In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brenda Codella (FRCOG), Matt Grudgen (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Jeanne Galloway (WSpfld HD), Stephen Kozloski (MPD), Carolyn Shores Ness (DBOS/BOH), Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Chris Bouchard (DPW), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD), Robert Barry (MEMA), Sandra Martin (BCBHOA), Michael Nelson (DPH), David Elvin (PVPC), Sonya Schey (EOPSS), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Michael Wynn (PPD), Gail Bienvenue (DPH), John Murray (BMC-BH).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:03 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the May 19, 2015 meeting.

Motion: Mark Babineau moved to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2015 meeting as submitted. Ed Lesko Ness seconded. Motion passed.

A round of introductions followed. Raine Brown introduced Matt Grudgen, a Homeland Security Program intern with the FRCOG for the summer. Raine stated that Matt is available to visit some departments for a day.

Updates from Chair

Tom Grady stated that the Chairs met in Framingham a few weeks ago. The THIRA update has been completed. Secretary Bennett will likely be appointing a new Under Secretary of Homeland Security. Kurt Schwartz will remain as Director at MEMA. Tom stated that he was asked by Kurt Schwartz to attend the National Homeland Security Conference in San Antonio along with two staff from EOPSS. The Conference will be held on June 8-11th.

Tom stated that other Councils are having difficulty spending down their funding. Tom will be advocating for the remaining funds to be put into a state pool with a competitive process. Tom commended the Council for their leadership and stewardship of the available funds.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Mark Babineau stated that the air show went well over the weekend. It is estimated that over 400,000 people attended. There were a few traffic issues but overall it went very well. The Command Staff praised Western Mass via an email for handling the traffic issues and stated that the Western Region "works very well together and get things done."
- POLICE: Mike Wynn stated that Pittsfield is preparing for the annual 4th of July parade. A table top will be held on June 18th to simulate training for emergencies that are possible during the parade. The Berkshire Law Enforcement Council is looking to form a IMT team to help small towns.
- EMS: No update was given.

- EMD: No update was given.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko stated that mosquito season has begun.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll stated that the PVTA is seeking a federal transportation administration grant to upgrade radio equipment and switch to the emergency management spectrum frequencies. A current issue is that they are experiencing public radio interference. PVTA is requesting a letter of recommendation to attach to grant application.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve a formal letter of support to upgrade radio equipment and switch to the EMC system. Mark Babineau seconded. Motion passed.

- DPW: Chris Bouchard stated that the Public Works Day at the State House was held on May 12th. This was a meeting with the legislators to discuss a multi-year transportation bill. Infrastructure resiliency funding is being sought. There are two bills that include Lyme disease before the House of Representatives. One of them will require insurance companies to pay for medical costs related to the disease. Lyme disease is a concern for DPWs as they are often handling brush and working outside in tick laden environments. This week is National Public Works week. Discussion followed
- CORRECTIONS: No update was given.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa Nazzaro stated that the 2016 911 grant applications are not out yet. The delay is related to legislation about cell phone fees. Melissa stated that Springfield secured a contract with Smart 911 which is an opt-in program. The system allows emergency parameters for individuals that have specific needs. The program is nationwide and can be set up by the individual on the smart911.com website. It is open to anyone. Wilbraham is also using this program. The system offers faster tracking. A faster response can save lives. The company is based out of Framingham.
- HOSPITALS: John Murray stated that Baystate is in the process of scheduling a large active shooter exercise in June.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness stated that Anti-Terrorism Exercises were very successful. Ed Lesko stated that it was disappointing that more Mayors and local officials weren't able to make it to the trainings. Discussion followed.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No updated was given.
- MEMA: Bob Barry stated that an ICS 300 class is being offered this month. The class must have 20 participants to be held. Carolyn asked if the class can be offered in Franklin County. Bob stated that it can if there a minimum of 20 participants.

- EOPSS: Tom noted that EOPSS has thanked the Council for developing the FFY15 preliminary project list. The list has been incorporated into the State Homeland Security Grant application.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Raine stated that the projects are moving along. A region wide conference with key note speakers for the Children in Disasters project is scheduled for September 29th. There are significant short and long term psychological effects for the children during a disaster. The goal is to hold a one day summit to provide people with the proper awareness of this issue. A question and answer period will be held at the end of the day and that is what will be used to develop the focus for next phase of the project.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Russ Sienkiewicz stated that the projects are ongoing. There is a proposal to purchase a pneumatic tower for \$13,005.

Motion: Russ Sienkiewicz moved to approve \$13,005 to purchase a pneumatic tower. Caroline Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the Training and Exercise Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. Tom stated that there is some unspent training and exercise funding. A total of \$21,783.00 is being returned to the Council that will need to be spent by July 31st.

Motion: Tom Grady motioned to return \$21,783.00 to FFY13unallocated funds. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom stated that the Anti-Terrorism exercises have received very good feedback. Raine is working with DHS to see if the exercises can be developed into a functional exercise for next year. Raine stated that Washington will need input from participants to support the project. Raine stated that she will work on a template. Discussion ensued about how to get the most participation because small town first responders are primarily volunteers and how to get local officials to realize the importance of their participation in these trainings. Tom suggested holding a session about the trainings at the MMA conference to reach out to local officials.

Tom stated that the Franklin County REPC would like to hold an MCI Seminar and Drill. The outline of the course was included in the meeting packet. Discussion followed.

Motion: Tom Grady motioned to approve \$10,750 to hold an MCI Seminar and Drill. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine noted that equipment purchases for the Springfield CAMET are ongoing.

CBRNE/IED:

Mark Babineau stated that the CBRNE Committee has been asked to fill two positions on the State Tech Rescue Committee. All training equipment requests must be reviewed by EOPSS to ensure consistency of equipment statewide.

Fiduciary Report

Raine Brown stated that it is projected that the Council has a total of \$35,000 to spend down before July 31. The Tech Rescue Team submitted a list of equipment needed for the team that was included in the meeting materials.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve up to \$22,000 to spend down FFY13 funds for Tech Rescue Equipment. Mike Wynn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom suggested also purchasing an inflatable tent. The tents are safe in up to 50 mile an hour winds and are surprisingly easy to set up. There are options for heating and cooling. The Council has spent funds in the past on the pop-up tents that bend and break easily.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve up to \$12,000 of FFY13 funds to purchase an inflatable shelter as a regional resource to be housed at the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

Chief Sienkiewicz Retirement

Russ thanked the Council for his 13 years of service. He stated that it has been a pleasure to work with the Council members and to accomplish all that has been done over his time with the Council. Tom presented Russ with a plaque and a letter from EOPSS in appreciation of his service to the Council and the WMRIC Subcommittee.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

Mark Babineau stated that Eric Madison, Fire Chief in Longmeadow is retiring and there will be a reception in his honor next Friday. He reminded the Council that Eric had been a member of the Council for several years.

Tom stated that a new chair of the WMRIC Subcommittee needs to be appointed and must be a member of the Council. He recommended that Melissa Nazzaro be appointed.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to appoint Melissa Nazzaro as the Chair of the WMRIC Subcommittee. Mike Wynn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, June 16th at 10:00 am at WMEMS.

There being no further business Mark Babineau moved to adjourn. Ed Lesko seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.

Respectfully Submitted by Gretchen Johnson Homeland Security Program Assistant Franklin Regional Council of Governments