

Howard County Energy Task Force

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Howard Building: Columbia and Ellicott City Rooms

Attendance:

Task Force Members		Present
Kenneth	Boras	
Randy	Clayton	x
Orien	Dalton	
Richard	Deutschman	
Steve	Estomin	x
Karen	Galindo-White	x
Abdul	Majid	x
Bob	Marietta	x
I. Katherine	Magruder	
Daryl	Paunil	x
Janice	Romanosky	x
Doug	Ruch	x
Jeremy	Scharfenberg	x
Rizwan	Siddiqi	x
Diane	Sweeney	x
R. Daniel	Wallace	
Ed	Wilson	x
Guests		
Tony	Rosano	x
Ray	McGowan	
Elissa	Reineck	x
Mitchell	Furst	x

Introduction:

Rizwan introduced the meeting. He described the CEO breakfast with County Exec Kittleman. There was a presentation and discussion about PACE. PACE needs increased marketing and awareness of the program to make it successful.

Rizwan reminded everyone that there is no meeting in August and that the July meeting is moved to July 12th.

Meeting Content:

Presentation by Tony Rosano, Resiliency Coordinator for the Howard County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

- Resiliency refers to preparing critical infrastructure and continuity planning.
- While there is no crystal ball, Emergency Management plans for future needs based on past experience and emergency management trends.
- Major concerns are power, water and information.
- On the community level, there is higher dependency on power than 20-30 years ago. We now have smart phones, wifi, etc for sending and receiving information. These all require power.
- Planning used to be geared towards things like nursing homes and hospitals with oxygen machines. Now we have GPS, information storage and are very dependent on a cash-less society for commerce.
- For example, grocery stores can sell out of fresh food when there is an emergency or large storm coming. People today are less prepared with longer-term food in their homes.
- Communication systems have moved to more dependency on power – analog vs. VOIP.
- Alarm systems require their own power source in case of emergency.
- Vulnerable populations vary by situation. Disasters and emergencies can make people vulnerable beyond the issues of physical and mental disabilities.
- At the systems level, there are many concerns related to emergencies and power access. For example, WSSC regulates the Brighton Dam based on factors including floods. During floods they have to open the gates, causing economic disturbance.
- Micro-grids are great in concept as redundant backup systems. There may be barriers to implementation – communication issues such as communicating with fire management planning.
- Security is highly monitored for water utilities.
- Certain partners in Howard County need water for other purposes such as cooling.
- Transporting fuel has emergency management ramifications. Transporting by rail is safer, but there can be accidents as we saw in Baltimore. Transporting ethanol by truck is considered more dangerous. If there is a truck fire, it is difficult to extinguish. Spills are also a problem.
- Howard County OEM has a Resiliency Working Group.
- It is a challenge to stay up to date on new technologies. Government is often reactive but tries to be as proactive as possible.
- There are things that could be put into the building codes, such as automatic transfer switches. County buildings have them, but OEM could be consulted to advise on getting them into more private buildings.
- Howard County has a good system of mobile generators.
- Burying power and cable lines can help a lot but it is expensive.

There was a question and answer session. Points that were raised included:

- Is OEM involved in the building permitting process? No, but fire response is. It would be a good addition though, OEM could advise on issues such as where to locate generators.
- Are Howard County families ready with 3 days of supplies? Is 3 days a good amount? Yes 3 days is a good standard and no, Howard County residents are not prepared. More education and outreach is needed.
- Is cyber security under OEM? No, it is under the IT department, but there rep from there works together with OEM.
- Are you looking at extreme cold and heat?? Yes. Those are on the hazards list. They work with the Health Department and hospital on those issues.
- Would a gap analysis be helpful? One is underway.

After the presentation, the Task Force members broke into sub-committee groups and had time to work on their draft recommendations.

At the July 12 meeting, the sub-committees will get together again in the first half of the meeting and in the second half will discuss their findings to the larger group. There was some discussion of format. Sub-committees should focus on the Recommendations – Short, Medium, and Long Term. The text and explanations can be brief and secondary to the recommendations table.