

November 30, 2019

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne Jones
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable William C. "Bill" Ferguson IV
President of the Senate
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: 2019 Annual Report of the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council,
Public Safety Article § 14-105(e), (MSAR # 2794)**

Dear Governor Hogan, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

On behalf of Chairman Clay Stamp and in compliance with Maryland Code Annotated, Public Safety Article, § 14-105 (e), we are pleased to submit the 2019 Annual Report of the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council to the General Assembly. This report provides information on the Council's activities over the 2019 calendar year and the future direction for 2020.

MEMA has a long tradition of providing staff support to the Council. As such, should you have any questions relating to the information provided in this report, please feel free to send inquiries to russell.strickland@maryland.gov or CStamp@talbgov.org.

Sincerely,

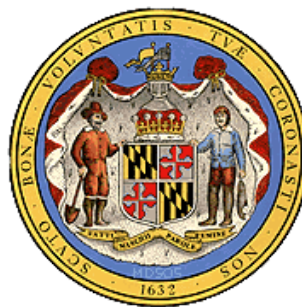
Russell Strickland
Executive Director
Maryland Emergency Management Agency

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)

2019 Annual Report of the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council

A Report to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly

In compliance with Maryland Code Annotated, Public Safety Article, §§ 14-105 (e)



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II. Executive Summary

In accordance with Maryland Code Annotated, Public Safety Article, §§ 14-105 (a) and (d), the GEMAC is authorized to advise the Governor on all matters that relate to emergency management in Maryland. Over the 2019 calendar year (CY19), the GEMAC continued to explore gaps, leveraging experts from within and outside the State, in an effort to build upon legacy work across all mission areas as articulated in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Preparedness Goal.¹ In collaboration with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the GEMAC was able to provide value as an independent, holistic perspective as it related to governance, funding, policy, and process for a wide array of emergency management topics.

The GEMAC started the year with an operational brief – heavily focused on protection, prevention response, and recovery – to understand MEMA’s current organizational structure and programs. This brief was built upon the following meeting by including the Secretaries from two State agencies, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), to understand the strategic, operational, and programmatic relationship between MDE, DNR, and MEMA in regards to mitigation, long-term vulnerability reduction, and building state-wide resiliency. The GEMAC followed these two meetings with a strategic session to hone the groups work efforts and reaffirm group principles leading into CY20. The group concluded the year by analyzing the concerns of authoritative local and state representatives as well as finalizing priorities for the upcoming year.

With a partial reconstitution of group membership and a roadmap of next year’s workflow, the GEMAC is excited for the next year and positioned to make an impact. Based upon the last meeting and an analysis of topics that consistently presented themselves throughout CY19 conversations, the GEMAC plans to take a deeper dive into topics such as: (1) identifying requirements for creating a state-managed disaster relief fund and (2) creating unity of effort across disparate, but similar, councils/taskforces/committees/working groups by identifying potential cross-pollination opportunities as it relates to the local, state, and Governor’s identified issues. As always, the GEMAC strives to remain agile and relevant in the emergency management discipline and continues to actively serve the Governor, his office, and his designated homeland security/emergency management designated representatives in an advisory capacity.

¹ The Department of Homeland Security. (2015). *National Preparedness Goal*. Washington, DC.

III. Purpose, Mission, and Scope of Work

The Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC) is authorized by statute and is charged with advising the Governor on all matters that relate to emergency management in Maryland.² In addition, Executive Order 01.01.1987.11 designates the GEMAC as Maryland's State Emergency Response Commission³ (SERC) in accordance with Title III of the Federal Superfund Amendments.

A primary focus of the State's overarching emergency management strategy is a whole-community approach, working not only with government stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels, but also with non-governmental organizations, private sector partners, communities, and individuals throughout the emergency management system. In keeping with this whole-community approach, the GEMAC brings together subject matter experts from a wide range of disciplines, backgrounds, and geographic areas to discuss and develop specific recommendations for further study or investigation. As an independent advisory body, GEMAC members are given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the State's activities in moving Maryland forward and developing a comprehensive emergency management program.

IV. Chairman and Membership

By law, the GEMAC must include: fair and reasonable representation for local government; representation for organizations that represent volunteer firefighters and rescue squads; and representation from manufacturing, utilities, and communications industries. There is no size limit or minimum membership requirement for the GEMAC; individuals appointed to the GEMAC serve two year terms.

The Chairman of the GEMAC is Clay B. Stamp, Assistant County Manager and Director of Emergency Services in Talbot County, Senior Adviser to the Governor, and previously Executive Director of the Opioid Operational Command Center. The current GEMAC is composed of 16 members, including the Chairman. The terms of the current GEMAC members began January 2016; all current members have been reappointed for an additional 2-year term beginning January 2018.

² Maryland Code Annotated, Public Safety Article, §§ 14-105 (a) and (d)

³ Code of Maryland Regulations 01.01.1987.11

GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL	
Name	Title
Clay Stamp <i>(Chairman)</i>	Assistant County Manager/Director of Emergency Services, Talbot County
John Allen, Jr.	Vice President, Delmarva Power
Mike Berna	Maryland Fire Chiefs Association
Becky Brashear	Assistant General Manager, Maryland State Fair (RESIGNED)
Timothy Cameron	Sheriff, St. Mary's County
Richard DeVore, Jr.	Maryland State Firemen's Association
Jonathan Favorite	Director of Technical Services, Communications Electronics, Inc.
Ronald Gill	Director of Emergency Management/Deputy Director of Homeland Security, Prince George's County
Joseph LaFleur	Manager, Crisis Management/Business Continuity/IT Disaster Recovery, GP Strategies Corporation
Jennifer Martin	Deputy Commissioner, Population Health and Disease Prevention, Baltimore City Health Department
Thomas Moran	Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium
Howard Safir	Chairman and CEO, Vigilant Resources International
Stephen Wantz	Commissioner, Carroll County
Keith Whalen	Firefighter/Paramedic – Retired
David Willenborg	Sr. Engineer, Technical Support, Department of Defense/NAVAIR

V. Activities and Topics During 2019

A. March 14, 2019 Quarterly Meeting

The Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC) meeting began with welcome and announcements from Chairman Stamp and MEMA Executive Director Russ Strickland. Chairman Stamp dedicated a moment for the late Doc Lumpkins.

There was an update on State Emergency Response Commissions (SERC) Business.

- Hazardous Materials Planning Grant will be going out shortly. The SERC has not lost anyone from the committee with administration changes.

MEMA Executive Director presented on a MEMA Organizational Refresh pilot.

- Director Strickland discussed changes and updates on staffing at MEMA.
 - 59 total PINS for MEMA

- Millennials are the most energetic work force. MEMA wants to keep bringing them on board
- MEMA HR deserves a lot of credit for keeping the organization up to speed
- 3 deep concept - wanting to have at least 3 people capable of performing someone's duties
- MEMA Systems approach to preparedness 3D model on whiteboard
 - Culture of preparedness
- Local jurisdictions have expressed concerns on having limited staffing in their organizations.
- There was discussion on finding balance between education and on-site field training for millennials.

MEMA Director of Consequence Management, Marcia Deppen discussed MEMA Consequence Management and Associated Initiatives.

- Marcia Deppen provided an overview of the MEMA agency and discussed the Maryland Emergency Management System.
 - Marcia also discussed MEMA consequence management project priorities such as: School Emergency Management Program (GSEM) Grant, Emergency Management Accreditation Renewal (EMAP), Distribution Management Annex Creation/Coordination, and MJOC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Overhaul. Internal staff training and drills (SEOC, DO/DoC, CodeRed), Filling staff vacancies. Calvert Cliffs Graded FSE and Peach Bottom/Calvert Cliffs Dual Site FSE, NEMA/ASPR Catastrophic Planning and Capabilities Assessment, CCTA Program Year 2. There was discussion on coordination between MCAC and MJOC, and effectiveness of training for both MCAC and MEMA.
- John Scholz gave an overview of the Maryland Incident Management Team and discussed the 12 month plan.
 - There was a discussion about the UASI funding and how it is available for the IMT program.
- Bill Hildebrand discussed the Fire and Emergency Services State Coordinating Function, as well as background, accomplishments and steps moving forward.
 - There was a discussion about looking into getting a copy of other states legislation that pays volunteer firefighters during EMAC deployments in include in MD title 14.
- John Dulina discussed the Maryland Swift water/flood search and rescue response system, including an overview on the MD-Helicopter Aviation Response Team.

- There was discussion on efforts for closing gaps with expenses when MDNG is activated, considering MDNG reports to the Governor.

MEMA Executive Director provided an Opioid Operational Command Center Update.

- Director Strickland discussed staffing updates, how the OOC team has moved to Crownsville office space, and in December will move completely under MEMA's umbrella.

Other updates were discussed (Emergency Alert, Budgets, Capital, FIT, etc.).

- Emergency Alerts - have made no changes
- Recommendations from a few years have no new response from the Governor's office
- There was discussion on the frustration with lack of communication from the Governor's office
- Ronnie Gill is the vice-chair of the GEMAC
- Set up a conference call with all the members within the next week

The council members discussed future meetings.

- Wants to set up future meeting dates for the GEMAC to align with Bay Cabinet meetings
 - The Bay Cabinet meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month, from 2-4 pm (beginning with March 19).
 - Looking at month of either April, May or June for next meeting.

Open Discussion.

- Looking for a rep for volunteer fire service.
 - Check with Dick Devore to consider status.

The Council was adjourned at 3 pm

B. May 21, 2019 Quarterly Meeting

The Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC) meeting began with welcome and announcements from Chairman Stamp

There was a discussion lead by Secretary Jeannie Riccio from the Maryland Department of Environment and Department of Natural Resources and Secretary Ben Grumbles from the Maryland Department of the Environment.

- Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided a broad perspective of cost and impact of severe weather change
 - DNR articulated that the broad purpose of all grant dollars they receive in regards to severe weather change is to build/sustain resiliency across the State
 - To illustrate the use of grant funds during natural disasters, DNR described one program that assist local jurisdictions reduce impacts in flood-prone regions
 - DNR also mentioned the Maryland Climate Leadership Academy as another program supporting resiliency
 - This Academy also supports the MD Climate Change Commission
 - Other grants DNR receives are geared towards the conservation of land and forest as well as protecting the waterline
 - DNR is building their grant management processes to support a pipeline of projects (i.e., “hopper”) that will be used to assist in quick prioritizations and allocations of grant dollars as they become available and in accordance with the most at risk portions of the State
 - DNR and MDE want to synchronize organizational workflows to support this grant management process
- MDE announced that Jeff Donahue runs the hazardous materials program and debris management program for MDE
- MDE announced that UMD is releasing a report on the health of the Chesapeake Bay
- MDE supports the Flood Insurance program
 - Provide mapping and regulatory assistance
 - GEMAC members asked for more information on the synergies between MEMA’s Mitigation program and the Flood Insurance program
- Both organizations agreed that future communications and partnership with the GEMAC could be useful
- MDE articulated, at the moment, their two main priorities are the Chesapeake Bay and climate changes
 - Supported through the Bay Cabinet and Climate Change Commission
 - Wetlands and waterways program – a national example of state agencies coordination
- MDE explained that mitigation is used differently in their organization that in the emergency management discipline – primarily related to greenhouse gas emissions
 - MDE is focused on eliminating the main drivers of climate change
 - MDE is starting to plan and consider for adaptation rather than focusing on impacts which has strong ties with MEMA’s Mitigation program

- Dam safety was cited as a big priority for both groups (Conowingo Dam cited)
 - Direct and/or related concerns included catastrophic failure, debris, leakage of nutrients and sediments, and stormwater and water management
- All Hazards Consortium was discussed
 - Is a Maryland based 503(c) multi-state issues that plague critical infrastructure on the east coast (electric, power, communications, fuel)
 - Based in Frederick
 - Original private sector group
- Commissioner Wantz asked if the DNR and MDE grants are available for local jurisdictions which spurred a discussion on how state and local governments can work together to find/share/market resources to help communities
 - Customer service was cited as a past issue with MDE
 - DNR Restoration Program was discussed in response to this question. This program can be accessed through a grants gateway
 - Carroll County (i.e., Cascade Lake Mitigation Project) is a good case study for pulling away lessons learned and improvements between DNR, MDE, and local government
- GEMAC recognized the accomplishment and importance of bringing together executive leadership at this meeting to foster interagency collaboration
- Preparedness in MDE world = Nuclear power plant preparedness (Share duties with MEMA)
- Mr. LaFleur noted the importance of “taking advantage of the 2-3 strong upcoming legislation sessions.”
- CoastSmart was cited as a program that is tied to legislation
- MDE commented that the State has no authority for local planning and zoning
- DRRA has huge implications for pre-disaster mitigation and weighs on the importance of creating effective/efficient grant management processes
- Critical infrastructure protection, cyber-attacks, and the Internet of Things we cited as serious threats and important areas for collaboration

There was an update on State Emergency Response Commissions (SERC) Business.

- Frederick is asking to modify and reappoint individuals to LEPC - approved
- HMEP Grant recommendation - approved
- What has this grant done over the past 40 years?
 - Training, exercises, and planning for Hazardous materials in specific
- MFRI adheres to Hazardous Ops NFPA 472 (most updated)
- How does MFRI fund HazOps training if they are only 13% funded through the HMEP?

- Leading Hazmat issues are mercury spills (small-scale)

There was an update from Kyle Overly, Director of Disaster Risk Reduction at MEMA.

- Overview of the DRR branches
 - Risk Analysis first in the Nation with California
 - Discussion of Know Your Zone initiative through MEMA
- Questions:
 - Will there be a platform for locals to receive information from MEMA for mitigation projects
 - Yes, it is part of the mitigation grant process
 - Is there a software for all of these?
 - Arc GIS based system (OSPREY)
 - Any plans on going to TV weather broadcasters with this information?
 - Yes, currently in process of building relationships
 - Clear Channel communications
 - Any consideration of allowing media to tap into software so that they may have real time updates
 - All programs are open to public and open source
 - Encourage media partners to use these tools
 - Communicate to media that these tools are available
 - Concern that not having detailed info in advance for planning, not sure if Know Your Zone is capable to that yet
 - Targeting is very important with current funds that are available

Open Discussion.

- GEMAC was asked to think about what they would like to focus on for the remainder of the year, how this would affect the focus for next year, and how they view the structure and purpose of the group moving forward
- GEMAC should consider developing a long-term strategy and work plan to frame agendas
- If we have subgroups then we will most likely need to have a more regular cadence to our meetings. We can meet virtually and determine our objectives, develop courses of action, and bring back to the group to integrate into total strategy.

The council was adjourned at 1:30pm for the Bay Cabinet Meeting.

(Bay Cabinet Meeting: Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology (IMET) 701 E Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21202)

C. September 23, 2019 Quarterly Meeting

The Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC) meeting began with welcome and announcements from Vice-Chairman Ronnie Gill.

There was a discussion on a proposed GEMAC Reboot, provided by a presentation from MEMA NCR Program Manager, Blake Langford, and MEMA's Strategy Planner, Andrew Asgarali-Hoffman.

- Blake Langford discussed the proposed GEMAC reboot. Andrew Asgarali-Hoffman then discussed the GEMAC meeting regulatory requirements and asked the GEMAC members if the proposed GEMAC reboot is something that the members want. Blake Langford suggested a retraction of the three subcommittees that were originally proposed at the last GEMAC session.
- GEMAC members believe they can add value at the Governor's level through the following:
 - Proactive to the Governor (Insight)
 - Monitoring function from the Governor's office (Oversight)
 - Administrative side, a problem becomes identified. (Foresight).
- There was discussion on the GEMAC providing more of an advisory role to the Governor.
- MEMA Executive Director discusses differences between every jurisdiction. Ask ALEMD's where GEMAC can provide value, and where is the message not getting across? Need to focus on a higher level of work efforts the GEMAC could pursue.
- Blake Langford introduced strategic work sessions which included a discussion on NextGEN 911 Commission, including the following bullet points:
 - GIS
 - Technology
 - Communications
 - What happens when it blows up?
 - What are the redundancies for it? What happens when it goes down in several counties?

There was a strategy session to reflect upon the GEMAC's purpose and future direction facilitated by Andrew Asgarali-Hoffman followed by a group discussion including the following questions:

- Why are you a member of the GEMAC? (Facilitator)
- What is the purpose of the GEMAC? Who does the GEMAC serve? (Facilitator)

- Who does the GEMAC represent? (Facilitator)
- What do we mean by Emergency Management? (Facilitator)

Review of Decision Points and Next Steps.

- MEMA Executive Director provided an overview of the new Adjutant General, MG Gowen.
- MEMA Executive Director also provided an update on the NWS discussion that is planned for the next ALEMD meeting.

The Council was adjourned at 3 pm.

D. November 22, 2019 Quarterly Meeting

GEMAC entered into a discussion on “What Keeps You Up At Night?” question analysis (Blake Langford briefed the GEMAC on the methodology, results, and caveats to the analysis. Presented a chart to sum up the raw responses to the question.)

- Staffing and Staff Retention #1 concern, Active Assailant #2 concern, Evacuation #3 concern in regards to “What Keeps You Up At Night?”

The GEMAC asked questions regarding the THIRA and MEMA discussed the background and purpose behind the document as well as legacy and ongoing challenges with the THIRA process.

- MEMA Executive Director provides perspective on what keeps him and the Governor up at night.
 - Crime – state wide (Violent crime is up everywhere except Montgomery County)
 - Opiate
 - Cyber
 - Homeland Protection and Terrorism
 - Staffing/Retention
 - Event: Hurricane (Cat 3 or higher) come up the bay, take out a DELMARVA
 - Funding
- There was a discussion about a comparative analysis of other states would be helpful when developing any requirements for this funding. NEMA has done a fair amount of work in this space.
- There were some final questions regarding current disaster funding and cost shares; GEMAC discusses Rainy Day Fund but this money does not have a clear-cut process for disbursing the funding or good policy as far as eligibility requirements for disbursement.

- GEMAC turns conversation to speaking more generally to other councils, task forces, committees, and working groups that could achieve synergy with each other or with the GEMAC.

There was brief out on the 911 Commission by Chairman Clay Stamp.

MEMA Executive Director, Russ Strickland briefed the GEMAC on a variety of strategic topics pertinent to Maryland emergency management (e.g., future legislation, political landscape, and budget). Discussed four pieces of legislation from MEMA that are moving forward this session.

- Legislation #1: Maryland Emergency Mutual Assistance Compact (MEMAC)
- Legislation #2: Codify the requirement for COOP planning for state agencies.
- Legislation #3: Authorities written into Title 14.
- Legislation #4: Enhanced coordination order

MEMA Executive Director discussed budget.

Chairman Clay Stamp provided the group with an opportunity for last comments/discussion regarding any topics discussed, which resulted in a discussion based on a possible MEMA COOP in the near future.

Review of Decision Points and Next Steps.

- Comments from Chair on direction for next year
- Discussion of new/next terms and any recommendations, as appropriate
- MEMA Executive Director informed GEMAC that many member's appointments will expire 12/31/19. There will be communication with these individuals regarding the future of their participation on GEMAC.
- GEMAC members commented on the fact they had lost briefly lost focus but now believe they are starting to regain direction. There was progress early but a few deliverables didn't pan out which may have affected the group.
- GEMAC is looking to become a more diverse, forward thinking committee.

The Council was adjourned at 3 pm.

VI. Prospective Outlook for 2019

A. Overview

In the coming year the GEMAC intends to work with Director Strickland and his leadership team to continue to identify strategies to enhance existing capabilities and develop a comprehensive statewide emergency management program centered on Preparedness; prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery in partnership with the federal government, local jurisdictions and the private sector. The GEMAC will also continue to engage with the Emergency Number Systems Board on issues related to emergency management and the NG911 implementation issues.

B. Upcoming Meetings

The GEMAC meets on a quarterly basis, with additional meetings scheduled as needed. Anticipated quarterly meeting dates for 2020 are as follows:

February 2020

May 2020

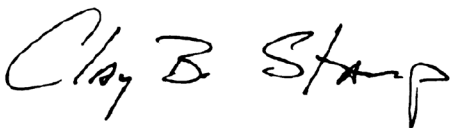
August 2020

November 2020

VII. Conclusion

The GEMAC hereby submits this report along with its wishes of sincere appreciation from the individual members of the Council for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of December, 2019:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay B Stamp". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Clay B. Stamp, Chairman

Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council