



Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

July 29th, 2016, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Metro Regional Building

600 NE Grand Ave, Portland, OR 97232

Policy Committee (PC) Members Present: [Quorum not met: 7 of 14 members]

1. Tony Hyde, Commissioner, Columbia County and PC Chair
2. Rich Allen, Councilor, City of Troutdale
3. Karylinn Echols, Councilor, City of Gresham
4. Kathryn Harrington, Councilor, Metro
5. Vince Granato, Chief Operating Officer, Port of Portland
6. Dick Schouten, Commissioner, Washington County
7. Bill Turlay, Councilor, City of Vancouver

Steering Committee Members Present:

1. Nancy Bush, Chair and Clackamas County Representative
2. Mike Mumaw, Vice Chair and Emergency Management Representative
3. Rebecca Geisen, Regional Water Providers Consortium Representative
4. Dr. Paul Lewis, Public Health Representative
5. Scott Johnson, Washington County Representative
6. Scott Porter, Past Chair and Washington County Representative
7. Tripp Robinson, Private Sector (Industry) Representative
8. Chris Voss, Multnomah County Representative
9. Craig Ward, City of Troutdale Representative

RDPO Staff and Guests:

1. Denise Barrett, RDPO Manager
2. Adrienne Schmidt, RDPO Project Assistant
3. Laura Bruno, RDPO Planning Coordinator
4. Lisa McOwen, TITAN Fusion Center, Oregon Department of Justice
5. Mike Lewis, Emergency Response and Continuity of Operations, Clark County
6. Kelle Landavazo, Gresham Emergency Management
7. Timur Ender, Commissioner Steve Novick's Office, City of Portland
8. Nils Tillstrom, Government Relations Office, City of Portland
9. Ariel Nelson, Government Relations Office, City of Portland

I. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Tony Hyde

Chair Hyde (Columbia County Commissioner) opened the meeting at 9:04 am and welcomed all, noting a high absentee rate. RDPO Manager Denise Barrett said she received several last-minute regrets.

Chair Hyde then asked all for self-introductions.

II. Administrative Matters – Chair Hyde and Denise Barrett, RDPO Manager

- a. Recognizing that a quorum of PC members was not present, Chair Hyde postponed the review and approval the Policy Committee’s April 29, 2016 meeting to the next meeting.
- b. Chair Hyde informed the PC that he would be rotating off the Policy Committee at the end of the calendar year, due to having not won the Columbia County primary for his Columbia County Commission seat. Denise Barrett said she would send an email to the PC after the meeting to recruit members to a nominating committee to begin the identification of candidates interested in running for PC Chair.

III. Shake Alert Presentation – Tripp Robinson, Intel Corporation Emergency Manager and Private Sector (Industry) Representative to the RDPO Steering Committee

- a. Tripp shared his experience attending the White House Earthquake Resilience Summit, as well as meeting with several Congressional leaders, earlier this year. The Summit centered on the potential for fully funding the West Coast Earthquake Early Warning system. It drew seismologists and key earthquake preparedness stakeholders from California, Oregon and Washington. [Click here to access the slides.](#)
- b. Tripp said that the summit came on the heels of the great interest generated by the New Yorker article “The Really Big One.” He explained that with earthquakes being the only disaster to hit without any advance warning, the system gives people a potential one to four minutes to prepare for seismic activity.
- c. “Shake Alert,” as it’s called, is proven technology already being used in countries like Japan, Mexico, Turkey and Romania. Tripp saw the system in action while at a Starbucks in Japan when an earthquake was coming. Everyone got their alerts on their phones, got in a safe position, and went back to their business after the quake was over. This one- to four-minute warning could be enough to save money, infrastructure, and most importantly lives. (Some examples of steps that could be taken include grounding elevators, turning on generators, finding a safe location to drop, cover, and hold on or even evacuate a building.) The philosophy Tripp promoted in Washington D.C. was rapid restoration and the ability to continue operations by keeping people safe.
- d. The legislative items Tripp presented in Washington D.C., on behalf of RDPO, were focused on the UASI grant program, the Early Warning System, the Disaster Mitigation Resilience Program funds, Transportation Bridge Seismic Retrofitting, and Critical Energy Infrastructure HUB. He met with Senate and House representatives who voiced significant support. The main challenge is funding.

IV. Resilience Related Bills for 2017 Oregon Legislative Session – Jay Wilson, Clackamas County Resilience Coordinator and Chair of the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC)

- a. Jay presented on the main items OSSPAC is working on for the 2017 Oregon legislative session. “Keeping Communities Intact” is the theme tying the items together.
- b. Jay shared a letter he recently sent to Senator Arnie Roblan and Representative Paul Evans seeking advice on how to prioritize the five items before OSSPAC approaches the House and Senate and the Governor’s office. They will be scheduling face time with Senator Roblan soon. [Click here to access Jay's letter.](#) [Note: That letter is an updated version, which includes a sixth item, proposed school-based earthquake awareness curriculum.] The five original items are:
 - i. Re-issuing S.B. 808 ‘Mass Displacement Task Force’ Bill;
 - ii. Tsunami Zone Development;
 - iii. Creating a California-type Safety Assessment Program;

- iv. Improving the Oregon Administrative Rules for the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program; and
 - v. Creating a Seismic Earthquake Authority around earthquake insurance.
- c. Jay recalled that OSSPAC delivered the Oregon Resilience Plan (ORP) to the Legislature back in 2013. The ORP is a 50-year plan focused on building a seismically resilient infrastructure and built environment. Priorities identified for the plan include life safety, keeping the economy going, building community resilience, and addressing social economic aspects.
- d. Jay explained that in 2015 OSSPAC secured sponsorship for the Bill S.B.808 by Senator Anderson of Gresham and input from Representative Greenwood. The focus of S.B. 808 is what to do with people who cannot return home after the Cascadia earthquake, essentially calling for more robust 'Mass Displacement Planning'. Jay said he met with Representative Alyssa Keny-Guyer in June to ask for her consideration to sponsor S.B. 808. He said she mentioned she is already working hard in support of a potential tax bill this legislative cycle. One challenge identified last year was that the bill came out of the House Committee on Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, when it is Human Services and Housing-driven. Jay believes the bill needs appropriate committee sponsorship to succeed.
- e. Jay said he has asked his commission to start thinking about the "Harpers Index of Resilience" for the state of Oregon. Need this work to build jobs and translate resilience into investment opportunities. For example: investment decisions on building and lifelines mean that people want to relocate or live in a place that promises to get back online faster, and that will create competitiveness for communities to bring people in. The work now is to articulate this picture with substantiated data.
- f. Jay mentioned that ECONorthwest is interested in doing some work on modeling disaster impacts for economic resilience planning. They have applied for a grant from the National Science Foundation for funding, but if they do not get it, RDPO may want to consider helping them to get going. [Note: RDPO is aware of this and monitoring the outcome.]
- g. Jay suggested that the RDPO work with Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER), which is having their annual conference in Portland next summer. In addition, the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute will hold their annual meeting in Portland next year. [Note: PBEM Director Carmen Merlo is co-chairing the planning committee.] Both of these events will have resilience (and economic resilience) topics of interest to RDPO stakeholders.
- i. The RDPO Manager shared that she is already collaborating with Eric Holdeman, PNWER's director, on how the RDPO can influence and help coordinate the development of the conference tracks.
- h. Concerning the RDPO's interest in advocating for improved funding of pre-disaster mitigation project, Jay said the organization might want to look into the current efforts to update the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP).

V. RDPO Legislative Agenda Development – Chair Hyde & Denise Barrett

- a. Denise presented the updated legislative agenda and draft work plan to the committee. [Click here for a copy of the RDPO 2017 Legislative Work Plan.](#)
- b. Denise said she developed a short paper on S.B. 808 but until there is a clear direction of the revised bill for the 2017 legislative session, the RDPO cannot arrive at a position statement or other course of advocacy. She will coordinate with OSSPAC and the State Resilience Officer.

- c. Denise said she is hoping to develop a regional legislative/advocacy work group, bringing together the very talented government relations people in the region. In the meantime, she is in touch with key points of contact at all RDPO partner jurisdictions.
- d. Denise explained some of the items on the RDPO 2016-2017 Legislative Agenda handout:
 - i. Transportation/Bridge Seismic Retrofitting – JPACT is the obvious place for coordination on transportation, and could feed RDPO priorities to support transportation Bills. RDPO Policy Committee members that are also JPACT members are encouraged to contribute their ideas on how the RDPO can boost JPACT’s efforts, as appropriate.
 - ii. Levee Ready Columbia – Project leaders will present to the Steering Committee on August 1, 2016 and to the Policy Committee at a future meeting if desired.
 - iii. Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) HUB – Perceived as a long-range project in terms of its transformation. Portland Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) is currently updating the City’s Disaster Mitigation Plan and, as part of this project, has completed a risk assessment of the CEI HUB. The assessment contains a set of recommendations for mitigation actions.
 - iv. Homeland Security Grants – Denise recalled that the RDPO Policy Committee already completed an advocacy action last spring, sending two letters to Congressional appropriations committees challenging proposed FY’17 budget cuts to UASI and other HSGP grant program. Denise believes that those cuts will not happen – i.e., that there will be a continuation of last year’s budget level for FY’17.
 - v. Earthquake Early Warning – Denise requested that the Policy Committee review the [position statement](#) and give Denise feedback on if their jurisdictions approve, disapprove or require an amendment. Following the meeting, Denise will send an email with a Survey Monkey link for PC member voting.
 - vi. Disaster Hazard Mitigation – Chair Hyde recommended that the title change to “Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation”.
 - vii. Increased Funding to USDA Forest Service for Firefighting – Building a position paper; the California fires are attracting attention to this topic.
 - viii. One of the PC members made a suggestion: the RDPO needs to think about how to be relevant to the big organizations meeting in Portland next year (at the two conferences mentioned earlier in the meeting).

VI. RPDO Updates – Denise Barrett, RDPO Manager

- a. Denise introduced Laura Bruno, RDPO’s new Planning Coordinator, who will be overseeing various planning projects and the annual THIRA update.
- b. The Cascadia Rising after actions reports from FEMA Region X, the States (Ore. and Wa.), as well as the counties in our region, will take a while to be finished. FEMA mandates that all jurisdictions issue an after action report/improvement plan within 60 days of the exercise.
- c. For planning purposes, will target the first quarter of next year to have the RDPO work groups come in and present their top three regional issues to the Policy Committee.
- d. The Feds approved the PUA UASI FY’16 UASI grant application, which in terms of actual project funds was \$2,659,152. Implementation will commence beginning late spring 2017.
- e. Denise asked Scott Porter to give an update of the Regional Disabilities Access and Functional Needs Project. He recalled that the purpose of the project is to assess four of the counties and the City of Portland’s emergency management programs in terms of their effectiveness in addressing people with disabilities and other needs. He said the assessments for Clackamas and Washington Counties have been completed. City of

Portland, Multnomah County and the Clark County assessments are just starting. There is an online survey, followed by in-person interviews with critical stakeholders in September. Preliminary findings will come out around October, followed by a final report that will bundle all five of the reports with City and County level findings, as well as Regional findings, and recommendations.

VII. Good of the Order – Chair Hyde/All

- a. Denise presented Tony Hyde with a crystal RDPO plaque in honor of his monumental contributions to disaster preparedness in the region.
- b. Denise said she intends to issue a Doodle poll to members shortly following this meeting to identify the date and time for the next two meetings (one in early autumn, the other towards the end of the calendar year).

VIII. Adjournment – Chair Hyde

Having completed all business at hand, Chair Hyde adjourned the meeting at 11:02 am.