

SUMMIT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

February 27, 2025

The Summit County Emergency Management Executive Committee (EMEC) meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 10:02 am in the Summit Emergency Communications Center, 630 North Ave., Tallmadge, OH.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief Natko motioned to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2024, meeting, with Lori Pesci as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

II. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence Sent and Received

Tommy Smoot discussed the correspondence.

- Chief Norris retired from the Silver Lake Police Department on January 31, 2025. Capt. Steve Justice was appointed as the Silver Lake Police Department Chief.
- Gary Gannet, Meteorologist-in-Charge at the Cleveland National Weather Service, will retire on February 28, 2025. Fred Ziegler will be the Acting Meteorologist in Charge until a permanent replacement is announced.
- We presented a proclamation to Chief Riedel on January 18, 2025, to commemorate his retirement from the Valley Fire District.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- 2025 EMA Budget & 2025 Per-capita rate
 - Tommy Smoot discussed how Summit County EMA is funded and the 2025 EMA budget. The current per capita rate is .55, with all communities contributing (\$297,235.40) and the County of Summit matching .275 per citizen. The per capita rate has not been raised since 2019-2020. The Committee discussed increasing the per capita for next year. Bud McDaniel motioned to approve the 2025 EMA operating budget with the current per capita rate, with Lori Pesci as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- Elections
 - Bill Holland is the current chair, with Bruce Koellner as the co-chair. Lori Pesci motioned to keep Bill Holland (chair) /Bruce Koellner (co-chair), and Chief Funai as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

V. EMA AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

Emergency Management Agency Report

Tommy Smoot reported:

Plans

- Discussed the State of Ohio's Emergency Management Strategic Plan for 2025-2028.
- Summit County ADM Board received notification from OhioMHAS of a tentative award of \$56,000.00 for the RFA 68 BH Disaster Preparedness Planning Project Grant. This grant will take place 2/01/25-09/29/25, and we will work with TBD consultants. Chris Freeman-Clark will be the lead point of contact at Summit ADM for this grant, and Joe Harding will be the fiscal department lead, assisting with GFMS. We have written a letter of support and will serve on the steering committee.

Position Task Books

- There was a brief discussion on the National Qualification System, deployments, and Position Task books. Ohio EMA will not sign off on local position task books for local teams/members.

Technical Advisory Committees

- HazMat and the Water TACs have been active.
- We have been working to bring the Technical Rescue TAC back.

Meetings

- Attended the Akron Public Schools - students facing deportation planning meeting on January 6, 2025.
- Attended the 2025 CCAG Emergency Management Committee Minutes HVA Meeting on January 9, 2025.
- Attended the MWCD Regional Engagement Meeting on February 25, 2025.

Hazard Mitigation Funding Opportunities

- Joseph St. John forwarded two hazard mitigation funding opportunities to the elected officials and the mitigation planning group. The grant due dates and timelines are listed below.
 - Please consider this opportunity to apply for grant funds to implement some of the actions identified in your FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plan.
 - The President declared a Major Disaster (FEMA-4777-DR) for the State of Ohio due to tornadoes and high winds affecting western and central Ohio counties this spring.
 - As a result of the disaster declaration Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds are available statewide for eligible sub-applicants to apply for projects that reduce risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. The

deadline to submit HMGP pre-applications to the Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch is January 21, 2025.

- The projected HMGP funding available due to this disaster declaration is \$902,570.53.
- 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 at <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/b32f40fa/sH-zAxFZ7UWdQ8okofqVvA?u=https://ema.ohio.gov/mitigation-recovery/mitigation/mitigation-grants/05-hma-application-information>. This year there is \$451,000,000 available in BRIC competitive funds and \$600,000,000 available through FMA.
 - January 31, 2025 - HMA Pre-application form due to Ohio EMA for entities interested in applying for BRIC and/or FMA (attached)
 - February 28, 2025 – Draft applications due to Ohio EMA
 - March 28, 2025 – Final applications due to Ohio EMA

Training and Exercise

- We participated in the Summit County Facility Transport Liaison Tabletop Exercise on January 9, 20205.
- We participated in the Summit County Public Health NECO Region 5 exercise on January 16, 2025.

Tim Gemind (reported by Tommy Smoot)

- All Branches have a robust monthly training schedule for the year.
- Water Rescue Branch personnel have conducted several under-the-ice dives and surface ice rescue training.
 - The seven new dive instructors will finish their certification training by May.
- The SCSORT Board promoted Captain Dave Tenney from Akron Fire to the Water Branch Director and two Deputy Directors, Dan Pittman from Cuyahoga Falls and Lt. Brent Boelter from Akron Fire.
- The HAZMAT leadership group has put together a committee to begin the process of replacing the original 30-year-old HAZMAT vehicle.
- Activations since the last meeting in December:
 - The HAZMAT and TROT Branches responded to Twinsburg for a deceased person inside a train/rail tanker car.
 - The Water Branch responded to Wayne County for someone falling through the ice on a pond. The person was found before Summit County resources arrived.

Angela Robinson reported the following:

- Summit County EMA finished 2024 with
 - Total EMA Grants: 14
 - 5 New EMA Grant Awards, totaling \$564,243.00
 - Procured: \$1.4 MILLION for equipment and training
- The FY25 SAR and SAR-Water Grants were recently completed.

- We are currently working on the following grants. A grant handout was provided and reviewed.
- FY24 SHSP—We have not started working on this grant yet as we are in the process of finishing the FY22 and FY23 SHSP grants before starting this grant.
- FY23 SHSP- Diligently working on this grant due to end on 12/31/2025. There are two remaining projects SORT Trailer and Ashland County Radiation Detectors. There will be remaining grant funds to be spent, and we will petition OEMA for approval to reallocate funds.
- FY22 SHSP- Diligently working on this grant. A few new projects have been added, and most are almost complete. We are working on the final administrative tasks before completion. A grant extension has been provided until April 30, 2025.
- FY24 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO Grant)- Submitted for two specialized hazmat trainings. Training has been scheduled. Corrosive Response training with Safeware Inc. is to be held March 19-21, 2025, and a full-scale all-hazards exercise with Bad Day Training will be held May 21-23, 2025. If you want to attend, please contact Captain Amonett, Captain Groves, or Dennis Basch with Macedonia Fire.
- FY22 HMEP Year 3- Recently awarded a grant for three hazmat trainings totaling \$53,550.00. We will have until September 30 to spend grant funds. The training courses have been scheduled. The selected training courses are HazMat IQ-Foam IQ, Air Monitoring, and ARM Decon. Please reach out to the Hazmat Team if you are interested in attending, please contact Captain Amonett, Captain Groves or Dennis Basch with Macedonia Fire
- FY24 EMPG- Recent Award of a \$160,223.00 grant to cover 50% of EMA Personnel and Operational Expenses. The grant period ends on 12/31/2025.

Grant Reporting/Maintenance:

- All quarterly reporting has been completed. The following reporting has been completed and turned into Ohio EMA:
 - quarterly reports for the performance period ending 12.31.2024 for all the grants we receive through Ohio EMA,
 - the EMPG Cash request to request reimbursement for EMA expenses incurred October- December 2024, and the
 - Annual inventory for all equipment purchased with federal grant funds. The single audit was submitted to the local level point of contact; this information will be provided to the Auditor of the State's Annual Audit Report.

Faylin Thurn reported the following:

- OSINT – Open-Source Intelligence Training, March 19, 2025
- NECO Regional Exercise 4/29/25
- ICS-300 4/14-16, 2025
- Laser Active Shooter – LSU 5/13-15, 2025

- ICS-400 5/19-20, 2025
- Facility Transport Liaisons and Hospital ER – MCI Tabletop 1/9/25 SCPH
- SCPH Chemical Surge TTX 1/16/25 TBD
- HME – Homemade Explosives 1/29/25 SECC
- Sky Warn 4/16/25 Akron Red Cross
- Working with Homeland Security in creating a targeted violence and terrorist prevention strategy

Joseph St. John reported the following:

EOP

- Met with the state to discuss the review process. They are currently reviewing the plan for suggestions for updates. The tentative turnaround time to get comments back is in March.
- Currently going through our end to update as well
- Working with DPSC subcommittees to review and update related annexes.

DPSC

- EMS Subcommittee
 - Facilitated a Facility Transport Liaison (FTL) tabletop exercise in January with Fire Officers and Hospital staff.
 - Looking to do more training/exercise activities soon (NECO drill as well in April)
 - Met with the Police Chief's Association about rolling out plan changes as an official training for LE around the county
 - Delivered almost all outstanding tag allocations to FDs
- PIO Subcommittee
 - Held a workshop on 2/18. Well attended (over 60 registrations)
 - Topics on Crisis Communications Landscape, AI, and a Media Panel (social media, print media, and television media)

Summit Ready

- Still working with interested organizations and communities to get certified

Exercise/Training

- ODH Chemical Surge Tabletop
- ODH CHEMPACK training

EMA App

- Most current download numbers (as of December 19)
 - 3,862 (both iOS and Android) requested new download numbers this week

Damage Assessment

- Working with Crisis Track to update the Self-Reporting form to capture property information for future incidents better.

- Established a voicemail box on our main office line specific to damage assessment for future incidents.

Other

- Updated Call Center Kits (3 sets: Ohio Building, Summit ESC, Stow Community Room)

Summit County Public Health

Chris Barker stated they have their District Advisory Council on March 3rd. Most of their conversations will be on funding. SCPH has approximately \$15 million in federal grant funds covering multiple years. They are continuing to monitor the bird flu (H5N1).

800 MHz Radio System Report

Mike Szabo reported they have made progress on radio authentication and that about 80% of all radios in the county have radio authentication. Just a reminder, there is a deadline of July 1st for the link layer authentication to prevent unauthorized radios from using the system. Radios that have not completed radio authentication by July 1st cannot function on the system. The State has agreed to update all the school emergency radios. Motorola is completing a system upgrade in March, April, and May - you should not notice any issues.

VI. GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Winter Holiday luncheon will be moved to the Public Safety Spring Kick-Off on March 7, 2025.

VII. Adjournment

Lori Pesci made a motion to adjourn with Bud McDaniel as the second. The motion was carried by voice vote.

The next meeting will be on April 17, 2025, at 10:00 am at the SECC.