

Cultural Emergency Management Team (CEMT)

Minutes of 12 January 2006 meeting

The first CEMT meeting of 2006 was held at 10 A.M. on January 12, 2006, in the Trustees Room of the Boston Public Library. Present were Arthur Beale, ret., MFA; Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, MBLC; Fred Vanderschmidt, FEMA; Steve Dalton, Boston College; Michael Comeau, Massachusetts State Archives; Barbara Adams Hebard, Boston Athenaeum; Horace Waters, NARA, Northeast Region; Alan Lester, Mary Baker Eddy Library; Mary Rita Grady, Regis College; Therezon Sheerin, Boston CSJ Archives; Jane Hedberg, Harvard University; and Lori Foley, NEDCC.

Arthur welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the newest CEMT members who've joined as a result of attending the December *Alliance for Response* forum update. Lori reviewed the results of the sign-up sheet, which was distributed at the December forum (*copy attached*). A brief discussion was held about the highlights of the meeting.

Horace reported that NARA management was very excited about the possibilities of working with CEMT. NARA can provide training in disaster preparedness and can provide personnel for site surveys and for DCAT, the disaster strike team. NARA's Northeast Region covers New England, New York, and (yes) Puerto Rico. The Waltham office has also chaired the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board, which represents all federal agencies in the Greater Boston area. These contacts should prove valuable.

Mary Rita and Therezon attended the meeting on behalf of NEARI, New England Archivists of Religious Institutions. They are willing to help provide contacts for the cultural resources inventory and disseminate information about CEMT to this organization.

Horace noted that the Archivist of the United States, Allen Weinstein, will be visiting this area in May. Gregor mentioned that Allen Weinstein is committed to developing disaster plans in all 50 state archives. Gregor then described the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) grant proposal that was submitted by Ann Russell of NEDCC to develop, test, and disseminate a model for statewide disaster planning for state archives and libraries. Partners in the grant proposal include the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Massachusetts State Archives, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, the Society of American Archivists, Heritage Preservation, and the Southeast Library Information Network. This project can help move CEMT's initiatives forward.

Grant possibilities for CEMT projects were discussed. FEMA planning grants are available for pre-disaster mitigation. Funding would cover hazard and risk analyses for the Boston area and development of mitigation plans. Fred said we should work with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), which has already developed a mitigation plan for Boston. Our grant proposal can build on their existing plan and can be promoted as an enhancement of that plan. Arthur will get in touch with Scott MacLeod, Mitigation Grants Manager of MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency). In order to

apply for a FEMA grant, our proposal must go through a state agency. If the State reviews and approves the proposal, it passes it up to the national level for review.

Fred said the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program has about \$150 million available for two types of activities – plans and projects. Mitigation *plans* can be developed after analyzing hazards and risks. Once a plan is in place, we can apply for a *project*, stating, for example, that #3 on our action plan is to provide training.

In order for us to proceed, we must define our universe: what and where are the cultural resources and institutions in Greater Boston? It would be possible to geocode all institutions, providing location using latitude and longitude. This information can be overlaid with existing maps, such as flood maps, to help develop mitigation plans for individual institutions. Information about MassGIS (Geographic Information System) can be found at www.mass.gov/mgis/massgis.htm. It was decided that CEMT will use MAPC-defined areas to establish our boundaries. These are somewhat political boundaries, but it will be a start. Other organizations that can help us define our universe include the American Library Association for libraries, New England Archivists for archives, the New England Museum Association for museums and historical organizations, and NEARI for religious institutions.

CEMT should look to MEMA for discretionary grants funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). A contact is Barry Wante, the Branch Chief of Homeland Security and Regional Services for MEMA. He oversees the regional emergency management and homeland security programs for the agency.

Gregor said he will call a contact to try to get BEMA (Boston Emergency Management Agency) involved in CEMT. Ever since Steve Morash left, CEMT has been without a BEMA contact.

Arthur said a new cultural representative needs to sit at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) table since he no longer lives in Boston. Jane will talk to Ethel Hellman at Harvard about the possibility of Ethel replacing Arthur.

Fred encouraged us to look at the ICS (Incident Command System) structure so we can develop parallel roles. Information about ICS can be found at www.wildlandfire.net/.

Arthur said we should expand upon and finalize the draft Annex that was started two years ago. Lori said she would distribute a copy of the Annex.

Dates for the next meetings were set after the meeting. The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Foley

I would like to (*check all that apply*):

- 13 Attend CEMT meetings.
- 27 Keep informed of CEMT activities.
- 4 Help compile an inventory of cultural properties and resources in the Greater Boston area.
- 3 Help compile an inventory of cultural properties and resources in my region.
- 5 Participate in the development of DCAT, the Disaster Cultural Assistance Team.
- 7 Be trained as a DCAT member. My specialty is: _____
- 19 Be notified when *dPlan* is up and running.
- 14 Receive training in disaster planning.
- 3 Train others in disaster planning.
- 19 Receive training in disaster recovery.
- 4 Train others in disaster recovery.
- 19 Receive training in the Incident Command System.
- 2 Train others in the Incident Command System.
- 4 Have someone conduct a disaster planning survey of my institution.
- 1 Conduct disaster planning surveys of cultural properties and resources.
- 8 Learn how to include cultural heritage in municipal plans.
- 1 Participate in a CEMT committee to develop sources for ongoing financial support.
- 0 Provide financial support to CEMT.
- 0 Other: _____