



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ADVISORY COUNCIL (EPAC)

Minutes

July 24, 2023 | 1:00-3:00pm

- 1) **Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions:** Jenny Demaris
 - a) Call to Order – Quorum requirements met; meeting recorded. Meeting started at 1:17pm due to virtual meeting technical difficulties; a substitute public meeting link was posted to the website at the start of the meeting to allow public access.
 - b) Introductions – no new Council Members.

- 2) **Review, Approval of Minutes – Additions to Agenda:** Jenny Demaris, Bridget Good
 - a) 4/24/23 Minutes were approved by the council as submitted. May and June meetings were cancelled due to lack of agenda items.
 - b) Additions to Agenda - No agenda items requested to be added.

- 3) **State Updates:** Jonna Papaefthimiou, Amanda Mathis for Sarah Puls
 - a) State Resilience Officer Introduction and Vacancy Updates: Jonna Papaefthimiou
 - i) Introduction: Jonna was appointed by Governor Kotek in March to serve as the Oregon State Resilience Officer (SRO). Governor Kotek modified the position when she took office to incorporate both advisor on resilience as well as emergency management. Jonna is actively working on the transition with prior SRO, Mike Harryman, currently working at Oregon Department of Human Services on COOP planning. As part of the modification, ODEM was re tasked with development of statewide after-action reports to real world events. The Governor’s resilience agenda, as well as recommendations from EPAC in terms of priorities and energy needs will help guide the SRO in her new position.
 - ii) ODEM Director Recruitment Update: Over 100 applications were narrowed down to 12 and are now working their way through three rounds of interview panels. The panels include representatives from state agency leaders, local emergency managers, 9-1-1 center managers, and community-based organizations. It is anticipated Governor Kotek will meet with the finalists from in the coming week.
 - iii) Vacancies:
 - (1) Col. Sharel Pond, Oregon Military Department representative, will be retiring later this year shared the name of her replacement, Lt. Col. Ryan Barton. Ryan, beginning in September.
 - (2) Jonna should have access to the state application software system soon. Once she does she will begin working through the applications to fill the 3 open positions, AOC, regional and private representatives with the Chair and Vice Chair assisting in that process.
 - b) State of the State Capability Assessment: Amanda Mathis on behalf of Sarah Puls
 - i) Amanda briefed council members on the provided presentation. Data for the assessment is collected from Oregon counties, select cities, tribal partners, and state agencies. The assessment information is used to complete the annual FEMA Threat, Hazard, Identification, Risk, Analysis Report (THIRA) as well as the State Stakeholder Preparedness Report (SPR).
 - (1) Jenny Demaris noted the increased ODEM staffing in the exercise, outreach and training areas will help strengthen response at the state level which directly support the local level needs. Over the next few years this should help improve the overall capabilities result - numbers going up.
 - (2) Denise Everhart asked if there was any place in the survey process to bring in the nonprofit support system that assists in disaster, preparedness, response, recovery? For example, mass care.
 - (a) Response: Amanda Mathis: Agreed to work with Sarah Puls on how the survey may already or

could potentially incorporate nonprofit input. Where the process does include the organizations is at the workshop level. This year ODEM Team Members from planning, exercise, training as well as the regional coordinators hosted workshops at each region with locals to support the whole community perspective. One of the outreach/workshop goals was to engage in a whole community collective understanding of what the capability assessment needs were.

4) Other Agenda Items: Jenny Demaris

- a) **Bylaws Update – Voting by Proxy:** Jenny indicated she had followed up with Jonna regarding a request to allow members to have proxy reps to give report and vote if they were unable to attend meetings. Jonna touched base with leadership within the Governor’s Office and determined proxy members for the EPAC is not allowed due to the individual appointment. Additional reps can attend but would not be voting members. Jenny indicated the bylaws do not need to be updated as they did not allow for proxy voting.

5) Round Table: Group

- a) **Deanna Henny:** The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is developing an energy security plan. They have hired a consultant and are collecting stakeholder engagement from a whole community perspective. The Federal Infrastructure Bill and Senate Bill 1567 directed our agency to develop this plan with extensive stakeholder involvement. Part of the plan is to assess how prepared the State is in responding and recovering from a Cascadia event on 3 critical energy sectors. The US Department of Energy just completed the Critical Energy Infrastructure Study for Oregon and Washington—the first two in the nation to have the study done. The information from that study will be fed into a THIRA for the 6 Oregon regions. The regions will have the opportunity to vet, validate and provide input on the information. The goal is to identify and prioritize mitigation measures to reduce risk. The goal is to increase statewide resilience over time.
- b) **Denise Everheart:** American Red Cross (ARC) Update - wildfire season has officially begun, and ARC has set up a statewide leadership team. Shelters are open for the Golden and Flat fires with management teams operating from Salem. Golden Fire occupancy is approximately 40 and is expected to rise. Additional support coming from the hiring of AmeriCorp members for our Oregon Red Cross.

6) Public Comment: Public

- a) None.

7) Next Meeting:

- a) Jenny Demaris noted the Council had agreed to review the frequency of the meetings at their October meeting. Both Chair and Vice Chair recommended to transition the meeting frequency to bi-monthly until additional agenda items or discussion was needed by council members. The recommendation moved to the floor for a vote. Members approved to move the meetings to bi-monthly beginning in September.
- b) Next Meeting – Monday, September 25, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00pm.

8) Adjournment: Jenny Demaris

- a) Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget Good, Recorder

Oregon Department of Emergency Management

07.24.23 – EPAC Meeting Attendance

A=Not Present, P=Present, R=Represented, V=Vacant Position

#	Representation – Council Members	Attendance	Council Member
10	Local - Association of Oregon Counties	V	Vacant
13	Local - Emergency Management Organizations	P	Jenny Demaris
16	Local - Indian Tribes in Oregon	A	Danny Martinez
11	Local - League of Oregon Cities	P	Kelly Madding
12	Local - Regional Emergency Mgmt. Organizations	V	Vacant
15	Nonprofit Community - EM Support Functions Responsibility	P	Denise Everhart
14	Private Sector	V	Vacant
2	State - Emergency Management	A	Alaina Mayfield
18	State - Energy	P	Deanna Henry
3	State - Fire Marshall	P	Mariah Rawlins
9	State - Forestry	P	Joy Krawczyk
6	State - Health Authority	P	Emily Wegener
17	State - Human Services	P	Ivonne Mora-Hernandez
8	State - Justice	P	Scott Burwash
1	State - Military	P	Sharel Pond, Col.
4	State - Police	P	Nathan House
5	State - Public Safety Standards and Training	A	Kaylan Kamstra
7	State - Transportation	P	Mac Lynde

Representation – State Staff	Attendance	State Personnel
State - Gov. Office - Resilience Officer	P	Jonna Papaefthimiou
State - Emergency Management	P	Bridget Good

Representation – Members of the Public	Attendance	Guests/Public at Large
None represented		