

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2015, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Carolyn Shores Ness (DBOS/BOH), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Robert Barry (MEMA) proxy for Robert Hassett (SFD), David Cruz (EOPSS), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), John Pond (WMFCA), Hans Olson (EOPSS), Thomas Lynch (BMC), Stephen Kozloski (WMLEC) Ann Shea (MMC) Mark Babineau (WMFCA), John Paciorek (WMPC), Paul D' Auteuil (MSP), Robert Alberti (EPD), Sarah Meyrick (EOPSS), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Michael Nelson (DPH), Jeanne Galloway (HCHC), Daryl Springman (WMTRT), Peter Jerusik (WMTRT), Amy Reilly (MAPC).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:11 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

Approval of Minutes

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

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2015 meeting as submitted. Mark Babineau seconded. Motion passed.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady stated that the Homeland Security Councils Chairs meeting with Undersecretary McMurray went well. Tom asked Hans Olson to comment. Hans stated that it was a fruitful meeting that talked about working collaboratively on issues. Hans stated that the minutes of the meeting are available.

Tom explained that the Undersecretary is still getting up to speed on the Council's successes and challenges. A discussion was had about issues with working with DCR. It is a statewide issue. Tom said that he will send the minutes of the meeting to Raine to be shared with the Council.

Tom thanked Hans for coordinating the meeting. The next meeting will be held in January. Tom asked if anyone has an issue to be brought up at the Chairs meeting to let him know.

Western Mass Tech Rescue Team Update

Daryl Springman and Peter Jerusik thanked the Council for their continued support of the Western Mass Tech Rescue Team. Peter stated that the initial investment was for technical rope rescue equipment and trailers. The Team then trained on confined space and trench rescue. All equipment purchased is compatible with other technical rescue teams in the Commonwealth.

Daryl stated that the team has been called out eight times this year and five times to assist with rope rescue calls.

The team has recently worked with the Enfield Connecticut team during a trench rescue in Longmeadow. Peter explained that trench rescue equipment is very expensive and some of it is

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expendable. Lumber yards have been asked to sponsor the team for small item needs such as nails, lumber, saw blades, etc.

Peter stated that the team will train on tower rescue next and then move on to structure collapse. Peter said that there were many collapsed roofs last year due to the harsh winter.

Peter stated that the team is currently allocated \$50,000 for training and \$55,000 for equipment in FFY15. Those funds will go toward structure collapse but the \$50,000 is not enough for the training. Daryl stated that the team is working with other agencies to acquire the additional funding needed.

Daryl stated that the team has trained on the GPS units purchased by the Council. The team has also worked with the National Guard for air assets training. Dennis Nazzaro has been generous with his time and has conducted some Communication training for the team. There have been issues with communications when working in rural areas without broadband access. A box repeater system would be helpful.

Peter asked if there were any questions. Tracy Rogers asked if the team is capable of doing water rope rescues for a flooding event. Peter replied that the team is capable of that type of rescue. The team has trained with helicopter and ropes at Barnes Airport. Carolyn Shores Ness suggested Trans Canada as a possible sponsor for the team.

Peter stated that the team is training ten months out of the year. The team has done more responses than the rest of the teams in the state combined. John Pond indicated that many of the team members are on Fire Departments and pass on the training on to their peers. This is helpful to make firefighters more aware of potential hazards. Mark Babineau stated that permanent funding for the team is being sought through FCAM but it will take time.

Daryl stated that the team has a gap in IT personnel right now if anyone knows someone that would be willing to help. The team is working with private industries to generate revenue by becoming their response team for their OSHA paperwork and being paid a stipend for that service.

Tom thanked Daryl and Peter for their presentation.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Mark Babineau stated that the new mask fit tester is being housed at Chicopee Fire Department. WMFCA are working on a borrowing policy to be put into the WRHSAC resource guide.
- POLICE: No update was given.
- EMS: Linda Moriarty stated that the WMEMS Conference was successful. Next year will be the 10th anniversary. Mike Kass is the new Director.

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Linda explained that the current budget has been reduced by \$20,000 per Council. Linda stated that a supplemental proposal is being discussed. Linda stated that WMEMS is talking to Senators to work on a better method of funding.

Linda stated that there are updated CPR guidelines.

- EMD: Bob Barry stated that MEMA is finishing up the EMPG grants. The quarterly EMD meeting was held on October 8th at 9 am and again at 6 pm.
- MEMA is sponsoring an effective leadership conference on November 4th. Flyers were placed on the table by the sign in sheets.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway stated that there have been nine cases of West Nile virus confirmed.
- TRANSPORTATION: No update was given.
- DPW: No update was given.
- CORRECTIONS: No update was given.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa Nazzaro announced that the State 911 Department released the FY16 Support and Incentive Grant late in September as they stated would happen. Due to the late release, the contract period has been adjusted on the front end. Sarah Meyrick is here from SIEC. She is the Program Coordinator from EOPSS and the liaison to SIEC.
- HOSPITALS: Tom Lynch stated that an active shooter drill was held at Baystate. This drill was not funded by the Council but many Council members were involved. The relationships built during these meetings are very beneficial.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness thanked Raine for her help in coordinating the Children in Disasters Conference. A copy of the Council minutes has been sent to the Selectman Association meetings and a blurb about the Council activities was included in the newsletter.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Paul D'Auteuil stated that 204 recruits went to the Academy this month.
- MEMA: Bob Barry stated the MEMA update had been discussed earlier.
- EOPSS: Amy Reilly stated that EOPSS has again selected MAPC to be the fiduciary of the Homeland Security funds. The stakeholder survey results were sent out. The survey will be conducted again in January.

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Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Linda stated that the FFY14 projects are moving along well. The Children in Disasters Conference was well attended and well received.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Melissa stated that several projects have been completed and work on the FFY14 projects are proceeding well. The Subcommittee is providing support for an engineering study for the FCECS system to conduct a thorough assessment and present recommendations for next steps.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the Training and Exercise Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. The FBI has requested to work with the Council to conduct an Active Shooter Conference. A 40 minute DVD has been produced to dramatize the aftermath of a campus story. It outlines lessons learned, best practices, etc. The FBI would like to coordinate with the Council to reach a broader audience than just law enforcement. Raine suggested that the conference would be offered in the spring and could accommodate up to 400 participants. This will be building on the success of the Anti-Terrorism Exercise series and the Children in Disasters Conference. Many connections have been made with the schools, resource officers, etc. Raine stated that the FBI will provide the funding for the expert speakers. The conference will be a full day event. Tom clarified that this is an informational awareness event and not training.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady motioned to approve up to \$25,000 to coordinate an Active Shooter Conference with the FBI. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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Carolyn Shores Ness stated that it is important to include our community partners because these events occur and are over very quickly. Raine asked for input on who to invite to the conference. Specific contact information would be appreciated. Raine asked for input on a venue location as well. Discussion followed.

Tom stated that the FCSRT team requested to shift funds for additional training opportunities. The amount of funding is unchanged.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine stated she is working with Bob Hassett to finish off the CAMET Trailer project.

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CBRNE/IED:

Mark Babineau stated that there has been no activity.

Fiduciary Report

Raine stated that EOPSS approved the FFY15 plan on Friday. The FFY15 projects can begin to move forward. All of the FFY14 projects are on track. There is a small amount of funding unallocated for the WMRIC Subcommittee but they are planning to make a final decision in November.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

Tom welcomed all of the first time Council meeting attendees for coming.

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, November 17th at 10:00 am at WMEMS.

There being no further business Linda Moriarty moved to adjourn. John Paciorek seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

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