

YAMHILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Informal Work Session Minutes
11 June 2008, 10:30 a.m.
Oval Office

Present: Commissioners Mary P. Stern, Leslie Lewis, and Kathy George.

Staff: John Krawczyk, Laura Tschabold, and John Boynton.

Guests: Ken Murphy, Oregon Emergency Management.

Recorder: Karen McFaddin, Emergency Management

The informal work session was called to order at 10:50 a.m. on 11 June 2008 at the BOC Meeting Room.

It was noted that improved emergency management within Yamhill County has not only included cities locally, but homeland security grants have also helped integrate emergency management regionally.

The question of funding was brought up and John Krawczyk provided data and highlighted counties where the funding dollars don't seem to match the population or physical size. Some counties mentioned that receive more assistance than Yamhill County included Benton, Lincoln, Polk, Malheur and Crook counties.

Ken Murphy responded that funding is not based on population, but rather on hazards and the ability for counties to provide matching support. He stated there is no formula that will please everyone, however they are in the process of trying to come up with some clear guidelines. Currently 11 counties and 21 cities have submitted paperwork to request additional revenue. Federal law requires a corresponding match from local counties, so financial support, along with hazards, form the primary base for determining dollar amounts.

Yamhill County has increased its matching funds substantially over the past few years and recent timber cuts will affect the ability of other counties to continue to provide this support. Ken stated OEM is slowly working through the process of coming up with a new formula. Oregon in general is awarded substantially less than other states from the Department of Homeland Security. DHS has a formula they use, which is classified, but it does include hazards, critical infrastructure, population and transient population, among other criteria. Also, because

Portland is included in the Urban Area Security Initiative, it actually receives more dollars than the State of Oregon.

John Krawczyk asked if it would be possible in the short term to distribute the extra supplemental funding each year to counties who put in more matching dollars. Ken Murphy responded that it might be possible, but it is important for commissioners to talk with their congressmen and work at increasing EMPG funding on a national scale. He also stated that hopefully by 2009, OEM will have a new formula to work with and they will try to involve counties that have not yet had an opportunity to participate. They are trying to put together a stakeholder group including many areas from around the state, but new guidelines may have to be phased in over several years. The challenge is to get people involved who have not been affected by disasters. The State of Oregon is looking into the possibility of allocating money from the general fund to provide for Emergency Managers in 17 Oregon counties.

EMPG funding was originally set up for county use only, but more cities are trying to get on board. It was generally felt that county management of funding keeps cities working together in a collaborative effort. County commissioners need to stay involved because they are providing a link to their constituents through response, recovery and mitigation benefits. Ken Murphy stated it would be helpful for the commissioners to send a letter to OEM documenting the increase in funding from county resources.

OEM is currently very involved with the Olympic Trials being held in Eugene from June 27 through July 6. They are also working with Senator Courtney on a seismic grant for schools, hospitals and emergency services. OEM is hoping to receive additional federal funding for Emergency Operations Centers, however it is likely not much will happen this year.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Minutes submitted by: Karen McFaddin