

Policy Committee Meeting

January 29, 2016

9:00 – 11:00 am

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



RDPO

Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization

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Meeting Minutes

Policy Committee (PC) Members Present: [Quorum met: 12 of 14 members]

1. Tony Hyde, Commissioner, Columbia County and PC Chair
2. Steve Novick, Commissioner, City of Portland and PC Vice Chair
3. Rich Allen, Councilor, City of Troutdale
4. Catherine Arnold, Councilor, City of Beaverton
5. Karylenn Echols, Councilor, City of Gresham
6. Kathryn Harrington, Councilor, Metro
7. John Ludlow, Commissioner/Chair, Clackamas County
8. Harry Saporta, TriMet
9. Dick Schouten, Commissioner, Washington County

Steering Committee Members Present:

1. Nancy Bush, SC Chair and Clackamas County Representative
2. Bob Cozzie, Past Chair and Public Safety Communications Representative
3. Ray DiPasquale, Public Works Representative
4. Jason Gates, Law Enforcement Representative
5. Scott Johnson, Clark County and City of Vancouver Representative
6. Mike Mumaw, Emergency Management Representative
7. Scott Porter, Past Chair and Washington County Representative
8. Tripp Robinson, Private Sector (Industry) Representative, Intel Corp.

Other RDPO and Guests:

1. Denise Barrett, RDPO Manager
2. Emma Stocker, RDPO Planning Coordinator
3. Luis Hernandez, Multnomah County Emergency Management
4. Anna Pendergrass, Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA)
5. Mike Lewis, Emergency Response and Continuity of Operations, Clark County
6. Daniel Nibouar, Disaster Debris Planner, Metro
7. David Gassaway, Washington County Emergency Management
8. Kelle Landavazo, Gresham Emergency Management
9. Cynthia Valdivia, Washington County Public Health Emergency Preparedness
10. Vincent Aarts, Columbia County Emergency Management
11. Timur Ender, Commissioner Steve Novick's Office, City of Portland

1) Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review – Commissioner Novick

- a) As Chair Hyde was delayed in arriving to the meeting, Vice Chair Novick called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. He invited all present to introduce themselves and established that a quorum of members was present.
- b) He then reviewed the agenda and asked for additions. Hearing none, he proceeded to the next agenda item.

2) Administrative Matters – Commissioner Novick

Commissioner Novick called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2015, Policy Committee meeting. Councilor Harrington motioned to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Schouten seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3) RDPO Legislative Agenda – Commissioner Novick

- a) Commissioner Novick opened the session by directing the Policy Committee (PC) to a [handout](#) that outlines a series potential topics/issues for consideration in developing a RDPO state and federal legislative agenda. He shared discussion-framing questions:
 - i) Which subjects/topics or current bills are jurisdictions on the RDPO Policy Committee willing to support and at what level?
 - ii) Which advocacy methods are the jurisdictions willing to employ (e.g., joint letters, testimony given by RDPO Policy Committee leadership or committee members, legislative days, phone calls, etc.)
 - iii) Other key decisions:
 - (1) How much lead time do Policy Committee members typically need to obtain support from their councils/boards?
 - (2) Is it important to have unanimous support on initiatives, or can RDPO initiatives move forward by tactfully naming those that have and have not given their support?
- b) Prior to diving into the issues/topics presently listed, Commissioner Novick proposed adding to the discussion sending an RDPO delegation to Washington, D.C. (WDC) this spring, as well as meeting Oregon Governor Brown and the proposed new State Resilience Officer.
- c) Commissioner Novick proposed adding to the discussion of potential RDPO state level advocacy what has been a City of Portland policy development pursuit regarding homeowner disclosure of seismic retrofitting efforts at the time of sale. The PC did not reach consensus to pursue this topic at this time.
- d) Concerning Homeland Security/UASI funding, Commissioner Schouten said this is a clear federal legislative agenda priority because Portland will continue to be on the edge of funding. Denise mentioned that while this body has never taken joint action on this topic, individual RDPO member jurisdictions have submitted letters and/or engaged the Washington and Oregon Congressional delegations.
 - i) Commissioner Echols asked if the PC should advocate for UASI to fund at minimum 30 Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Commissioner Novick expressed that this may not be the best approach.
 - (1) Denise added that the advocacy messages have tended to encourage DHS/FEMA to fund a long list of Urban Areas and maintain a minimum grant of \$3 million due to the administrative demands of the grant.

- ii) Commissioner Ludlow shared his concern that the issue of sanctuary cities will come up again and work against future UASI funding. Commissioner Novick said he didn't think the issue would come up again, having been resoundingly defeated the first time.
- iii) Commissioner Schouten said that the annual challenges to securing the UASI funding raise numerous questions: What role does Congress play in this? What is the process? What role do our own legislative representatives play? He added that it would probably be a good idea to talk to our own and other representatives and may be useful to have an annual visit to WDC that could piggyback on the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) annual visit.
 - (1) A short discussion followed on developing an RDPO-specific UASI advocacy position. The PC was in agreement that this was important to pursue.
- iv) Denise asked Tripp Robinson, industry representative to the RDPO Steering Committee and Intel's Emergency Manager, to discuss his upcoming trip to WDC.
 - (1) Tripp explained that Intel has been invited to participate in the White House Earthquake Resilience Summit, which is next week. He said part of the event will focus on early warning systems for the West Coast. The past Omnibus budget provided \$8 million in funding, and another \$8.2 million is expected from the private sector for what is ultimately a \$30 million+ project, not including annual maintenance.
 - (a) Tripp said he was pleased to attend today's meeting to receive guidance directly from the Policy Committee prior to the WDC event and his planned work on Capitol Hill to advocate on Intel and RDPO advocacy items.
 - (b) Councilor Harrington mentioned that Tripp will find Congresswoman Bonamici an enthusiastic supporter.
 - (c) Commissioner Novick thanked Tripp for his willingness to advocate on behalf of the RDPO.
- e) Commissioner Schouten raised the subject of an RDPO PC delegation visit to WDC. He said perhaps an annual trip to WDC could piggyback on the annual visit of the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (PACT).
 - i) Councilor Echols mentioned that there is an annual visit with the League of Cities, as well, which might provide a partnership opportunity for the RDPO.
 - ii) Denise said that it would be a great idea to coordinate with various associations to do UASI and other advocacy during their trips to WDC.
 - iii) Commissioner Novick then asked: How many PC members could do a trip this spring? Several shared that they would consider traveling as part of the delegation. Some members said they already have planned trips and would be willing to add RDPO items to their meetings on the Hill.
- f) Commissioner Novick transitioned the group to reviewing other advocacy items on the list.
 - i) He explained why disaster mitigation was on the list. Primarily it is because the funds for the entire country are only \$30 million. He said this amount seems absurdly small relative to funds allocated to disaster response, as well as in light of the growing concerns about lack of preparedness for large catastrophic events, such as earthquakes. He said it may make sense to reach out to other regions to do joint appeals for increased funding.
 - (1) Councilor Harrington said she would prefer taking the long view on this and other issues on the list, ensuring that we have a well-developed strategy and partnerships in place for the advocacy.

- ii) Councilor Allen shared what the City of Troutdale’s council had recently discussed and agreed:
 - (1) On the UASI grants: it comes down to what the requirements would be associated with the funding; would be supportive of a minimum amount;
 - (2) Early Warning System: Troutdale Council is supportive
 - (3) Disaster mitigation: this just makes sense; preventative is better than reactive.
- iii) Commissioner Novick raised the challenge the region faces being bridge dependent and anticipating many failures in an earthquake. He said he would like to ask for federal support for Burnside Bridge upgrades.
 - (1) Councilor Harrington advised that the PC review MAP-21, the first new federal transportation legislation to pass since 2009. It will provide \$109 billion in federal funding for highways and transit projects across the nation over the next 27 months.
 - (2) Councilor Echols asked if the emergency transportation routes are prioritized in the region.
 - (a) Denise said the region has in place an emergency transportation routes plan.
 - (b) Councilor Harrington said it would be great to include the ETR in the Portland Regional Transportation Plan as an addendum. All agreed. [Document was shared with Council Harrington after the meeting.]
 - (3) Commissioner Novick raised the topic of the Portland energy infrastructure hub and its high vulnerability to earthquake damage. He said it would be great if all the companies with physical assets there could do an impact assessment. He said he has talked with Sen Wyden about creating such a requirement, with incentives, under the federal government, which has regulatory oversight.
 - (a) Commissioner Schouten asked: What does Los Angeles or the Bay Area do on this point, with tanks and hazardous materials?
 - (i) Denise said that we will have to do some research.
 - (ii) Councilor Harrington said she is hesitant to jump right to regulation. Also is thinking about the other western states; she asked to what degree has anyone studied the impacts?
 - (iii) Commissioner Novick said that assessments have been completed, which demonstrate the significance of the problem; action is the next step.
 - (iv) Commissioner Schouten: Considering the oil and gas infrastructure in Southern California, we could probably learn something there.
 - (v) Commissioner Novick said that he and PBEM Director Merlo have met with the Olympic Pipeline operators. They have / are in process of upgrading the pipeline.
 - (vi) Councilor Allen asked if the region has enough fuel for response.
 - 1. Denise responded that the region is currently working on a fuel contingency plan.
 - (4) Bob Cozzie, executive director Clackamas County 9-1-1 and RDPO Steering Committee member, provided insight on the item related to dispatchers’ reclassification. He said they are currently classified as clerical, which has an impact on flexibility of scheduling. Proposed change would allow dispatchers to retire on the same timeline as other public safety employees. Currently dispatchers have to work 30 years before qualifying for full

retirement. 9-1-1 agencies would like to see a reduction to 25 years to match other public safety employees.

- (a) Chair Ludlow asked about the cost of that change.
 - (b) Mr. Cozzie replied that it could reduce overtime because there is more flexibility with schedule and ability to define pay period. He added that because of earlier retirements, there could be higher turnover. Bob plans to travel to WDC to participate in the "9-1-1 goes to Washington" initiative to discuss this and other issues. He said a letter from RDPO would be helpful.
 - (c) Commissioner Ludlow said he would like information on budget impact before signing.
 - (d) Councilor Harrington asked to know what unions would be impacted.
 - (e) Mr. Cozzie replied, "AFSME." He reiterated that dispatchers are in favor of the change in classification.
- (5) Mr. Cozzie then explained the proposed change in the 9-1-1 tax. He said this tax is included on phone bills. It gets collected at the state and is divided into three buckets: maintenance of equipment; some 9-1-1 center operational costs; and certain position costs at state level (some controversial). He would like to open the dialogue to determine the best direction for those funds. There is a 1% rule, where some counties get 1% of the quarterly allocations. What you see is that many of the counties are small or operate in rural areas on behalf of multiple counties. These groups get all of their funds from this allocation. But in larger areas, only 18% of the overall budget comes from 9-1-1 tax; the rest comes from fees charged to user entities.
- (a) Councilor Harrington asked if a fully equitable distribution was the original intent.
 - (b) Mr. Cozzie replied, "No."
 - (c) Councilor Harrington said that it sounds like it's time to revisit the cost allocation.
- (6) Councilor Harrington said she would like to add topics: Forest Service having wildfire funding, shifting funds away from management; levees along the Columbia and working with many federal agencies.
- (7) Denise added: Oregon Senate Bill (SB) 808 will not be covered in the 2016 Oregon legislative session. The intention of this bill is to establish a task force to review established state and local plans and make recommendations to prepare for and respond to catastrophic consequences and mass displacement that may result from naturally occurring seismic events.
- iv) With time for this agenda item running out, committee members agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting. Commissioner Novick concluded that the group agrees on joint advocacy for UASI funding but needs to more deeply research, analyze and discuss the other topics. Government relations staff of the jurisdictional members of the RDPO PC also need to be engaged. Denise agreed to:
- (1) Share the Emergency Transportation Routes Plan with Councilor Harrington;
 - (2) Contact the City of Portland Government Relations Office about the feasibility/prudence of a springtime WDC advocacy trip and to work on scheduling a post-legislative session meeting with Governor Brown and the State Resilience Officer;
 - (3) Begin to engage the government relations staff of all RDPO jurisdictional members; and
 - (4) Conduct additional research on the many items on the draft legislative agenda.

4) Policy Committee SOP (Bylaws) Revision and FY2016 Local Cost Share Methodology – Scott Porter, Washington County Representative to the RDPO Steering Committee and Denise Barrett, RDPO Manager

- a) Mr. Porter said this item was carried over from the October 9, 2015, Policy Committee meeting to give ample time for members to review needed/proposed changes to the Policy Committee's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).
- b) Mr. Porter said the original SOP was written prior to the IGA that formalized the RDPO. Several key elements of the IGA, including membership categories and decision-making protocols, precipitate a need to revise the Policy Committee's SOP. The Committee has an opportunity to further define who can hold leadership positions, terms of office, and voting privileges.
 - i) Commissioner Ludlow asked whether a non-payee should have full voting rights and access to leadership roles. He said the Clackamas County Board had voted no. Pay to play is an approach in line with the County's other organizational affiliations. He said he would like to see only paying members eligible to serve as committee leaders.
 - (1) Denise Barrett clarified that presently all members of the Committee are paying members.
 - (2) Councilor Echols said that as the representative of Gresham, a new paying member, she agrees that it's important to have only contributing members in leadership roles.
 - (3) Councilor Allen said that the Troutdale council talked about this subject and decided they don't want to limit engagement, but buy-in / contribution should be important for leadership roles.
 - (4) Councilor Harrington said that she agrees with the importance of contributions as a requirement for leadership roles. She also expressed her belief in allowing for opportunities to spread the workload of the committee leaders, and that she is not in favor of specific term limits for leadership roles.
 - (5) Councilor Allen proposed reviewing the leaders every so often.
 - (6) Councilor Harrington said that the PC could vote every year, but the leaders could continue.
 - (7) Denise Barrett said that the current SOP states that the leadership roles are "one-year renewable."
 - (8) Councilor Echols advised including a set of criteria for eligibility to hold a leadership position on the committee. Others agreed.
 - (9) Councilor Harrington advised adding some language to the SOP to cover handling leadership vacancies.
 - (10) After a bit more discussion on SOP, Commissioner Ludlow motioned the following:
 - (a) That the Chair and Vice Chair terms shall be for two years; that the Vice Chair shall not automatically ascend to the Chair; that a nominating committee be identified every two years; and that candidates for Chair and Vice Chair must come from contributing members. Councilor Arnold seconded the motion. Chair Hyde called for a vote. All members voted in favor of the proposed changes to the PC SOP and directed Scott Porter and Denise Barrett to complete the final revision of the document for Committee approval at the next meeting.
 - (11) Councilor Harrington then motioned for Chair Hyde and Vice Chair Novick to be re-elected to serve another two years (January 2016 – December 2017). Commissioner Ludlow seconded the motion. The committee members unanimously re-elected

Commissioner Hyde as PC Chair and Commissioner Novick as PC Vice Chair for the period January 2016 – December 2017.

(12) Scott Porter continued to review sections of the SOP for potential revision.

(a) He asked is the committee still wants a two-thirds vote on items such as to approve the revision of the PC SOP.

(i) Chair Hyde asked if the intention is for 2/3 of all voting members or 2/3 of those who show up.

(ii) Denise Barrett replied that it is 2/3 majority of a quorum that shows up. Denise reminded the committee that each jurisdiction can appoint a proxy to cover in the absence of the regular member.

(13) With all points related to revising the SOP having been covered, Scott Porter and Denise Barrett agreed to make the recommended changes and bring the final version for approval to the spring PC meeting.

c) RDPO FY2016-17 Local Cost Share Methodology – Denise Barrett, RDPO Manager

i) Denise said that she has now been able to incorporate updated population figures in the [RDPO FY2016-17 Local Cost Share Methodology](#) for all the counties and cities, which slightly impacts RDPO contribution amounts. She drew the committee members' attention to the RDPO Manager's budget on the last page, which is a new feature.

ii) Denise said that a vote on this could be taken today, but that she would have to follow up through email to attain votes from absent core members (including Clark and Multnomah Counties and the Port of Portland).

iii) Chair Hyde motioned for the approval of the RDPO FY16-17 LCSM. Commissioner Schouten seconded the motion; all in attendance approved. [Post-meeting Denise followed up with the absent members, all of whom voted in favor of the RDPO FY16-17 LCSM.]

5) RDPO Updates – Denise Barrett, RDPO Manager

a) Denise shared highlights from the [RDPO Update \(January - February 2016\)](#).

b) Denise also reviewed the [RDPO 2016 Committee and Staff Work Plan](#).

c) There were no questions.

6) Winter Emergency Response Efforts and FEMA's Preliminary Disaster Assessments – County Emergency Managers/EM Representatives

a) Denise Barrett introduced the topic, indicating that she thought the Policy Committee might appreciate understanding the impact of the December storms around the region, as well as hearing how each of the five county emergency management agencies are doing with FEMA's preliminary disaster assessment process.

b) Luis Hernandez, Multnomah County:

i) Multnomah County stood up an emergency ops center, co-located with Troutdale.

ii) City of Portland stood up its ECC.

iii) Response efforts included mobilizing a shelter for 94 families.

iv) A lot of traffic control issues; several landslides and road cuts.

v) After the incident - conducted an initial damage assessment, reached out to citizens and businesses, and residents. About \$1 million in damages to individual properties; \$3-5 million in damage to businesses; public sector \$6 million estimated damages.

vi) Threshold for Multnomah County for declaration is \$2.8 million.

- vii) On January 13, 2016, teams from FEMA toured sites. County currently waiting to hear final results. Overall, 13 counties included in the request for presidential declaration. Six counties recommended for Individual Assistance (IA) and Small Business Administration (SBA) assistance, and all 13 for Public Assistance (PA). Expecting more information within the month.
- c) Scott Johnson – Clark/Washington Region IV:
 - i) Washington State is based on a regional structure. His organization, CRESA, covers all of Washington Region IV.
 - ii) Mudslide north of Woodland. Activated EOCs. Cowlitz County was cut off; did some sheltering; localized damage and flooding. Clark did not but Cowlitz County did qualify for IA, PA and SBA.
 - iii) December wind storms, culminating in tornado. Twenty-five homes and two public properties damaged. Clark County sustained \$2.1 million in damages, excluding federal roads. State of Washington has \$12 million in claims. Governor has requested Presidential disaster declaration.
- d) Vince Aarts, Columbia County Emergency Management:
 - i) Impacts continuous and accumulating.
 - ii) Connection between original flooding and then the wind event.
 - iii) Advocated for expansion of incident period and OEM supported, arriving at Dec 6-23, 2015.
 - iv) Began IDA on January 8; \$7.173 million in damages countywide.
 - v) \$175,000 is county threshold; state threshold is about \$5 million.
 - vi) A lot of damage came on December 21st. PUDs had \$1.5 million worth of damages that day; 63 roads impassable. Traffic impacts (i.e., traffic re-routing) in Columbia County from I-5 landslides.
 - vii) Did some of the damage assessment virtually with OEM and FEMA.
- e) Nancy Bush, Clackamas County:
 - i) Clackamas County EOC was stood up.
 - ii) Flooding by Johnson Creek; worked well with Portland.
 - iii) Flooding: 15 units in an apartment complex had one- to two-feet of water; fire department evacuated several homes. Flooding in low areas, so scattered around county.
 - iv) December 20th Oregon City landslide; 51 units impacted, majority low income families; still have 10 families looking for homes.
 - v) Oregon City had Red Cross shelter open the week before Christmas; meant school was available as a shelter for some time.
 - vi) Oregon City paid for several families to be in a hotel.
 - vii) Had to deal with animal sheltering. Great response from regional animal multi-agency group. Adoptable animals were moved out of the local animal shelter so the animals from the landslide could be sheltered locally.
 - viii) First time to use drone to survey damage. Lot of damage to parks.
 - ix) Coming shy of \$1.3 million damage threshold, but anticipate more to add to the assessment.
- f) Scott Porter, Washington County
 - i) Began response on December 7, 2015.
 - ii) His organization had staff embedded in the public works operations center.
 - iii) Did not do a declaration for the rain, but did a declaration to waive procurement rules to make emergency repairs to a road.

- iv) Biggest impacts to roadways in rural areas; some culvert blowouts. Also some landslides. Park impacts in Tualatin.
- v) Majority of costs in emergency response work and debris removal.
- vi) \$4.7 million total damages; \$1 million on federal highways.
- g) Additional Comments
 - i) Councilor Harrington - noticed that some roads that typically flood, did not this year; sees that as a mark of progress on natural habitats and mitigation.
 - ii) Chair Hyde - due to mitigation, significantly less damage during this storm.
 - iii) Denise Barrett – it would be interesting to look at these positive results more closely.
 - iv) Commissioner Ludlow - mitigation is a push and pull when it comes to private property rights, especially with LIDAR data about vulnerable areas.
 - v) Chair Hyde - Vernonia is an example of how land use planning is key to preventing and mitigating these kinds of impacts.
 - vi) Councilor Harrington - Metro and PSU population center are working together on economic modeling of climate change.
 - vii) Chair Hyde - movement afoot to change FEMA funding structure. In February have a legislative meeting of the National Association of Counties about the so-called “Disaster Deductible.” More at: <http://www.fema.gov/disaster-deductible>.
- 7) **Good of the Order** – Chair Hyde
Next meeting: Denise Barrett will circulate a Doodle poll, aiming at a late April or May 2016 date.
- 8) **Adjournment** – Chair Hyde adjourned the meeting at 11:07 am.