

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Bob Barry (MEMA), Carolyn Shores Ness (BOS/BOH), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Tom Lynch (BMC), Ann Shea (MMC), John Paciorek (WMA PC), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Robert Hassett (SFD), Jamin Carroll (PVPC), Melissa Nazzaro (SComm), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Mike Wynn (PPD), Jeanne Galloway (HCHC), Ed Lesko (BOS/BOH), David Cruz (EOPSS), Dennis Annear (NWMIMT).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:02 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the December 15, 2015 meeting.

<p>Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2015 meeting as submitted. John Paciorek seconded. Motion passed.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady stated that there is a tentative date of January 29th for the next Chairs meeting. Any issues that should be brought up can be shared with Tom or Raine.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: No update was given.

- POLICE: John Paciorek stated that MEMA has partnered with TetraTech to offer training for private agencies to help them issue formal ID cards to employees. John stated that he will share the information with Raine to pass along.

John announced that a protective custody bill has been filed to allow first responders to be able to place drug users into protective custody for up to 72 hours.

- EMS: Linda Moriarty stated that it is recertification time. It is hoped that the process will go smoother as people get used to the new system. The Director position should be posted soon. The job description is being updated. There was not an exit interview conducted for the last two Directors but hopefully outreach will be done.

- EMD: Bob Hassett stated that the first major storm of the season is expected on Saturday.

- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko stated that the HMCC group met this month and reviewed principles of operations. Next month the HMCC will vote on their representatives and proxies.

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The Enterovirus is moving up from the South. It mostly affects children. It starts out with flu like symptoms and then develops into a respiratory illness. The bird flu is also a concern for this area in the spring as the birds migrate back north.

- TRANSPORTATION: No update was given.
- DPW: No update was given.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom stated that the Rapid Medical Response training will be held in Berkshire County on Monday. There has been very positive feedback on the Hampden training.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa Nazzaro stated that the statewide radio RFP has been released. It is hoped that the consultant will be working on the project in February. This will be a two year contract. SIEC will be heavily involved in the review of the statewide radio network. Raine asked for more specifics on the RFP. Melissa stated that the state has \$60 million to upgrade and expand the statewide radio network. A portion of the money is being used to hire a consultant to evaluate the current system and make recommendations on how the funding should be spent.

Tom stated that he would like to move all of Berkshire County on to 800 system but the cost of the portable and mobile equipment for communities is often prohibitive. Discussion followed.

Melissa announced that the pilot sites for next generation 911 will be starting in March or April. The Verizon contract is going to be renewed due to the delays in starting the pilot projects. There are three pilot sites. One is Wilbraham.

Melissa stated that there will be a meeting with State Rep Todd Smola to discuss moving dispatchers into the group 2 retirement category. Melissa will be out of town during that meeting. Tom asked if there has been any discussion concerning the 16 hour requirement for training for the next gen 911 system. The funding for the training will expire if the funding is not given an extension. Discussion followed.

- HOSPITALS: Tom Lynch stated that the hospitals have been working with the HMCC.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: No update was given.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Tom stated that Paul D'Auteuil has been working a lot with Berkshire County to prepare for the Mercy Sunday Event. This has been a good partnership.

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- MEMA: Bob Barry stated that MEMA has partnered with TetraTech to offer training for private agencies to help them issue formal ID cards to employees. The training was well received. Region 3 hosted a shelter and evacuation exercise that went well also.

On January 21st the Hampshire REPC will meet at C&S in Hatfield at 3 pm. On January 27th MEMA is hosting the planning meeting for the 2016 Exercise Series. MEMA has a disability training tomorrow.

- EOPSS: David Cruz stated that a Homeland Security conference is being planned. He stated that he will have more information next month.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Linda Moriarty stated that the Planning Subcommittee is continuing to work on the Children in Disasters project. At the last meeting the group focused on what the project should accomplish and what direction the project should go in.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Melissa stated there were three votes at the last meeting. The first is a request for \$700 to purchase a flexible wave guide for the Great Hill to Borden Microwave link.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve \$700.00 to purchase a flexible wave guide from FFY14 interoperability unallocated. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There was also a request for \$6,000 to purchase a camera and DVR unit for the BCSO Command Unit.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve \$6,000.00 to purchase a camera and DVR unit from FFY14 interoperability unallocated. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Melissa stated that the final request is for a WMLEC tactical communication trailer in the amount of \$135,000. This will be a regional asset that can be utilized as a mobile site. This has been an identified gap in the region. The trailer can be programmed and set up by area COMLs and then left unmanned for the duration of the incident. David Cruz asked if the trailer was similar to the NERAC trailer. Tom replied that it has more capabilities. This trailer will address communication gaps in our region due to the terrain. Tom stated that the area COMLs are underutilized. A COML will be deployed with the trailer. John Paciorek stated that he likes the small size of the trailer because it makes it more versatile.

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Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve \$135,000 to purchase a tactical communication trailer from FFY14 remaining interoperability unallocated and additional funds from FFY15 interoperability unallocated funds. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the Training and Exercise Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. Mercy Medical requested \$14,072 for Tactical EMS training. Tactical EMS training has been identified as a gap after the last few active shooter exercises.

Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve \$14,072 to fund a 3- day Tactical EMS at Mercy Medical Center. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There was also a request for a 2-day medical management and IED class in the amount of \$6,500.

Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve \$6,500 to fund a 2-day TEEX Medical Management and IED course. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom stated that March 16th is the date for the Active Shooter Symposium at Deerfield Academy. Once the FBI is able to finalize the speakers, the registration will be opened and invitations will be pushed out. The Symposium was discussed at the JTFF meeting and they liked that the Symposium is not law enforcement centric. Raine stated that this event is a direct result of the partnerships built during the Anti-Terrorism table top series. The FBI was pleased with the diversity of participation they saw at the exercise and wanted to have similar for this event.

The first planning meeting is scheduled for January 27th at MEMA for the 2016 Exercise Series. There are about 40 people registered. Six Flags is pleased to have the drill held at their facility.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine Brown stated she is working with Bob Hasset to finish off the CAMET Trailer project. Bob explained that the committee is prioritizing the items to purchase with the remaining funds.

CBRNE/IED:

Mark Babineau reported that the CBRNE Subcommittee will be scheduling a meeting soon to discuss the FFY15 projects. The WMTRT has a request to move some equipment funds to training to allow for members to attend structural collapse training. Mark stated that the team was called out to an incident in Chester last week.

Raine stated that she has reached out to the team to invite them to attend the 2016 Exercise Series planning meeting. Mark stated that he will follow up with the team.

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Fiduciary Report

Raine stated that all of the FFY14 projects are on track. There may be some funds returned from the Franklin County SWAT team. FFY15 projects are beginning to move forward.

Raine stated that she will be attending the MMA conference later this week. Raine requested approval for travel reimbursement.

<p>Motion: Ed Lesko moved to approve travel expenses for Raine Brown to attend the MMA conference. Mark Babineau seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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Amy Reilly stated that the MMA conference reaches out to Mayors and Town Managers. It is an excellent opportunity to share Council projects.

Amy stated that EOPSS will be sending out a survey to solicit feedback on how MAPC and FRCOG are doing in their role as fiduciary.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

Bob stated that he received a call from Colombia Gas two weeks ago alerting him that fifty Springfield residents had no gas. Due to the freezing temperatures, a shelter was opened. The Boys and Girls Club offered to host the shelter. Bob called the contact number for the shelter trailer but it was no longer accurate. The Salvation Army called back within ten minutes with an updated number and the trailer was on site within 40 minutes. Bob thanked the Council for the investing in the shelter trailers. Raine added that the Resource guide has been updated with the correct contact number.

Bob stated that the Red Cross no longer wants to maintain the meal trailer. The Salvation Army has agreed to take it. Bob is working to have the generator repaired. The Salvation Army provides meals for responders rather than the general population.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

No business unforeseen was presented.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, February 16th, 2016 at 10:00 am at WMEMS.

There being no further business Mark Babineau moved to adjourn. John Paciorek seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 am.

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