

Summary Minutes of March 10-11, 2006
Disaster Response Committee Meeting
Orlando, Florida

Chairman Ryan called the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M. ET, March 10, 2006. The following Committee and staff were in attendance:

Committee:

Edwin Berkel
Eric Bradshaw
John Darnall
Cindy Davis
Ken Ford
Fred Herman
Tamara Landis
Phil Line
Don Munson
Tim Ryan, Chair

Staff:

Tom Frost
Kathleen Mihelich
Jay Thabet

1. **It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. This motion passed unanimously.**
2. **It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes subject to minor revisions.**
The motion passed unanimously.
3. Report of Disaster Relief Focus Group

Chairman Ryan gave a brief history of the DRC and described the activities of the Focus Group that met at the Detroit Annual Business Meeting. This was an information item only and no action was taken.

4. Status of Certification

Kathleen Mihelich reported that the certification exam for Multi-Hazard Disaster Response Inspectors and the job task analysis are complete and should be approved at the March 13-14, 2006 BIPS meeting in Falls Church, Virginia. She projected the exam launch to take place in June or July of this year. There followed considerable discussion regarding the best name for this certification category. The committee came up with 5 proposals to select from:

Emergency & Disaster Response Inspector
Safety Assessment Response Inspector
Disaster Response Inspector
Disaster Safety Assessment Inspector
Damage & Safety Assessment Inspector

Chairman Ryan raised the issue of marketing the certification exam. Jay Thabet asked who is going to take the exam and how much money do we have to spend on marketing. This was characterized as an off-budget item for the time being with the suggestion made

by staff that this be placed before the Strategic Planning Committee at the earliest opportunity. Ken Ford indicated that many home builders would be interested in this certification in order to facilitate the rebuilding process.

The issue of government (state and local) acceptance of this certification category was raised. The Chair suggested that ICC's Government Relations Department could assist in developing recognition of this program at the state level. Existing state progress were discussed with California, Kansas and Washington State mentioned specifically.

Kathleen mentioned that 6 parishes in New Orleans recognized the ICC Contractor Certification in order to facilitate rebuilding. Chairman Ryan suggested that in addition to targeting states, the National Board of Governors would be appropriate. Ken Ford suggested seeking the support of the Insurance industry to gain acceptance. Eric Bradshaw suggested State Emergency managers as a target audience. John Darnall mentioned the need for GR support for the marketing effort and suggested development of certification program brochures that could be distributed by them.

Following the break, Chairman Ryan asked what we need to do to 'start marketing.' Jay Thabet responded, 'Marketing needs to define how best to communicate with whomever we're going after. It is important to fill the pipeline with people.'

The status of contractor certification was discussed. Kathleen indicated that while the Disaster Response Certification was 'going online in June' contractor certification was not on the work plan. Fred Herman commented that national contractors generally work through local contractors licensed in the appropriate state anyway. Tam Landis said that Florida allows out-of-state contractors with an affidavit and their license.

Following further discussion, it was moved and seconded that there be no contractor responder exam for disaster response certification.

5. Status of Training

Kathleen reported that progress on the seminar development was stalled due to information that was still needed from some of the subject matter experts and that she felt that the last 15% of the work would have to be contracted for completion of the seminar.

She also commented that the seminar would not be appropriate as an "open enrollment" offering due to the unique needs per locality. She recommended that it be considered as a "template" seminar that can be used for customization purposes. She added that ICC's Campus On-line will host an informational seminar as well as a Certification Practice Test.

6. Mitigation activities

Tom Frost described efforts to solicit any identified deficiencies in current code text from the 2005 Hurricane Symposium presenters. No substantive issues were identified. Frost also described the work of the Code Technology Committee and the Terrorist Resistant Building Committees in developing code changes in response to a man-made disaster. The committee took no action.

7. Status of FEMA/EMAC involvement

FEMA was characterized as being 'in complete disarray' with staff not returning telephone calls. Tim Ryan described efforts to meet with NEMA (oversight agency for EMAC), indicating that he would continue to pursue a meeting with NEMA administrators. Eric Bradshaw offered to identify contacts with NEMA for Tim.

8. Continued Mission

The status of mutual response programs in various states was discussed. Eric Bradshaw commented that the ICC list of volunteer should be regionalized to permit more direct access to those volunteers most able to assist. Fred Herman reminded the Committee that the DRC was formed to help states without a mutual response program. Tam Landis discussed the BOAF program as an example of an effective code official driven mutual response program.

The issue of utilizing GR staff for emergency response was raised. Ken Ford mentioned that FEMA has a pre-disaster grant fund to support pre-disaster mitigation activities. Paul Myers offered to follow-up. Jay Thabet identified the following questions from the marketing perspective:

- Identify the need
- How do we want to position ICC (What do we want to do?)
- What is the return on investment ?

Eric Bradshaw observed that in a disaster it becomes clear that a code official is more than the guy who issues building permits.

9. Review Workplan

Chairman Ryan suggested the following action items:

- Develop a model program using established state plans/programs
- Create a marketing strategy
- Approach the Governors
- Fund the program through the Foundation
- Budget DRC activities through the Strategic Planning process (exam development, committee meetings, etc.)

Fred Herman commented that training should include NIMS, citing ICS 100, 200 and 300.

Don Munson observed that Police and Fire are organized similarly from one jurisdiction to the next so that in a mutual response to a disaster different departments are able to work well together. This does not appear to be as true with code officials responding to a disaster.

10. Other

Phil Line raised the issue of access to disaster sites for purposes of post-disaster analysis. He suggested creating ICC credentials for this purpose.

It was suggested that this matter be brought before the IAC.

The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 11:18 A.M, March 11, 2006.