

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting Held Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 09:30 AM CRD Headquarters, 625 Fisgard Street – Room 488

Present:	Tanya Patterson	Victoria (Vice-Chair)
	Jeri Grant	Juan de Fuca Electoral Area
	Ryan Wainwright	Emergency Management BC
	Eileen Grant	Oak Bay
	Jonathan Reimer	CRD Electoral Areas
	Brittany Schina	REMP
	Lisa Banfield	Central Saanich
	Samara Aitken	CRD Electoral Areas
	Stephanie Dunlop	Metchosin Fire Dept.
	Sara Jansen	Esquimalt
	Troy Mollin	View Royal
	Mike Harman	Sidney Fire Dept
	Cindy Patton	CRD (Recording Secretary)
Phone:	Brigitte Prochaska	Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area

1. **Welcome, and Introductions:** Vice-Chair T. Patterson welcomed everyone and asked for introductions around the room.

2. **Approval of agenda:**

It was **Moved** by J. Grant and **Seconded** by S. Jansen.

MOTION CARRIED

3. **Approval of minutes (December 05, 2019):**

It was **Moved** by S. Jansen and **Seconded** by T. Mollin that the December 05, 2019 minutes be approved with minor typo corrections and some changes for consistency.

MOTION CARRIED

4. **Presentation:**

a) **Sarah Hunn – Community Based Social Marketing & Motivating Behavior Change:**

5. **BC Hydro Response Protocols:** Metchosin Fire Chief Dunlop conveyed there are times when their Fire Department is cut off from accessing some of their residents because of downed powerlines or fallen trees. Part of the concern is the fact that some of those powerlines may still be energized and some residents may try and move the lines on their own without knowing if they are still powered – but more importantly Metchosin Fire Department has been talking with BC Hydro regarding a catastrophic events and then trying to request BC Hydro to actually shut down the sub-station or grid that powers Metchosin, that way the Fire Department can safely get to all of their residents. If the sub-station or power grid is shut down, people's home generators (if not plugged into regular power outlet) will still be working and powered but pose less of a risk. Should a generator re-energize, the amount

of power flowing back won't be as strong as the BC Hydro power and won't travel as far.

It is during a catastrophic event that Metchosin is looking to have the power cut and then slowly power back on. In essence looking to have BC Hydro control the re-energization.

It was noted that many of the rural communities are left without power (sometimes for weeks), while BC Hydro focuses on more densely populated jurisdictions. Which reinforces that Metchosin would adapt to having the power shut down completely.

Question: Does BC Hydro have a catastrophic event plan?

EPCs agreed they need to understand BC Hydro's current plan and need to get a current snapshot of where BC Hydro is at. It was proposed that local authorities/elected officials or the Greater Victoria Fire Chiefs could make the case to UBCM. "Catastrophic" needs to be defined as it would be different for Gulf Islands than in other areas around the region.

ACTION ITEM: EMBC to coordinate a meeting, in early May, with area EPCs, Fire Chiefs and BC Hydro. Once that meeting occurs, then a meeting with elected officials might occur.

6. Evacuation Planning: There is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow with the regional contractor, ISL Engineering; an update will be provided at the next LGEPAC meeting. Updates as to where each jurisdiction's evacuation planning were provided and each member was asked if they supported a Regional Concept of Operations – which everyone did. It was noted that there is new funding available and should the group submit a Regional application or two? Exercises are not included in these grants, only plans are eligible. Esquimalt can prepare the grant application but would need Resolutions from other jurisdictions in order to facilitate sharing the grant. EMBC indicated they are willing to assist with grant applications. UBCM has been allowing grant deadline extensions, when applicants reach out to them.

Victoria and Esquimalt are doing a field test of their evacuation plans and will share the results with the LGEPAC members.

Some areas have not found traffic modelling to be of any value to them, so more hazard specific planning might be necessary.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

- a) **Media Workshop:** A doodle poll was sent to various media agencies and only 3 responded. The Media Workshop will be moved to April 7, 2020. An REPAC meeting will also occur that day which will focus on media and communications during an emergency event. Media has indicated that they want to share information back and forth, that they find value in that exchange.
- b) **Prepare Yourself Workbook Order:** The proof has been signed off on and delivery of newest workbooks will occur in the next couple of weeks and be delivered to North Saanich Fire Hall for pickup.

8. LGEPAC/REPAC Working Group Updates:

- a) **Public Education:** The working group is trying to come up with a plan for 2020 which would include key messaging. Discussion around potential funding through REMP occurred. It was noted that REMP might not have access to as many funds

as they originally thought but will have a clearer picture once the CRD's year-end cycle has been completed.

ACTION ITEM: T. Patterson to send invitation to March 12 meeting and invite Dr. McKenzie-Moore (Community Based Social Marketing & Motivating Change Behavior).

b) Black Press Regional Advertisement Initiative: Received a quote for \$18k for advertising but the question was asked "how do we pay?" Do we use LGEPAC requisition percentages to determine the costs for each individual area/municipality? It was noted that some areas would not have budgeted for this. Should the REMP requisition be increased and be earmarked for Public Education?

i. Vote: Nothing to vote on at this time.

c) REPAC

i. REPAC Chair Nomination Vote: Sara Jansen's name was put forward as the Chair for REPAC and was awarded position by acclamation. It was noted at the next REPAC meeting there will be in conjunction with a media workshop.

9. Other Agency Minutes: None.

10. New Business: None.

Discussion ensued around Repeaters around the region being changed from analog to digital which is having an impact on some agencies/programs that use/rely on those repeaters. This is making it so that some radios and repeaters are no longer working. Questions around who owns the repeaters, who has requested the changes to the repeaters and who pays for the maintenance of the repeaters were put forward. Governance issue was identified.

ACTION ITEM: CRD to do fact finding mission and try to determine exactly who is doing this repeater work, how these changes can be communicated out to those that might be affected.

11. EMBC Updates: There are new EPCs or Volunteer EPCs that R. Wainwright is wanting to link up with more experienced EPCs and was hoping to set up a meeting in the Fall to establish new relationships, share information and discuss lessons learned. Financial training is still ongoing. Ian Foss has moved on as the Regional Director and is now the Director of Search and Rescue. Corey Anderson has temporarily taken over as Regional Director until Ian's replacement has been hired. It was noted that the PREOC is willing to participate in exercises. Possibility of participating in the Evacuation Exercise was proposed.

a) EPA Modernization: A report of "what we heard" will be issued sometime in the spring 2020.

12. REMP Updates: The submission for the Emergency Program Act (EPA) Modernization took a fair amount of time. The REMP 2020 Capital Region Engagement Timeline document was circulated and B. Schina is asking for feedback (ie; other activities that are going on that may have an impact on the timelines identified). There appears to be time to take on another regional project – however, there doesn't seem to be any funds available to start a new project.

13. Roundtable:

- **JDF Emergency Program:** Flooding in JDF – end of January. Wanted to thank all of those people who sent their Rapid Damage Assessment teams. EMBC also said thanks to those that sent Teams.
- **CRD:** Kyle Van Delft is the new Emergency Program Coordinator for Pacheedaht First Nation. Can we invite him to the next LGEPAC meeting? Resounding yes he should be invited.
- **View Royal:** Colwood is transitioning the Emergency Program Coordinator to the Fire Chief.
- **Esquimalt:** VIEP Conference happening May 22-24. Diverse schedule of topics for the conference, so spread the word.

Meeting adjourned. 12:02 pm

Next regular meeting: 9:00AM, June 4, 2020 at CRD HQ Room 488.