

IAEM GAC  
April 2, 2024  
Notes

- 2:00-2:05 - Come to Order, **Mary Jo Flynn-Nevins**, GAC Chair
- 2:05-2:15 - **Patti Pudwill**, Small State and Rural Advocate, FEMA – Patti will discuss her new role at FEMA and how IAEM and FEMA can better support the unique needs of small states and rural areas
  - A newly created position within FEMA
  - Comes from North Dakota and is very familiar with the need to support rural communities and their ability to be prepared.
  - Wants to focus on the barriers that can impact rural communities and to build resilient communities
  - Ensure equitable access to FEMA programs
  - Support rural areas to build infrastructure that can withstand future disasters
  - IAEMA and GAC bridge the gap between tangible strategies and real world strategies focused on rural areas
- 2:15-2:25 - **Matt Cowles**, Deputy Director, NEMA – a look back at the recently completed FY24 appropriations cycle and a look ahead at FY25. Between his two stints at NEMA, Matt worked for the Senate Appropriations Committee handling the FEMA account
  - Micro political issues for macro problems
  - Provided an overview of the impacts of cuts to various programs such as FEMA/DHS grants
  - The appropriations process is broken. We are now seeing a focus on massive spending bills rather than making decisions on individual or more focused appropriations
  - The DRF will be out of money in June/July timeframe
  - Concerns over the membership being aware of the cuts being proposed to the DHS/FEMA grant programs
  - There needs to be a focus on how these financial cuts are impacting constituents and local jurisdictions
- 2:25-2:40 – **Jennifer Carlson**, Co-Chair, Higher Education Caucus – Jennifer will present an Issue Paper calling for the IAEM Board to “take action to provide legislative support at the federal level to professionalize the field of emergency management and provide an independent oversight body.” Please review the attached Issue Paper prior to the meeting.
  - Looking to see how GAC can lead the charge in taking the charge of getting federal legislative support to professionalize the field of emergency management
  - Through accreditation, licensure, etc.
- 2:40-2:55 - **Katie Picchione** and **Lauren Finegan** – Katie and Lauren, in their spare time, have been working on a project to propose a National Disaster Research Strategy, create a Division of Disaster Research in FEMA, and allocate specific annual funding for disaster research. Justin will lead a discussion with them about their proposal and next steps. Please review the two attached documents before the call.
  - Provided an overview of why a Division of Disaster Research should be established within FEMA
- 2:55-3:00 – Odds and Ends

Attendees:

Allison Farole  
Thad Huguley  
Travis Cryan  
Wike Graham  
Bernie Beier  
Brad Gilbert  
Carrie Speranza  
Cathy Clark  
Chaz Hall  
David Stamey  
Jennifer Carlson  
Mary Jo Flynn-Nevins  
Jim Yoke  
Josh Morton  
Katie Picchione  
Larry Woods  
Matt Cowles  
Matt May  
Mick Fleming  
Patricia Pudwill  
Tim Bush  
Suzy Spurgeon  
Aubree Sepler  
Eric Griffin  
Jeff Stevens  
Justin Kates  
Lauren Finegan  
Drew Pearson  
Wike Graham