

DRAFT
SERC Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2007

Members:

Tom Ellerhoff, Co-Chair, DEQ
Dan McGowan Co-Chair, DES
Jolene Jacobson, CSKT
Jason Caughey for Butch Weedon, MSU-FTS
Paul Spengler for Ed Tinsley, MT Association of Counties
Jim Johnson, Montana Rail Link
Bill Rhoads, NorthWestern Energy
Tom Butler for Mike Tooley, MT Highway Patrol
John Monzie for Ted Mead, DNRC
Sally Buckles, EMS Association
Brent Christopherson for Steve Larson, Fire Chief's Association
Paul Spengler for Linda Williams, DES Association
Major Don Emerson, National Guard
Sheri Lanz, Staff Person, MT DES

Members not present:

Tim Burton, League of Cities and Towns Sheena Wilson, Governor's Office
Dan Dennehy, LEPC representative Cliff Brophy, MSPOA
Barry "Spook" Stang, Montana Motor Carriers Doug Moore, MT Public Health Association
Royce Shipley, Malmstrom AFB Mike Vogel, University Systems
Jim DeTienne, DPHHS, EMS VACANT, DPHHS representative VACANT, FWP
VACANT, MHA VACANT, Dept. of Transportation VACANT, National Weather Service

Others in attendance:

Glenn Ford, EPA Randy Brodehl, Kalispell FD Bill Colwell, Missoula HazMat
Cindy Mullaney, Pondera Co DES Mark Peck, Flathead Co HazMat
Dan Reilly, National Weather Service Michael Mercer, National Weather Service
Kent Atwood, MT DES Dick Charest, American Red Cross
Scott Logan, FEMA Region 8 Jay Wilson FEMA Region 8

Amendments to Agenda - none

Tom Ellerhoff opened the meeting and introductions were made. Minutes from the October 19, 2006 meeting were approved.

Duty Officer Report – Not available

Reports of Committees

Steering Committee – No report

HazMat Committee – Bill Colwell

Recertification time for the regional hazmat teams and the recertification will be presented to the SERC at the next meeting. The HMEP grants have been awarded. Waiting for status of the hazmat team funding legislation. The Flathead County Commissioners have determined that they are unable to participate as a regional hazmat team and have relinquished the hazmat trailer. The City of Kalispell will assume the role of regional response team and take the hazmat trailer.

Intrastate Mutual Aid Committee – no report

Project Group updates

- GIS – Cindy Mullaney reported on the status of GIS efforts. Projects completed include: dam inundation mapping, map symbology, cartographic templates for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans, hospitals, airports, railroads (MRL only), NAIP Imagery collection, Emergency facilities, 230 and 500 KV transmission lines, conflation of tiger addresses from 2000 Census to transportation framework database.

Outreach has included: participation at the 2006 Governor's Summit, MACo Conferences, providing hard copy maps and DVDs to Counties/Tribes with the information that has been collected, discussions regarding deployment of GIS Corp – GIS professionals who can provide GIS capability for incidents statewide and participation in exercises so GIS professionals have a better idea what is needed during an incident.

The Data model, which is a standardized format for collecting, cataloging and maintaining critical infrastructure data as it applies to the DES community, is complete and is being populated.

- State Citizen Corps Council – Sally Buckles reported that an award has been made to the Governor's Office of Community Services to coordinate and support Council activities.
- COG/COOP Steering Committee – Dan McGowan reported that the Dept. of Administration has completed the Continuity of Government plan and has met with 27 state agencies to develop Continuity of Operations plans. Dept. of Administration has organized into a section for COOP planning and hired a manager of this section. A computer software package is being used to develop the COOP plans.
- Indian Nations Working Group – Jolene Jacobson reported that six of the seven tribes met yesterday and a mutual aid agreement has been signed by five of the seven tribes. This is the first in the Nation.

Unfinished Business:

Legislation update – Dan McGowan reported that SB35 with intrastate mutual aid legislation has been passed through the Senate and House.

SB70 with SERC membership has gone through the Senate and House. The Senate added another member to the SERC with a Montana insurance industry representative.

Two other bills of interest include SB102 that deals with mutual aid across state lines with fire and EMS in non-declared events. Worked with the group and it has gone through Senate and is in House. The other bill is SB142 that deals with public health emergencies is still in committees. The HazMat budget, HB806 comes up for hearing in the House.

FY05, FY06 and FY07 Homeland Security funding status

FY05 grant is closed except for interoperable communications.

FY06 grant is currently being implemented.

FY07 grant application is due April 4, 2007 and working on the investment justifications. There is a threat and risk competitive portion of the grant that Montana will be applying for. The risk and threat portion of the grant will be presented as Montana's contribution to national security, threat and risk.

FY08 national budget funding discussions is that EMPG will remain the same and homeland security looks to be decreasing.

National Incident Management System (NIMS) status – DES has completed the NIMS strategy and completed training on NIMS CAST as the assessment tool. The DES District Representatives will be taking the strategy and assessment to tribal and county emergency management to assist with tribal and local NIMS compliance. NIMS compliance will be a process for completion.

Indian Nations and SERC conference – Jolene Jacobson reported that 135 have registered with more participants attending tomorrow. The conference has been a success so far. Jim Johnson thanked Jolene on behalf of himself and the SERC for hosting this wonderful conference.

New Business:

Environmental Protection Agency update – Glenn Ford reported that EPA headquarters has moved in Denver. The address is US EPA Region VIII, 1595 Wynkoop Street, EPR-ER, Denver CO 80202-1129. Max Dodson and Bob Roy have retired.

FEMA update – Jay Wilson and Scott Logan reported that it is a privilege to be here at the conference. Traditionally for hazmat there were CERCLA and SARA funds but those funds have been lost.

State Mitigation efforts status – Kent Atwood reported that Montana has a pre-mitigation plan and the plan expires November 2007. The update of the plan is happening now with meetings across the state to gather and incorporate all county and tribe perspective on hazards into the State Plan. The plan is to have first draft available in August for review and send to Governor's Office in September.

SERC Membership vacancies – There are several vacancies, DPHHS, FWP, MT Hospitals, MDT, and NWS. The entire membership is ready for Governor appointment October 2007. Everyone needs to think of three representatives for the agencies, industry or organizations for a four year appointment. Please have three nominees to Sheri by August 1, 2007. Send out reminder June and July.

Bill Rhoads reported that NorthWestern Energy is a member of the Western Regional Mutual Assistance Agreement. Last response was in Washington State in December. Utilize that activation in South Dakota and in Florida. Bill stated that he is blessed to be a part of all the wonderful activities associated with the conference.

Audience Questions

Next SERC meeting – The next meeting will be held September/October 2007. Additional meetings may be called upon request.