

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 16, 2013, 10:00am**  
**WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA**

In attendance: Sue Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Linda Gross (FRCOG), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD), Tom Lynch (BHS), Ann Shea (MMC), Josh Shanley (NEM), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD/DFS), Ed Lesko (Hatfield BOS/BOH) proxy for Carolyn Shores Ness (Municipal Rep.), Bill Walden (College Church), John Fabiano (EOPSS), Jamin Carroll (PVTA) proxy for Nicole Rohan, Bob Hassett (SFD), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Russ Sienkiewicz (NFD), Gail Bienvenue (MDPH), Pat Smith (FRCOG), Nikki Nixon (PVPC), Kristen Gorski (MAPC).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:08 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

A round of introductions followed.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the June 18, 2013 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Russ Sienkiewicz moved to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2013 meeting as submitted. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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**Updates from Chair**

Tom Grady stated that Jen Ball will give an update on the THIRA at the August meeting. The Chairs meeting with Secretary Schwartz will be held on August 4<sup>th</sup> in Framingham. Berkshire County has received some large animal rescue resources such as fencing and electric fencing.

**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: Mark Babineau stated that the Tech Rescue training is moving forward. They just finished the last basic training. The training was required to get everyone on the same page. Many have been trained by different sources in the past. The next round of training will be held in August. The Tech Rescue Team has received a lot of publicity recently.

Tom said that he has delivered radios on permanent loan to the Tech Rescue teams. He said he was very impressed with the Tech Rescue Team during a recent difficult body retrieval from a drowning. The team coordinated very well with local officials.

- POLICE: none.
- EMS: none.
- EMD: Bob Hassett said he attended the GPS training on Saturday in Montague. It was an excellent course. It was a real eye opener for how beneficial this technology can be for communities. He would highly recommend this training.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Sandra Martin stated that the public should take precautions for mosquitoes and tick related diseases.

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- TRANSPORTATION: none.
- DPW: Sue stated that Chris Bouchard had a meeting today and sent his regrets.
- CORRECTIONS: none.
- COMMUNICATIONS: none.
- HOSPITALS: none.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Ed Lesko stated that cooling shelters are on the radar but there have only been a few requests so far.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): none.
- MEMA: none.
- EOPSS: John Fabiano stated that MEMA has hired a full time CCP coordinator, David Cramer. He will be hosting a meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at MEMA in Agawam. Call in information is available. There has been no news on the FFY10 extension. There should be FFY13 guidance soon.

**Fiduciary Report**

Sue Brown stated that the FFY10 got extended one month through the end of July. The last minute purchases approved at the last meeting wouldn't have happened in the original timeframe without that extension. The Council currently has just over \$19,000 in FFY10 that is unallocated. There are three projects that are in jeopardy if the FFY10 funds are not extended. The Berkshire 385 is still in EHP stage. The WMLEC project is facing some challenges. The third is the reimbursement for the IRTB training attendees that have not sent in the backfill and overtime reimbursement paperwork. The last attendees went to the training in June. Mary Praus is making calls directly to finance contacts to get the paperwork.

Sue recommended that the Council not to try to make purchases in the time left. If the FFY10 extension is granted then the Council can discuss the left over money in August and be able to allocate funds to the existing projects with cost over runs. If the extension is not granted then the unallocated funds will be returned. Discussion followed.

Sue stated that FFY11 and FFY12 projects are moving along.

Kristen Gorski stated that the FFY09 Phase 2 grant is done. This Council left \$1.22 unspent in the grant. Kristen commended the Council. FFY10 invoices are due to MAPC by August 5<sup>th</sup> so that they can be forwarded to EOPSS by August 9<sup>th</sup>.

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John Fabiano stated that there has been talk about how to improve the distribution of Homeland Security funding since many of the other Councils have left large sums unspent in the past. In the past the funds have been redistributed them as a federal fiscal year surplus. Discussion followed.

Tom thanked Sue and FRCOG staff for doing such a great job.

**Planning /Pandemic Flu:**

Sandra Martin introduced Nicky Nixon. She is the new Hampden County Health Emergency Planner. All of the Planning projects are moving along. The VOAD project is coordinating a Western Mass VOAD Group. There are lots of faith based groups with many resources that could be helpful in an emergency.

The faith based community has established resources that can serve as emergency rest centers. The project is coordinating relationships between EMDs and faith based officials to form a rest center network throughout western Mass.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:**

Russ Sienkiewicz stated that the WMLEC project is nearing completion. Some testing of the system is being conducted and the MOUs with DCR are being finalized. Another structural analysis is going to be done on the Borden tower to determine the category of tower. The Interops Subcommittee approved \$1,500 for the analysis at the June meeting.

Tom was able to reallocate 18 radios for the Tech Rescue team from the Berkshire cache of radios. An MOU was signed. The radios are on permanent loan.

Sue stated that there is information in the meeting packet concerning the FCECS generator. The Council will need to vote to transfer ownership to the Town of Shelburne. FCECS has removed all other equipment from the Shelburne site. The generator is no longer needed but the town depends on the generator for their equipment. Discussion followed.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Mark Babineau moved to transfer ownership of the FCECS generator to the Town of Shelburne with the condition that they maintain the equipment, want to take on the responsibility and allow other towns or state agencies access to the equipment if needed. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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Russ stated that the CMED project is moving forward. There have been challenges with the Berkshire 385 project. It has been made mandatory to have a representative attend the Interops Subcommittee meetings to give regular updates in order to ensure that the projects remain on track.

Russ stated that the Collins Center proposal on the WMRIC governance proposal will be presented at the meeting later today.

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The Interops Subcommittee approved \$2,915.18 from FFY10 unallocated funds to purchase remote heads for the Field Comm. Units. Sue stated that the motion made at the Council in June was specifically meant for the Tech Rescue Radios that were not needed to be purchased. Therefore, the Interops Subcommittee is willing to pay for the remote heads out of the FFY11 funds if the Council disagrees with their decision. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** Sandra Martin moved to approve the \$2,915.18 FFY10 unallocated funds to purchase the remote heads for the Field Comm. Units. Linda Moriarty seconded. Motion passed.

Russ stated that the IMC Node Linking System was used to catch a criminal that was making obscene phone calls to women. It is a valuable crime stopping tool.

**Training and Exercises:**

Tom stated that the subcommittee met just prior to this meeting. A group of T&E members will evaluate the seven proposals for the Shelter Training. The top consultants will be interviewed on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Equipment/PPE:**

Sue stated that the sheltering equipment has been arriving.

**CBRNE/IED:**

Sue stated that the metal detectors and x-ray machines have been delivered to the Sheriff Departments. The vendor is setting up trainings. Once the trainings have been completed the equipment will be added to the Resource Guide and the MEMA RMS system. Discussion followed.

**Old Business**

Sue stated that the formal letter concerning the DPW representative has been received from EOPSS. The Council needs to vote to accept the nomination.

**Motion:** Sandra Martin moved to approve Chris Bouchard as the DPW representative to the Council. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

Tom stated that several of our communities have not signed the Commonwealth Mutual Aid Agreement. The Boston bombing incident and the related expenses during the capture in Watertown is a perfect example of why it is so important to sign the agreement. If a community does not sign they can not receive Homeland Security funding.

Sandra stated that a binder for training spontaneous volunteers is available. It is a useful resource.

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**Business Unforeseen by Chair**

No unforeseen business was discussed.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at WMEMS.

There being no further business Ed Lesko moved to adjourn. Sandra Martin seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 am.

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