

## SR 530 Landslide Commission

Thursday, August 28, 2014; 5:00-8:00 p.m.  
The Everett Community Center ~ Everett

### Meeting Summary

#### ATTENDANCE

See Attachment 1

#### WELCOME AND MEETING OVERVIEW

**Discussion:** Discussion focused on completing the operating principles for the Commission by clarifying the use of consensus for decision-making. An amendment was put forth by the meeting facilitators stating: "In the event that consensus cannot be reached in a timely manner, the Commission will apply the 'consensus minus three' rule, so long as there are at least seven Commissioners present at the time of the decision. In summarizing the decision of the Commission, a summary of opposing opinions and statement of explanation will also be provided". Concerns were expressed that this meant that decisions could possibly be made with the agreement of only four Commissioners.

Commissioners discussed whether they could provide input into decisions ahead of time or by phone if not in attendance, possibly having the opportunity to view video of meetings. Commissioners also discussed whether votes happen at the same meeting a discussion is held or whether discussion happens first and then voting happens at a different meeting.

#### Decisions and Action Items:

- Commissioners agreed that they would like a new amendment drafted reflect that no fewer than 7 Commissioners are required to reach consensus, but that decisions could be reached by fewer than consensus ("Consensus Minus Three") so long as at least seven members are in support.
- Amanda Murphy and Mike Gaffney (Ruckelshaus) will draft a new amendment and bring it to the next meeting.
- When decisions are made and whether input can be received by phone or outside of meeting times needs further clarification
- Kathy Lombardo, Executive Director, has continued to receive emails and will respond to requests for meeting agendas

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE 101-OVERVIEW

**Presentation-** Materials and Information on Emergency Management and Response Organizations' Procedures, as Planned- *Jason Biermann, Deputy Director Snohomish County Emergency Management (EMD)*

**Presentation materials-** available at [www.bit.ly/sr530commission](http://www.bit.ly/sr530commission)

- PowerPoint – "530 Commission Overview"

Presenter provided an overview of emergency management and response doctrine that included reviewing general concepts, definitions, procedures, protocols, and organizing structures. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session with Commissioners and the presenter.

#### **Outcomes from Q&A – Consider Further Exploration**

- Lack of clarity up front and concern for who pays may delay requests for resources (less likely to be an issue if it is related to urgent life safety)
- How to effectively engage civilians' expertise, skills and access to their assets and identify lessons learned, constraints and issues related to expedient registration of civilians and NGOs
- How to effectively leverage non-governmental organizations (NGO) and identify lessons learned while considering trade-offs

#### **SNOHOMISH COUNTY ACTIVATION AND LESSONS LEARNED**

**Presentation-** Snohomish EM Initial Notification, Activation and Lessons Learned – *Jason Biermann, Deputy Director, Snohomish County Emergency Management (EMD)*

**Presentation materials-** available at [www.bit.ly/sr530commission](http://www.bit.ly/sr530commission)

- PowerPoint –“SR 530 DEM Specific”
- Handouts:
  - SR 530 Flooding and Mudslide Resource Timeline
  - Incident Complexity

Presenter reviewed the resource timeline of the incident and responses. He highlighted successes, lessons learned and recommended improvements. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session with Commissioners and the presenter.

#### **Key Challenges Highlighted**

- Complexity of incident-multiple incidents going on simultaneously
- Large number of responding agencies
- Communication difficulties
- Due to the scale of the incident and the number of people involved it was a challenge to document resources to assure reimbursement
- Significant human service and mental health needs for community as well as responders
- Difficulty clearing debris
- Weather
- Remote location with limited roadways

#### **Key Lessons Learned Highlighted**

- Especially in large and complex incidents, situational awareness is difficult to grasp in the first few days as a result it is best to assume the worst and call in more resources
- Strong relationships developed with neighboring counties prior to the event was very helpful during the event
- Use of established process/tools allowed for joint efforts (ex Incident Command forms)

- Homeland Security funded resources were valuable – helicopter, radio cache, communication vans, Medical Reserve Corps
- Important to have ability to have aerial resources available to understand the scope of an incident

#### **Outcome from Q&A-Consider Further**

- How best to enhance regional relationships among counties
- Clearer delegation of authority/ Greater understanding of EOC – IMT interface
- Improve implementation of mutual aid system include more education and training on effective implementation
- Greater education on WAMAS; State credentialing system on the emergency management side
- Streamline resource ordering –Create of one system and/or one form for resource ordering from the State. Establish a common baseline or uniformity where appropriate
- Varying degrees of familiarity from jurisdiction to jurisdiction as to how resource requests work. Not all jurisdictions have similar levels of understanding
- Timely use of volunteers and registration of volunteers
- Enhancement of programs that help train civilians and neighborhoods on emergency preparedness and how to help each other in the event of an incident
- Tools and utilization of tools for consolidation of information to assist with more expedient situational awareness

### **INCIDENT TEAM NOTIFICATION, RESPONSE AND LESSONS LEARNED**

**Presentation**-Northwest Incident Management Team Assistance to Slide-*Greg Sieloff, Assistant Fire Chief, Lynnwood Fire Department*

**Presentation materials- available at [www.bit.ly/sr530commission](http://www.bit.ly/sr530commission)**

- PowerPoint Presentation –“SR 530 Slide”

Presenter reviewed his perspectives, response experience, objectives, challenges and lessons learned mostly focused on Darrington. He noted that the response benefited from helicopters that were already up and running as part of a training exercise of Snohomish County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue (SARS) and became quickly available for the response. Presentation was followed by a questions and answer session with the Commissioners and the presenter.

#### **Key Challenges Highlighted**

- The size and nature of the incident was difficult to assess due to significant physical constraints
- Working with the media was very challenging. There were insufficient resources to deal with the demands of the media and the information needs of elected officials
- Lack of knowing how costs would be covered created constraints in initially accessing resources
- Communications was a huge challenge as cable, internet and cell phones were inoperable

- Initial communications via phone network to Arlington were constrained due to competition with thousands of incoming calls
- East/west communications were very challenging since they were physically cut off from each other and due to inoperable communication systems
- Communications with and providing care for families had challenges: shelters, chaplains, Red Cross, Information, volunteerism
- The river being damned and issues with water created uncertainty about appropriate actions to take, exact nature of threats and timing
- Darrington had access to the slide zone in ways that Arlington did not
- Difficult to get resources where needed due to road closure and length of time for arrival
- Request for assistance through State Mobilization Plan was denied

#### **Lessons Learned Highlighted**

- Darrington shelters were not utilized since community members housed people needing shelter
- Ability to get aerial views was crucial to incident analysis and response
- Effective partnering with and involvement of community volunteers in a wide range of meaningful tasks was important especially for directly affected families
- Since all needed resources were not available it was important to adapt what resources were available
- Early documentation of volunteers was helpful in being able to track resources utilized and hours of volunteer time spent
- Critical Incident Stress Management was very necessary and valuable for responders and civilian volunteers to be available throughout the incident duration
- Twitter was a useful tool

#### **Outcome from Q&A – Consider Further**

- Better integration of training between Type 2 and Type 3 Teams. Training of Type 2 Teams should include more all-hazard training
- Having available sufficient resources for usual operational coordination on major incidents for all hazards, for example, an incident management team for any place in the state, and technical rescue responders.
- Having sufficient physical resources available for all hazard incidents, for example, fuel and tents, and creation of contingency plans for resource requests and delivery if standard procedures are not working
- Protocols and training to improve coordination of messaging and public information when multiple authorities/agencies are involved
- Explore whether it is feasible to expand the State Mobilization Plan to include funding for all hazards

### **COMMISSION TIMELINE, UPCOMING MEETINGS, NEXT TASKS**

#### **Discussion**

Commissioners discussed ideas for and sequencing of agenda items for future meetings as well as a timeline for information gathering, consideration of recommendations, draft report, and final report. There was also discussion of who reviews the draft report.

Commissioners would like presentations to be completed during October, but wanted to maintain flexibility if needs arise. Commissioners discussed the possibility of creating small research groups on specific topics as well as fulfilling some of the information needs through written testimony that can be read outside of meeting times.

Commissioners discussed whether to meet with Darrington families prior to the September 18 meeting since it will be held in Darrington. They also discussed the importance of discussion and gaining perspective from the Tribes in the impacted areas.

Commissioners discussed the need for additional understanding of the issues related to the State Mobilization Plan and additional understanding of geological issues and lessons learned related to geologic hazards and land use.

***Brainstorm: Possible timeline and potential agenda items:***

September 10 meeting	- Presentation on incident response and lessons learned from Oso and Arlington responders - WSDOT Transportation Secretary – presentation on issues related to the roadway and why decisions were made the way they were - Review of State Mobilization Plan legislative history
September 18 meeting	- Meet with Darrington families (5-6:30pm) - Discussion with Tribal representatives - Commission Meeting (6:30-8:30pm)
September 30 meeting	
October 2 meeting	
October 13 meeting	- Complete presentations except where specific needs are identified
October 20 meeting	- Discussion of recommendations for the Draft Report
November 4 meeting	- Discussion of recommendations for the Draft Report
November 15	- Draft Report for Commission review
December 2 Meeting	
December 15	- Final Report

Additional potential future agenda items:

- Presentation from the State, Feds and maybe the TAG on incident response and lessons learned from their perspectives
- Issues and lessons learned regarding land use and geology
- Fatality management including involvement of medical examiners and coroners
- Presentations from the Mayor of each impacted community

#### Additional Information Needs

- Greater understanding of the State Mobilization Plan. What would it take to make it all hazard? Who is best resource person on this? Where does the current implementing funding come from?
- More in depth understanding of geologic and land use issues. Identify geologic settings prone to hazards on a statewide basis.

#### Decisions and Action Items

- Kathy Lombardo will contact Darrington families and invite them to meet with Commissioners on September 18 from 5-6:30 p.m. prior to the Commission meeting from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Amanda and Mike will do follow-up research on the legislative history of the State Mobilization Plan
- Commissioners established 4 small research groups and volunteered to participate in the groups. Commissioners asked that the research groups synthesize information and identify issues for Commission discussion based on their further research. The research groups are:
  1. Land use issues: Paul Chiles, Diane Sugimura, Bill Trimm, David Montgomery, Wendy Gerstel
  2. Geologic issues, hazards and mitigation of hazards: David Montgomery, Wendy Gerstel, John Erickson, Diane Sugimura
  3. State Mobilization Plan: Chief Steve Strachan, Hon. Jill Boudreau, Renee Radcliff Sinclair (This group decided to first review the legislative history before deciding if a small group is needed.)
  4. Emergency Response including use of volunteers, communications and fatality management: John Erickson, JoAnn Boggs, Renee Radcliff Sinclair, Lee Shipman
- There was discussion by Commissioners as to whether there needed to be a research group to develop the timeline in more detail. A decision was not made. This can be brought forward at the next meeting for discussion.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

One member of the community signed up for public comment and decided to hold the comment until the next meeting.

Upcoming SR 530 Commission Meeting Dates	Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 10, 5-8 p.m.</li> <li>• *September 18, 5:00-9:00 p.m. tentative</li> <li>• September 30, 6-9 p.m.</li> <li>• October 2nd, 5-8 p.m.</li> <li>• October 13th, 5-8 p.m.</li> <li>• October 20th, 5-8 p.m.</li> <li>• November 4th, 5-8 p.m.</li> <li>• December 2nd, 5-8 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everett Community Center</li> <li>• Darrington Community Center</li> <li>• Everett Community Center</li> <li>• Everett Community Center</li> <li>• Everett Community Center</li> <li>• Everett Community Center</li> <li>• Everett Community Center</li> <li>• Everett Community Center</li> </ul>

## Attachment 1 Meeting Attendees

Name	Title and Affiliation
Kathy Lombardo	Executive Director
Joann Boggs	Pend Oreille County Emergency Management Director, current Chair Washington state Emergency Management Association
Jill Boudreau	Current Mayor, Mount Vernon
Paul Chiles	Owner/ President, Chiles & Co Real Estate
John Erickson	Former Director of Emergency Preparedness, Department of Health
Wendy Gerstel	Principle, Qwg Applied Geology
David Montgomery	Director, UW Geomorphological Research Group
Renee Radcliff-Sinclair	Former Representative, Current Strategic Initiatives for Western United States for Apple Inc.
Lee Shimpan	Emergency Management Director, Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Steve Strachan	Chief, Bremerton Police Department
Diane Sugimura	Director, Seattle Dept. of Planning and Development
Bill Trimm	FAICP
Mike Gaffney	Ruckelshaus Center
Amanda Murphy	Ruckelshaus Center
John Snyder	Ruckelshaus Center
Phyllis Shulman	Ruckelshaus Center

## SR 530 LANDSLIDE COMMISSION MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

**Meeting Date & Time:**

August 28, 2014, 5:00pm – 8:00pm

**Location:**

The Everett Community Center, Port Gardner Room, 3900 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201

Name	Title	Affiliation	Phone	E-Mail
GORDON NESS		EX-SNOHEMISH PLANNING COMD.	425-743-9071	gkness@comcast.net
Alexis McGuire		DNR	360-856-3520	Alex.McGuire@DNR.WA.GOV
Greg Sieroff		LFD NWIMM	425-760-9673	gsieroff@ci.lynnwood.wa.us
Brad Reading		FBI NWICAT	425-754-7209	brad@ci.buckhurd.org
Sally Fitch		Sen Cantwell	425-422-0748	
Diana Dunshee	Post Home Director Steelhead DR.		360-651-2080	
Josh Dunshee	LI		11	
Eric Andrews	Fire Chief	SNO CO FIRE LB	425-356-7373	eadrews@snofirelb.org