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M E E T I N G

CAL-SAG WATERSHED PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

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Wednesday, January 28, 2026
6:00 o'clock p.m.

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M E E T I N G

CAL-SAG WATERSHED PLANNING COUNCIL
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
OF GREATER CHICAGO

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Held on Wednesday, January 28,
2026, commencing at the hour of approximately 6:00
o'clock p.m., at 6701 South Archer Road, Bedford Park,
Illinois.

1 PRESENT: (District Personnel)

2 MS. CLARE ADAMS, Assistant Civil Engineer

3 MR. RICHARD FISHER, Principal Civil Engineer

4 ALSO PRESENT:

5 MS. VICTORIA SMITH, SCM, Executive Director

6 MR. GERALD R. BENNETT, City of Palos Hills

7 MR. JOHN RYAN, Village of Alsip

8 MR. DAVE BRADY, Village of Bedford Park

9 MR. GARY LEWIS, Village of Bridgeview

10 MR. KEN KLEIN, Village of Crestwood

11 MR. BRIAN SKALA, Village of Crestwood

12 MR. VERNARD ALSBERRY, Village of Hazel Crest

13 MR. LANCE BEIGH, Village of Justice

14 MR. MATT ZAREBCZAN, Village of Justice

15 MR. BRIAN WOJCIECHOWSKI, Village of Lemont

16 MR. TERRY VORDERER, Village of Oak Lawn

17 MR. PAUL MALLO, Village of Oak Lawn

18 MR. BRIAN O'NEILL, Village of Orland Hills

19 MR. JAMES DODGE, Village of Orland Park

20 MR. JOEL VAN ESSEN, Village of Orland Park

21 MR. ALADDIN HUSAIN, Village of Orland Park

22 MR. ROBERT STRAZ, City of Palos Heights

23 MR. ADAM JASINSKI, City of Palos Heights

24 MR. JOE SMITH, City of Palos Heights

1 MS. NICOLE MILOVICH-WALTERS, Village of Palos Park
2 MS. MELISSA NEDDERMEYER, Village of Western Springs
3 MR. IAN MCCORMICK, Project Engineer
4 MR. RICHARD LESCHINA
5 MR. JIM LASKI
6 MS. GRACE HONG DUFFIN, Comcast
7 MS. LATESHA TUBBS, EMRS
8 MS. SHONTEL HEMPHILL, EMRS
9 MS. MICHELLE STAFF, IDNR
10 MR. SCOT STAUBER, IEMA
11 MS. TIFFANY BOEHLER, IEMA
12 MR. WALTER RHOADES, IEMA
13 MR. ZACK KRUG, IEMA
14 MR. MATT RAYMOND, IEMA
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1 MR. BENNETT: I'll call this meeting to order of the
2 Cal-Sag Watershed Council. Welcome to the mayors in
3 attendance.

4 Vicky, do you want to read the roll call,
5 please?

6 MS. SMITH: Yes. Alsip?

7 MR. RYAN: Mayor John Ryan.

8 MS. SMITH: Bedford Park?

9 MR. BRADY: Mayor Dave Brady.

10 MS. SMITH: Blue Island?

11 (No response.)

12 MS. SMITH: Bridgeview?

13 MR. LEWIS: Trustee Lewis.

14 MS. SMITH: Burbank?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. SMITH: Chicago?

17 (No response.)

18 MS. SMITH: Chicago Ridge?

19 (No response.)

20 MS. SMITH: Crestwood?

21 MR. KLEIN: Here. Ken Klein.

22 MS. SMITH: Evergreen Park?

23 (No response.)

24 MS. SMITH: Hickory Hills?

1 (No response.)

2 MS. SMITH: Hometown?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. SMITH: Justice?

5 MR. BEIGH: Village Engineer Lance Beigh.

6 MS. SMITH: Lemont?

7 MR. WOJCIECHOWSKI: Brian Wojciechowski, Public
8 Works.

9 MS. SMITH: Merrionette Park?

10 (No response.)

11 MS. SMITH: Midlothian?

12 (No response.)

13 MS. SMITH: Oak Forest?

14 (No response.)

15 MS. SMITH: Oak Lawn?

16 MR. VORDERER: Mayor Terry Vorderer.

17 MR. MALLO: Trustee Paul Mallo.

18 MS. SMITH: Orland Hills?

19 MR. O'NEILL: Brian O'Neill, Village
20 Administrator.

21 MS. SMITH: Orland Park?

22 MR. VAN ESSEN: Jim Dodge, the Mayor, he's upstairs.
23 He'll be down. Joel Van Essen, Public Works.

24 MR. HUSAIN: Aladdin Husain, Engineering.

1 MS. SMITH: Thank you. Palos Heights?

2 MR. STRAZ: Bob Straz, Mayor, Adam Jasinski and Joe
3 Smith.

4 MS. SMITH: Thank you. Palos Hills?

5 MR. BENNETT: Jerry Bennett, Mayor.

6 MS. SMITH: Palos Park? She's here. Robbins?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. SMITH: Summit?

9 (No response.)

10 MS. SMITH: Tinley Park?

11 (No response.)

12 MS. SMITH: Willow Springs?

13 MS. NEDDERMEYER: Melissa Neddermeyer, Mayor.

14 MS. SMITH: Worth?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. SMITH: Unincorporated Cook County?

17 (No response.)

18 MS. SMITH: Bremen Township?

19 (No response.)

20 MS. SMITH: Calumet Township?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. SMITH: Lemont Township?

23 (No response.)

24 MS. SMITH: Lyons Township?

1 (No response.)

2 MS. SMITH: Orland Township?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. SMITH: Palos Township?

5 (No response.)

6 MS. SMITH: Stickney Township?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. SMITH: Worth Township?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. BENNETT: In general we have a forum, and before
11 you are the minutes of our previous meeting. Is there a
12 motion to approve the minutes?

13 MR. BRADY: So moved, Dave Brady, Bedford Park.

14 MR. VORDERER: Terry Vorderer, second.

15 MR. BENNETT: Moved and seconded. Any questions?

16 If not, all in favor signify by a vote of aye.

17 (Chorus of ayes.)

18 MR. BENNETT: Opposed, a vote of no. Motion
19 carries. Can I get my agenda?

20 MS. SMITH: Oh, I'll get you one.

21 MR. BENNETT: I think I found it. First item on the
22 agenda is the flood response, agency rules and available
23 resources. We have a representative from IEMA or --
24 Cook County. I'm sorry.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Cook County Emergency
2 Management.

3 MR. BENNETT: Which we just met, so welcome.

4 MS. TUBBS: Good afternoon, evening, night,
5 everyone. My name is Latesha Tubbs, Associate Director
6 of Planning and Preparedness. Just a little bit about
7 me. I started off as a 911 dispatcher, so I'm well
8 aware of the different type of emergencies. I came over
9 to emergency management probably in 2016, learned a lot
10 about emergency management, how to build things and
11 correlate, and so now I'm with Cook County Emergency
12 Management and Regional Security.

13 So we're just going to talk about some
14 brief things, the overview of emergency planning, our
15 hazard mitigation plan, our role in emergency response,
16 and then what we do when an emergency happens and then
17 also the conclusion, just give you some information,
18 some contacts.

19 So I don't know if you know, but we're the
20 second largest county in the U.S. Five million
21 residents. We integrate a lot of different things. Our
22 main purpose is to ensure that our municipalities are
23 well served during an incident. If you are overwhelmed
24 in your resources, then we provide the additional help,

1 support and coordination that you need. We have 135
2 municipalities, and that's what we serve every single
3 day.

4 So let's talk about emergency plan --
5 response plan, so that's really important because it
6 sets the framework and the foundation for what you need
7 in order to be resilient. When we talk about
8 resilience, it's the way that you bounce back from an
9 incident. It's the way that you come back from a
10 particular incident that may send you under. One of the
11 more frequent incidents that we've seen is flooding in a
12 major way. We've all been very -- hit dominantly by it,
13 right? It's caused damage. It's caused us a lot of
14 heartache and funding issues. All right.

15 So what we want to do with emergency
16 planning is we want to make sure that it saves lives,
17 but it also prepares you for what's to come and how to
18 respond when that incident arises. So we do four kind
19 of basic plans. I'll talk about them very briefly.
20 They're emergency operation plan, which is your
21 framework of how you coordinate emergencies, where your
22 equipment is, who does what, what happens if your
23 executive or your mayor is out of town, who goes up
24 next. Your continuity of operations kind of fills that

1 out about succession plans. It goes through each one.
2 And then your continuity of government says who enrolls
3 constitutionally that can provide you that next step of
4 authority.

5 The recovery plan is also where we
6 accelerate different things from the start of an
7 incident all the way to the end. Recovery does not end.
8 It is constant. It is on a consistent basis. So
9 there's no end to recovery. Once you start after a
10 disaster, you're going to always do things to find
11 either improvement or ways to manage what happened
12 during that particular incident.

13 An incident action plan is something
14 formal that's written down that talks about the
15 correlating responsibilities. It kind of holds the
16 attention of what that particular incident is doing. It
17 tells you where your resources are located.

18 MR. DODGE: Sorry.

19 MS. TUBBS: No. You're fine. How are you doing?
20 Glad you made it in safe. Your objectives and your
21 resources and also the strategies that you had, it's
22 more of a tactical approach. It's very formatted, so
23 that's great to have.

24 One thing we highlight is our hazard

1 mitigation plan. That's something that every
2 municipality should join in on. Why? It's a long-term
3 strategy, right? It builds, it helps you reduce risk.
4 What is it doing? It's causing you to look at your
5 current gaps, be responsible for those gaps but also
6 recognize that there are issues that you need help with.
7 Why is that important?

8 Hazard mitigation is very important
9 because it opens you up to some of those common facing
10 issues, right? You get to see where those gaps are, but
11 also it's published. What does that mean? We publicize
12 it on our website. That means that other organizations
13 or even county governments can be able to look on there
14 and see where your gap's at to see if they can fill it
15 in with other programming, funding, grants that they may
16 have. So one thing about hazard mitigation, it actually
17 exposes you to other additional help, right, other
18 additional needs. So that's something that we talk
19 about. It's a comprehensive countywide plan. We plan
20 it for all the 135 municipalities. This year we had --
21 well, 2025 we had 125 municipalities -- I think that's
22 great -- that participated in our hazard mitigation
23 planning. So that's something that you want to make
24 sure that you're involved in. It's an annual report.

1 And listen, it is not strenuous on your staff. Why?
2 Because we have consultants available. We have planners
3 available. We can fill in the information for you. We
4 will go toe to toe to make sure that your organization,
5 your municipality is well suited for having a hazard
6 mitigation plan. So it protects health, human life,
7 safety. It also prevents damages, loss of property. It
8 reduces that economic burden that you feel when an
9 incident arises.

10 And some of the examples that it can do,
11 so for flood mitigation, we talk about the increased
12 sewer capacity that happens during floods. We talk
13 about the improvement of drainage systems, green
14 infrastructure, and a lot of that kind of outlines some
15 of the things that you need that some of our other
16 organizations like our economic development could
17 possibly help you with to ensure that you have a better
18 system when an incident like flooding arises.

19 Are there any questions? I'm going to
20 turn it over to my colleague, Shontel Hemphill. Sorry
21 about that.

22 MS. HEMPHILL: That's okay. Good evening,
23 everybody. Some of you guys I know. Some of you guys I
24 don't know. Some of you guys work for me. So I am the

1 regional coordinator over the south land, so I have the
2 majority of you guys -- I think I have everybody in
3 here. I-55 South to Indiana State Line Road. Thank you
4 for having me. I'm walking into a role, so bear with me
5 if I speak out of turn on these lines because I'm
6 speaking from experience on how I deal with you guys on
7 an everyday basis and what I do as a regional
8 coordinator for Cook County Emergency Management and
9 Regional Security.

10 So my role and responsibilities -- that's
11 me. Nobody is doing it for me, right? So it says roles
12 and responsibilities. I'm a coordinator. I deal with
13 emergency management, emergency services, police, fire,
14 public works, your streets and sanitation, your water
15 department. Anyone that needs assistance, I'm your
16 person to get to -- contact me day, night, for the duty
17 desk after 4:30, and we'll make sure that we get
18 everything set into place to help you. So our goal is
19 situational awareness. We share any trainings that's
20 coming up. Our role is equipment awareness. If you
21 need this, we're here to help you with assistance with
22 the equipment that we have. If you have -- let me
23 see -- water main breaks -- we have a lot of that
24 lately -- from freeze and defrost and, you know, we have

1 floods. You need trash pumps. This is what we do. We
2 make sure you get in contact with our emergency response
3 section, and that's our ELOs, our emergency logistics
4 officers. So we have WebEOC access. Some of you guys
5 have WebEOC access. If you do not have WebEOC access,
6 you will have my email. Please give me an email with
7 your first name, last name, title, cell phone number,
8 and I'll be glad to set you guys up with access to
9 WebEOC and send you a packet on the usage of it because
10 this is how we track any equipment that we let you guys
11 use. This has the FEMA forms on it that you can use as
12 well, and this is the tracking system where we can share
13 with the state as well.

14 Our emergency logistics officers, as I
15 spoke of them, they're the ones that deal with every
16 piece of equipment that we have at Cook County, the
17 south land, that's on 159th off of Cicero, and we have
18 the north land that's in Elk Grove Village. That's our
19 new location. That's the EOCs.

20 Now, we have an EIU section. They deal
21 with watching everything from the weather to current
22 events. They send out daily situational reports.
23 Please, if you do not get the duty desk emails from us,
24 please -- I'm going to give you that information so they

1 can send you guys our reports to keep you abreast of
2 what's going on within Cook County and all the
3 information that we share. So sorry for the dark
4 picture. As you guys know, I was out here. I may have
5 bothered Hickory Hills, Justice, Summit. I may have
6 been out here with all you guys this summer because you
7 guys got inundated with microburst, right? It came down
8 to nothing we can do about it. It came down as fast as
9 we looked. We got this and then it dissipated within
10 probably an hour, hour and a half, but it still affected
11 our residents in their homes. So that's where the
12 assessments come. So this is where the partial
13 activations come into place when we deal with severe
14 weather, okay? Because the last -- I've been with
15 emergency management -- I left the jail in '21. I came
16 to emergency management, and I've been here for the last
17 almost five years.

18 Since I've been here, every summer we've
19 gotten hit with some kind of flooding, tornados, storms,
20 and it's just -- it's happening, the weather changing.
21 So now this is when we get partially activated, full
22 activated. And if you guys activate your EOCs -- well,
23 we just had a tabletop exercise when you get severe
24 weather out at Orland Park, and it was phenomenal

1 because police, fire, public works, streets and
2 sanitation -- we had trustees. We had the mayor,
3 everybody that was there which I didn't know -- I'm
4 sorry -- being I talked them to death. Everybody was
5 there. I had everybody participate, and it worked well
6 because now everybody gets to see how WebEOC works, how
7 the communication branches work when you're dealing with
8 an incident, and this is just talking. Imagine what
9 happens when you're activating and you got to call
10 Shontel, we're activating. Okay. Do you need something
11 from Cook County right now, or you're just informing me
12 that you just activated you EOC or you need assistance
13 right now. So again that's when the role starts going
14 to either a partial activation or a full activation.

15 So analyzing the impact of a storm damage
16 assessment -- so I have my state partner, Scot Stauber.
17 He's here. Could you raise your hand so everybody sees
18 who you are? Thank you. Okay. So if you guys contact
19 me, we've got 25 percent or more or we got floods going,
20 we got water everywhere, Scot, myself, we all are going
21 to go out and do assessments. We're going to come in
22 your guys' areas, and I'm going to drive around in my
23 truck and I'm going to take pictures. I know that you
24 guys are going to get calls. Who is this lady getting

1 outside and walking in the neighborhood taking pictures
2 of my house. She's taking pictures of my street. That
3 would be me and my colleagues. We go out. We do what
4 they call a windshield assessment to see the damages
5 that occurred in your areas, and we hit every area based
6 on the storm track that's given to us by our EIU
7 section. They give us a whole track of them, NWS, the
8 weather, okay? They give us this tracking and tell us
9 what hit, who was hit the worst, and then we go to those
10 areas first, and then we wait on your calls as well.

11 Scot, would you like to add to that?

12 MR. STAUBER: Not that I can think of.

13 MS. HEMPHILL: This is a forum. Everybody can talk,
14 be objective. So now when we talk about -- let me go
15 back one slide. When we talk about escalation of
16 events, right, so now everything is being recorded. So
17 we have to show the nexus of now we need assistance from
18 the state. So we gather all this information. We put
19 reports together. We share it with the state. The
20 state gathers all the information. Now they're saying,
21 okay, FEMA, whomever else, this is what's going on with
22 Cook County, this is what's going on with the State of
23 Illinois. Please, we need people to come out to do what
24 we call now assessments. I was in some of you guys'

1 areas bothering mayors. This summer I was bothering the
2 villages. I was like I need overtime for your public
3 works, your police, your fire. I got a mayor -- what
4 are you doing in my neighborhood. I need help. So we
5 go out here. We want you guys to let your people know
6 we're here knocking on doors to assist, nothing else.
7 We say did your, you know, basement get flooded, did
8 this get damaged, you know, because we're just doing
9 assessments to gather information. Once all the
10 information is collected by Cook County, the state and
11 the Feds, a report is put together for the governor, and
12 it goes from there on seeing if we can get a declaration
13 and declare it. Yes, ma'am. Please add into that.

14 MS. TUBBS: Okay. I'm sorry about that. One thing
15 that's very important is that we need data, damage
16 information, right, before we start to do the actual
17 damage assessment. So one thing that happens is there's
18 a preliminary damage assessment. We start first just
19 gathering initial things that we can physically see
20 that, you know, we can tell that -- what's going on and
21 how the impact has affected your communities. That's
22 the first thing. But the other thing is the information
23 we receive directly from you. Those are the calls
24 that's coming into your village halls and affecting your

1 people. You're getting that information so we need that
2 as well. That helps to build a better understanding and
3 what we call a common operating picture. We can see
4 from all four -- four walls because we're getting
5 information from you and also information that we
6 observed. That helps us so that we build a case because
7 that's what we're doing. We're building a case to the
8 governor to say, hey, this is a disaster. We need a
9 declaration. The governor takes our information from
10 Cook County and all the other counties that's involved
11 and starts to make a declaration that goes up to the
12 White House to say, hey, we need assistance, we need
13 help. FEMA comes back down because they need to check
14 it themselves, right? They get the data report. They
15 get the addresses that we have, and now they want to
16 physically put eyes and talk to people in your
17 communities to get that understanding, and then that's
18 how we build a declaration that can be approved and
19 hopefully our appeal is approved so that we can get
20 individual assistance for people who experience damages
21 during floods.

22 MS. HEMPHILL: Now, to piggyback off of what
23 Director Tubbs stated, if we do not get approved for the
24 appeal, okay, we open what they call a DLOC center. We

1 opened one this -- last year in Chicago Heights and
2 opened one, I believe -- I think I opened one in
3 Justice. So we have SBA that'll come out and say, hey,
4 we can't give you free money, but we can give you low
5 interest rate loans. They don't have to have excellent
6 credit, but this will assist you with any damages that
7 occur, and you share your pictures, you know. You share
8 your damages. Everything that you shared before when we
9 did the assessments, you go talk to them about it as
10 well. That's, you know -- that is sad that it's coming
11 to this, but it helps because the money that you may get
12 may not help you fix all the damages that occurred, but
13 assistance with a small business loan could help you as
14 well. Thank you, Director.

15 So local disaster proclamation, she just
16 talked about that. So it's like a step process. It's
17 going to start on the county level to the state level,
18 and it's going to go, you know, to our governor. Then
19 it's going to go to the federal level.

20 So my contact information, if some of you
21 guys have it for the south land -- if you do not have
22 it, my email address is here. I ask that you please
23 email me so I can get you set up on our distribution
24 list. If you do not get our daily situational reports,

1 you send an email to the duty desk,
2 duty.desk@cookcountyiil.gov. You send your first name,
3 your last name, the agency that you work for, your
4 telephone number and email address, and you'll start
5 getting our reports. And we give our reports daily. So
6 this talks about, you know, terrorist acts, anything
7 that's occurring in today's news and everything else.
8 Anybody I-55 South starting from Stickney all the way to
9 Indiana State Line Road, please take my email address if
10 I have not met you yet. Take my email address, send me
11 your information so I can get you put in the system in
12 our distribution list as well, and I can share
13 information that I have about current trainings, current
14 information because we just did a phenomenal tabletop
15 yesterday with planning and preparedness section with
16 our training section, and it worked with the EOPs and it
17 talked about hazard mitigation plan. It talked about
18 the training. It talked about because there's such a
19 turnover that you may not know how to fill out the form
20 because you don't want to fill it out wrong because you
21 want to get any kind of free resources first and
22 foremost that you can get to help the communities.
23 So you don't have any questions for me,
24 right? Sorry, but thank you for letting me ramble on

1 and on. Thank you for letting me come in at the last
2 minute to speak to each one of you guys. If you do have
3 questions, please feel free to ask. Again my email
4 address is there and thank you again, everyone.

5 MR. BENNETT: I'm not going to let you get away
6 without asking a question. You mentioned a training
7 session you had with Orland Park. I mean, it's been
8 years since I can recall where you guys came out and did
9 a training session in general for municipalities. Are
10 you offering similar to what -- the one you did with
11 Orland Park?

12 MS. HEMPHILL: Yes. What I can do is share you
13 guys -- I will share our training section information.
14 We have phenomenal trainers. We have one with expertise
15 in nothing but tabletop exercises. Some of you guys may
16 have met Bob Dunn. He's phenomenal. He's been around
17 for 20 plus years. He does this in person. He does it
18 all. Please send me your information if you want to
19 exercise -- then we have shared information and we have
20 shared exercises that you can come to as well. The one
21 yesterday, I know I sent out emails to municipalities.
22 They probably just didn't think it was something that
23 they wanted to go to. And plus we had lunch. It was
24 great. It was at Brookfield Zoo. We had a lot of north

1 siders there than we had south there that came out as
2 well, and your people did show up yesterday. So just to
3 let you know, they were there.

4 MR. DODGE: We did the tabletop.

5 MS. HEMPHILL: Six hours probably or --

6 MR. DODGE: Yeah. It was a long full day, and it
7 was time well spent where staff was all in the room, and
8 they didn't know the scenario coming at them, and the
9 scenario kept getting worse, so it forced everybody to
10 pivot, and it was just a good way to work out -- work
11 out some of the issues between how staff communicate.
12 Joel, you were there. You were the live fire exercise.
13 What did you think?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Me and Joel was back
15 and forth. I'm like, Joel, you can't do that.

16 MR. VAN ESSEN: My assistant director threw the
17 kitchen sink at me. He's with our planning committee,
18 and he kept on throwing new -- more stuff, and it was
19 good because it could be real bad.

20 MR. BENNETT: I agree. I said it's been years, and
21 I can remember where it was done as a training session
22 and offered to all the mayors.

23 MR. DODGE: Time well spent.

24 MR. BENNETT: And -- because for an update or

1 certainly for the newer mayors, it probably would -- I'd
2 like to see that happen possibly in their town for --
3 one on one with the town.

4 MS. HEMPHILL: So with this, with Orland, it was a
5 process that we worked on for about a month and a half.

6 MR. BENNETT: Okay.

7 MS. HEMPHILL: I met with police. I met with fire.
8 I set up everyone with WebEOC accounts. I set them in a
9 room. I did live sessions on showing them how to enter
10 data into the system. I showed how they communicate one
11 on one with one another, so -- and I showed them how
12 this was going to work. The key thing is making sure
13 you follow the sheets, right? So we separated everybody
14 to see if they can work together. So we went from one
15 building to another --

16 MR. DODGE: Physically moved.

17 MS. HEMPHILL: -- and it worked, okay? We had
18 trustees there that rolled up their sleeves and was like
19 I'm going to go get the food. How are you going to get
20 food if the weather is -- up here we got everybody
21 locked down. So, you know, we have to show the next
22 emergency of how everybody is important to work in this.
23 It's not just public works. It wasn't just police. It
24 wasn't just fire. It wasn't just -- the mayor rolled up

1 his sleeves. Everybody had to make those phone calls.
2 Everybody had to do their part of participating.
3 Finance, money, you know, who's going to pay for
4 overtime. So everything came together, but we worked on
5 this exercise before we put our exercise on, and our
6 exercise ended up being a drill. It worked. It was
7 like a functional exercise. It wasn't just sitting
8 around tables talking. We actually worked. And we had
9 people in the other buildings calling. I can't see what
10 you're writing, where do I go, what are you doing. So
11 it worked well together.

12 MR. BENNETT: That's great. I mean, I'm on the
13 state -- you know, I've spoken over the years to
14 different towns that there's tremendous damage with
15 tornadoes, and it was always what did you do initially
16 and having a plan to coordinate police, public works and
17 all that together, and it's critical, and every time it
18 happens, for as much as the town thought they were --
19 you know, had it all together, there's just nuances that
20 create other problems. So again I, I mean, I'll
21 obviously take a look myself about having the training
22 in my town.

23 MS. HEMPHILL: If you want, I can give you guys the
24 information --

1 MR. BENNETT: If you give it to Vicky, and she'll
2 send it to everybody.

3 MS. HEMPHILL: I'll give you the training,
4 director's information as well as her coordinators, and
5 then please share your information with me what you want
6 to do, and I'll get it with them and then we can all sit
7 down like I did with Orland and we come up with a plan
8 and dates on how to put it together.

9 MR. BENNETT: You may be busy.

10 MS. HEMPHILL: I like being busy.

11 MR. DODGE: They did a great job setting up the
12 scenario and overseeing it and giving feedback, which
13 was really important. And then I think this applies to
14 a number of towns. We have a fire district and, you
15 know, we've had a pretty good working relationship with
16 our fire district. So in my opinion -- Joel, you were
17 there -- it was absolutely seamless between the village
18 and the fire district given all the responses we had to
19 go through. So it was just good to get that together.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In-house in Orland Park but
21 you didn't get to the zoo.

22 MR. DODGE: Yeah. Sometimes it felt like it. But
23 we kept the cops at the police station, and everybody
24 else, we went through our EOC. So we were physically

1 separated during the majority of the exercise, just to
2 make sure that it's like the phone's working, you can
3 get ahold of a person. So the county did a great job
4 overseeing that. And, you know, it's just important to
5 have fire there because, you know, who's first on scene,
6 the cops or the fire?

7 MR. BENNETT: Yes. It's been a long time since we
8 went through that. Obviously I have a new trustee, and
9 the department is now in years, and it would be actually
10 a great idea to revisit that whole thing. I've got a
11 fire district, too. I should invite them in as to be
12 part of an eventual command center, how things operate.
13 Even for your aldermen and trustees that they understand
14 the process because I'm sure they're on the phone,
15 what's going on, what are you doing.

16 MR. DODGE: The big takeaway is pray for good
17 weather. That was my takeaway.

18 MR. VAN ESSEN: It was an ice event. We dodged it
19 with this weather recently, but what if that ice was
20 north instead of Kentucky but it was in Chicagoland?

21 MR. BENNETT: Yes. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

22 MS. STAFF: Hi. I'm Michelle Staff, and I'm from
23 IDNR, and I'm from Office of Water Resources, and we're
24 going to talk about some of the resources we offer at

1 IDNR. We kind of wrote the presentation up from
2 preparedness and then basically as the event is
3 happening and then recovery.

4 So here at IDNR we have the Office of
5 Water Resources. We have three sections. We have
6 capital programs. That's like the engineering studies,
7 design construction, technical services and operations,
8 and then we have the resource management, and that's the
9 division I'm in, and that is the regulations programs.
10 We have safety, Lake Michigan program and then statewide
11 program. And then we also have a coastal management
12 program. Basically they're downtown in Chicago and just
13 dealing with Lake Michigan type issues. So we have
14 three offices, too. There's the Chicago Downtown. I'm
15 in the Bartlett office, and then down in Springfield.
16 So that's kind of how we're organized.

17 So we're going to start off with the
18 preparedness, and we're going to talk about the NFIP
19 program. That's the National Flood Insurance Program,
20 the office -- we have a mitigation program and then the
21 regulations, the permitting and engineering studies.

22 So the National Flood Insurance Program,
23 the NFIP for short, all of your communities are probably
24 participants because there are very few communities in

1 Illinois that aren't part of the program, and this is
2 basically the federal program that does the flood
3 mapping, the FEMA FIRMs. You may have heard of it. And
4 also they do flood studies and then the regulations, the
5 minimum standards that we build to in the floodplain.
6 We have 896 Illinois communities, and that's kind of the
7 program I work with, and I work with the six counties
8 here in the Chicagoland. And so if you have any
9 questions about floodplain regulations for the National
10 Flood Insurance Program or flood insurance, I would be
11 your contact.

12 Then also we have a mitigation program,
13 and basically this is a reimbursement program, so it's
14 not a grant. It's -- the communities do do pay up
15 front, but then we reimburse them 100 percent. So this
16 is 100 percent reimbursement. We also -- this is state
17 money, so we ask the state legislation for money for
18 communities, and then this can be used as a cost match.
19 So some of the federal programs require a cost match
20 from the communities. You could use state money for
21 those cost matches. As you can see, we bought out a lot
22 of structures, over 5,000 in the State of Illinois, and
23 this is basically a buyout program. If you have any
24 residents, you know, interested or you know someone

1 that's interested, just get in contact with me and I can
2 give you the right people to talk to down in
3 Springfield, but basically we try to keep a list of
4 people interested because this is a program. It doesn't
5 happen overnight. It does take a couple of years. Also
6 our funding is limited, and then if we are low on
7 funding, we go back to the state legislation and ask for
8 more. So just be aware if you are interested in that
9 program, get in contact with us early.

10 We also do floodplain permitting for state
11 regulations. This is separate from the National Flood
12 Insurance Program. So we have Part 37 rules. I'm just
13 going to point out Part 3708 rules because that's the
14 northeast section. And then also we do other floodway
15 permitting across the state.

16 Our engineering studies, we do provide
17 some free engineering studies. I'm going to give you
18 some contacts at the end of my presentation to -- for
19 Tara, she's the contact, and it literally is just an
20 email to her what you're interested in, what kind of
21 studies you're interested in, and they can use modeling
22 for you, and they can do other local technical
23 assistance.

24 We do have some tools online. We do have

1 the Riverine flood tool. It is basically inundation
2 mapping, but we do have it only in sludge areas, but
3 basically it shows -- if you know a flood's coming and
4 you can -- basically the right corner there, you can
5 slide it and you can see where the water will go out,
6 where it will be inundated. The other one -- I know you
7 can't see it very well, but it is called the structures
8 at flood risk or SAFR we call it. Basically we work
9 with the Army Corps of Engineers and they did first
10 floor elevations. So it also can give you some
11 information about those. Unfortunately we only have it
12 for the, you know, the Middle Fork, the Poplar Creek and
13 Des Plaines, so it is limited on the location, and that
14 is not out for public but if you need that information,
15 we can give it to the municipalities.

16 And then we're going to go to flood
17 response. So we're going to first talk about
18 situational awareness. So we did -- what we did is our
19 GIS department kind of did a dashboard with all of the
20 websites that are situational awareness, and I have a
21 picture here. So it looks very busy because we have --
22 you know, we have weather service on here. We have
23 other USGS information, and you can click on and off the
24 toggles and see what you like to see, but it's a

1 one-shot stop where you can just look at it and kind of
2 see what the situation is.

3 We also do some flood reconnaissance.
4 Basically they'll go out and they'll document the flood
5 heights, the high water marks. We do some modeling.
6 Also they'll summarize impacts, and this is just to help
7 for -- basically document everything about that flood so
8 we can keep a record of it and use it for other
9 purposes. We have a flood surveillance summary, so this
10 is live and if you want it, this is public, too, so you
11 can go out there, and as it's coming in and we're
12 collecting data, the little dots will come on, and you
13 can see specifically, you know, what's happening as you
14 go along. I do have some sheets that give you the links
15 for this, and I'm assuming we're going to give copies of
16 the slides to everyone, and they're all hyperlinks, too.

17 And then we have drone services, so we do
18 have some drones, and we can go out there. As you can
19 see there in the picture to the left, you know, places
20 you can't get to. Again you call our department, and
21 again I'll have all those contacts, and we can come out
22 and do some drone surveillance and services for that.
23 Our -- in floodplain management we are actually asking
24 for a drone to do some of our -- for -- and I'll get to

1 that slide -- for substantial damage and things like
2 that, so -- and then this is just kind of a mosaic of
3 all those flood pictures overlaid so you can see the
4 drone picture to the right there. It basically showed
5 all the inundation.

6 So post flood response, the services we do
7 for that is -- as part of the National Flood Insurance
8 Program, every community has their standalone floodplain
9 ordinance that meets those requirements of the National
10 Flood Insurance Program and the minimum federal
11 standards. Part of that is what we call substantial
12 damage determinations. So after an event or a flooding
13 event or a tornado, if the structure is in the
14 floodplain, it's required to go out and assess if the
15 damage was over 50 percent of the market value. You may
16 have heard it, the 50 percent rule. I don't think I've
17 ever heard no one's ever known about the 50 percent
18 rule. It's pretty common. This is it. And so if it is
19 damaged over 50 percent, then basically the structure
20 needs to come into compliance, and that could be
21 elevation. It could be relocation. It could be
22 demolished, if it's that damaged, and rebuilt, or flood
23 proofing. So there are options really depending on the
24 structure and how hard -- how hard the structure got

1 hit.

2 And then finally we have engineering
3 studies where basically we can do some stream
4 restoration studies, so plumb reduction studies for
5 erosion, whatever it may be that you need, and we can do
6 a lot of those again free. We do just ask that you
7 email us what you're looking for, and then we'll start
8 from there. And then here's all of our contact
9 information for the NFIP on your contact here in the
10 region, and then basically Tara is a lot of the
11 engineering studies, some of the GIS mapping and things
12 like that. Also my co-worker, Erin Conley, she is the
13 state NFIP coordinator. She's down in Springfield. So
14 I can take any questions if you like.

15 MR. BENNETT: Any particular questions? You know,
16 it was really a good presentation. Can you send that to
17 us?

18 MS. STAFF: Sure, yeah.

19 MR. BENNETT: Again for being around for some time,
20 it's understandable that most municipalities follow
21 strictly guidelines by the Fed as far as plumb and
22 gradient. And our requirement, in your last section
23 there about homes being destroyed and -- or damaged, in
24 our town we also have almost a confluence of two or

1 three creeks finally coming to us but, you know, there's
2 floodway areas.

3 MS. STAFF: Yes.

4 MR. BENNETT: And we have always followed -- and I
5 know FEMA monitors municipalities with building permits
6 to see if, in fact, something like that happens at a
7 home, it's not rebuilt or can't be rebuilt. I say this
8 only as an observer. Maybe -- are we the only state in
9 this country that has a strict guideline to what you're
10 talking about because when we see natural disasters take
11 place, especially along the coastline or rivers, are
12 they rebuilt?

13 MS. STAFF: Yeah. I can only speak from my
14 experience because actually I came from FEMA. I --
15 basically I was down in Hurricane Ian, Fort Myers Beach
16 devastated. FEMA came down hard on them after that one,
17 and they actually got retrograded out of the community
18 rating system. I don't know if any of the communities
19 are in the CRS, and they were on probation, so --

20 MR. BENNETT: Super secret information.

21 MS. STAFF: It's not super secret. There was a lot
22 of political --

23 MR. BENNETT: Yeah. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to
24 take it off track, but again we -- for all these years

1 we have followed strictly FEMA guidelines as to building
2 permits and being aware, and then our residents know --
3 and what would happen if they had a -- even a tornado in
4 a floodplain and destroy the home. Technically you're
5 in a floodway. You can't rebuild. So it's -- and the
6 cost of flood insurance is borne by everybody across the
7 country. And just again for those, at least in
8 Illinois, we follow a strict guideline. That
9 application should go nationwide.

10 MS. STAFF: Yeah. Thank you.

11 MR. BENNETT: This is all good stuff. Thank you.

12 MS. BOEHLER: Good evening, everybody. I'm Tiffany
13 Boehler with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.
14 And Shontel blew through a bunch of stuff that I had in
15 my slide, so I'm going to like go through them really
16 quick. But anyway, we are the recovery division at the
17 State of Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and we
18 have spent a lot of time up in this area in the last
19 four, five years, and we've been very close working with
20 Cook County and possibly some of your guys' townships,
21 municipalities -- I know Summit was in our last
22 disaster, so it was not declared, but this is our
23 leadership team. Greg Nimmo is our division leader.
24 Luke Denny, he's not here. Zack Krug is my mitigation

1 partner. Michelle Hanneken, she does all of our grants
2 for us internally. I'm Tiffany Boehler, like I said,
3 the individual and community assistance manager, but
4 then I have Matthew Raymond who is our volunteer
5 coordinator. And what is individual assistance? It
6 helps the households -- the individual households
7 recover after a disaster. So when the flooding
8 happened, I was the one that came in and worked closely
9 getting all the numbers and data so that I could send it
10 up to my division chief to send in to the governor, and
11 it's quite a process. But like she said, the more
12 information you guys get from your residents, the more
13 information we have from you. The data helps us support
14 everything or at least we hope it does.

15 We have eight types of federal assistance
16 that we can bring to the county if we get a federal
17 declaration, mass care, the voluntary agencies that we
18 have, IHP, which is individuals and households program,
19 small business, the SPA. We don't have to have a
20 federal debt to bring them in. They can come in if we
21 have 25 households or five businesses that are affected
22 by a disaster. That can be a house fire. That can be
23 flooding. That can be water main breaks which we saw
24 last year. What else, Scot? Anything else you can

1 think of?

2 MR. STAUBER: Mostly apartment building fires and
3 water main breaks affect the whole community.

4 MS. BOEHLER: Yeah. He's the one up here that you
5 guys will deal with on the SPA if it's just on a smaller
6 level. And then disaster unemployment comes with a FEMA
7 dec. The crisis counseling comes with a FEMA dec.
8 Disaster case management is what Matt and I oversee.
9 That comes from a FEMA dec. That's disaster case
10 managers that come in and help after FEMA has come in
11 and given your individuals money, and it wasn't enough
12 to help them. Then we come in with disaster case
13 managers and try to help assist them get local assets in
14 order to help them move on with their lives. And then
15 disaster legal services. And then the federal
16 assistance for individuals, HA, the housing assistance
17 that they can get, temporary housing assistance, which
18 is like if they have to stay in a hotel while their
19 house is being repaired.

20 Housing assistance -- let me go back on
21 that one a little bit. That's if their house is
22 completely wiped out. That's the assistance that they
23 get for that. And then they can help with repairs, the
24 replacement of water heaters, furnaces, anything that's

1 been damaged and permanent and semi-permanent housing
2 construction. And then other needs assessment is the --
3 it's a small amount to actually help them get back on
4 their feet that they get like right away.

5 PDAs, that is what our favorite thing is
6 up here in Cook County, I think, preliminary damage
7 assessments. That's what Shontel was talking about and
8 Latesha. We come in and we say, okay, you guys have so
9 much damage, we're going to come in and do PDAs. That's
10 where we go around knocking on doors, taking data. The
11 same as what FEMA gets, the state is with them getting
12 the same data so that at the end of the day we go back
13 and say we had 26, what did you have. 26. And we match
14 it up, and then we send that up to the governor to have
15 his approval on it, and then it goes on up.

16 Urban flooding impact, that is what we
17 have seen with you guys so much in the last four, five
18 years. It's a common issue that is continually becoming
19 more and more prevalent here, and we see basement
20 damages day in and day out from it and possibly
21 infrastructure. Blown basement walls is what we
22 normally see on those. So what we -- we have come up
23 with this new damage assessment survey that we're super
24 excited about that we finally got to start using in the

1 last two disasters. I'm going to hope and pray that it
2 opens up so that you guys can see it. Okay. It's not
3 sharing on here. Does anybody know how to get it up
4 there?

5 MR. KRUG: It's really good. You're just going to
6 have to take our word for it.

7 MS. ADAMS: I do. Yeah. Here.

8 MS. BOEHLER: It just -- it like needs to go up on
9 that screen.

10 MS. ADAMS: I think you might have to just exit
11 presenter view. Can you just -- yeah. Let's try that.

12 MS. BOEHLER: So this is this great survey that the
13 State of Illinois has come up with that literally after
14 a disaster, the last disaster we had up here in Cook
15 County, we had this out to Cook County within 24 hours,
16 so they were able to not even really have to do door to
17 door. They were able to send this out to every
18 municipality, every person and say, hey, go on this
19 survey and fill it out. We collect their name, their
20 last name, very minimal information from them. But the
21 good part is is that down here it asks like their
22 primary residence stuff and their dwelling. We at the
23 state have it so that they can go in and give us all
24 this information, and it actually does the calculations

1 so that we can see if that house is damaged at a total
2 loss, if it's minor, if it's major damage, and we can
3 like go and move on getting out here on the ground and
4 being able to see how much damage is really out there
5 with FEMA. This used to take us two weeks maybe to even
6 have enough damage information collected to do this, and
7 now we were literally on the ground a week after the
8 last flood. It's the fastest that anybody's ever been
9 able to move through it other than hurricanes that they
10 don't even do damage assessments. It does ask them that
11 they put pictures -- I'm trying to get to it very
12 quickly -- in here. That allows us at the state to
13 validate each of these assessment surveys. So they have
14 to put at least one in there for us to be able to
15 validate it. Now, granted we may have gotten some cat
16 pictures. We may have gotten some political signs and
17 stuff in there, but at least we were able to verify --
18 the ones that were not verified, those were considered
19 our hot spots, and that's the homes that we went to with
20 FEMA and validated the information.

21 Now, if I can get back to the presenter
22 page. Sorry. What's great about that survey is that it
23 also has a real-time dashboard, and this is just in case
24 it didn't work. It has a real-time survey dashboard

1 that goes with it that allows us to capture those hot
2 spots of where the damage really was done. So like in
3 Summit we were able to see that you guys had a cluster
4 there. Where else, Shontel, because that was your area?

5 MS. HEMPHILL: I had -- well, Chicago had -- those
6 suburbs -- Chicago was inundated with a lot of water,
7 Cicero right off of Chicago. I had part of Stickney,
8 Summit. Hickory Hills had a little water, not much,
9 reported. Justice had a lot because they got hit really
10 hard with that microburst the first two days. They were
11 hit back to back. So -- and one thing that you guys did
12 that was great once you had it coming to multiple
13 languages because we have some --

14 MS. BOEHLER: Yeah. I did forget that. So that
15 survey that I had up there, it comes -- we have it right
16 now in five languages. We have -- and we customize it
17 for almost every single disaster. Scot Stauber and Matt
18 have worked very diligently along with me and our GIS
19 team to customize that. Almost every disaster we go on
20 we change a few things up for the residents in your
21 community so that we can get it pushed out. A new link
22 is produced at every disaster. It's not going to let me
23 log into this without my credentials in the back of my
24 computer, so we have a dashboard anyway. So as the

1 information is coming in from every survey that's filled
2 out, we can literally watch it in real-time be put onto
3 a dashboard. We give it to the county. Anybody we have
4 an information sharing agreement with gets -- usually
5 it's our EMAs. They get it. Then they can see who they
6 have in their communities that have immediate needs that
7 need to be followed up on. Cook County had 162, I
8 think, immediate needs that they were able to get to
9 within literally -- basically they were put in there and
10 they could respond to it to see what they needed, and
11 that's been a huge help. We didn't have to wait to get
12 it from FEMA like we usually do. It can take us weeks,
13 a month to get that information from FEMA. Now it's
14 ours. The state owns it and as long as we have an
15 information sharing agreement with you, we give you a
16 link to that dashboard with your own log in and you can
17 see your county. And it's been pretty amazing, I think.
18 What do you guys think?

19 MS. TUBBS: It's great. I think what normally would
20 take us two to three weeks only took a week time. That
21 was great. When we first started doing the damage
22 assessment, it took us like three weeks just to
23 literally scroll through people's data, different types
24 of forms, pictures, you know, so it's really different

1 when you can get it directly from them from us scrubbing
2 through it versus them putting it in themselves. They
3 know the damage that they had, and we capture real-time
4 pictures, so that's important, too.

5 MS. BOEHLER: And so with the very last one that we
6 did, we had over 7,000 surveys, reports done. It was
7 the largest PDA with -- without -- what's the word I'm
8 looking for -- the largest preliminary damage assessment
9 surveys done virtually that they've ever had. So we
10 were really upset when we didn't get declared a disaster
11 because we worked really hard. So what happens next is
12 after we collect all this data, we get map hot spots
13 that show us like all the damages. We quickly, like I
14 said, allocate those resources to get out there and get
15 help to the people that really need it. Then the
16 reports feed into that dashboard. We process it at the
17 state. We send it up to our division chief, and then he
18 gets it to -- up to the governor's office after he puts
19 in his little scenario and stuff. And then they have,
20 what, 90 days from when we turn it into them?

21 MR. KRUG: 60.

22 MS. BOEHLER: 60 days to get us an answer back. If
23 it's deemed not -- denied, then we have a 30-day appeal
24 process. And with that 30-day appeal, we have 30 days

1 to get them the appeal. They have unconditional time to
2 get back to us. They could die on their desk. We don't
3 have any -- but what -- we ask for clear photos, provide
4 the correct address and contact information, and as soon
5 as they can get the reports to us the better. Like
6 Shontel said, the more information we have the better
7 picture we can provide for everything. And now I'm
8 going to turn it over to Matt Raymond who's my volunteer
9 coordinator. Does anybody have any questions, by the
10 way?

11 MR. JASINKSI: Adam Jasinski, Palos Heights. You
12 mentioned SPA for water main breaks assistance. Can you
13 elaborate a little bit more about that?

14 MS. BOEHLER: The SPA -- say the rest of it.

15 MR. JASINKSI: You said water main assistance if you
16 have a water main break.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So like last year Evanston
18 had a water main break on Valentine's Day weekend, and
19 so what ended up happening was all of Evanston was shut
20 down -- or I'm sorry. Skokie, all of Skokie was shut
21 down and part of Evanston was shut down, businesses.
22 SPA came in and was able to help those businesses get
23 low interest loans to help them offset what they
24 actually lost that weekend revenue-wise. SPA doesn't

1 actually -- they're out there for the individual on the
2 business side of it. They don't help the municipalities
3 at all.

4 MS. BOEHLER: Sorry about that.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They do low interest loans to
6 the community.

7 MS. BOEHLER: Did you have any other questions? And
8 he's my SPA like guru up here, so that's why I referred
9 that to him. Thank you, guys.

10 MR. BENNETT: You want to pick it up a little bit.
11 We're running into our meeting time.

12 MR. RAYMOND: So, everyone, my name is Matt. I work
13 for IEMA. I serve as a volunteer service coordinator,
14 and my job is to work with nonprofits, large and small,
15 so the heavy hitters, the Red Crosses and Salvation
16 Armies of the world all the way down to the food
17 pantries. And the reason I do that, some of it might
18 seem obvious. If I have a fire in an apartment
19 building, I need shelter. I'm going to call the Red
20 Cross. That's an obvious one. What happens a week
21 later, a month later, you know, a year later after a
22 flood? We still need to work with nonprofits because we
23 know that FEMA will never make everyone whole. The gold
24 standard, we got a declaration, I think the maximum

1 money you can ever get from FEMA is like \$42,000, and to
2 get that you have to be that perfect case where it
3 completely destroys your house. You have no money in
4 the bank, and your house was worth that much. The
5 average person gets about 5 to \$8,000. So if we have
6 someone that is already disadvantaged, they're low
7 income, they're disabled, they're elderly, even if they
8 meet all the benchmarks for FEMA, that money is really
9 not ever going to be enough. So a way we can fill that
10 unmet need is by working with our nonprofits.

11 So one of the ways I assist the nonprofits
12 is I help them organize into groups we call -- COAD is
13 the nickname for it, Community Organizations Active in
14 Disaster. So we find nonprofits in a local area, and we
15 get them connected to each other. We get them connected
16 to our local governments. We get them connected with
17 private enterprise. And the idea is the day of the
18 disaster, my county emergency managers are busy. You
19 know, Shontel's out there driving around in her truck.
20 The fire chief's busy. He doesn't have time to put
21 together shelters and feeding missions, things like
22 that. They can make one phone call to this stakeholder
23 group and basically say the things you already do
24 together, whatever your nonprofit does, start doing that

1 stuff. And that way if everyone's on the same page, we
2 avoid duplication of efforts in one area, and then
3 sometimes you'll see like one area gets shorted because
4 no one knew what was going on. Now they're all talking
5 to each other. So we kind of do that in a county
6 concept or a local concept, and I hope those groups get
7 together and focus their efforts.

8 Another way we can assist local
9 communities is sponsoring CERT teams, community
10 emergency response teams. I came from the fire service.
11 I always refer to these as kind of first responder
12 light, right? Many of you had CERTs in your
13 communities, and we teach them things like basic first
14 aid. We don't teach them fire fighting like we would a
15 firefighter, but we teach them -- regular folks how to
16 use a fire extinguisher, you know, small things like
17 that. And the idea behind these teams is they can do
18 the small things that need done during a large disaster
19 that our first responders are too busy. You know, if I
20 got every fire truck in town busy and I got every cop in
21 town busy, but I want someone to go check on the
22 neighborhood and knock on doors, maybe do a little first
23 aid, we help put those together. So if you don't have a
24 CERT in your community and you'd like to get one going,

1 get ahold of us. We'd love to help make that happen.

2 Another way we help communities is through
3 putting on events called a MARC, a multi-agency resource
4 center. This is very common after large apartment
5 fires. It's a one-stop shop for survivors. So
6 typically I get a request from the Red Cross, and
7 they'll tell me we had a 30-unit apartment building.
8 There's a bunch of people that need help. Let's do it
9 in one day. So it's typically within about a week of
10 the event. I bring the state agencies to the table. So
11 our most common one, it's usually led by the Red Cross,
12 but if a municipality wanted to put on a MARC after an
13 event, we would be more than happy to help them.

14 The three we get asked for a lot are
15 Department of Insurance. They bring folks that could
16 help advocate for citizens to their insurance companies.
17 If their insurance guys give them the runaround, we
18 bring the Department of Insurance to help them figure it
19 out. We bring DHS. DHS does the SNAP assistance, so
20 many times we find that there's folks that didn't
21 realize they could qualify for SNAP. They can get them
22 on those Link cards and help fill those gaps a little
23 bit. And Department -- DHS can also bring rehab
24 services. So if you have someone that's low income that

1 suffered an event, and maybe they have some type of
2 addiction or a mental health issue, they have counselors
3 that are available. So once again if you're in a
4 community and you have some type of event, we'll either
5 go get the Red Cross for you or we'll help you put on a
6 MARC as well, and we can bring some other partners to
7 the table as well. I think that's all we have from me.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. KRUG: All right. You're about to see a magic
10 trick. We're going to go real fast real quick.

11 MR. RAYMOND: Did anyone have any questions about
12 the volunteer staff? Thank you very much.

13 MR. KRUG: So public aid for individual assistance
14 is the individual. Public aid is just that. It's aid
15 to the jurisdictions and municipalities. Our public
16 assistance manager is Luke Denny. He's great. His
17 contact information is on here. If you have any
18 questions, hit a button.

19 Hazard mitigation, I'm Zack Krug. I'm the
20 hazard mitigation section manager at IEMA-OHS. Back
21 there is Walter. You can call me. Absolutely you can
22 call Walt. He's going to be your first point of contact
23 for anything hazard mitigationwise in this area. You
24 probably heard me. I don't make an echo. Hazard

1 mitigation is a state action taken to reduce or
2 eliminate long-term risk to human life and property.
3 Think generators, culverts, detention basins, retention
4 basins. We can help. We have technical assistance if
5 you're having problems with an application. If you want
6 to put an application, if you want to do a project, get
7 ahold of us. That's why we get paid.

8 HMGP, if you have a disaster declaration,
9 there's a certain amount of money that comes out of the
10 disaster declaration that goes back into mitigation
11 funding. Flood mitigation assistance, guess what? It's
12 about flood mitigation. I'm actually repetitive. It
13 supports large and innovative projects like detention,
14 retention basins. If you have any questions about it,
15 please again, Walt and I.

16 Predisaster mitigation, congressionally
17 directed spending is just as the name would say. It's
18 through your local legislators. Usually about once a
19 year they have a call for applications on their website.
20 That would be your best point of contact for anything
21 with those grants. With all of our grants, they start
22 at 75 percent federal, 25 percent local, and they go
23 down from there.

24 Let's see. Planning. Cook County has a

1 plan. Please be a part of it. It's a great document.
2 It can open up a wealth of funding opportunities for you
3 and your communities. It is a -- I want to touch on
4 this one. Mitigation is a multi-year effort. This
5 doesn't happen overnight. I like to preface that with
6 every project application I get is -- more than likely
7 with us you're not going to see the money tomorrow.
8 These applications can be pretty in-depth, but again we
9 are here to help. If you have any questions regarding
10 getting a cost analysis or how to put an application --
11 or how to even start an application, please get ahold of
12 us. That's why we're here.

13 Key takeaways, I did that really fast.
14 Planning is key. We're here to help. Please get ahold
15 of us. Thank you.

16 MS. BOEHLER: He said he was going to do a magic
17 trick, so we did hurry up.

18 MR. KRUG: Any questions?

19 MR. BENNETT: No. It was good. Thank you. Are we
20 done with presentation? I certainly would like each of
21 the agencies, if you can, to send that information to
22 our executive director who can then send those
23 presentations out to our members.

24 MR. KRUG: Absolutely.

1 MR. BENNETT: There's a lot of information there, a
2 lot of phone numbers, and we appreciate it.

3 MR. KRUG: Absolutely. Thanks for having us.

4 MR. BENNETT: Does the MWRD have anything to bring
5 before us other than this great group and information?
6 Actually we all do appreciate the information you've
7 given us. It's critical for us to know where those
8 services are at. We'll work with you, and again some
9 follow-up will probably take place in some of your
10 towns, actually bringing you into their community. So
11 again on behalf of the mayors, we thank you all for that
12 presentation.

13 With that in mind I'll entertain a motion
14 to adjourn, and we will sit right here and go into our
15 other meeting. Is there a motion?

16 MR. BRADY: So moved.

17 MR. BENNETT: Moved by --

18 MR. BRADY: Dave Brady, Bedford Park.

19 MR. STRAZ: Bob Straz, second.

20 MR. BENNETT: All in favor signify by a vote of aye.

21 (Chorus of ayes.)

22 MR. BENNETT: Motion carries. Meeting adjourned.

23 (Whereupon, at 7:12 o'clock p.m., the
24 meeting was adjourned.)

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)

2) SS:

3 COUNTY OF C O O K)

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I, Linda M. Benda, C.S.R., Notary Public,
do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the
meeting held on the 28th day of January 2026, and that
this transcript is a true and accurate transcription of
my shorthand notes so taken, to the best of my ability,
and contains all of the proceedings given at said
meeting.



LINDA M. BENDA, CSR, Notary Public
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