



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

September 24, 2024

Attendance

Jonathan Dayton
Jonathan Favorite
Dwayne Freeman
Ronnie Gill
Adrian Grieve
Jasper Jones

Joseph Lafleur
Jennifer Martin
Thomas Moran
Ryan Miller
Bruce Wahl
David Wilenborg

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome
 - a. Meeting call to business at 12:00pm by Anna Sierra, Chief Development Officer & Legislative Liaison. Welcome provided by Director Ronnie Gill, Chair of GEMAC. Brittany Cook conducted a roll call for attendance. A quorum was reached.
 - b. Anna Sierra, Chief Development Office at MDEM, provided the council an update on the Appointments Office and members' current status. Attendance requirements and Open Meeting Act requirements were reiterated.
2. Update from MDEM
 - a. Chas Eby, Deputy Secretary at MDEM, provided a briefing on advocacy efforts undertaken by Secretary Strickland and other state emergency management agencies regarding restoration of federal cuts in FY25, and proposed bills that impact the emergency management community. Additional information was provided related to MDEM response operations, and participation for the 2024 Secretary's Regional Tour.
3. UM Center for Disaster Resilience
 - a. Allison C. Reilly PhD, Associate Professor at The Pedro E. Wasmer and Professor in Engineering Dept. Civil and Environmental Engineering provided a briefing on [UM Center for Disaster Resilience](#) projects.

- b. Council members expressed interest in future presentations to members' respective organizations, and the desire to continue partnerships with the Center's new program on climate adaptation, including Capstone project opportunities.
4. Office of Resilience Briefing
 - a. [Maryland Office of Resilience](#) (MOR), Chief Resilience Officer, Mike Hinson provided a briefing on the establishment of the office, its priorities, and current operations.
 - b. Council members questioned the implication of regulatory follow-up to achieve the priorities of MOR, including partnering with staff responsible for the state hazard mitigation plan. Additionally, members suggested interacting on the State Capital Expenditure budget for hazard mitigation and resilience. MOR and MDEM staff in general will examine the suggestions provided and plan to have a student from the UMD Center for Disaster Resilience examine local hazard mitigation plans for analysis.
5. Maryland Qualification System Briefing
 - a. MDEM Consequence Management team provided an update on the Maryland Qualification System. The Maryland Qualification System derives in policy from the federal government, but it is the state's implementation of the National Qualification System.
 - b. Council members inquired about the burden of credentialing at the state compared to local jurisdictions, MDEM reported the burden is mostly on local jurisdictions only when deploring outside the State of Maryland.
6. Adjourn
 - a. The meeting adjourned at 14:00.