



Hazard Mitigation Assistance External Stakeholder Working Group, Member Directory

This document includes basic biographical and contact information for those individuals involved with the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) External Stakeholder Working Group (ESWG).

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External Stakeholder Working Group Overview

The External Stakeholder Working Group (ESWG) will provide an opportunity for FEMA staff to increase engagement and transparency with non-federal partners in the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs at the state, territory, Indian tribe, and local levels. The HMA programs provide pre- and post-disaster funding to implement mitigation actions in communities across the country.

The intent of the ESWG is to:

- Open the channels of communication between federal and state, territorial, Indian tribal, and local mitigation staff
- Gather insight into mitigation and/or HMA program issues from the state, territory, Indian tribe, or local perspective
- Increase transparency in HMA goals, program priorities, and policy development
- Help HMA provide a consistent, predictable experience for external stakeholders
- Delve more deeply into issues identified during the HMA Café at the 2016 HMA Workshop

Input from the ESWG will support FEMA in its efforts to streamline and strengthen HMA program delivery overall, provide better customer service to external stakeholders, and facilitate effective and expedient pre-disaster planning and post-disaster community recovery.

ESWG Members 2017





Name:	Chris Blinzinger
Location:	Provo, UT
Representing:	Provo City, Utah
Position/title:	Emergency Manager, Fire & Rescue Department, City of Provo, Utah
Work Phone:	(801) 404-6368
Work Email:	Cblinzinger@provo.org

Biography

Chris Blinzinger is the Emergency Manager for Provo City located along Utah's Wasatch Mountain Range. Chris was an emergency responder in Colorado before his involvement in emergency management. Chris served as President of the Utah Emergency Management Association (UEMA) in 2015, served as the 2014 Chairman for the Utah County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and a current member of the Utah County Healthcare Coalition. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Emergency Services Administration and a Master's Degree in Crisis and Emergency Management from UNLV. He is a graduate of FEMA's Emergency Management Advanced Leadership Academy, is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM), and is a Utah Certified Emergency Manager (UCEM) given by the Utah Division of Emergency Management. Chris believes in Lifelong Learning as the profession of emergency management continues to evolve.

Chris and his wife have a blended family with 8 children ages 14-26. They enjoy bike touring, backpacking snowshoeing, camping, and most outdoor activities in Utah's Rocky Mountains.



Name:	Jennifer Gerbasi
Location:	Houma, LA
Representing:	Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government
Position/title:	Recovery Planner/Division Manager
Work Phone:	(985) 873-6565
Work Email:	jgerbasi@tpcg.org

Biography

Ms. Jennifer Gerbasi has a background in law and water management with ten years of federal grant writing and management experience. In her current position, she has been responsible for procurement, mitigation planning, strategic planning, outreach, public education, and implementation of nonstructural and restoration projects. She has managed a wide range of projects including wind hardening and floodproofing of public buildings, buyouts, elevations, demolitions, and new adventures in surge protection systems utilizing oyster bed and terracing installations. She brings to the ESWG, a broad range of experience with HMGP, HMA, NOAA, LA, and CDBG programs, as well as flood and homeowners insurance, and the interrelationship of these financial resources.

**Name:** Kaylynn Gresham**Location:** Oneida, WI**Representing:** Oneida Nation**Position/title:** Emergency Management Director, Oneida Nation
Emergency Management Department**Work Phone:** (920) 366-0411**Work Email:** kgresham@oneidanation.org

Biography

I am an enrolled member of the Federally Recognized Oneida Nation. The Oneida Nation has over 17,000 enrolled members. The Oneida Reservation covers approximately 65,000 acres and has both urban and rural aspects to its community. There are 6 concurrent jurisdictions within the Oneida Reservation boundaries. I have worked in the Emergency Management field for 10 years; I have been the Director of Emergency Management for the Oneida Nation since 2012. I have worked within the Preparedness and Mitigation aspects of Emergency Management for the past 8 years. I assisted with the initial creation of the Oneida Nation's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan 2010 – 2015 and completed the update for the Oneida Nation's current PDMP 2015 – 2020. The Oneida Nation's PDMP is used by FEMA to provide examples for Tribal Communities throughout the US and its territories for planning and mitigation purposes.



Name:	Paula Gutierrez
Location:	Española, NM
Representing:	Santa Clara Pueblo of New Mexico
Position/title:	Disaster Recovery Manager, Santa Clara Pueblo (New Mexico) Tribal Government
Work Phone:	(505) 692-3552
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Biography

My name is Paula Gutierrez, a Tribal Member from the pueblo of Santa Clara. I am the mother of four children. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Management from Grand Canyon University and Masters of Science in Leadership with an Emphasis in Disaster Preparedness and Executive Fire Leadership. I currently work as the Disaster Recovery Manager for the Santa Clara Pueblo Tribal Administration.

Our Pueblo has had 5 subsequent Presidentially Declared Disasters within the past 6 years and have been working diligently on building internal capacity to help set a solid foundation of our own tribe to respond, recover, prepare and mitigate potential threats to our community.



Name:	Tom Hughes
Location:	Harrisburg, PA
Representing:	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Position/title:	State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
Work Phone:	(717) 651-2726
Work Email:	thughes@pa.gov

Biography

Tom is Pennsylvania's State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) and has served in that capacity since 2009. Tom has been with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for 23 years working out of the state capital HQ office in various leadership positions before, during and after for over 28 Presidentially Declared disasters and numerous local and state-level disasters. Over the past 5 years, his office has been working with over 200 Disaster and Non-Disaster Hazard Mitigation projects near \$100 million. His office currently has oversight on the approval of 67 County HM Plans statewide; all are current as of December 2016. Additionally, he is working with the PA Department of Community and Economic Development with \$8.5 million community Development Block Grant-DR (Disaster) funding to address unmet state and local BUY-OUT project needs for eligible municipalities. Presently, his office is working 5 open FEMA Disasters.

Tom is a USAF/USAFR retiree, with 27 years active/reserve duty and has been deployed during Operation Desert Shield/Storm/Southern Watch/Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom while in the Emergency Management career field; retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant. He holds a Bachelor's of Arts of Lycoming College in Business Administration and Associates of Art in Financial Management from the Community College of the Air Force. He has obtained his Certification in Emergency Management (CEM®) from the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), is actively engaged on the Executive Board (Secretary) with the Natural Hazard Mitigation Association (NHMA) and Pennsylvania Association of Floodplain Managers (PAFPM).



Name:	Daniel Jones
Location:	Denver, CO
Representing:	FEMA Region VIII
Position/title:	Environmental/HMA Specialist
Work Phone:	(303) 231-1887
Work Email:	Daniel.Jones5@fema.dhs.gov

Biography

Mr. Daniel Jones is a professional Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) practitioner and Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants Management Specialist with nearly 10 years progressive experience in FEMA Mitigation and Public Assistance Programs. He is a leader with proven experience working in a Regional setting, as well as disaster operations. In addition, he is a recognized advisor and accomplished communicator who works extensively with all Region VIII States and Tribal governments to ensure proper compliance with various laws and regulations in support of the HMA program.



Name:	Jennie Orenstein
Location:	Washington, DC
Representing:	FEMA HMA Headquarters
Position/title:	Chief, HMA Grants Policy Branch, FEMA
Work Phone:	202-212-4071
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Biography

Jennie is currently the HM Division Grants Policy Branch Chief. In that role, Jennie oversees policy development and implementation for the hazard mitigation programs; and also Division’s communications efforts.

Prior to joining FIMA, Jennie worked in the policy and program office in FEMA’s Individual Assistance Division for nearly 9 years. Jennie was the Individual Assistance Officer for Maryland in early 2000, and also has local government comprehensive land use planning experience. Jennie has a BA in Criminology from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Master’s of Community Planning from the University of Maryland



Name: Jim Poppen
Location: Pierre, SD
Representing: State of South Dakota
Position/title: State Hazard Mitigation Officer
Work Phone: 605-773-3231
Work Email: Jim.Poppen@state.sd.us

Biography

Mr. Jim Poppen currently serves as the State Hazard Mitigation Officer for South Dakota. He has been in the mitigation arena for the past 7 years, with the last 5 years spent as the SHMO. He brings to the ESWG deep insight from the field, and looks forward to sharing his experiences in an effort to make the county more resilient and prepared for the next disaster.



Name: Stacy Robarge-Silkner

Location: Kansas City, KS

Representing: FEMA Region VII

Position/title: Hazard Mitigation Assistance Branch Chief, Mitigation Division, FEMA Region VII

Work Phone: 816-283-7679

Work Email: Stacy.robargesilkner@fema.dhs.gov

Biography

Ms. Stacy Robarge-Silkner has been the Branch Chief for the Region VII Hazard Mitigation Assistance Branch for 2 years. Prior to being part of Mitigation Assistance, she was in Response Planning and a member of the IMAT for Region VII. She has 15 years of emergency management experience at the local, state, and federal level.



Name:	Kymmie Scott
Location:	Smith River, CA
Representing:	Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
Position/title:	Emergency Manager
Work Phone:	(707) 487-9255
Work Email:	kymmie.scott@tolowa.com

Biography

Ms. Kymmie Scott has been actively engaged in acquiring knowledge in the fields of leadership, community, and emergency management for nearly ten years. Her passion for this line of work arose when she joined a local mountain search and rescue group while living in Colorado. Since that time, she has gained experience as an incident commander, instructor, public information officer, and mentor. In recent years she has worked for city and tribal governments, first with a part-time role in emergency management and now as a full-time emergency manager. She has also gained perspective from unique opportunities such as travelling to Japan to study, first hand, the impacts left by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. Ms. Scott holds a degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Colorado with specializations in Emergency Management and Public Administration.

**Name:** Jennifer Walker**Location:** Dubuque, IA**Representing:** Counties of Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson, Iowa**Position/title:** Development Coordinator, East Central Intergovernmental Agency (ECIA)**Work Phone:** (563) 690-5770**Work Email:** jwalker@ecia.org

Biography

Jennifer Walker has an accomplished career in project management and fundraising for more than 20 years. Jennifer has worked for America West Airlines, Clarke University and LexisNexis as well as an independent fundraising consultant. Eight years ago, she joined ECIA as a Project Coordinator and Fundraising Consultant. Jennifer has led capital campaigns from feasibility studies and board development through construction and grand openings. She has worked with a variety of clients to steer campaigns based on individual needs.

Her work at ECIA has focused on grassroots fundraising projects – guiding campaigns with little or no staff. Jennifer has also taught courses on “making the ask” and has worked as an independent consultant for grant writing and prospect research. She has worked in every cycle of a campaign. Jennifer has a practical business approach combined with a special interest in building donor relations



Name: Sarah White

Location: Framingham, MA

Representing: Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Position/title: Acting Mitigation & Recovery Section Chief,
Massachusetts Emergency Management
Agency

Work Phone: (508) 820-2053

Work Email: sarah.white@state.ma.us

Biography

Sarah White manages Massachusetts' Mitigation & Recovery Section, which consists of the administration of FEMA's Public Assistance Program (PA), the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs, and delivery of community recovery including FEMA's Individual and Households Program (IA). She and her staff at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency are responsible for an annual multi-million dollar mitigation budget and resulting project implementation, as well as for the development of disaster mitigation and recovery partnerships throughout the region. (Her unit has managed more than \$100 million in grant awards in the last 24 months.) Her Section also leads the State's Hazard Mitigation Planning Initiatives providing technical assistance and review of the jurisdictions local mitigation plans as well as the development and coordination of the State level plan that thoroughly integrates the State Executive Order 569 for climate adaptation.

Sarah is an Agency Spokesperson (PIO) and serves as an Operations Section Chief in the state emergency operations center during times of disaster. She is a member of the Massachusetts Emergency Assistance Compact Advance Team (EMAC A-Team), which deploys to other states to offer disaster assistance. She co-leads the Massachusetts chapter of the Army Corps Silver Jackets team, and plays a lead role in numerous state mitigation initiatives, working with a variety of stakeholders across New England to reduce risk and future damage from natural hazards.

Previous to acting as the Section Chief, she has supervised the Mitigation Unit, and served as the MEMA Region 1 Manager, supervising five staff and local operational support to communities in Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk County. During this time, she managed the Regional Operations Center for large statewide disaster events such as, Hurricane Irene and Winter Storm Nemo. She was active in the deployment of emergency resources in a number of smaller incidents and planned events.

Sarah is an award-winning program manager with a diverse background in state and local planning initiatives, public outreach programs, grants management, environmental and land use practices, and emergency operations. She is a graduate of the Federal Emergency Management Institute's National Emergency Management Academy. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration, as well as degrees in Geography, Regional Planning and Criminal Justice.