

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brenda Codella (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Barry (MEMA), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Tom Lynch (BMC), Ann Shea (MMC), Robert Hassett (SFD), Melissa Nazzaro (SComm), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Jeanne Galloway (HCHC), Ed Lesko (BOH), David Cruz (EOPSS), John Pond (LFD), Steve Kozloski (MPD), Gail Bienvenue (MDPH), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Chris Bouchard (Becket DPW), Fran Nothe (WMFCA), Carolyn Shores Ness (BOS/BOH), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), J.D. Hebert (DMH), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Allison Hope (BCBOHA), Edwin Moralez, (DPH/Early Ed).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:00 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the February 16, 2016 meeting.

<p>Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2016 meeting as submitted. Tom Lynch seconded. Motion passed with Ed Lesko abstaining.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported that after last months meeting, he forwarded the Council's feedback regarding the competitive funding process for FFY16 on to EOPPS. He received a number of replies stating EOPPS was being thoughtful of suggestions from feedback. Several days later he got a call from Victoria stating they have come up with a model. They will do a hold back of funds that will be awarded on a competitive structure. The Council would receive allocated funding to complete projects and have additional funding to compete for. Tom stated he felt a lot better and believed the Councils will remain intact and their work will continue. He felt confident things will remain good. The chairs had asked to meet with the Secretary Bennett who scheduled a meeting with the chairs in his office on March 29, where they will have some fruitful discussions and decisions. Tom felt the Council's input was very valuable and made a difference. Linda Moriarty asked if they reduce the amount they fund the Council, it may present a problem for the Council. David Cruz stated it is a big piece of the discussion. Raine said M&A would go to Council that gets M&A. If it is only competitive to security Councils, then M&A would stay with Council in her opinion.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Pond reported the St. Patrick's Day road race is this weekend and the parade is March 20th. Everyone is welcome to attend. Tom G thanked the department for the incredible work they do. Police, Fire, EMS all do a great job.
- POLICE: No update was given.
- EMS: No update was given.

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- EMD: Bob Hassett stated that he wanted to thank everyone that helped with Officer Guindon's funeral. It was amazing to reach out and have everyone ask how they could help. Bob also reported that the ambulance bus is down for modifications. He will let Gail Bienvenue know through the HHAN when it is back up.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko stated that the HMCC is formed. The Steering Committee consists of 10 members from 5 disciplines. The operating procedures have been drafted and accepted at the last meeting.

Meredith O'Leary from the Northampton Health Department has applied for a grant for mosquito testing in the area and a large grant was received.

- TRANSPORTATION: No update was given.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported Public Safety meet with DPW regarding hoisting regulations and are receptive to possible changes to lessen the burden on the communities.
- CORRECTIONS: No update was given.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa stated that changes to the FFY17 state development grant requirements were voted on at the last 911 Commission meeting and that a report will be released in May. The grants will no longer be funding new construction. Funding will be for upgrades and remodels to existing structures only. Applications will be released in May.
- The Next Generation 911 started the final phase of testing for the product on March 9th. They have resolved most of the issues brought to the vendor and are still hoping to have a pilot program for NexGen911 out this year with a regular roll out in spring 2017. The Verizon contract is being negotiated. Verizon is coming to the table and working well with us. Motorola has bought out Emergency CallWorks. Next Generation 911 is going to be a complete replacement on our equipment. Melissa urged Council members to be aware of this big change coming up and to make a plan for how to deal with it. Tom G reported that training grants won't come into play this year, so reallocate if appropriate. John asked if the cost to the updates would be absorbed by the state. Melissa reported it would be the responsibility of the Commonwealth, but if additional equipment was required to accommodate the changes, the towns would have to fund the purchase. Tom G stated secondary towns will need to absorb the costs.
- HOSPITALS: No update was given.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness stated that there has been a lot of use of the GPS units with training and equipment purchased by Homeland Security. They are documenting damages by water and storm debris.

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- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Paul D'Auteuil stated through email that they will be covering Holyoke on Saturday and Sunday and that there is a protest march of the pipeline in Windsor on March 20th.
- MEMA: Bob Barry stated that the next meeting will be held on March 22 at the Springfield Fire Department. Bob Thanked Chief Peter Nastowski for providing the space.
- EOPSS: No update was given.

Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Linda stated that the Subcommittee is continuing to move forward on projects. PVPC has one more month to come up with an agreement with Westfield State University regarding their commitment to be a regional shelter.

HMCC is taking on developing a survey to inventory pediatric supplies and equipment.

The Subcommittee's pediatric psychological first aid training is moving along and the Debris Management template project has just started

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Melissa Nazzaro reported that after the February meeting there were no funding requests. All projects are moving along. She has received expense approval to purchase the WMLEC Tactical Trailer with funds coming from both FFY14 & 15. She hopes to discuss what resources are available and how it will be managed within a couple of months.

Melissa stated that over the last 2 months there has been lengthy discussion on helicopter resources. Through State Police or through National Guard helicopters. The MIFOG has been updated and gives additional guidance for communication with helicopters. Some National Guard units have limited communication capabilities. All others; police, fire chiefs, have agreed there is a desire and a need to have a single tactical channel to have communications. Melissa stressed that helicopters roll is support and that they use VTAC and UTAC communications for their roll.

The commonwealth has chosen a vendor for its statewide communication consultant – LMR Consultants is who she believes it is. They are starting communications with stakeholders this week. They will be meeting with Chief Kozloski to discuss WMLEC and Tom Grady to discuss Berkshire County.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the Training and Exercise Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. A request from the Hazmat Team presented a proposal for a One-Pot-Training at a cost of \$2,200.

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<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve \$2,200 for the Hazmat, One-Pot-Training proposal. Steve Kozloski seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

The Active Shooter Symposium has about 630 registered attendees and special guests attending on Thursday at Deerfield Academy. Tom mentioned again how thankful he was to Raine and the support staff at the FRCOG for their work on the event.

Equipment/PPE:

Bob Hassett stated that obtaining 3 quotes for vet supplies has proved challenging but has finally received the third quote.

CBRNE/IED: Mark Babineau stated they have a meeting on Friday March 18 and will discuss.

Fiduciary Report

Raine stated that the only concern for FFY14 funding is that the Franklin County Special Response Team will likely have to return approximately \$22,000 - \$23,000 of their allotted funding. The FFY15 projects are picking up and moving along well.

Raine reported she will be on vacation from March 25 to April 4th.

Raine announced that Brenda Codella will be stepping in for Gretchen Johnson as Administrative Services Assistant for WRHSAC.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

Raine stated that members should start thinking about sending people to the Homeland Security Council conference held in Tampa in June.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

Raine stated that the Hope Animal Assisted Crisis rescue dogs will be available at the Symposium for people who feel a bit overwhelmed and would like some comfort. Raine thanked Tracy Rogers for coordinating this through her connections.

A communications drill will take place with the symposium.

Tom Grady thanked the Town of Deerfield for hosting the symposium.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, April 19th, 2016 at 10:00 am at WMEMS.

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There being no further business Linda Moriarty moved to adjourn. Tom Grady seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 am.

Respectfully Submitted by
Brenda Codella
Administrative Services Assistant
Franklin Regional Council of Governments