Note: The meeting planners had scheduled Heather Kelly of the Snohomish Office of Emergency Management to give a presentation remotely by WebEx on the Snohomish County SR530 Slide (A.K.A. the Oso Mudslide) Long-Term Recovery. Due to technical difficulties at the TVFR site, the presentation had to be postponed. Two other local incidents were covered instead.

A. The Estacada "pit 36" Wildfire: Nancy Bush, Director of Emergency Management for Clackamas County, supported by Clackamas County Chair John Ludlow, gave a presentation on the 36 Pit Fire near Estacada that commenced on September 13, 2014, and is still an active fire and being contained.. The location of the wildfire is 8 miles SE of Estacada along Hwy. 224 and the Clackamas River. The response operation has included several interesting features, such as public notification, use of social media, mandatory evacuations utilizing the multi-leveled system, donations management, road/recreation site closures, sheltering, and a unified command structure.

- A Unified Command combining the Oregon Department of Forestry, Washington Incident Management Team 2, the Oregon State Fire Marshal Blue Team, working together with local

firefighting crews from Estacada and other local fire districts, was established on September 15, 2014. Both ground crews and air craft have been used for fire suppression and containment. Nancy said the key portion of the fire is 55% contained as of today (9/26/2014). Even though the overall wildfire is fully contained, it is expected to smolder until the first snows of the year, so needs continual monitoring until then.

- Governor Kitzhaber invoked the Emergency Conflagration Act on September 15th, which allowed for the mobilization of structural protection task forces and equipment from throughout the State of Oregon.
- The fire grew to more than 5,500 acres. Most of the fire growth occurred on Sunday, 9/14 and Monday, 9/15 burning on both sides of Highway 224. Due to heavy winds the fire jumped the river twice. It spread up-slope and bumped up against the 45 Road/Hillockburn Road.
- Clackamas County Sheriff's Office called several levels of evacuation, including Level III evacuations (leave now) of residents of about 40 homes on Southeast Fall Creek Road and Michaels Road and 50 residents at Silver Fox RV Park. Nancy's staff utilized GIS maps to identify houses that needed to be notified through the Clackamas County Emergency Notification (CCENS) system.
- Several campgrounds were also evacuated and remain closed; many of these residents are low-income and face hardships.
- The Red Cross opened a shelter in collaboration with the Estacada First Baptist Church.
- Several roads remain closed in the area and Hwy 224 will remain closed indefinitely just south of Estacada.
- The Regional Animal MAC Group activated and coordinated large and small animal evacuations in the area quite successfully.
- Among the roles Clackamas County EM played: managing public warning (CCENS a reverse 9-1-1 like system was used for evacuation notices); setting up and managing a Facebook Page and other public information; and coordination with partners for evacuations, sheltering, donations management and other mass care.
- Chair Ludlow explained that he used to fish in this region as a child and that terrain is steep and rocky, with ravines capable of generating their own wind that, together with the forest fuels, is a recipe for a fast-moving wildfire. He also mentioned that the smoke degraded the air quality as far away as Albany and Corvallis.

Nancy concluded that an After Action Report will be prepared in the near future and shared with colleagues.

B. The Scoggins Creek Fire, Washington Co: Washington County Commissioner Dick Schouten, and staff of Washington County Emergency Management, including EM Director Scott Porter and EM Supervisor Steve Muir, briefed Policy Committee on the Scoggins Creek Fire. Largely under control at the time of the Policy Committee meeting, this fire burned primarily on private timberland owned by Stimson Lumber Co. Cause of the fire was unknown, though record low fuel moistures indicative of high fire risk were said to be a contributing factor.

The Oregon Department of Forestry stood up an Incident Management Team 2, which worked with local fire fighting forces. Water from nearby Hagg Lake was used by helicopters and Super Scooper water tanker planes to douse the fire.

Though a small fire at just over 300 acres, the proximity to Forest Grove was a cause for concern. The fire prompted some temporary evacuations from the area. Scott Porter mentioned that the Level 1, 2 and 3 evacuation system was just standardized this year in Oregon.

Commissioner Schouten said that establishing and maintaining a Facebook page for the incident was important in keeping the public updated.

A discussion then ensued about FEMA reimbursement and the need for impeccable record-keeping.

Next PC Meeting: Committee members agreed that it would be beneficial for the Policy Committee to review the cost reimbursement policies of FEMA, as well as all of the steps in the disaster declaration process, so that they can be better educated.

II. RDPO Updates/Discussions

A. RDPO Intergovernmental Agreement Regional Rollout Plan: Scott Porter, Washington County Representative/Immediate Past Chair, RDPO Steering Committee, supported by RDPO Manager Denise Barrett, shared the rollout plan for obtaining approval of the RDPO IGA around the five-county region. He said that a package of documents went out this past week to key points of contact (POCs) in the counties, the City of Portland, the three regional entities (i.e., Metro, Port of Portland and TriMet), and a few other cities and special districts. Other jurisdictions participating in the start-up RDPO will receive their packet from the appropriate county POC.

Scott explained that the immediate aim is to obtain approval from the Core Group of Participating Jurisdictions as quickly as possible, which will then make the IGA effective. All other jurisdictions interested in signing the IGA are also encouraged to approve and sign it in the next six months, as well as consider contributing to the RDPO projects fund.

Scott said that Bob Cozzie would explain the organizational impact of the IGA going into effect during his presentation (see below).

The packet included a cover letter from Bob Cozzie, the final RDPO IGA, an IGA FAQ sheet, the RDPO FY2014 Local Cost Share Methodology, and the FY2014 Budget and Work Plan. It is available at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nk5fk6lm4w8ekvp/AAD3lbkeMkFtm_5tQI9qOUKda?dl=0

Policy Committee Assistance in the IGA rollout effort: Chair Hyde said that he is willing to make personal visits to commissions and councils, as the need arises. Commissioner Schouten said he has already circulated the IGA and associated documents to his fellow commissioners.

B. Organizational Changes as the RDPO IGA Goes into Effect: Bob Cozzie, Chair and Public Safety Communications Representative, Steering Committee, supported by RDPO Manager Denise Barrett, provided an overview of the key organizational changes that will go into effect upon the signing of the RDPO IGA by the Core Group:

- The composition of the Policy, Steering and Grants and Finance Committees will change. This means that
 - Any jurisdiction with a representative on the current Policy, Steering and/or Grants and Finance Committees (the PC, SC and GFC) that elects not to sign the IGA will remove its representative(s) at the time the IGA becomes effective.

- Any Participating Jurisdiction -- i.e., signatory to the IGA -- that currently does not have a representative on the Policy, Steering and/or Finance and Grants Committee will name/appoint an appropriate representative to each, as necessary.
- All new members will receive an orientation by either the RDPO Manager or a local point of contact (usually a Steering Committee member), and will be invited to start their term by attending the first Policy Committee meeting following the IGA's effective date.
- PC, SC and GFC meetings will incorporate new voting procedures
 - Table tent cards can be labeled to differentiate between Contributing and Non-Contributing Members – i.e. those eligible to vote on all RDPO matters and those that can vote on all matters except those of a financial nature.
 - A roll call of contributing members could also be used when votes are taken on financial matters. Most other matters tend to require consensus agreement.
- The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the PC, SC and GFC will be revised to reflect changes to the definition of membership and voting, as well as other required or needed changes.
 - We will start working on revising the Policy Committee's SOP now but wait to have the formalized Policy Committee review and approve the final version.
- The Policy Committee will enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Lead Administrative Agency (i.e., the City of Portland), which the PC Chair will sign on the Policy Committee's behalf once the IGA is signed.
- The RDPO Program Management Policies and Procedures, which include committee authority limits, will be revised to align with the IGA and then approved by the Steering and Policy Committees.

Policy Committee discussion: Committee members expressed understanding of/support for the anticipated changes.

John Ludlow, Clackamas Chair, and Tony Hyde voiced concerns about Clark County's decision to not contribute to the RDPO's core costs this year. Larry Smith, Vancouver City Council, explained that Clark County, Vancouver, Camas and other jurisdictions in the County are committed to participating in the RDPO, adding that the act of not contributing now is reflective of the current political climate. He said Clark and other jurisdictions such as his own may contribute in future once the organization gets more established and the value is clear.

C. Regional Multiagency Coordination System (RMACS) Development Project Update: Nancy Bush, who chairs the task force for this project, updated the PC on the status of the RMACS development, beginning with a review of the need for the all-hazards regional coordination system and the work completed to date. She said that the ConOps plan itself is currently being accepted in the five counties so that it can be operationalized. Acceptance of the plan will help support the advancement of other activities in the 18-month (July 2014 – December 2015) implementation work plan, which the project

task force has recently completed. These activities include establishing an all-hazards regional MAC Group and support organization; securing a site where the MAC Group can work in the event of an emergency/disaster; and resolving outstanding issues with resource ordering at the State level (Oregon Emergency Management, Oregon Public Health Authority and Oregon State Fire Marshall's Office). Nancy emphasized that MAC Group members need to have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the jurisdictions they represent.

There were no major questions or discussion on this topic.

D. Good of the Order: Councilor Harrington asked her colleagues if they were tracking the progress of the Governor's Task Force on the Implementation of Oregon Resilience Plan (ORP), including the Resilience Task Force Land Use Recommendations. There was limited awareness around the table about the status of both. Denise shared that she has already invited Jay Wilson, the chair of the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Committee (OSSPAC), to the winter Policy Committee meeting to provide an update on the implementation of the ORP and share impressions from his recent return trip to Japan. Also, Denise mentioned that she is tracking the status of initiatives that directly relate to RDPO work, such as disaster preparedness messaging in an effort to ensure coordination.

The link below provides an update on the Governor's Task Force on the Implementation of the ORP:

http://www.flashalertnewswire.net/images/news/2014-09/3986/78312/2014_09_29_ORTF_Report.pdf

The next meeting of the RDPO Policy Committee will be in January or early February 2015. Denise will send a Doodle poll to the Policy and Steering Committees along with this briefing to help identify the specific date and time.
