

# Morton Meeting

**Where:** Bob Lyle Community Center  
700 Main Street  
Morton, WA

**When:** Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 6 p.m.

**Purpose:** To provide agency information to constituents affected by January floods, mudslides

**FEMA Representation:** Congressional, Community Relations, U.S. Small Business Administration, Public Information for the media, Mitigation.

**Other Representatives:** Staffer Sean Murphy from Cong. Brian Baird's office; State representative to be determined

**Issue:** Should IA be represented at the meeting?

**Recommendation:** Yes. They will be able to provide more complete answers for people who have problems interacting with FEMA or other recovery programs. Based on last year's Oregon experience, an IA presence at such meetings is invaluable.

**Background:** Morton, in East Lewis County, and surrounding foothill communities suffered flood and mudslide damage. Certain misinformation circulated early in the recovery because the citizens thought they were cut out of FEMA aid if they did not have a Disaster Recovery Center. A DRC is slated for mid-February but this information has not been published because the site is still being negotiated. Nevertheless, residents within the county are eligible for IA assistance; PA has not been designated.

CR teams and PIO have been outreaching to Morton on Feb. 6 to dispel rumors, including work with local organizations, the Chamber of Commerce, volunteer fire department, police, PUD, East County Journal newspaper, and the School Superintendent who had notices sent home and postings on the school website. Teleregistration/ DRC flyers were posted at the Glenoma Post Office (a neighboring community) and CR contacted director for the White Pass Community Service Coalition that distributed flyers. In the neighboring community of Packwood, Teleregistration/DRC flyers were posted at the volunteer fire department, the Post Office and a business.

**Morton Success Story:** One resident was registered and inspected (awaiting check) and was pleased with FEMA efficiency.

**Possible Meeting Set Up:** Not an open mic for audience questions or venting. Tables are set up and appropriate representatives make themselves available to the various needs of attendees. This organizational structure has been used at past information events, according to State.

**Sidebar Issue:** There is a bridge out on Justin Lane (privately owned property). The 50-foot bridge provides access to several homeowners, the PUD, access to a water treatment facility and logging concerns. It is not public property or a county road. The co-sheriff says the residents are NOT stranded. One citizen is especially concerned about the bridge outage because his mother lives on the other side. This person may be outspoken at the Morton meeting.

**Staff:**

FEMA Congressional – Merrie Waylett

FEM PIO – Cleo Howell

FEMA CR – Ben Dew and Dan Staber with CR Team support

SBA – Gary Colton

Mitigation:

IA Representative: - HAUBRECK

- KURT HARDIN
- CR (RAINES, D)