



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

February 24, 2025

Attendance

Jonathan Bratt
Douglas Brown
Jonathan Dayton
Jonathan Favorite
Dwayne Freeman

Jennifer Martin
Ryan Miller
Robert Poole
Kevin Simmons
Russell Strickland

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome
 - a. Meeting call to business at 14:00 by Anna Sierra, Chief Development Officer & Legislative Liaison. Brittany Cook conducted a roll call for attendance. Quorum was not reached.
 - b. Secretary Russell Strickland opened the discussion on Maryland's Budgetary status for Emergency Management.
2. Presidential Transition, 2025 Session and Budget
 - a. Anna Sierra provided updates regarding Governor Moore's appointment to the Council of Governors, in addition to the [National Governors Association](#) and [NACo Disaster Reform Task Force](#) launching Emergency Management efforts nationally. The MDEM internal task force activities related to the Federal Actions for grants were reviewed. Finally, legislative and departmental budget briefing forced on bills impacting the Emergency Management community was provided to the council. Council members were invited to join the MDEM weekly legislative briefing, and requests should be sent to Anna Sierra.
 - b. Jonathan Brett reported serving on the IAEM Gov. Affairs Committee and welcomed comments from members related to FEMA Reform to convey to the committee.
3. MDEM's Whole Community Integration and BEOC

- a. Tessa Lovro, Whole Community Integration Branch Manager, provided a briefing on MDEM's [Whole Community Integration](#) programs role during preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.
4. Private Sector Emergency Management Spotlight: Verizon
 - a. Guest speaker, Paul M. Miller, CBCP Outreach Manager at Verizon, briefed on business continuity and event management operations from the private sector perspective.
5. Private Sector Emergency Management Spotlight: Walmart
 - a. Invited speaker, Lee Siler, Director Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Readiness at Walmart, briefed on Walmart's preparedness and emergency readiness operations/capacity from a global emergency management perspective.
6. SERC Updates
 - a. No updates reported by Douglas Brown, Chair of SERC.
 - b. No topics requested during the meeting by council members.
7. Review of Upcoming Meeting Topic
 - a. Anna Sierra reviewed the proposed 2025 meeting schedule and associated topics, based on requests collected during the December 2024 meeting.
 - b. Members identified an additional topic for the next meeting, a legislative briefing on impacts on the Emergency Management community. No objections reported during the meeting from the council members.
8. Adjourn
 - a. The meeting adjourned at 1600.