

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 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), Sandra Martin (BCBHOA), David Cruz (EOPSS), Jamin Carroll (PVT A), Gail Bienvenue (DPH), Robert Hassett (SFD), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Fran Nothe (WMFCA), John Pond (WMFCA), Hans Olson (EOPSS), Thomas Lynch (BMC), Ed Lesko (HCHPC), Stephen Kozloski (WMLEC) Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Nick Kraft (MAPC), Ann Shea (MMC), Jeanne Galloway (HCHC), Chris Bouchard (BDPW), John Cartuage (NPD), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm).

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

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the July 21, 2015 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Lynch moved to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2015 meeting as submitted. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady stated that Hans Olson has been coordinating with the Homeland Security Councils Chairs. The first Chairs meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2015 with Undersecretary McMurray. It is hoped that these meetings will be an ongoing occurrence as they were in the past. Tom asked if anyone has an issue to be brought up at the Chairs meeting to let him know.

Tom announced that the Northern Berkshire REPC received a FEMA Community Award and went to Washington DC to receive it. The MACC project was noted as a success of NBREPC.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Mark Babineau stated that the mask fit tester equipment has been purchased. It will be housed at the Chicopee Fire Department. A training was held. Mark is putting together the information on who to contact and how to borrow the equipment for the Resource Guide.

John Pond stated that the Tech Rescue Team held a meeting to discuss their next steps. They continued to discuss the charge fee for details at power plant facilities or at other sites requiring the presence of a certified tech rescue person. This would be an assessment fee for organizations that need to list a tech rescue team assistance on their insurance.

The Tech Rescue team was called out for several rescues recently. Carolyn Shores Ness asked if the Tech Rescue equipment needs to be replaced regularly. John replied that the

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ropes and other equipment need to be replaced regularly. Insurance for the Team is paid through WMFCA but it would be helpful if it could be paid for through fees.

- POLICE: Raine stated that the Police members are at a mandatory training today.
- EMS: Linda Moriarty stated that the House of Representative s and the Senate overruled the Governor's veto to cut to WMEMS budget. 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.

The annual WMEMS Conference will be held in October.

- EMD: No update was given.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko stated that the HMCC met last week. They reviewed the guidelines. They are working on putting the structure together. The processes should be set by March. Linda asked about the HMCC regional workshops being sponsored by DPH. Gail Bienvenue stated that information on the workshops will be available soon.

Ed reminded everyone that flu shots are available.

- TRANSPORTATION: No update was given.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard stated that the MassHighway Association and the Tri-County Association discussed safety topics. OSD has had some meetings. They have been working to avoid the salt issue that occurred last year.
- CORRECTIONS: No update was given.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa Nazzaro said that prior to the SIEC meeting, the Policy and Programs Subcommittee met to discuss the MIFOG update. Asset and system lists need to be updated for Western Mass. There was a lengthy discussion about the format of the MIFOG. The subcommittee would like to print the document in a binder form so that future updates can be sent out printing just the updated pages.

The State 911 Department started conversations about the regionalization efforts throughout the Commonwealth. This working group will likely produce changes to the Development Grant process. Melissa also stated that the Support and Incentive Grants should be out by the end of the month.

There is a bill before the House of Representatives up for this afternoon vote to change the retirement group for dispatchers.

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Melissa announced that this Saturday, the Springfield Police will be hosting the Ride to Remember, a 106 mile bike ride that honors fallen police officers. Melissa stated that she will be assisting with the coordination of communications. A mobile repeater will be used to keep communications along the riding route. Event channels will be used for statewide coverage. Melissa stated that every year improvements are made on this event. Regional assets will continue to be used.

Tom asked if there was a \$2 million grant for statewide 800 system expansion. Melissa replied that \$1.25 million was approved to hire a consultant to conduct an analysis on what's needed for the 800 system.

Melissa stated that Statewide Interoperability Coordinator is no longer working under MEMA but has been placed under EOPSS.

- HOSPITALS: No update was given.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn stated that the Selectmen's Association fall meetings are coming up. Carolyn will distribute the WRHSAC quarterly newsletter.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No update was given.
- MEMA: Bob Barry stated that Fire Director, Steve Meranti will be speaking on September 17th to the Hampshire County REPC on effective use of the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC).

The quarterly EMD meeting will be held on October 8th at 9 am and again at 6 pm.

The 2015 EMPG information was sent out last week. Applications are due on October 16, 2015.

Tom thanked MEMA for all their assistance with Big E.

- EOPSS: David Cruz stated that the FFY15 plans should be approved soon.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Linda stated that the Children in Disasters Conference is fully subscribed at 200 registrants. A waiting list has been started. It is expected to be a good program.

Linda stated that the Subcommittee would like to do an update of the online, interactive website resource map.

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Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve up to \$10,000 to update the online, interactive resource map and make it updatable by staff in the future. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Melissa stated that there were two items since the July meeting that were approved by herself as chair because they were under \$10,000. One was funding installation of the BCSO Mobile Command Unit pneumatic tower as the original estimate didn't include installation, and the other was for the Great Hill to Borden Microwave project that experienced higher than anticipated labor costs.

Motion: John Pond motioned to approve \$3,589.00 of for the BCSO Mobile Command Unit pneumatic tower. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Tom Grady abstained. Motion passed.

Motion: Ed Lesko motioned to approve and additional \$1,547.00 Great Hill to Borden Microwave project. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the Training and Exercise Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. There were three projects recommended by the T&E Subcommittee.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve \$17,259 to send 12 Northwest Massachusetts Incident Management Team (NWMIMT) members to the NY Wildfire Academy position specific trainings. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve \$4,000 for the Medical Management of CBRNE training offered by TEEX. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Ed Lesko motioned to approve \$44,000 to develop and offer a Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteer training at existing meetings. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Sandra Martin abstained. Motion passed.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine stated she is working with Bob Hassett to finish off the CAMET Trailer project. There is a quote out for a folding table and chairs. The remaining vet supplies will be purchased by Springfield.

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CBRNE/IED:

Raine indicated two whaler kits, which are portable beams, were purchased along with additional gloves and helmets. All team members now have their own helmet. There is approximately \$3,000 left in the FFY14 Tech Rescue Equipment line item.

Tom shared that the Tech Rescue Team conducted GPS training in Berkshire County utilizing the GPS cached housed at the Berkshire Sheriff's Office.

Fiduciary Report

Raine stated that the FFY13 funds were spent down completely. Raine thanked Nicholas Kraft, Amy Reilly and Linda Gross for their help. Raine stated that the FFY14 funds are on target to be spent down. The Interops Subcommittee has remaining funding that will need to be allocated to a project by November or it will it can go to the next phase of the Hampshire Hills 800 system.

Raine stated that the FFY15 budget and plan was submitted to EOPSS. A copy of the investment plan budget was included in the meeting packet. Nick Kraft stated that EOPSS will continue to be the fiduciary.

Nick reminded all that September is National Preparedness Month. MAPC will have a presentation on September 17th in Boston to showcase the work of the Councils.

Tom thanked Raine Brown and Gretchen Johnson for their hard work.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

Hans Olson stated that he is reviewing the cyber security at EOPSS. He asked the Council to think about the cyber security needs of the Council and municipalities. This can include education, validation of IT systems, etc. He stated that an email will be sent out soon. Carolyn suggested that EOPSS go out to the Councils and municipalities to review their systems and make suggestions similar to how the state police go into the schools and review their security plans. Melissa stated that Springfield is looking at their vulnerabilities. Off-site back ups are needed. She suggested setting up a state contract for off-site back up facilities. Hans thanked everyone for their suggestions.

Tom stated that he assisted with the implementation of the Kiss and Drop campaign at a small school in Berkshire County. The purpose was to have parents drop off the kids and kiss them goodbye in front of the school. This effectively limits the number of non-school associated people in the school and therefore increases security. The variable message signs were utilized.

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Business Unforeseen by Chair

Tom thanked Pat Carnevale for his help in the NREPC award and getting the whole team down to Washington DC to receive it. Tom stated that the Mayor of North Adams also wanted to relay his thanks.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, October 20 at 10:00 am at WMEMS.

There being no further business Jamin Carroll moved to adjourn. Tom Lynch seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 am.

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