



## Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Description:** IEMAC Spring Meeting 2022

**Report Date:** July 1, 2022

**Location:**

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

**Meeting Begin Date:** June 7, 2022

**Meeting End Date:**

June 8, 2022

**Present:** See Attached Attendees List

**Regrets:** Jean Savard (QC), Peter Rogers (ME), Jennifer Harper (NH), Dawn Brantley (MA), Erica Borneman (VT), William Turner (CT), Marc Pappas (RI), Thomas Guthlein (RI)

**Proxies:** Adi Jakupovic (QC) for Jean Savard, Richard LaTour (MA) for Dawn Brantley

- 1.0 Approval of Minutes:** Fall 2021 minutes were sent for review and approval prior to meeting and edits were completed. The formal motion to approve was not completed at the meeting due to the number of voting board members not reaching a quorum. Minutes were sent for vote during the meeting via email on 6/7/22 and minutes were motioned for approval by Jennifer Harper (NH) on 6/12/22 and Seconded by Erica Borneman (VT) 6/15/22. Approved 6/15/22. Final minutes will be made available on the website.
- 2.0 Definitions & Acronyms:** To be reviewed annually.
- 3.0 Legal Status of IEMG:** All 11 jurisdictions are officially full members of the IEMG.
- 4.0 Administrative Support Position (Secretariat):** No changes as the State of Maine will continue to hold this position.
- 5.0 Website:** Web address is [www.iemg-gigu-web.org](http://www.iemg-gigu-web.org). The website was completely redesigned and upgraded by New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization and is now live. The website continues to be utilized as a central depository for documents. Everyone is encouraged to view the website. Member only section contains nonpublic information. Presentations from this meeting, if available, will be posted in the member only section of the site.
- 6.0 IEMG 101:** The PowerPoint presentation is available on the IEMAC website noted above. All newer delegates and/or partners to the IEMG are encouraged to review this PowerPoint. The PowerPoint presentation current name is IEMG101 - The International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding.
- 7.0 Report from Each Jurisdiction:** Each Jurisdiction Director gave a summary of what has been going on in their jurisdiction with Covid-19, staffing, lead changes, financial matters, other disasters, and exercises/events for December 2021 through June 2022. Key comments listed below:

**NB** –Director MacCallum reported that he will retire in July after 17 years at NBEMO and 30 years of military service. NBEMO was activated for 771 days for Covid-19, between February 2020 to March 14, 2022 and also activated at a level 1 for River Watch 2022, but no major spring floods occurred. NBEMO has been active in the non-traditional role of PPE warehouse management to support Covid response for GNB departments, First Nations, and essential critical infrastructure partners; Additional Level 1 activation for freedom protests with

Approved 12/5/2022



drone surveillance and reporting; Several exercise and trainings, including ICS, occurred virtually and in person sessions will be returning soon.

**NS** – Director Mason reported that the jurisdiction the fall- winter season was busy for weather events, with the Provincial Coordination Center (PCC) activating seven times for a total of 18 days to support storm response and recovery; The PCC activated for Covid-19 on March 16, 2020 and remained active for 627 days. During that time, they assisted with procurement of PPE, warehouse management, providing 410 situational reports, before standing down on December 3, 2021; Training and exercising opportunities were offered, returning to in person, offering ICS; in September 2021 NSEMO began a series of drills in the PCC to test its PCC Standard Operating procedures. These drills continued from through April 2022, and in the fall, external partners will be added to test level 2 and 3 activations; NSEMO is leading a provincial wide full-scale exercise, Nova Alpha in November 2022, which will involve federal, provincial, municipal, and Critical Infrastructure partners; NSEMO built a board map layer on WebEOC with all the various cell tower locations. A water and sewer infrastructure layer will be added as well; Key findings from the After-Action Report from Dorian were communications, critical infrastructure, and scalability response.

**MA** – Rich Latour (Proxy for Acting Director Dawn Brantley) reported that Massachusetts Emergency Management (MEMA) has had 4 activations during this reporting period. 2 for winter events, 1 for Seabrook exercise, and 1 for the Boston Marathon; 1 disaster declaration declared for the January 28-29, 2022 blizzard; 46 training opportunities, classroom and virtual offerings, were held graduating 615 students; MEMA recently expanded the mitigation program by onboarding a civil engineer, and expanded the Operations unit by onboarding a state meteorologist; Covid-19 PPE distribution program ended on 4/30/22 but some requests for PPE are still coming in. MA National Guard missions for hospital and ems support also ended on 4/30/22. MEMA also helped distribute over 12 Million covid tests.

**PEI** – Tanya Mullally, Acting Director PEI Public Safety, is happy to host the first in person IEMG meeting since the fall of 2019. PEI EMO reported that PEI experienced 4 back to back winter storms in January and February 2022 activating the EOC to Level 1 enhanced monitoring each time. Also activated at a level 1 for the Freedom Convoy; PEI reviewed over 1 million travel request letters for cross border movement; EMO delivered just in time training online and recently began offering in person training again, however the virtual options will remain; A full-scale exercise with the Provincial Airport is planned for the fall of 2022; The PEI EMO is supporting (planning) to the upcoming Cavendish Beach Music Festival in July 2022 expecting over 20,000 attendees; The State of Public Health Emergency was lifted on April 5, 2022 and in its place is the COVID Prevention and Self Isolation Order Revocation effective same date.

**VT** – Chip Deasy (proxy for Director Erica Bornemann) reported the Vermont Emergency Operations Center briefly activated for the Covid -19 Omicron Surge from January 12 to March 4, 2022; Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) is planning an extensive After-Action Report for Covid response; VEM hosted a “Day of Learning” in May and had 180 participants. Sessions covered various topics from NIMS to Volunteer and Donation Management; Various training and exercise opportunities were offered statewide; Director Bornemann is the current President of NEMA.

**NL** –Director Kennedy reports that the Provincial EOC was activated for Level 4 Activation for rain event in the southwest coast region and multiple Level 2 and 3 Activations January through March for rainfall events, localized flooding, landslides and road washouts; The jurisdiction hosted a visit from the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall in mid May; Provincial Emergency Services branch restructure has started again to include NL911 and Provincial Radio Program; ICS has not officially been adopted in the province but they are hoping to change that soon as ICS 400 course will be offered in September; Recently hired a business continuity manager and a Search and Rescue (SAR) manager; All Covid restrictions have been lifted.

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**QC** – Adi Jakupovic, proxy, reported the province remains under a Declaration of Health Emergency, expected to be in place at least till the end of the year. The province experienced no activations between January and April, 2022. Two provincial EOC activations occurred in the month of May. In a span of two weeks, there were several episodes of flood events north of the Saint Lawrence River mainly in the west and the center of the province along the St-Maurice Basin, the Gatineau river basin and Lac Saint-Jean region. The late snow melt, combined with massive rainfall in May produced a late spring flood season, fortunately without major consequences. Around 300 houses were impacted (about 100 flooded) and some remote communities were cut off from the rest of the province which necessitated airlifts to continue supplying them with primary care and basic supplies. A major mobilization occurred with the arrival of a derecho type storm event between mid to end of May which caused major damages to power lines and communication systems in a large portion of Quebec. 2 million people were left without power, and it took Hydro Quebec 10 days to restore power to all. More than 700 crews (2000 people), including crews from NB, participated in the cleanup and power restoration. Additional challenges on this particular storm included 9-1-1 emergency line failures and fuel shortages. Also reported during this period was a polar bear sighting in the Gaspesie region; Quebec is launching a new type of public “SILVER” alert, directly through their existing mass alert system. This is a 1-year pilot program that will aim to transmit an intrusive alert when a person, aged 60 or over with major neurocognitive disorders (MNDs), including Alzheimer’s disease, is reported missing; Quebec proceeded to a major restructuring of the department’s structure with a new organizational chart, including the creation of two new sub-departments and a new Exercise and Training team.

**RI** – Not in Attendance – report via email - Director Marc Pappas has been temporarily reassigned to the Governor’s Office as senior advisor and Covid Administrator and Tom Guthlein has been appointed Acting Director at Rhode Island Emergency Management (RIEMA); RIEMA reports the State of Emergency for Covid-19 remains in place through June 30, 2022 (Partial Activation ends). RI did receive a Major Presidential Declaration for a January 2022 Blizzard event; ICS 300 and 400 offerings have continued as well as Operation Safe Return SAR full scale exercise; RIEMA is working with FEMA Region 1 with hosting the upcoming opioid crisis workshop in 2022; Additional ICS training opportunities and exercises are being scheduled including a Law Enforcement Active Shooter Response Training and a Full-Scale Exercise at T.F. Green International airport; EMAP Review continues.

**NH** – Not in Attendance – report via email -Director Jennifer Harper reported the jurisdiction had a few non Covid activations during this reporting period for two functional exercises and one FEMA graded exercise for Radiological Preparedness and Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. Also a Covid Booster Blitz activation; The Booster Blitz 2.0 was held in January; HSEM and DHHS successfully coordinated this second event with the Regional Public Health Networks and other stakeholders. Of the original 14,000 registrations, a total of 9,971 people received a booster in one of 14 locations statewide. The 14 sites were staffed by 538 local and state personnel in addition to 75 National Guard personnel; Numerous training and exercise opportunities continued and 35 training and 8 exercises are already scheduled for the next 12 months; NHHSEM has had numerous staff changes including embedding a part time Exercise Training officer at NH Police Standards and Training to assist them with the scheduling and management of Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response (ALERRT) Training for law enforcement agencies within NH.

**ME** – Not in Attendance – report via email -Director Peter Rogers reported that Maine’s EOC returned to a steady state on April 29, 2022 after a 25 month activation for the Covid-19 pandemic. During this reporting period Maine applied and was granted Presidential Declaration for a Severe storm and flooding in its most southern county. FEMA set up their JOC at the MEMA headquarters in Augusta. Several Training and exercise events continued including Cross Border Incursion exercise series with the Maliseet tribal nation. Maine has a robust training and exercise schedule planned for the next 12 months; Maine completed the Logistics Capability



Assessment Tool (LCAT2) with FEMA Regional and Headquarters. The AAR for that is forthcoming; Maine has begun the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) and is currently in the program review and self-assessment stages; MEMA continues to have staffing changes but one notable addition is a Mass Care Coordinator position that transitioned from the American Red Cross to a full time MEMA position.

**CT** – Not in Attendance – report via email –William Turner was hired as the New Director in March of 2022. Director Turner reports that the EOC continues to be in monitoring status for Covid response through June 30, 2022; The jurisdiction hosted Vice President, Kamala Harris, in May for the US Coast Guard Academy Graduation; Training and Exercises have continued but in a reduced capacity; Long time IEMG delegate, Brenda Bergeron, is the new Deputy Commissioner of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

**Federal Partners:** Dan McElhinney (FEMA), Matt McCann (FEMA CISA), Kevin Miller (PSC Atlantic Canada), Greg Banner (US HHS), Joseph Boudrow (US Coast Guard), Ben MacDonald (Canadian Coast Guard), and Daniel Bingham-Pankratz (US Consulate General, Halifax) reported on their perspective agencies events.

Dan McElhinney (FEMA) reports that training opportunities are again available through FEMA. The National Level Exercise 2024 is in the preliminary planning stages and potential scenario is climate adaptation and change with a cyber component. FEMA is partnering with Rhode Island and Fire Services on suicide workshop and hope to get that completed before November. FEMA headquarters is looking to do a series of workshops on climate change.

Kevin Miller (Public Safety Canada (PSC) Atlantic Region) reports the last 6 months have been very busy for PSC. Recently there has been a change in the minister for Public Safety. PSC is working on identifying lessons learned on the last couple of years and also working with their partners in Ottawa reviewing policies.

Greg Banner (Emergency Coordinator with US Health and Human Services) reports that DHHS ASPR regional is still covid centric for medications and anti virals. He also reports that National efforts on the southern border are looking to be expanded by adding more staff, hopefully permanent, and adding countermeasures staff working with the Strategic National Stockpile.

Joseph Boudrow (US Coast Guard) and Ben MacDonald (Canadian Coast Guard) reports there is great cooperation between the two agencies. US Coast Guard is working on a regional multi day exercise with search and rescue and oil spill response components.

Matt McCann (Dept. Homeland Security CISA) reports the primary focus right now is the dynamic between Russia and Ukraine. CISA continues with training and exercises, mainly virtual, on topics such as active shooter webinars, bomb prevention trainings, cross border energy Regional Resilience Assessment Program (RRAP) with Public Safety Canada. The Bimonthly active shooter webinars have continuously maxed out participation at 300+ participants. And in the latest infrastructure bill, there was funding made available for cyber security grants and FEMA will be the financial manager for these grants.

Daniel Bingham-Pankratz (US Consulate General, Halifax) that their day to day business is often passport requests and approvals, crisis planning, and hope to expand exercises now that the covid regulations have dropped.



**8.0 Operations Manual:** The current Operations Manual is available at [www.iemg-gigu-web.org](http://www.iemg-gigu-web.org). The document was last revised in 2015. Tanya Mullally (PEI) reports the full reformatting and revision of the Operations Manual has not been completed prior to the meeting as the proposed changes with EMAC would influence the specific operational components of the plan. The Operations manual is now under full revision and should be available shortly in draft format for the directors to review. Review of this document will be a standing item at all meetings.

**9.0 Strategic Plan:** A group working session took place regarding the IEMG Strategic Plan. Co-Chair Paul Mason (NS) led the discussion. Key takeaways from the strategic plan discussion:

- Member After Action reports can be shared on the IEMG Website members only section at the jurisdiction discretion
- Continue to Assess and Compare Jurisdictional activation levels
- Develop IEMG Orientation package
- Develop a Federal Partner report out form similar to the one the directors use
- Update and circulate 2016 Common Resources or Functional Capabilities document
- Operations Manual updates
- Climate Change and its impacts/relation to critical infrastructure will be added to the agenda as an agenda standing item
- Identify and contact the Chairs for the Central and Western cross border compacts to learn more about their operations and update at the Fall 2022 meeting.

The Strategic Plan will be updated and circulated.

**10.0 Presentations and Discussions:** Any presentations made available will be posted to the IEMAC website in the members only section. Not all presentations were available electronically.

**EMAC and A-Team Update:** Presented by Jaci Hamel (MA). EMAC is the Emergency Management Assistance Compact and is a state-to-state mutual aid agreement through which requested resources are efficiently and effectively shared in support of saving lives, protecting property, minimizing environmental damage, meeting human needs, and lessening the economic impact on states as we respond to and recover from natural or man-made disasters. Through EMAC the US States can share any resource available within their state following a governor's declaration of emergency. EMAC is administered by NEMA (National Emergency Management Association).

EMAC recently updated some of the request and financial forms and one duplicate signature form was removed. Resource request process has been simplified and the system has been made available to all international compacts including IEMAC. The IEMAC forms will be updated and incorporated into the IEMAC Operations Plan.

A-Team training is now available online. EMAC Coordinators will nominate those they want to become A-Team qualified by NEMA. IEMAC need and use for A-Teams is under review.

**CISA's Approach to Critical Infrastructure Security and the National Infrastructure Protection Plan Update:** Presented by Matt McCann, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

**Critical Infrastructure in Nova Scotia and Beyond:** Presented by Lori Errington (NS)

**Risk Assessment and Adaptation Initiatives in PEI:** Presented by Peter Nishimura, Hope Parnham, and Kathleen Brennan from the PEI Climate Change Office.



**11.0 Bi-Annual Communication Exercise:** This exercise was completed by the host jurisdiction Prince Edward Island. The exercise consisted of two separate exercises, one via telephone during regular business hours and one via email correspondence via the IEMG\_Directors Googlegroups distribution list after hours. Results were given to the jurisdictions individually. It was reported that the email exercise did see several of the Googlegroups emails went into spam folders. Delegates were asked to add the Googlegroups email to their contact list to avoid future emails being lost. Directors can reach out to the secretariat if they have any questions about the Googlegroups distribution list.

## **12.0 Fall 2022 Meeting Dates & Agenda Items**

The Annual Fall Meeting is scheduled to be in person in Massachusetts. Date (November) and meeting location to be determined. Quebec is on schedule to host the Spring meeting in 2023.

Fall 2022 Agenda items include: Climate Adaptation/Change and its impacts relating to critical infrastructure, Review of Bylaws, Compact updates, Operations Plan Manual review, Strategic / Work Plan review.

## **13.0 Appendix**

- Attendees List



**APPENDIX A**  
**IEMAC SPRING MEETING**  
**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, CANADA**  
**JUNE 7-8, 2022**  
**LIST OF ATTENDEES**

| <b>Last</b>      | <b>First</b> | <b>Agency</b>                       | <b>Jurisdiction</b> |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ayotte           | Tara         | Emergency Management                | ME                  |
| Banner           | Gregory      | US Dept of Health & Human Services  | Federal Partner     |
| Bingham-Pankratz | Daniel       | US Consulate General, Halifax       | Guest               |
| Boudrow          | Joseph       | US Coast Guard                      | Federal Partner     |
| Deasy            | Chip         | Emergency Management                | VT                  |
| Errington        | Lori         | Emergency Management Organization   | NS                  |
| Essery           | Maggy        | Emergency Management                | PEI                 |
| Gaudet           | Cody         | Emergency Management                | PEI                 |
| Gunn             | Christopher  | RCMP L Division                     | Federal Partner     |
| Hamel            | Jaci         | Emergency Management                | MA                  |
| Jakupovic        | Adi          | Ministere de la Securite publique   | QC                  |
| Jones            | Tracy        | Emergency Management                | PEI                 |
| Kennedy          | Jamie        | Emergency Services Division         | NL                  |
| LaTour           | Rich         | Emergency Management                | MA                  |
| Laughlin         | Walt         | Emergency Measures                  | NB                  |
| Lawlor           | Bill         | Canadian Red Cross                  | Federal Partner     |
| MacCallum        | Greg         | Emergency Measures Organization     | NB                  |
| MacDonald        | Ben          | Canadian Coast Guard                | Federal Partner     |
| MacIsaac         | Brad         | Emergency Management                | PEI                 |
| Malette          | Dominic      | CBSA – Atlantic Reg                 | Federal Partner     |
| Mason            | Paul         | Emergency Management Organization   | NS                  |
| McCann           | Matt         | FEMA Region 1 - CISA                | Federal Partner     |
| McElhinney       | Daniel       | FEMA Region 1                       | Federal Partner     |
| Miller           | Kevin        | Public Safety Canada – Atlantic Reg | Federal Partner     |
| Mullally         | Tanya        | Public Safety Division              | PEI                 |
| Murray           | Dakota       | Emergency Management                | PEI                 |
| Myers            | Mitchell     | Emergency Management                | PEI                 |
| Squires          | Brianna      | Emergency Management                | PEI                 |
| Tang             | Trinh        | CBSA – Atlantic Reg                 | Federal Partner     |