



## Minutes – August 8, 2022

The regular meeting of the Michigan Citizen-Community Emergency Response Coordinating Council (MCCERCC) was held on Monday, August 8, 2022, at 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by the chair, Capt. Kevin Sweeney. Roll call was taken and the following Council members were present: Dr. Kay Fritz (on behalf of Mr. Brad Deacon), Mr. John Dulmes, Mr. Steven Frisbie, Mr. S. Tutt Gorman, Col. Sean Southworth (on behalf of Maj. Steven Haggerty), Mr. Hassan Hammoud, Ms. Melissa Sherry (on behalf of Ms. Ginna Holmes), Mr. Jeff Parsons, Ms. Eileen Phifer, Mr. Richard Thelen (on behalf of Ms. Linda Scott), Capt. Kevin Sweeney, and Ms. Abigail Watkins.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Thelen moved to approve the August 8, 2022, agenda. Motion was supported by Ms. Watkins. Agenda was approved as presented.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Hammoud moved to approve the April 25, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion was supported by Mr. Parsons. Minutes were approved as presented.

Captain Sweeney introduced two new members to the Council, Mr. Jeff Parsons and Mr. John Dulmes. Mr. Parsons is an emergency management specialist with Kalamazoo County and serves on the Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) Advisory Board. Mr. Dulmes is executive director of the Michigan Chemistry Council (MCC), which is a state industry association for chemical manufacturers across the state. The MCC was instrumental in establishing the MSP Hazardous Materials Training Center.

Captain Sweeney announced that Chief Daryl Green and Capt. Brad Smith recently resigned from the MCCERCC. Their time and support on the Council is greatly appreciated.

### **Reports of Committees**

#### ***Citizen Corps***

Ms. Sherry reported that Citizen Corps volunteers have been working with the Michigan Registry on updating Citizen Corps activities and ways to increase their membership. Recently, they reached out with a project request so they could access funds for 9/11, hoping it could be used for training and/or community emergency preparedness. Most statewide disaster support has dealt with last year's Southeast Michigan flooding. Several AmeriCorps members are supporting long term recovery groups across the state. Cleanup is ongoing and VOADS are doing great job. For the Gaylord tornado that occurred, they have been working with United Way, the community foundation primarily, but also Habitat for Humanity and The Refuge, which is a housing organization. They have done a great job moving people from temporary housing to more permanent temporary housing, and they are still working on coordinating with VOADS to assist with cleanup. They have been doing a great deal of work regarding Afghan evacuation support. Volunteers assisted with setting up apartment buildings across the state and responding to specific needs of families. Most of the work has shifted to recruiting volunteers for immigration clinics that will be going on until next month.

#### ***Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know (EPCR)***

Mr. Mike Young announced that an EPCR Committee meeting is scheduled for August 31, and agenda items should be emailed to Mr. Eickholt. EGLE will be renewing in-person workshops next year and are looking

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at Grand Rapids, Southeast Michigan, Lansing, the Gaylord area, and possibly Mt. Pleasant. They will have recorded virtual workshops available as well. EGLE is also in the process of moving the Tier II Manager system to a new server. Mr. Young stated they have collected 7,056 reports which puts them on target for this year.

### ***Hazard Mitigation***

Ms. Phifer reported the Hazard Mitigation Committee convened on August 1 and discussed several items, including goals and objectives. She recognized Mr. Greg Ostrander\* to report on the High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) Grant Program and Mr. Matt Schnepf\* to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant updates.

Mr. Ostrander announced that a grant was submitted by EGLE for the dams associated with the Four Lakes Task Force (FLTF). As part of that application, changes were made to the Michigan Hazard Mitigation Plan. They intended to present the plan to the MCCERCC for review, but FEMA approved it early in the process. He outlined that the High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) Grant Program provides technical, planning, design, and construction assistance for eligible rehabilitation activities and eligible dams. There are approximately 150 high hazard potential dams in Michigan, but only nine are currently eligible for the program. Four dams were associated with the big dam breach, and that is where EGLE funding for this grant program is currently going. Five other dams are also eligible. Mr. Ostrander outlined the ten general eligibility requirements and emphasized that having a high-hazard potential dam does not guarantee eligibility. The dam must be in poor condition, EGLE must identify items they want completed, and there must be a coordinated interest with local stakeholders. Another caveat is that locals are required to have a local hazard mitigation plan in place and deemed HHPD complaint. There is a process in place for the four dams associated with the FLTF to lock in with the local hazard mitigation plan in Gladwin. They are confident FEMA will find it acceptable and funding will be awarded. Mr. Ostrander provided a breakdown of funding for the Edenville and Sanford dams, and a much larger plan is pending.

Mr. Schnepf reported that FEMA announced their selections for the competitive portion of the FY21 BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities). Michigan submitted ten competitive applications for \$175 million and none were selected. They are meeting with FEMA on August 23 to discuss Michigan's applications and how they were reviewed. It is a competitive process, but they will continue to seek funds and find better ways to apply. Each state does receive a certain portion of allocation funding, and a couple of Michigan's top applications that fit under \$1 million were selected for funding. The FY22 BRIC application cycle is expected to be announced later this month. FEMA did announce the FY21 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) application selections, and Michigan submitted two for competitive consideration. One was selected for the City of Bloomfield Hills to implement a \$200,000 project to evaluate flood risk reduction options in the city. Applications are due in October and November for Disaster 4607 (Southeast Michigan flooding) and Disaster 4494 (COVID). The funding lock-in was received at the end of June and was \$11 million higher than expected. Combined with 4494 HMGP (\$43.1 million), there is a total of \$79.5 million. EMHSD hired a consultant to assist with developing applications to a FEMA approvable format. Eleven of those applications are complete (\$15.1 million). An additional 14 applications are still going through the process (\$16.3 million), which leaves nearly \$50 million still available. The two alternatives are to either seek additional applications or reprogram some of the unselected BRIC FY21 applications to HMGP. The Hazard Mitigation Committee will meet over the next few months to prioritize the applications.

Mr. Schnepf stated they would like to move forward with submitting the five hazard mitigation planning grant applications for Calhoun County, Eastern Michigan University, Michigan Tech University, Oakland County, and Van Buren County for a total of \$371,000.

Ms. Phifer moved that the MCCERCC accept the \$371,000 for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update for the communities listed above. Motion was supported by Mr. Frisbie. Motion was approved.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Thelen reported the Coronavirus pandemic is still present, and everyone should be aware of special recommendations or protective measures preventing community transmission levels. As of July 29, there are 2,672,312 total confirmed or probable cases of COVID, and the weekly case trend is increasing. There are 37,428 confirmed and probable deaths, but the weekly trend is decreasing. Hospitalization trends are increasing, but ICU admissions are slightly decreasing. The BA.5 variant accounts for a majority of the cases

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in Michigan at 81.9 percent, followed by the BA.4 variant at 12.9 percent. The BA.5 is the most transmittable variant of the Coronavirus to date. Currently, 6,281,573 (67.6 percent) of Michiganders have received at least one dose of vaccines. The CDC continues to update guidelines for COVID vaccinations and boosters. They recommend COVID-19 primary series vaccines for ages six months and older, and COVID-19 boosters for ages five years and older, if eligible. Second boosters are recommended for those 50 years and older if it has been at least four months since the previous dose. For those diagnosed with COVID, antiviral medications may help individuals recover faster or prevent serious illness. Oral antiviral medications are available in pharmacies statewide, including some independent ones. Those with medical and immune system issues are encouraged to discuss therapeutics with their clinicians. It is important that medications are started within five days of diagnosis to be effective. MDHSS continues to provide information through the COVID Contact Center, which includes the hotline supported by Michigan 2-1-1. The Stay Well Counseling Program, which provides emotional support information and resources during the pandemic, continues to develop webinars and other resources to support mental wellness, including resources for teens and parents of teens.

Mr. Thelen reported that the Monkeypox virus (MPV) is generally spread through close or intimate contact. Symptoms include a rash and fever. The rash can occur one to two weeks after exposure and last for approximately four weeks. There are currently 62 reported cases of MPV in Michigan. While many affected in the current global outbreaks are men who have sex with men, anyone in close contact with an infected person can get the illness. Vaccinations are available for those who have been exposed but are most effective if given within four to fourteen days of exposure. The vaccine supply is limited, but MDHSS is striving to utilize all doses of the vaccine as soon as they become available. Vaccine strategy in Michigan continues to evolve based on an availability of vaccines and CDC guidance. Michigan is using a HUB model to distribute the available supplies to the local health department. Current case count information and general information and guidance for the public and medical providers can be found at [www.Michigan.gov/mpv](http://www.Michigan.gov/mpv).

Mr. Hammoud reported that Michigan 2-1-1 is supporting the state's COVID hotline and the COVID vaccine hotline. They are also supporting the Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund (MIHAF) hotline, which is a foreclosure prevention program for residents in the state of Michigan. Individuals who need help applying for the MIHAF program can receive assistance over the phone. Unfortunately, it has been taking several months for applicants to receive a response and houses are being foreclosed during this time. As a result, 2-1-1 is working with MSHDA to bring in additional staff to assist with the processing backlog. Mr. Hammoud stated that Medicaid recertifications have been placed on hold while there is a public health emergency declared. No date has been set, but 2-1-1 will be supporting the state in terms of awareness education. They will also provide marketplace and healthcare navigation services.

### **New Business**

Ms. Brenna Roos\* announced that updates to the MCCERCC Annual Plan are approaching. The plan is comprised of updates from committees and includes discussions of goals from the previous and upcoming year. She will be working with committee chairs, and the plan will be presented at the next Council meeting. If all are in agreement, it will be adopted and then submitted to the MSP director and the Governor's office.

Ms. Roos stated that all Council members are welcome to join a committee, even if their professional background does not coincide with hazard mitigation or emergency planning. Their contributions would be appreciated. Those interested can reach out to her or any of the committee chairs.

Ms. Roos recapped that two members are no longer on the Council. Captain Smith retired, and Chief Green accepted a position as chief of police at a college in Alabama. The Governor's office has requested the Council present candidates to fill the two vacancies. Members who may know of individuals that might be a good fit can contact Ms. Roos and she will connect them with the application link. This includes any local emergency managers or government officials on today's meeting call who may have potential candidates. She can be reached at [Roosb@michigan.gov](mailto:Roosb@michigan.gov). Ms. Roos clarified that individuals can be associated with local government or private sector and no specific backgrounds are required. Council members currently represent every region across the state with the exception of the UP, as travel to in-person meetings is more difficult.

### **Public Comments**

Ms. Jenifer Boyer indicated she is available to answer specific questions regarding the Four Lakes Task Force and the Gladwin or Midland dams, per earlier discussions.

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Mr. Paul Brouwer inquired about reconstruction of the dams. Ms. Boyer confirmed there are plans to rebuild. They are in 90 percent design approval with EGLE for one of the dams and are working through the process for the others. It will likely be 2024 or 2025 before the dams are rebuilt.

**Roundtable**

Captain Sweeney thanked Col. Sean Southworth for his service on the Council and for all he has done for the nation and the state.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Hammoud made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was supported by Mr. Gorman. Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

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Dr. Kay Fritz