



Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC) Meeting Agenda

Date: 11 May 2021

Time: 1200 - 1500 hours

Location: Virtual, Microsoft Teams platform

Call-In Information:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzcyN2Y2ZmUtZWJmYS00M-GVjLWI4OTAtNjM2N2EyZmIxYjgy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223dcdc4a-7e4c-407b-80f7-7fb6757182f2%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a3f2c002-7b5b-4bd5-afa9-2503e18b0e68%22%7d

Invitees:

Name	Position Title	Designation
Adrian Grieve P	Division Disaster State Relations Director (PA, MD, DE, DC & FEMA RIII), American Red Cross	Member
Anna Sierra	Director, Caroline County Department of Emergency Services	Member
Bruce Wahl P	Former Mayor of Chesapeake Beach	Member
Clay Stamp P	County Manager, Talbot County	Member
David Willenborg P	Sr. Engineer, Technical Support, Department of Defense, NAVAIR	Member
Douglas Brown P	Deputy Director, Carroll County Department of Public Works	Member
Dwayne Freeman P	Director of High Homeland Security, Washington County Public Schools	Member
Earl "Buddy" Hance	Commissioner, Calvert County	Member
Jasper Jones P	Budget Analyst, U.S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA)	Member
Jennifer Martin P	Deputy Commissioner, Population Health and Disease Prevention, Baltimore City Health Department	Member
Jonathan Bratt P	Executive Director, UMB Office of Emergency Management	Member
Jonathan Dayton P	Maryland State Firemen's Association	Member
Jonathan Favorite P	Director of Technical Services, Communications Electronics, Inc.	Member
Joseph LaFleur P	Manager, Crisis Management/Business Continuity/IT Disaster Recovery, GP Strategies Corporation	Member
Kevin Simmons P	Director, Office of Emergency Management, City of Annapolis	Member
Mike Berna	Fire Chief, Maryland Fire Chief's Association	Member
Robert Poole	Retired Special Agent, ATF; ODNI, Insider Threat SME	Member
Ronald "Ronnie" Gill P	Director, Office of Homeland Security and Office of Emergency Management, Prince George's County	Chairperson
Ryan Miller P	Principal, Critical Functions, LLC	Member
Stephen Wantz	Commissioner, Carroll County	Member
Thomas Moran P	Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium	Member
Tiffany Green P	Fire Chief, Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department	Member
Timothy Cameron P	Sheriff, St. Mary's County	Member
Marverly Nettles	Exercise Planner, Government Consulting Firm	Member
MG Timothy Gowen	The Adjutant General	Ex-officio
Walter Landon	Deputy Chief of Staff; Director, Maryland Governor's Office of Homeland Security	Ex-officio
Russell Strickland	Executive Director, MEMA	Ex-officio
Terry Thompson P	Executive Liaison, MEMA	Ex-officio
Chas Eby	Deputy Executive Director, MEMA	Ex-officio
BG Adam Flasch P	Director, Joint Staff, Maryland National Guard	Ex-officio
Alexandria Hopkins P	Executive Assistant to the MEMA Executive Director	Staff Support
Blake Langford P	Maryland State National Capital Region Program Manager, MEMA	Staff Support

Purpose:

- To fulfill the statutory requirement, as articulated in MD Pub Safety Code § 14-105 (2017), “the Council shall advise the Governor on all matters that relate to emergency management.”

Objectives (OB) and Intended Outcomes (IO):

Ref#	Objective with Intended Outcome
1	<i>OB-1:</i> Adjudicate and resolve any SERC Business <i>IO-1:</i> Meet all statutory and regulatory requirements
2	<i>OB-2:</i> Receive 2021 Maryland Legislative Session Hotwash <i>IO-2:</i> Situational Awareness; identify opportunities to advocate for legislation
3	<i>OB-3:</i> Conduct roundtable to provide any other information for the benefit of the council <i>IO-3:</i> Situational awareness, operational coordination for all members
4	<i>OB-4:</i> Determine and reach consensus on next steps <i>IO-4:</i> Shared understanding of future intent and interim task(s) required to achieve group goals

Agenda:

1200 hrs 1. Opening Remarks

Ronnie Gill – Chairperson

Chairman Ronnie Gill provided the GEMAC an overview of the agenda as well the meetings objectives and outcomes.

2. SERC Business

Douglas Brown – GEMAC, SERC Subcommittee Chairperson

SERC Chairperson Douglas Brown reported no new SERC updates or business for this session.

3. 2021 Maryland Legislative Session Hotwash

Johnathan Bratt – GEMAC, Legislative Affairs Subcommittee Chairperson

Kyle Overly – Director, Disaster Risk Reduction Directorate, MEMA

Ben Yelin, JD – Program Director, Public Policy & External Affairs, CHHS

Johnathan Bratt first gave a special thanks to the GEMAC Legislative Affairs Subcommittee for their participation and hard work. Secondly, he gave the following overview of the Legislative Session.

- Over the course of the legislative session, the committee conducted four intensive sessions to review several bills. They were able to provide specific feedback on nine bills impacting Maryland's Emergency Management posture. As a result, the GEMAC presented two memos to the Governor's Office for support of bills within the legislature. In addition to providing recommendations for future bills, they also identified bills that passed and those that did not pass for a closer examination to provide feedback to the GEMAC. He gave thanks to all who supported the subcommittee and believed it was a successful first session.

Kyle Overly, Director, Disaster Risk Reduction Directorate, MEMA provided the following remarks:

- We had an incredibly busy legislative session. He gave thanks to everyone who contributed both as subject matter expertise and to those who supported bills. A number of exciting things happened during this session as well as some areas to work on for next year. After reviewing the presentation on the Legislative session, we can begin to discuss our thoughts and priorities for the GEMAC as we look forward to next year.

Ben Yelin, JD – Program Director, Public Policy & External Affairs, CHHS led the GEMAC through the 2021 Maryland Legislative Session. The following summarizes his presentation:

- The Maryland General Assembly has adjourned *sine die*. Its next scheduled legislative session will be in early January 2022.
- Governor Hogan, for most bills, has 30 days to sign or veto legislation. If Governor Hogan chooses not to sign or veto a bill, it will automatically become law at that time.
- EM Priority Bills that passed:
 - SB0658/HB0990- Maryland Department of Emergency Management - Establishment and Transfer of Maryland 9-1-1 Board

- SB0714/HB0989- Public Safety - 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System – Alterations
- SB0901- Public Safety – Emergency Management – Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund
- HB0073- State and Local Government and Private Employers- Teleworking
- HB0831/SB0723- Maryland Food System Resiliency Council
- EM Priority Bills that failed:
 - SB0069- Maryland Emergency Management Agency-Cybersecurity Operations Office
 - SB0631- Workgroup to Study and Implement a Statewide 3-1-1 Nonemergency Telephone System
 - SB0640- Emergency Community Services Fund
 - SB0062/HB542- Emergency Management-Chief Resilience Officer- Appointment and Duties
 - SB0822- Public Safety - Maryland Emergency Management Agency - Office of Resilience
 - HB0635- Maryland Emergency Management Agency, Department of Transportation, and Department of the Environment – Study on Historic and Recent Flooding in Prince George’s County PG 407–21
 - SB0953- Domestic Terrorism Task Force
- Ideas and Priorities for 2022
 - Resiliency Bills (Office of Resilience, Chief Resilience Officer)
 - Cybersecurity coordination office
 - Statewide 3-1-1 System
 - Emergency Community Services Fund
 - State Meteorologist
 - State “Mesonet” System
 - Statewide “Stafford Act” when federal assistance is not available
 - Enhanced Coordination Bill

Ben Yelin concluded his presentation with the following remarks:

- For the July meeting, the GEMAC Legislative Subcommittee will provide more ideas in writing to help contribute to MEMA’ understanding of what their priorities should be in 2022. Johnathan Bratt has been designated as the person will be coordinating this effort.

- The committee continues to update their public legislative tracking sheet which has all the previous bills included. The committee will update the sheet as the Governor makes decisions on bills. You are always encouraged to go to the Maryland General Assembly website for further information on the legislative session.

Questions and Comments

- Clay Stamp- Gave thanks to Ben on the presentation. It has been great to see the good work that has been done over the past year.
- Joe LaFleur- Can someone provide insight on the sudden rise of support for an independent emergency management agency and the other supportive bills?
 - Kyle Overly responds with the following: This is a result from numerous years of work. We are seeing, one, the resilience side of things and the impact of having multiple disasters within Maryland. There are a group of legislators that are interested in resilience and believe emergency management is the right spot to do multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency coordination. Emergency managers have shown over the years that we are more than just hurricane people. We have been asked to lead on multiple complex social issues that are really translating. In addition to the several years of conversation, support, and letters, much of the support came from the work performed by emergency managers during the COVID- 19 crisis. We were in the spotlight in ways that emergency managers have not been in the past. We demonstrated the value and why emergency management is an important component of government.
 - Johnathan Bratt responded with the following: We, as emergency management, were successful in the advocacy efforts before the session started. I know some of us started in late summer/early fall for some of these bills, which included meeting with representatives. In addition, we have a few cheerleaders in the state legislator for emergency management who are interested in pushing emergency management forward.
- Ryan Miller- Going into the next fiscal year, is the state catastrophic fund still intact and still have utility to statewide emergency managers or is it contemplated to be rolled into another fund? I believe it is a great tool for the state for jurisdictions that need immediate relief.
 - Kyle Overly- I believe the fund is still accessible. The problem currently is having many smaller disasters in Maryland that do not receive the 8 million dollars. Prince Georges county had a flooding incident in September and Baltimore had a few incidents where immediate assistance was needed but did not raise to level of federal assistance. We like to figure out a way to close that gap with funding and resources to meet the needs of the smaller disasters. The general trend we are seeing in the federal government is that FEMA is trying

to get away from those 10 million disasters. Therefore, it is more responsibility and emphasis on the state to step up and lead. We are looking for a way to be flexible and quick in response for smaller disasters.

- Jasper Jones- How can we, as a board, support the Governor to posture ourselves to be watchful for these bills that sought to curbe the Governor's emergency powers?
 - Ben Yelin- It seems like it was a threat that did not materialize during this legislative session. I think it is important to always be on guard, as we have seen these types of bills introduced in other states.
- Joe LaFleur- Has someone from MEMA reached out to the Governor's office to obtain any information on the Governor's position on the emergency bills?
 - Kyle Overly- We have been in contact with the Governor's office, and we have not heard anything that suggest the bills will not be signed. We do not have a 100% confirmation.
 - BG Adam Flasch- Speaking for MG Timothy Gowen, there is no friction coming from the Military Department. We fully support MEMA's position.
- Joe LaFleur- Regarding the capitol budget, where is the remodeling of the State Emergency Operations Center funding stand now?
 - Kyle Overly- The capitol project is still moving forward for MEMA's headquarters. There was a delay in year given budget issues, however we are still moving forward with the project.
- Joe LaFleur- Given the unexpected COVID supplemental funds from the federal government, did MEMA place a request to receive money for the state government? If so, how will additional funds be used?
 - Kyle Overly- Yes, we are receiving additional funding through the Emergency Management Preparedness Program Grant, which is an existing program. The grant is for emergency management preparedness related activities which is a boost to our EMPG funding from our last award. It has the same conditions and can be used for planning, training, exercise, staff, and other miscellaneous items related to EMPG funding. Our intent is to pass it through at the same levels, which is 50/50. Therefore, we are planning to pass 50% through to the local government.
- Joe LaFleur- How was the MEMA budget of 54 million determined, as it is more extensive than previous years? What does it include?
 - Kyle Overly-The difference this year is the COVID reimbursements. For context, we are expecting reimbursement from federal funding sources to the public assistance program. In particular, we are pushing 2 billion dollars, that will come from FEMA to MEMA to our

local subrecipients. In order to do that we will need budget amendments.

4. Roundtable

- Ronnie Gill- Does anybody have an insight on the Governor's timeframe with the current State of Emergency?
 - Blake Langford- I am unable to provide a comment at this time. I would defer to Director Strickland or Deputy Director Eby, who were unable to make today's meeting.
 - Joe LaFleur- The issues of mandatory vaccinations and/or continuing annual vaccinations for COVID can have potential impacts on the private sector depending on what position the administration takes. I would encourage MEMA, as it becomes a cabinet level agency, to keep those impacts in mind as it can affect how the private sector manages their employees.
 - BG Adam Flasch- I sit in on several of the meetings that have many health care officials, as we are in a pandemic. Maybe adding a representative from the private sector into the conversation would be beneficial.

5. Next Steps

- Blake Langford- There were no objections from the GEMAC, therefore I will send the memo presented to the Governor's office regarding the disaster fund to Ben Yelin and Kyle Overly. The memo will assist Ben in drafting the priorities for legislation.
- Blake Langford – Johnathan Bratt did mention we could bring in subject matter experts from MEMA for certain legislation items. For example, the Disaster Assistance Program Managers can brief the GEMAC on any questions they have regarding disaster assistance and setting up potentially the State Stafford Act. If the group thinks this will be viable, I can help coordinate that effort.
 - Ronnie Gill- Thank you Blake, I believe that is the path forward.
- Joe LaFleur- I have two potential items for the next meeting:
 - Since 9-1-1 is moving into MEMA, I think its worthwhile to have a 9-1-1 overview/status report for the next GEMAC meeting.
 - Opportunity to discuss why certain legislation did not pass during this session.
- Ronnie Gill- Thank you Joe. When we have the 9-1-1 discussion, I would like to have additional viewpoints from across the state as well. I like to expand that discussion to more of a panel to gather different viewpoints on the move.

NLT
1500hrs

6. Adjourn

Ronnie Gill – Chairperson

The meeting was adjourned at 1403 hours.