

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

**Date:** 22 March 2023

**Time:** 1100 - 1400 hours

**Location:** Hybrid – Physical Location: 1500 Whetstone Way Suite 300, Baltimore, MD 21230

**Call-In Information:**

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/rcd-kaav-uxj>

Or dial: (US) +1 413-893-3120 PIN: 339 014 956#

**Invitees:**

Name	Position Title	Designation
Adrian Grieve	Division Disaster State Relations Director (PA, MD, DE, DC & FEMA RIII), American Red Cross	Member
Bruce Wahl	Former Mayor of Chesapeake Beach	Member
Clay Stamp	Assistant County Manager/Director of Emergency Services, Talbot County	Member
David Willenborg	Sr. Engineer, Technical Support, Department of Defense, NAVAIR	Member
Douglas Brown	Deputy Director, Carroll County Department of Public Works	Member
Dwayne Freeman	Director of High Homeland Security, Washington County Public Schools	Member
Earl "Buddy" Hance	Commissioner, Calvert County	Member
Jasper Jones	Budget Analyst, USDOT	Member
Jennifer Martin	Deputy Commissioner, Population Health and Disease Prevention, Baltimore City Health Department	Member
Jonathan Bratt	Executive Director, UMB Office of Emergency Management	Member
Jonathan Dayton	Volunteer Firefighter/EMT Alleghany County; Vice President, Alleghany and Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire Rescue Association	Member
Jonathan Favorite	Director of Technical Services, Communications Electronics, Inc.	Member
Joseph LaFleur	Manager, Crisis Management/Business Continuity/IT Disaster Recovery, GP Strategies Corporation	Member
Kevin Simmons	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	Director, Office of Homeland Security and Office of Emergency Management, Prince George's County	Chairperson
Ryan Miller	Principal, Critical Functions, LLC	Member
Stephen Wantz	Commissioner, Carroll County	Member
Thomas Moran	Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium	Member
Tiffany Green	Fire Chief, Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department	Member
Timothy Cameron	Sheriff, St. Mary's County	Member
Marverly Nettles	Associate - Emergency Management Exercise Planner, Booz Allen Hamilton	Member
MG Timothy Gowen	The Adjutant General	Ex-officio
Mark Hubbard	Deputy Director, GOHS	Ex-officio
Russell Strickland	Secretary, MDEM	Ex-officio
Terry Thompson	Executive Liaison, MDEM	Ex-officio
Chas Eby	Deputy Executive Director, MDEM	Ex-officio
BG Adam Flasch	Director, Joint Staff, Maryland National Guard	Ex-officio
Blake Langford	Chief Program Management Officer, MDEM	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> Discuss Legislative Subcommittee actions <i>IO-2:</i> Determine any courses of action the GEMAC should pursue
3	<i>OB-3:</i> Receive MDEM Briefings <i>IO-3:</i> Situational Awareness; identify opportunities for future council discussion and work efforts
4	<i>OB-4:</i> Conduct roundtable to provide any other information for the benefit of the council <i>IO-4:</i> Situational awareness, operational coordination for all members
5	<i>OB-5:</i> Determine and reach consensus on next steps <i>IO-5:</i> Shared understanding of future intent and interim task(s) required to achieve group goals

**Agenda:**

- Lunch Served at 1100 to 1200hrs

**1200 hrs 1. Opening Remarks**

*Ronnie Gill - Chairperson*

**2. SERC Business**

*Douglas Brown – GEMAC, SERC Subcommittee Chairperson*

- SERC met last week regarding an LAPC appointment letter received from Talbot County, which was reviewed by the SERC and Chairman Brown. The request is for this group to review for approval.
- The SERC is responsible for approving projects for the hazardous materials emergency preparedness (HMEP). This is a grant that is specifically for the transport of hazardous materials and is related to planning, training, and exercise. The grant is through the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The SERC is responsible for working with MDEM to coordinate (e.g., MDEM will ensure grant administration, while the SERC performs project scoping in coordination with locals). SERC project determinations are complete and local jurisdictions have been notified. This is a three-year grant program, the awards for the second year are being processed.
- Moving forward the SERC will be developing annual priorities with granular guidance within the scope of the grant, for the local jurisdictions to use while creating projects in the future. MDEM will work to better define the step-by-step process of this grant process.
- Approved per vote

**3. GEMAC Legislative Subcommittee**

*Jon Bratt – GEMAC, Legislative Subcommittee Chairperson*

#### 4. MDEM Director Briefing

*Marcia Deppen – Director, Consequence Management Directorate, MDEM*

- We are working on a couple of incidents, including: (1) monitoring for possible protests across the Eastern seaboard in response to an indictment in New York City, and (2) Preparing for a possible State funeral with DC, Northern Virginia, and bordering DC counties.
- The Preparedness Branch continues to work on the CMOP prevision, ingestion operations for the radiological program, and is conducting in-person or hybrid training programs. The Preparedness Branch is partnering with FEMA Region-3 for a recovery exercise in May, along with Anne Arundel County. In April, the branch will participate in the FEMA Region-3 Hurricane Preseason exercise.
- The Continuity team continues to update the Continuity of Government Plan.
- The Cyber Unit is working on the Cyber Resource database to be posted on the website. The team continues to work on the process to disseminate the local cyber security fund, scheduled to be available in July 2023. There is a survey out for locals to provide input on how the State and local cyber grant funds should be used.
- The Response/Coordination Branch is expanding WEB EOC to have additional capacities and are updating the distribution management plan. The branch continues to provide WEB EOC and SECO training.
- Emerging Initiative continues to support schools (e.g., includes private, public, and non-public schools of all denominations and all organizations) with reviewing EOPs and providing training and exercises. Two additional grant updates include: (1) the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness grant, which will focus on evacuation planning along the Delmarva Peninsula into the western part of Maryland, (2) the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant, which is a partnership with the Global Peace Foundation, the team is working on disseminating the funds.

*Janet Moncrieffe – Director, Mission Support Directorate, MDEM*

- EMPG had a slight reduction from FY22, total grant is about 6.5 million. We are going through the allocation process, once complete the normal process for awards will be completed.
- Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) – comprising both the State Homeland and the UASI, the UASI (specifically Baltimore) received 3.8 million and State Homeland received 7 million flat funding.
- 3.2 million received for the State and local Cyber Security Grant Program
- Regional Catastrophic Planning grant recently completed sub-awarding.
- EOC Grant – working with local jurisdictions to build project and grant management systems for the local jurisdictions that were awarded.

- NCR UASI – 2.1 million received for the State, this is a significant reduction of about 800,000 dollars.

*Sara Bender – Director, Disaster Risk Reduction Directorate, MDEM*

- Hazard Mitigation updates include: (1) we expect the award notification for the COVID-19 HMGP money, about 94 million dollars that jurisdictions and sub-recipients have applied for coming soon, (2) we have submitted the state's application to Building Resilient Intersection Communities program in January.
- The end of the COVID-19 public assistance incident period is May 11, State and local sub-recipients need to submit eligible costs incurred through that time.
- The Mesonet Risk Reduction: the risk analysis team is working with Tim closely.
- Communication and Outreach: Maryland Severe Storm Awareness will take place with the National Weather Service from April 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Private Sector Integration Program is hosting an annual summit on April 27<sup>th</sup>

## 5. 911 Board – Executive Director Brief

*Tim Tharpe – Acting Executive Director, 911 Board, MDEM*

- The second day of the two-day strategic planning for the 9-1-1 Board was done in March. Day one included only the board, and the second day included the board along with the entire ECC.
- The next meeting is scheduled next week on the 30<sup>th</sup>, invites were sent.
- Regarding NextGen 911, several jurisdictions have switched over in the last couple of months, everyone should be completed by September 2023. Please keep in mind that there are some Interfaces of the legacy system with NextGen that requires service provider switch over. We need to continue to monitor, so that the information transfer is seamless.
- **Mesonet Updates:** We have met with all but three jurisdictions in the state regarding first sites. The remaining three jurisdictions have been scheduled, once completed all 24 jurisdictions will have had an initial meeting. This is a project that is coordinated by MDEM but will eventually be operated by the University of Maryland Department of Atmosphere and Oceanic Science. MDEM is being assisted in the process by the Maryland Environmental Service, who are providing us GIS contracting and permitting services, along with project management. We anticipate having a minimum of three sites per jurisdiction when the entire system is built out. We hope to have the first phase (e.g., one of the sites in place) by the end of summer.
- Mesonet is a series of ground-based weather receiving stations, which are 10-meter towers that have a variety of weather sensing equipment and are mounted up on the tower. Probes go in the ground to measure soil, temperature, and moisture. All stations feedback to a database, housed by the University of Maryland and is streamed straight to the National Weather Service. We anticipate having 72 of these sites across the state and hopefully all build out in the next two years. Maryland will be the first state that was provided funding from the Governor's office to build the entire project out at one time. Eventually the system will tie into surrounding states including Delaware, Pennsylvania, and others, as they come online. Three major things from the system are expected: (1) the first is earlier warning of wind and water events, (2) more granular data to assist us in reporting any federal declarations reimbursement, and (3) help National Weather Service improve their forecasting across the state.

## 6. MDEM Chief Development Officer (CDO) Brief

*Anna Sierra – Chief Development Officer, MDEM*

- We are tracking 50 bills related to Emergency Management or 911 and provided opinion/feedback on 12 (21 cross-files).
- State Disaster Relief Fund Bill – the summer study group examined what mechanisms currently exist in the state to provide disaster relief when federal funding is not going to be available. The bill has been passed generally cleanly out of the Senate in the version that the work group supported. In the House the bill has had some significant changes which altered the intent of the bill. Essentially, language was stricken regarding the new fund, and instead altered the existing catastrophic event account fund, so there will be some interesting procedural considerations happening in the next couple of weeks. We are hopeful that the Senate version which is the intended version that we supported will pass.
- Two 9-1-1 bills that have passed: (1) interference with public safety answering points, and (2) criminalizes TDoS and DDoS telephone denial of service and distributed denial of service attacks.
- We have directly supported the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council – This bill makes small alterations to the structure of the Council. Currently the Council is considered an independent unit of government, that MDEM is required to staff, but it's not a part of MDEM. The Council has determined that they would prefer to be under the umbrella of MDEM, specifically under the new Office of Resilience.
- We supported one bill favorable with amendments, the Department of Emergency Management Office of Domestic Terrorism Response - This bill is the result of another task force which was required to look at coordinating domestic terrorism, intelligence, response, prevention, and making recommendations to the General Assembly on how that should be managed moving forward. There were two requirements in the bill that were out of MDEM's scope, (1) to essentially manage the reintroduction of violent offenders into society, and (2) developing and implementing interventions to prevent domestic violent extremism. The sponsor removed both.
- We registered letters of information on several bills: (1) notification requirements for water suppliers which came out of the event in Baltimore City, where there were positive E. coli tests, and not timely information provided to the public. Right now, there's no requirement for water suppliers to notify either local emergency management or state emergency management. (2) the bill for Maryland Center for School Safety, which required the Center for School Safety in conjunction with the Maryland 911 Board, to establish panic buttons in every school in the state. Unfortunately, the bill required the procurement and implementation of a statewide system by the end of September 2023. This is simply not feasible with the Maryland procurement system, and there were other requirements in the bill that counties have concerns about. (3)

the 311 bill which establishes a statewide 311 system. It would require each county to either develop their own 311 system and provide information to the state, or it would require the state to create a 311 system for that county. Counties can opt out. Originally intended to come to MDEM, the fiscal note was significant, the sponsor is currently looking for some alternatives.

## **7. MDEM Executive Leadership Brief**

*Russell Strickland – Secretary, MDEM*

- We are in the 100 days of the new Administration, which started with a retreat to discuss priorities, the concept of leaving no one behind, and the governor's 12 values. We are going to be data driven and heart led, bold, and courageous.
- One day per month is assigned as a cabinet meeting, there are several hours of a closed session when issues/concerns are discussed. We are in the process of rebuilding the government. Currently there are 10,000 vacancies in the executive branch of the State government, 6,300 positions are those which the governor controls. Our goal is to fill 3000 vacancies by the end of the calendar year.
- Change will take time; another retreat will be held at the end of the 100 days. Each department will provide objectives which will relate to the Administration's objectives based on priorities that were established.
- As the GEMAC and SERC we want to get back into a rhythm with quarterly meetings, using quarterly meetings as work sessions in conjunction with the Governor's priorities and objectives.
- Over the last 18-months MDEM has had a lot of changes, we are going to come out of this legislative session with several other responsibilities. This will fit well with the all hazards approach for emergency management, and MDEM is focusing on the prevention, protection, and mitigation areas where we can build resilience that will help with recovery and response.
- MDEM is still building a department, our over the target request that went in this year for the budget passed in the Senate. There is a transition report from the governor, specifically on public safety and narrowed down to emergency management.
- MDEM has new staff: AAG, Sabrina Chase and Chief Diversity Equity and Inclusion Officer, Monica Kindle.

*Chas Eby – Deputy Executive Director, MDEM*

## 8. Other Q&A and Roundtable

*GEMAC Members*

- Comment related to Mesonet sites- Noah has buoys on the bay, which may be a good idea to tie them together, buoys have been used before when monitoring conditions, there could be a benefit since sometimes sites are down. This is something to consider in areas where there are buoys or coverage, why would there be both?
- Will there be lightning strike protection systems? This is a noted challenge for procurement.

## 9. Next Steps

*Ronnie Gill – Chairperson*

- Generally, MDEM has a busy year for 2023, a lot of novel initiatives, this meeting will be more workshop/interactive moving forward.
- Reoccurring invites will be scheduled for the entire year.

**NLT  
1400hrs**

## 10. Adjourn

*Ronnie Gill – Chairperson*