



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

Date: 23 September 2019

Time: 1130 - 1500 hours

Call-In Information: 304-825-7061 PIN: 381 294 457#

Location: Savage Volunteer Fire Company, 8521 Corridor Rd, Savage, MD 20763

Invitees:

Name	Position Title	Designation
Clay Stamp	Assistant County Manager/Director of Emergency Services, Talbot County	Member (Chair)
Joe LaFleur	Manager, Crisis Management/Business Continuity/IT Disaster Recovery, GP Strategies Corporation	Member
Ronnie Gill	Director of Emergency Management/Deputy Director of Homeland Security, Prince George's County	Member
Jonathan Favorite	Director of Technical Services, Communications Electronics, Inc.	Member
Jennifer Martin	Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Baltimore City Health Department	Member
Jeff Donahue	HAZMAT and Debris Management Program Manager, MDE	Member
John Allen Jr.	Vice President, Delmarva Power	Member
Mike Berna	Fire Chief, Maryland Fire Chief's Association	Member
Timothy Cameron	Sheriff, St. Mary's County	Member
Richard DeVore Jr.	Maryland State Fireman's Association	Member
Howard Safir	Chairman and CEO, Vigilant Resources International (VRI)	Member
Keith Whalen	Firefighter/Paramedic (ret.)	Member
David Willenborg	Sr. Engineer, Technical Support, Department of Defense, NAVAIR	Member
Stephen Wantz	Commissioner, Carroll County	Member
Thomas Moran	Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium	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	Executive Liaison, MEMA	Ex-officio
Chas Eby	Deputy Executive Director, MEMA	Ex-officio
BG Adam Flasch	Director, Joint Staff, Maryland National Guard	Ex-officio
Myra Derbyshire	Executive Assistant	Attendee
Blake Langford	Maryland State National Capital Region Program Manager, MEMA	Attendee
Andrew Asgarali-Hoffman	Strategy Planner, MEMA	Attendee



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:

- Discuss and refine, as necessary, the future direction of the GEMAC
- Engage in a strategic work session to reflect upon GEMAC’s course of action
- Discuss emergency management topics for synthesis and/or analysis
 - Analyze the complexity, impact, and level of effort required to address these topics

Intended Outcomes:

- Achieve consensus on GEMAC course of action to move forward as a collective unit
- Gain understanding and achieve consensus on topics for synthesis and/or analysis
- Prioritize topics for synthesis and/or analysis by achievability and benefit
- Gain understanding and achieve consensus on the November meeting objectives and outcomes

Agenda:

1130 hrs 1. Lunch

1200 hrs 2. Call to Order – Purpose, Objectives, and Outcomes

Ronnie Gill (Vice Chair)

a. Roll Call

- David Willenborg
- Andrew Asagarli-Hoffman
- Myra Derbyshire
- Terry Thompson
- Blake Langford
- Ronnie Gill
- Russell Strickland
- Chas Eby
- Stephan Wantz
- Jonathon Favorite
- Dick Devore
- Timothy Cameron
- Joe LaFleur
- Jennifer Martin

b. Unofficial MEETING DUE TO LACK OF ATTENDANCE

c. Provide overview of meeting purpose, objectives, and outcomes

1215 hrs 3. Proposed GEMAC Reboot Presentation/Discussion

Blake Langford & Andrew Asgarali-Hoffman

- a. Discuss direction for GEMAC until end of calendar year 2019
- b. Discuss strategic work sessions
- c. Discuss proposed multi-year workflow



Blake Langford discussed the proposed GEMAC reboot. Andrew Asgarali-Hoffman then discussed the GEMAC meeting regulatory requirements and asked the GEMAC members if the proposed GEMAC reboot is something that the members want. Blake Langford suggested a retraction of the three subcommittees that were originally proposed at the last GEMAC session.

- Joe Fleur discussed three things from the Governor's level: 1. Proactive to the Governor (Insight) 2. Monitoring function from the Governor's office (Oversight) 3. Administrative side, a problem becomes identified. (Foresight). Need to look at issues from a state-wide perspective and not MEMA perspective. Reaching out past MEMA to the feds or local government.
- Steve Wantz discussed not knowing the role of the GEMAC members. Wanting to know the role of EM on the local level, where does MEMA come in? Wants to know what the basics are. Disconnect of who does what throughout the state.
- Jonathon Favorite discussed how the GEMAC would be happier with it having more of an advisory role. Where can the GEMAC provide value? Tell us where GEMAC can provide value. Need an audience where GEMAC can be heard. Wants more cohesion within the GEMAC.
- Russell Strickland discusses differences between every jurisdiction. Ask ALEMD's where GEMAC can provide value, and where is the message not getting across? Need to focus on a higher level of work efforts the GEMAC could pursue.

Blake Langford goes into the next slide which discussed strategic work sessions.

- Jonathon Favorite discussed NextGEN911
- Ronnie Gill and Russ Strickland discuss NextGEN 911 commission
 - GIS
 - Technology
 - Communications
 - What happens when it blows up?
 - What are the redundancies for it? What happens when it goes down in several counties
- Jonathon Favorite discussed having a topic, but how does the GEMAC stay involved?
- Joe LaFleur discussed two ideas: 1. how is there cohesion between locals? 2. State briefing to counties
- David Willenborg discussed how he doesn't think the GEMAC name is appropriate for the GEMAC currently does. Wants to ask the Governor, what does he want? How can GEMAC serve the Governor? Does not want to do what GEMAC wants to do, but wants to do what the Governor wants the GEMAC to do.
- Ronnie Gill agreed with David that it was a good idea to ask the Governor what does he want from the GEMAC?
- Steve Wantz also agrees with Dave about asking the Governor what he wants the GEMAC to do.
- Blake Langford discusses creating a feedback loop. Asking the GEMAC to provide topics for MEMA to bring to locals and/or Governor.
- Joe LaFleur discussed how he doesn't want MEMA to be making decisions on what GEMAC says. Discussed communication to and from the Governor's



office. Joe LaFleur discussed how he believes MEMA is not receptive of his feedback. 1. MEMA staff doesn't know what to do with GEMAC 2. No one wants to listen to GEMAC because we haven't done a good job of being the GEMAC

- Dave Willenborg discussed how GEMAC is politically driven. Topics need to be generated by the community, locals, etc.

1245
hrs

4. GEMAC Strategy Session

Andrew Asgarali-Hoffman (facilitator) & Group Discussion

- Reflect upon GEMAC course of action
 - ***Why are you a member of the GEMAC?***
 - Ronnie: I don't want the title, I want to make positive changes for MD. Doesn't think this question can be answered without more clarity.
 - Joe LaFleur: What is the historical origin of an advisory committee in MD?
 - David Willenborg: I am here because the Governor's office called him and told him they needed a member on the GEMAC.
 - Jonathon Favorite: I was asked to serve and the Governor had a need
 - Jennifer Martin: Being able to provide health and an attorney perspective. Feels as if she is waiting to hear what she can bring to the table
 - Joe LaFleur: The governor could get insulated by the bureaucracy of state government. GEMAC could help penetrate this in regards to providing a non-partisan, third-party recommendation
 - ***What is the purpose of the GEMAC? Who does the GEMAC serve?***
 - Russ Strickland answers by discussing how the old GEMAC was a military construct and used primarily as a report-out session. Clay talked to Russ with what can be done to the GEMAC? Russ gave him suggestions for how the GEMAC currently is set up.
 - Russ would like to see the GEMAC provide support to locals as well
 - Joe LaFleur discussed the states adjacent to MD have different types of disaster funds. There is a political issue with GEMAC making decisions. "Here are the 5 things that can bite you in the middle of the night" How can GEMAC prevent that from the Governor.
 - David Wilenborg: the purpose is to provide EM matters as needed.
 - Andrew A.H.: Group is here because you want to serve and advise the Governor on EM on all matters.
 - ***Who does the GEMAC represent?***
 - David Willenborg: Any one that the member represents professionally is who the GEMAC represents
 - Joe LaFleur: There is no limitation to what your profession is. Believes Tile 14 language could be adjusted. Professional and holistic aspect of the citizens.
 - Russ Strickland: Not here as a directed vote of your organization.
 - ***What do we mean by Emergency Management?***
 - LaFleur: that is a broad brush stroke...cyber and dams and 911 comms and epidemics and pandemics and it is a very broad portfolio of anything that can go beyond the resources of any event that can go



beyond the resources of any local jurisdiction of multi-agency or anything that requires multi-discipline that is coordinated to address the problem, intergovernmental, multi-hazard,

- Willenborg-- many different agencies
- Andrew AH-- as the GEMAC what do you see as under your purview? Understand you want direction from the top. Everyone in this room has a broad understanding of emergency management and it is important that the group understand and agree as to what the EM. Do the gatekeepers understand emergency management?
- Ronnie Gill- agree with you about all points except the 8 years.
- Andrew AH- want to try and get a structure to produce continuity in operations
- Ronnie Gill- you can give them a playbook but the only thing that matters is the law and the charter
- Willenborg - how do you keep the GEMAC moving from administration to administration?
- Stephen Wantz: Does not want legislation regarding the GEMAC to be more specific.
- Andrew: Have you received direction of what to do with GEMAC yet?
 - Russ Strickland: Over 500 commissions and boards in State of MD. 205 committees and board are sitting here like GEMAC. If GEMAC is going to have an impact, you're going to have to make it yourself.
- David Willenborg: Never received confirmation that his term was renewed.
- Jonathon Favorite: From private sector perspective -- Are there other advisory committees that GEMAC can partner with to unified decisions?
 - Russ Strickland: Yes, there isn't a list but there are several other boards or commissions have common issues that GEMAC could potentially partner with.
 - David Willenborg: Maybe GEMAC can have a training on what the other commissions/councils could bring to the table?
 - Russ Strickland: Emergency Services Board, NextGEN911, Annotated Code and Executive Order, MSP and DoIT for push to talk communications. All of these are siloed.
 - Jonathon Favorite: Relevance is all of those committees are trying to create similar things
 - Russ Strickland: Where can we create synergies?
- Joe LaFluer: We gave the Governor a report, that was controversial. We never got any feedback on the report.
 - David Willenborg: Suggested revise and resubmit the report and submit to the new TAG.
 - RJS: Give Russ a heads up before talking to the TAG. Administration would like to shrink state government and combine similar departments. Focused on how do we create efficiencies and make state government smaller. Russ does not think we will see any combinations of departments/agencies.



- Joe LaFeur: To Russ' point of siloed committees, if MEMA doesn't have a high-level staff member in those committees you need to have one. Bringing an intel group to MEMA is important to RJS and future Directors. Unified communication and exchange process between commissions and councils. It is not built in a robust way and doesn't serve well in the long term.
- ***Given your discussion, what is the core responsibility of the GEMAC?***
 - Joe LaFluer: MEMA needs to create an executive summary of today's session and make a distinct paragraph and send it out to GEMAC members. We need to get to the business of EM and not internal process.
 - David Willenborg: Wants to serve the Gov's need, doesn't think this last question is relevant.
 - Joe LaFluer: What keeps the Governor up at night?
 - Jonathan Favorite: We lose sight of the fact that there are a lot of people working on a lot of things...
 - Are there other people working on this?
 - If we have something important and we can't get it off the ground, how do we?
 - Combining efforts and courses to make an impact. How can other committees make a difference and add to what GEMAC is doing?
 - What do the locals need?
 - Joe LaFleur: GEMAC is a sounding board, like other committees and advisory boards
 - Jonathon Favorite: If we are looking at other organizations and what they are struggling to accomplish, can GEMAC provide as a consultant and support them? Which in turn supports the GEMAC?
 - Russ Strickland: MEMA could do a conference call where we could get GEMAC representation where we could get different channels.
 - David Willenborg: Is silence from DCoS a message from the Governor's office?
 - Russ Strickland: It is impossible for one person to monitor all of the committees and advisory councils to find synergy.
 - Joe LaFluer: MEMA staff sit down and find out what board's do what, MEMA might be able to see the synergy between those advisory councils and committees. MEMA is central coordinating body. Might portray relationship between other groups, MEMA could be liaison between GEMAC and other committees and councils.
 - Russ Strickland: MEMA has tried to beef up monitoring legislative bills. DRRWG is focused on mitigation, how can we prevent or build more resilience so that we are better situated to handle it if a disaster happens? Hoping this could provide more synergy.
 - Joe LaFluer: GEMAC would advise Gov on how to build capacity to broaden emergency circumstances that the state continues to be threatened by.
 - Andrew AH: Does not want GEMAC to get suck down processes, but more help assist



- Joe LaFleur : Need support with communication the Governor to see what he wants GEMAC to do, and how to formulate where GEMAC goes over the next 3 years.
- Ronnie: Once Russ has that discussed with the Governor’s office, these questions will be easier to andrew.
- Overview:
 - Russ Strickland will talk to SCFs, Locals and Administration
 - Disaster relief fund
 - * state controlled, possibly do some research on other states. NEMA/NGA
 - Run an analysis on legacy and products on the GEMAC and using that as an education piece for the future of the GEMAC.
 - Analysis on identifying other advisory boards to collectively make an impact. Looking at determining division of labor. What is each group doing? Where the GEMAC fits into this?
 - * MEMA is able to communicate with that group with whatever that group submission is and how it can support an overall EM capability. Needs to be an understanding that MEMA is sizing for a broad scale emergency.
 - MEMA putting together a paragraph with an overview of what was discussed today. Putting this into an executive summary.
 - Ronnie Gill: Clear up, if we are not going through with the 3 sub groups we need to articulate why we are not going through that.
- Joe LaFleur: Is there any intent to do anything with the Emergency Management law going into the future?
 - Russ Strickland: We created a list of areas to bring to GEMAC and others. MEMA got stopped because we did it all in house. Now it is in the governor’s legislative office trying to figure out where it can fall in priorities of the legislative bills.
 - * If GEMAC has thoughts on Title 14 please let Russ know.
 - Joe LaFleur: Deadline for Gov’s legislative bill decision making process?
 - * It’s already happened
 - Joe LaFleur: County EM’s are pressing for?
 - * Russ Strickland: EMAC

1345 hrs 5. Emergency Management Topic Discussion

Clay Stamp (Chair) & Group Discussion

- a. Determine topics for investment
- b. Council analyzes these topics and determine the most beneficial and achievable group investments

1445 hrs 6. Review of Decision Points and Next Steps

Ronnie Gill (Vice Chair)

- Russ Strickland provided an overview of the new TAG, MG Gowen.



- Russ also provided an update on the NWS discussion that is planned for the ALEMD meeting on Wednesday.
- David Willenborg: The core requirement is to generate an annual report. We want the annual report to actually make something happen. Russ Strickland suggested to GEMAC members to ask legislative members if they have read the report?

7. Adjourn

- Meeting was adjourned at 2:31pm.