EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Present: Kürt Blomquist
        Phil Mann
        Jeff May
        Mike Sutherland
        Chris Walsh
        Keith Pugh
        Ken Hill
        Teresa H Smith
        Teresa Hon, Staff
        Laura Berkey-Ames, Staff

Absent: Dave Bergner
        Cora Jackson-Fossett, APWA Board
        Larry Zensinger

1. Chairman Kürt Blomquist called the meeting to order. There were no changes or additions to the agenda. The February 13 meeting summary was approved as submitted.

2. At Large Director Report (Board of Directors) – Cora Jackson-Fossett was not available to provide a report.

3. GAC Emergency Management Subcommittee – Keith Pugh indicated that the GAS will be meeting in DC on April 16 and 17. Will be reviewing position statements on the 16th then meet with elected officials on the 17th. The Subcommittee has been discussing items suggested by the EM Committee.

4. Legislative Update – Laura Berkey-Ames reported the following:
   **DHS Signs MOU to Strengthen Cybersecurity Efforts**
   In support of the Cybersecurity Executive Order and Presidential Policy Directive on Critical Infrastructure and Resilience (PPD-21) that were signed by President Obama last month, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on February 13 that its National Protection and Programs Directorate signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). It is the goal of both departments to improve the synchronization and mutual support of each other to improve the Nation’s cybersecurity efforts. The MOU emphasizes the importance of information sharing between DHS and NIST, and developing national cybersecurity guidelines/best practices that can be widely used by owners and operators of critical infrastructure cyber systems. Importantly, the MOU requires DHS and NIST to engage federal, State, tribal, territorial and local entities, as well as private sector communities to obtain input on cybersecurity guidance and recommendations.

   **DHS Releases FY 2013 Emergency Communications Grant Guidance**
   Last month, the Department of Homeland Security released the FY 2013 SAFECOM guidance for Emergency Communications Grants. The SAFECOM Guidance is updated annually to provide the most current information on emergency communications policies, eligible costs, technical standards and best practices for State, territorial, tribal, and local grantees investing Federal funds in emergency communications projects.
   According to Ron Hewitt, Ron Hewitt, Director, DHS Office of Emergency Communications, the SAFECOM Guidance also provides information on the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). The NPSBN is a new national investment in emergency communications that will enhance public safety—enabling first responders (ex: law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, public works) to communicate with each other on the same frequency during emergencies. However, with requirements for the NPSBN still under development by the FirstNet Board and its Public Safety Advisory Committee, the SAFECOM Guidance encourages grantees to invest primarily in planning activities that will help States prepare for the deployment of the NPSBN.

   **House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee hearing on FirstNet and Emergency Communications**
   Laura reported that on March 14, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Technology and Communications held a hearing on FirstNet and the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). APWA is considering sending a letter to subcommittee leadership and members on why the NPSBN is so important to public works and public works continued role in the development of the NPSBN through APWA’s representation on...
FirstNet’s Public Safety Advisory Committee. Laura encouraged committee members to submit their comments/thoughts to her as she drafts the letter.

5. Position Statement Review
   a. March
      - **PW and Statewide Mutual Aid** – Final draft approved
      - **PW and Stafford Act** – no updates at this time, however will revisit this summer
      - **Interoperable Communications** – pulled last year
      - **Public Works and Cyber Security** – Final draft was approved
      - **Public Works & Federal Homeland Security/ Emergency Management Grants** – Teresa H will forward Dave Bergner’s comments for review and approval via email
   b. April
      - **Improving Local Agencies’ Emergency Service Capabilities**
      - **Public Works Professionals as Emergency Responders**
      - **The Role of Public Works during a Pandemic Outbreak** – incorporate medical countermeasures in this statement
      - Need for additional position statements?

6. EM 101 Congress session speakers – Teresa H indicated that Jim Maxwell has agreed to speak. Mary Ray won’t be attending Congress but would like to assist in developing the plan for the three-hour presentation. Chris has agreed to assist in the development. The three will discuss via conference call next Wednesday then Teresa H will forward the outline to the committee and subcommittee, with a request for additional speakers.

7. Review status of Technical Track Career Path for Donald C Stone Center progress – Teresa H provided an update on the last call of the subcommittee working on the track. Dave Bergner had taken all PW-related EMI courses and divided them amongst the three levels, indicating which should be required and which could be electives. A representative from TEEX will do the same with their courses. Once Teresa H receives that list, she will combine the two and incorporate suggestions from Mike Sutherland then send back out to the subcommittee who plans to meet sometime Sunday, August 7th.

   Kürt is concerned with identification of skills for each level. We need to determine those skills then link up to the training available to match up to those skills. Keith Pugh seconded Kürt’s suggestion that we not use the EM Committee members’ skill level as an example as this group tends to be more invested and familiar with emergency management issues.

Informational Items:

8. Reports on February Subcommittee meetings
   a. Mitigation – Mike Sutherland reported that Mark Ray has taken his new chairmanship seriously. He’s pulled together a strategic plan for the subcommittee. The subcommittee discussed FEMA Assessment teams. Mark will gather information available and share with subcommittee members. Sudi Shoja has been involved in the training of the CA assessment teams and will share information from her state. The subcommittee talked quite a bit about individual preparedness and how to get people more serious about preparing. Several members agreed to provide information which can be combined.
   b. Response – No February meeting was held. Teresa H will work with Teresa S to schedule a conference call before the Snow Conference and discuss ways to reinvigorate the efforts of the committee.
   c. Kürt would like the full committee to discuss the effectiveness of the subcommittee structure during the Snow Conference.

9. Snow Conference
   a. Discussion with IFME – Sunday 11:00am-noon (Kürt, Phil and Chris will be in attendance. Kürt will lead the discussion)
      - Mapping, GIS,EOC report how they can assist during response and recovery
      - Mitigation efforts for infrastructure
      - Planning/prevention how they play a role
      - Damage Assessment – Role/responsibility of Municipal Engineers
      - Recovery Operations – Role/responsibility of Municipal Engineers
   b. Meeting schedule - Monday from 10:00am-noon, taking a break for lunch on the exhibit floor and to attend roundtables (Chris and Kürt are moderating two discussion tables), 2:00-4:30pm
   c. Roundtable discussions:
      - Emergency Management in Winter Operations: Moderator: Ms. Christine Walsh, Director of Operations, City of Beloit
• Small Agency – Big Problems: Moderator: Mr. Kürt Blomquist, Public Works Director, City of Keene
• Public Fleet Manager Certification: Moderator: Mr. John Scharffbillig, Director PW Fleet Services, City of Minneapolis
• Sustainability and Winter Maintenance: Moderator: Mr. Warren Nicholishen, CRS, Supervisor Operations – Roads, City of Kawartha Lakes
• Using Social Media for Winter Emergencies: Moderator: Mr. David L. Lawry, PE, Dir. Of Village Operations, Village Of Wauconda, Wauconda, IL
• Getting Started With Liquids: Moderator: Mr. John Paul Johnson, CET, Operations Manager, Wellington County, Guelph, ON
d. Fleet Services Committee members will be invited to join the committee at 2:00pm. Members suggested potential discussion topics:
  • Declaration equipment list – is APWA doing anything to tie to the resource list since they don’t match?
  • FEMA rates vs DOT rates (depends on how the states manage)
  • Established long-term fuel contracts (beyond 72-hours)
  • It is important that these issues are included in any publication updates
e. Teresa H has reached out to the North Carolina leadership to see if one or more representatives wish to attend. Keith isn’t sure if his schedule will allow but he will try to stop in.
f. All members are to send Teresa H their travel and hotel information so she can pull together a master travel itinerary for members. Kürt would like to have an informal meeting/dinner Sunday evening. Teresa H will provide a Snow Conference agenda for each day and distribute to all committee members by the end of next week.

10. External Working Group Reports – updates received from APWA representatives
a. NAC Updates – Teresa H Scott reported that the March NAC meeting has been postponed due to sequestration. Curt Edwards and Phil Mann have submitted their nominations for NAC appointment.
b. Credentialing: DHS Committee – Diane Linderman hoping that we will start seeing PW resources being posted by FEMA. The ones posted now (Mass Care, etc) have a 15 day review period. She expects that will be the same for all the resources.
c. SAFECOM/FirstNet/Public/Safety Advisory Committee – Phil Mann reported that SAFECOM’s next meeting is scheduled for the first week of May. With the Sequester, it will probably be postponed. We have our first ever FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) conferences call April 2, 2013. Since last month, the PSAC has announced its formal membership of which APWA is on the list. They are utilizing SAFECOM Members and will schedule consecutive meetings so that when SAFECOM meets in May, PSAC will meet the preceding day.
d. Kürt has begun serving in a new capacity with the FEMA National Planning System. The Planning Lexicon subgroup is working to develop a common language dictionary. They will meet weekly via conference call for five months and will have a deliverable at the conclusion. Members include the American Planning Association, Association of State Floodplain Managers, CBP Office of Policy and Planning, DHS Lexicon Program, American Red Cross, IAEM, NEMA, Natural Hazard Mitigation Association, Salvation Army, APWA, FEMA Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, FEMA Recovery Directorate, FEMA Response Directorate, FEMA National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA Logistics Management Directorate, DHS Office of Operations Coordination and Planning, DOD NORAD/USNORTHCOM/J9, Interagency Directorate, National Association of Counties, National Guard, and representatives to be determined from the National Association of Regional Councils and FEMA Tribal Affairs.

a. Meeting schedule – Changed to Tuesday, noon-4:00pm, (make certain that subcommittee chairs are present)
b. Educational sessions
  • Open Forum on Sunday 4:00-4:50pm – Teresa H provided an overview of how the open forums work and asked that all members be present
  • Public Works: A First Responder for Traffic Incidents and All Hazards Emergencies – Dave Bergner, Kimberly Vasconez (FHWA), Phil Mann, Kürt Blomquist (Sunday, 3:00-3:50 pm)
  • Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network-Responding to the Call – Barbara Stiehl (Monday, 3:00-3:50pm)
  • Emergency Management 101 (Wednesday, 8:30-10:45am) – Jim Maxwell, Chris Walsh and others TBD

13. New Projects and Discussion items – we will discuss this item during the April meeting
   Possible new committee projects
   • General committee PPT

14. Schedule for monthly InfoNOW Community Postings (e-mail addressed to emergency@infonow.apwa.net or post through web site)
   March – Ken Hill
   April – Jeff May
15. Monthly committee conference calls will take place the second Wednesday of the month at 8am Pacific/9am Mountain/10am Central/11am Eastern. Dates for the next few months are:
   - April 8 in Charlotte, NC
   - May 8
   - June 12
   - May 8
   - July 10
   - July 10
   - August 27 in Chicago, IL

16. Phil mentioned that one of his staff brought an article regarding traffic operations and emergency management to his attention. The article was in the IMSA Journal and was written by Dave Bergner.