

# SUMMIT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

December 21, 2023

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The Summit County Emergency Management Executive Committee (EMEC) meeting was called to order on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 10:30 am in the Summit Emergency Communication Center, 630 North Ave., Tallmadge, OH.

## I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Goncy motioned for the minutes to approve August 17, 2023, with Tina Merlitti as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

## II. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

### Correspondence Sent and Received

Bill Holland discussed the correspondence.

- No correspondence

## III. OLD BUSINESS

- None

## IV. NEW BUSINESS

- None

## V. EMA AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

Emergency Management Agency Report

**Tommy Smoot** reported:

### Policy

- I attended the August 21, 2023, Community Disaster Resilience Zones Briefing.
  - The Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act—will build disaster resilience across the nation by creating and designating resilience zones that identify disadvantaged communities most at risk of natural hazards.
  - This new law amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Recovery and Emergency Act and applies FEMA's National Risk Index to identify communities most vulnerable to natural hazards.
  - A portion of Barberton is designated as a CDRZ.
- FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell and Team Rubicon's Vice President of Operations, Jeff Byard, signed a memorandum formalizing their longstanding partnership outlining how they will continue cooperating in disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and emergency management operations.

- FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell and NAACP President Derrick Johnson signed an agreement outlining how the two organizations will collaborate to center equity in disaster preparedness and response efforts.
- FACT SHEET: President Biden Issues Executive Order to Protect People in East Palestine, Ohio, and Nearby Communities, and Continue to Hold Norfolk Southern Accountable
  - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/09/20/fact-sheet-president-biden-issues-executive-order-to-protect-people-in-east-palestine-ohio-and-nearby-communities-and-continue-to-hold-norfolk-southern-accountable/#:~:text=As%20part%20of%20his%20commitment,is%20available%20to%20affected%20communities>
- The Summit County department and organization NIMS reporting deadline was September 25, 2023.

#### Grant Funding

- On September 29, 2023, FEMA notified Ohio EMA of the approval and grant award for the City of Akron - Project Scoping funded under the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program for fiscal year 2022. Federal funding for \$403,020.63 has been obligated. A local match of \$44,544.40 is required.
  - Joseph and I worked on an amendment to the 2018 Summit County Hazard Mitigation plan for the City of Akron Water Department. This federal funding supports a Capacity Building project addressing drought and water supply resilience for 280,000 Summit County customers. It studies the Lake Rockwell Reservoir to explore a potential emergency connection with Cleveland Water, aiming for the most feasible and cost-effective solution.
- BRIC/FMA Funding Opportunity
  - a. The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) wishes to notify you of the opening of the application cycle for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grants. All grant guidance, training opportunities, and deadlines for the BRIC and FMA grants can be found on our website: <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/205bfb5a/pKyzulxh-06fa-eeWTSQjg?u=https://ema.ohio.gov/mitigation-recovery/mitigation/mitigation-grants/01-hma-application-information>. This year there is \$701,000,000 available in BRIC competitive funds and \$800,000,000 available through FMA.
    - i. PLEASE NOTE: The application deadlines listed in this email are the BRIC and FMA deadlines that must be met. The deadlines in the attached Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) are later to allow the state time to compile all applications and submit the entire package to FEMA for the national competition.
      - November 20, 2023 - HMA Pre-application form due to Ohio EMA for entities interested in applying for BRIC and/or FMA (attached)
      - January 5, 2024 – Draft applications due to Ohio EMA
      - January 31, 2024 – Final applications due to Ohio EMA
- FEMA 2024 HHPD Eligible Dams Notification
  - FEMA has announced potential funding for dam owners with Class I dams in critical condition and need rehabilitation under the High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) grant program. Introduction virtual meeting is on January 4, 2024
- Prepare grant projects for the FY24 SHSP grant application

## Response

- On August 29, 2023, Thirteen Summit County firefighters aided wildfire relief in Leesville, Louisiana, covering 60,000 acres due to extreme heat and drought. The team from Akron, Cuyahoga Falls, and Green Fire relieved overwhelmed local departments. The group returned to Ohio on September 6, a week ahead of schedule, as fires subsided.

## Training and Exercise

- We observed the OEMA Solar Eclipse TTX #2 - August 24, 2023
- Attended the iOS17 Update regarding FEMA WEA enhancements webinar on August 31, 23, to provide user-tappable messages up to 600 additional characters
- I attended the NACO Resilient Counties Advisory Board Meeting on September 14, 2023.
- Hosted the Summit County DPSC/EMEC Workshop on September 13 to 15, 2023
- Hosted the FEMA Region 5, OEMA, and Summit County EMA Roundtable September 11, 2023
- We participated in the ODH Statewide Medical Countermeasures Full Scale Exercise on October 18, 2023
- We provided the University of Akron IAEM Student Chapter with an EOC Tour and EMA 101 on December 1, 2023
- I attended the PIO workshop on December 5, 2023
- We hosted the NTSB FAC 2-day workshop in Septemberberber.
- Everyone should have received a WEA notification on October 4, 2023, from the nationwide test.

## Meetings

- Participated in the NWS Cleveland Office, Adopt a County Initiative
- Met with the CBRN Task Force, which falls under The Homeland Response Force of The Ohio Army National Guard. They would like to train with of our Region 5 CSAR team.
- Met with Ben Gessford, Cuyahoga Falls School District's new Security Director
- I assisted the IBH Addiction and Recovery and Hope and Healing Survivor Center with emergency management planning.

Tim Gemind reported on the following:

- All branches have submitted 2024 training schedules. At least six Hazmat training sessions are grant-funded. The TROT Branch will host a four-day regional Heavy Equipment Rigging Specialist training in May. The Water Branch will host a series of water rescue train-the-trainer sessions for seven current divers. These sessions are physically and mentally demanding and require a tremendous time commitment from the students. The plan is for these seven divers to replace six current water rescue instructors who will no longer be instructing within the next few years.
- In January, the Hazmat Branch will receive in-service training on new grant-purchased self-contained breathing apparatus, and the units will be placed on the two primary vehicles in Stow and Akron.
- There have been no deployments since the last meeting.
- 90% of the larger apparatus and trailers were in for preventative maintenance. The rest will be completed in January.

- We are working on ongoing maintenance and repairs for small and miscellaneous equipment.
- In September, the Hazmat Branch completed and passed an LEPC, a graded functional exercise.
- We continue to bring on new members across the branches.
- The SCSORT Executive Board decided not to create a separate Drone Branch but will roll in a Drone Group to the IMAT Branch so they will be deployable together. This will be a work in progress for the first quarter of next year to get everything in place.
- The TROT Branch retired a large equipment trailer, which will be transferred to the New Franklin Fire Department, making it into a water rescue trailer.

Angela Robinson (Tommy) reported the following:

- FY23 SHSP – On a federal hold.
- FY22 SHSP- We have started working on some of these projects. The Akron SWAT Mass Care will be complete after they pick up. Ashland County Sheriff Bomb and Youngstown Bomb Squad Xray have been ordered, as well as the Summit County Bomb Squad Robot. The HERS Training is scheduled for May. The Bath, Mahoning County, and Springfield Communications projects have also been ordered.
- FY21 SHSP- The projects have been completed. There is still work to do on the LE side.
- Working on quarterly reports, single audits, and master inventory audits will be submitted in January.
- Working on SAR, SAR-W, and HMEP- Year 2.

Faylin Thurn (Tommy)

- We hosted the fall ICS 300, and ICS 400 is upcoming on December 13-14, 2023
- Mobile Surveillance Tower – ready for local or regional requests. The tower is housed in Tallmadge.
- G191 ICS/EOC Interface January 11, 2024 in Tallmadge
- OH290 PIO Awareness February 23, 2024 in Tallmadge

Joseph St. John reported the following:

Mitigation 2023/2024 Plan update

- We received the required participation from communities.
- EMA re-sent the plan back to the stakeholder group after contractor Burton reviewed all first-round comments (there was concern over communities being listed as responsible for projects outside of their jurisdiction).
- The plan draft was submitted to OEMA on 11/21/2023; we are waiting for review comments from OEMA/FEMA. We need to have it back from 4/12/24.

Summit Ready

- Ten communities/organizations have begun the process and submitted initial applications.
- Three communities/organizations have been approved to be Summit Ready
  - Tallmadge and Victim Assistance Program awards have been presented.
  - Akron General to be presented at the beginning of January.

## DPSC

### EMS Subcommittee

- The plan review is close to completion; the next meeting is in January.
- The main focus at the moment is the triage tag project.
  - Using FY21 SHSP funds for about 40,000 tags for Region 5.
  - Simplified tag with barcodes for easier/enhanced patient tracking.
  - It falls in line with regional MCI plans for cohesive response across jurisdictions.
  - We have received quotes from a few companies

### EMA App

- The new layout is available on both Apple and Android devices.
- The 2024 Eclipse feature is now active; it redirects to our webpage.
- Download numbers: 1,982 as of 12/20/2023.

### PPE

- 6,001,923 pieces were distributed as of December 20, 2023.
- 654 Organizations, 2,002 allocations.

### DC PPE

- 402 requests/orders since 7/2020

### Training/Exercises

- I graduated from FEMA Basic Academy (101, 102, 103, 105, 146 complete)
  - 153 hours of training, including Independent Study prerequisites
    - Graduated from FEMA Basic Academy (101, 102, 103, 105, 146 complete)
- Participated in the ASHER Training for Public Safety Staff
- Participated in the DPSC Workshop
- Participated in the NTSB FAC Workshop
- Participated in the EMAO Winter Conference
- Participated in the Ohio LEPC Conference (Virtual)
- I completed the IS-29.A PIO Awareness (a prerequisite for L105)

### **Summit County Public Health**

Donna Skoda presented an update concerning COVID-19, RSV, and the flu season. Additionally, she addressed public health initiatives for the year 2024.

### **800 MHz Radio System Report**

No updates

## **Citizen Corp**

Tommy Smoot proposed that he and Alex Burt conducted research regarding the necessity of maintaining a separate committee under the Citizen Corps Council. Given the redundancy of this service, it is recommended that we formally dissolve this organization. Consequently, volunteer groups must now report directly to the EMEC.

## **VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

The EMEC/DPSC Workshop will be held September 11-13, 2024.

Jeff Funai wanted to thank EMA for the work on the Triage Tag project and for coming up with grant funds for the project. This will be a great asset if there is a mass casualty event.

Tommy Smoot presented a County Executive Proclamation for Mayor Bill Goncy for his years of service on many EMA committees, including EMEC.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Bruce Koellner with Tommy Smoot as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

The next meeting will be on February 15, 2024, at 10:00 am.