

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 10:00am**  
**WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA**

**Present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Barry (MEMA), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Tom Lynch (BMC), Ann Shea (MMC), John Paciorek (WMA PC), Robert Hassett (SFD), Melissa Nazzaro (SComm), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Jeanne Galloway (HCHC) proxy for Ed Lesko (BOS/BOH), David Cruz (EOPSS), John Pond (LFD), Steve Kozloski (MPD), Gail Bienvenue (MDPH), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD), Michael Nelson (DPH), Paul D’Auteuil (MSP).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:04 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

**Approval of Minutes**

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

<p><b>Motion:</b> John Paciorek moved to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2015 meeting as submitted. Tom Lynch seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady stated that he asked Raine Brown to include minutes from Chairs meeting in the meeting packet. The Office of Grants Research is compiling a binder of best practices for active shooter events. The minutes also discussed the Cyber working group that is being formed. A competitive process for funding for FFY16 was discussed as well. The new process is exploring the idea of being competitive beyond the Councils and opening the competition to communities to submit project proposals directly. It is unclear what role the Councils will have in the new proposed process. Tom stated that he brought up the benefit of regional projects and the resulting benefit to all of our communities of the current structure.

Tom asked for input from the Council. Melissa Nazzaro asked who is proposed to have the oversight for contracts and bidding procedures. Tom answered that issue is not clear yet. Linda Moriarty stated that it will be difficult to get people to come to the meetings if they have no influence on deciding on how the funding should be spent in the region. John Pond asked who is proposing these changes. Tom answered that the proposed changes are from Secretary Bennet. Melissa stated that the Council allows every municipality to come forward to request projects and funding. All of the Council members come to the table with a local perspective. Mark Babineau added that a project like the WMLEC system couldn’t have been accomplished by an individual municipality. Linda stated that the Council has focused on regional projects from its inception as directed by EOPSS. Tom stated that UASI will not be affected by this change. Raine added that the M&A funds are only enough to offer administrative support to the Council but that the project support comes directly from the project funding. That level of support would no longer be sustainable under the proposed changes. Discussion ensued. Tom thanked the Council for their input.

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**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: John Pond stated that the Tech Rescue Team would not have been able to be formed without the support of the Council. The team is forming a Team website, [www.wmtrt.org](http://www.wmtrt.org). The first reason for website is to offer information about the team. The website also offers rescue service information for businesses.

The team was recently called out and there was some confusion because it is protocol for the local Fire Chief to be the incident commander but when the team arrived the Fire Chief was not on the scene yet and the Police Chief was the incident commander. The team did an excellent job on the task they were called out to perform. The confusion issues have been resolved.

The team is continuing to plan for light structural collapse training which is very expensive.

- POLICE: No update was given.
- EMS: Linda Moriarty stated that there have been three meetings with stakeholders and EMS communities to talk about the issues related to the amount of recent turnover in the Commissioner position. It is hoped that the position will be posted this month. The Governor level funded EMS with an additional \$100,000. Linda will continue to advocate for an additional \$100,000.
- EMD: No update was given.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway stated that the HMCC is moving forward. It is hoped that the Steering Committee will be formed and active by April.

There has been a lot of talk about mosquito born illnesses and the Avian flu is still on radar for the New England area.

- TRANSPORTATION: Melissa Nazzaro stated that she saw Jamin Carroll at another meeting and he apologized for not being able to attend. He is in the middle of a large security project.
- DPW: No update was given.
- CORRECTIONS: No update was given.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa stated that at the SIEC meeting last month it was announced the Tactical Channel Plan for state is complete. There are a few outstanding items needed to finalize the MIFOG update. The SIEC discussed the statewide radio RFP. A consultant will be hired to assess current system and make recommendations. A single vendor applied. The Motorola 7000 series radios are being phased out.

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- HOSPITALS: No update was given.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: No update was given.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Paul D'Auteuil stated that there was an anti-pipeline protest yesterday in Greenfield. The protesters have been very civil and there have been no issues so far. There will be a strong police presence at the March 5th Blarney Blowout event at UMASS.
- MEMA: Bob Barry stated that the quarterly meeting will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
- EOPSS: David Cruz stated the Office of Grants and Research is awaiting more information from EOPSS about the proposed changes to the FFY 2016 homeland security funding process to share with the council.

**Planning /Pandemic Flu:**

Linda stated that the Subcommittee is continuing to move forward on projects. There was a long discussion about the regional sheltering project for Hampden County. The scope of work originally was to coordinate 3 regional shelters. Two of the groups dropped out and PVPC is suggesting coordinating a single regional shelter for the Westfield area and the Hilltowns at Westfield State University. The shelter would accommodate 8 of the 11 communities included in the original project. PVPC will report next month if there is a commitment from Westfield State University.

The Subcommittee also discussed offering a pediatric psychological first aid training. Raine stated that it needs to be determined if this project will continue in the Planning Subcommittee or be proposed to the Training and Exercise Subcommittee.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:**

Raine stated that the final draft of FCECS Engineering Study has been completed.

Steve Kozloski stated that he was notified by Raytheon that the mechanism that allows communication on the approved WMLEC Tactical Command trailer has been discontinued. Steve is working with Gary Cromack to find suitable replacement. Melissa announced that UASI recently purchased a well equipped tech support trailer.

**Training and Exercises:**

Tom stated that the Training and Exercise Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. There were no funding requests. The Active Shooter Symposium has about 460 registered since registration began on Thursday. Tom thanked everyone for sharing the information about the Symposium. Raine is working with the FBI to finalize the speakers and lay out of the day.

John Paciorek passed out an estimate for Lantern software and laptops. This software allows digital evidence to be downloaded. The MSP uses this system. The 3 day training for the

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software is included in the purchase. John suggested that any interested police departments be required to buy the laptops and agree to pay for the \$750 annual maintenance fee to receive the software and training. John stated that the trained personnel would become a regional asset. Based on population numbers, it would be beneficial to have 5 trained staff in Franklin and Berkshire Counties and 10 in Hampshire and Hampden. Tom asked John to work on getting a commitment from interested Police Departments to buy the laptops if they are necessary and to sign a Mutual Aid agreement and report back. Linda asked if there is enough funding for this project available. Raine stated that there are enough funds in FFY15 if it is for the software and training only. Raine added that it can also be considered an information sharing project and could be partially paid for by the Interops Subcommittee, which has some available unallocated funds.

**Equipment/PPE:**

Bob Hasset stated that obtaining 3 quotes for vet supplies has proved challenging but the order should be able to be placed this week.

**CBRNE/IED:**

No update was given.

**Fiduciary Report**

Raine stated that the only concern for FFY14 funding is that the Franklin County Special Response Team will likely have to return some of their allotted funding. Raine will give an update on the FCSRT funding next month. The FFY15 projects are moving forward. Raine mentioned that the FFY15 funds only require 3 quotes if a purchase is over \$3,000.

Raine announced that Gretchen Johnson has accepted a position at UMASS as Project Coordinator at the UMASS Transportation Center. Raine thanked her for all her help with meetings and training coordination.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Linda Moriarty moved to state that the Council appreciates all the work the Gretchen Johnson has done for the Council and wish her well in her new position. Mark Babineau seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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Gretchen thanked the Council and stated that it was an honor to work with such a dedicated group of people that have accomplished such great work for the region.

**Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

**New Business:**

Raine stated that the Homeland Security Council conference will be held in Tampa in June. Tom stated that he attended last year and it was a great experience, the break out sessions were very informative to learn the best practices of other regions. It is also a great networking opportunity. John Paciorek asked about the cost to attend. Raine replied that the cost was \$2,100 for air fare,

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hotel and related expenses. Tom asked anyone interested in attending to contact himself or Raine by next month. John suggested that Raine should attend the conference.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair**

Tom stated that he was sad to see Gretchen Johnson leave. It will be a loss to the Council. She has been a tremendous part of council Tom asked if Gretchen's replacement will be filled internally or need to be hired. Raine stated that she is working on hiring Brenda Codella from the FRCOG. She has filled in for Gretchen once before and would be a great help.

Tom thanked the Council members for their thoughtful input about the proposed changes to the Council funding. He asked that the Council not be discouraged. Tom will attend the next Chairs meeting and share the Council's feedback. This Council does phenomenal work that is innovative and has saved lives.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 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 11:11 am.

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