



**DRCA Board Meeting
June 11, 2020**

Call Commenced 1:02pm

Roll Call:

DRCA Board Members Present:

- John Sullivan, DRC
- John Hoyle, Thompson Consulting
- Jonathan Burgiel, Tetra Tech
- Will Rachel, Lemoine Company
- Ed Noonan, United Rental
- Tom Lewis, WSP
- Tyson Hackenberg, Excel

DRCA

- Casey Long, DRCA
- Lisa Miller, DRCA

Update on DRCA Hurricane Preparedness Series ("15 Minute Drills")

Lisa Miller discussed the "15 Minute Drill" press release that will allow DRCA members to be showcased with those contacting the association for hurricane prep help. Also, she encouraged board members to either write a paragraph about their COVID response participation or allow her to interview them to write that for the FEMA COVID brief document we will present to FEMA shortly.

FEMA Releases 4th Version of PAPPG

Casey Long discussed FEMA's PAPPG guide 4th version. The big change in the new version involves the Alternative Procedures for Permanent Work which states that in order to receive the benefits, it must be a large project and applicants must accept a fixed cost based on the estimated amount to rebuild back to pre-disaster design & function.

Business Development update By Casey Long:

Casey asked the Board Members to identify 2-3 prospects to join the membership and to assist by making introductions, recommendations, etc. to help us grow the association.

New Members:

- APR Energy
- WSP
- Synergy Disaster Recovery
- TFR Enterprises
- Excel USA
- TFR Enterprises
- Atlas Container Corporation

Membership Renewals: CDR Maguire, CohnReznick, Stantec, in discussions with two others: OFD and Wise Foods

Prospects: Hagerty, ICF, Witt, PWC, Booz Allen, EY, Deloitte, Jacobs, Dewberry and CDM Smith, AECOM

Contact List of State EM Officials:

Over the last few months, we have developed a contact database within the Governor's Offices of Emergency Management across the country. We have updated contact information for the State Directors of Emergency Management and their Heads of Response, Recovery, Preparedness, Grants, Logistics, Mitigation & Private Sector. If a DRCA member wants an introduction pre-event or post-event, Casey will help with facilitating those introductions.

DRCA White Papers and Public Policy Positions that need to be addressed:

The meetings DRCA scheduled with FEMA's Recovery & Resilience Divisions were postponed when the NEMA Conference, the National Hurricane Conference & Florida Governor's Hurricane Conferences were all cancelled. FEMA asked us to wait until mid-July to start scheduling in person meetings with them. Most of our members prefer to meet with FEMA in person as well, so we have been holding off on scheduling meetings with FEMA.

During this call, the group decided it would be best to move forward and schedule video teleconferences with FEMA rather than pushing back the dialogue any longer on important issues not knowing when meetings will be an option again.

DRCA has the following white papers and policy issues which need to be discussed with FEMA:

- 1) Disaster Housing White Paper
- 2) Debris Management White Paper
- 3) Letters to encourage FEMA to reinstate STEP or other Housing Program
- 4) Adrian Sevier's Memo on FEMA's prohibition of communicating with recipients and sub recipients
- 5) Senator Scott's Guidance to FEMA on debris hauling/monitoring practices
- 6) CARES Act & PA funding/eligibility confusion and potential overlap

Financial Discussion: Dan and/or Casey will share the FY-2020 (ending 3/31) financials.

New Business:

Discussion that DRCA needs to push through the initiative with the STEP program and push FEMA. In addition, there was input that FEMA Region 4 is involved in Debris hauling and monitoring procurement review, but the review has meant an uptick in FEMA directing rebids. It appears that FEMA may not be understanding pre-position contracts and why communities do engage with this practice. Casey will await additional data points and examples to explore with FEMA the current state of affairs involving rebids.

Jonathan Burgiel: Discussion of COVID and CARES funding versus Public Assistance funding. There's no guidance as to where the reimbursement should come from. Is there any info out there either legislatively or otherwise to help our clients? Almost any company I talk to seems like we are in a freeze frame and there is no clarity. We need to know which bucket to use to shore up our clients' normal budgets. And we can help them administer if we know the appropriate bucket. Could we get someone from FEMA-HQ on the phone every few weeks that would be helpful to us to sort this out? If FEMA doesn't know, that's ok but at least we are talking to them and sharing our issues as well.

Tom Lewis: It ties into what is the next round of funding and stimulus to come out of Capitol hill. Wonder if DRCA can have some entry points into the next round.

Tyson Hackenburg: Referenced a Washington Post article on the enormous administrative backlog among the federal agencies to administer the CARES Act. Part of the confusion we experience as DRCA members is the same confusion as the public. FEMA isn't on point with some of this funding.

Casey indicated that he would explore a FEMA contact to help with clarification and take the approach that DRCA is trying to limit multiple companies asking the same question. There was also input that if there's a comparable federal person dealing with CARES Act, that would be helpful interaction as well.

John Sullivan: We shouldn't put conversations on hold with FEMA. The hurricanes are not going to take a break for COVID-19, so we need to push them. If you look at FEMA brief memos about Cooperative Purchasing Agreements (CPA's), they are difficult to dissect. I know they don't want to deal with the issue, but as a trade group we need these white papers to come out, we need the Adrian Sevier memo to be walked back. If we can meet in person that's always best but conference calls are the next best thing. John also wants DRCA to draft FEMA's response to the Adrian Sevier memo so we can suggest the narrative i.e., do their work for them.

John Sullivan: There's a strong policy argument with states worrying about sheltering during hurricanes and the STEP program is a great reason to push the issue.

Casey Long: Casey said he will work to set up FEMA conference calls and will work with Lisa Miller to draft a response to address Adrian Sevier's memo which prohibits FEMA communication with recipients/subrecipients.

Call adjourned at 1:32pm