

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 19, 2016, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Bob Dean (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Ann Shea (MMC), Robert Hassett (SFD), Melissa Nazzaro (SComm), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Jeanne Galloway (HCHC), David Cruz (EOPSS), Gail Bienvenue (MDPH), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD), Chris Bouchard (Beckett Highway), Fran Nothe (WMFCA), John Paciorek (Deerfield PD), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Maressa Geryk (PVTA), Bill Walden (College Church), Monica Wynne (Baystate MC), Robert Barry (MEMA).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:05am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the June 21, 2016, meeting.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2016, meeting with one edit to reflect the correct meeting date at the top of the minutes. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady said he is still waiting to hear back relative to outcomes of EOPSS' active shooter group that met with Secretary Bennett in Boston. The Secretary asked for input as to what the Commonwealth should do; what process, if any, should be in place across the state. EOPSS is doing research across the country to find best practices to bring to future discussions. As of now, there is no specific process in place. It will continue to evolve over time.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: There was a tech rescue call-out last week. No one was hurt and the mission was accomplished by the team.
- POLICE: no update
- EMS: The job description has been posted again to continue the search for a new OEMS Director.
- EMD: The hydration mister tent arrived in Springfield yesterday. Bob Hassett will set it up and test it to ensure everything works. It is available for hot weather events.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Still in mosquito season; monitoring the situation with the Zika virus; extreme heat is a concern for vulnerable residents.
- TRANSPORTATION: No update.

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- DPW: Potential issues with thunderstorm weather and the impact of severe storms that can drop a lot of rain in a short amount of time, creating localized flooding problems. There was a recent Baystate Roads LTAP exercise.
- CORRECTIONS: No update.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Boxborough on target for an August 9 initial rollout of Next Gen 911. Final rollout will occur by the end of FY18. State is negotiating with Verizon for continued support. Reimbursement requests being filled, but it's been spotty.
- HOSPITALS: Continuing the process of updating the regional medical plan. Rolling it into the HMCC overall response for the region. Identifying lists of pediatric supplies.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: No update
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No update.
- MEMA: New training sessions have been funded and are being planned. Three ICS 300 and three ICS 400 sessions, as well as two EOC management courses. More information to follow.
- EOPSS: The Council should receive notice from EOPSS about its FFY16 competitive grant application by the end of the month.

Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Nothing new to report.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

No votes needed today.

Melissa Nazzaro said we are still waiting for delivery of the WMLEC mobile communications trailer. We will plan to set up a "show and tell" event at a future Council meeting so everyone can see it.

The COML and COMT trainings are still open for applications. Please notify Melissa and Raine if applying so they know western MA interest in the training.

Helicopter communications state plan was released yesterday. Will discuss it at the Interops meeting this afternoon and will forward the plan to the Council.

COMLs were important participants at July 4th fireworks displays across the state.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 19, 2016, 10:00am
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The Adams PSAP has been closed and absorbed into the regional PSAP at the Berkshire County Sheriff's office.

Training and Exercises:

Tom Grady reported that there are no new funding allocations for a vote today.

Upcoming events include an active shooter training on July 28th in Milford, MA, and the Six Flags exercise on September 13th in Agawam. DHS staff coming to town to meet with participant agencies prior to the exercise.

This morning T&E Subcommittee discussed and approved the multi-year training and exercise plan.

Equipment/PPE:

The large event hydration-misters were ordered and the one to be stored in Springfield was delivered yesterday. The other one will be in Berkshire County and will likely be delivered soon. We will add those items to the resource list.

CBRNE/IED:

Nothing new to report.

Fiduciary Report

FFY14 Closeout

As was authorized at the June meeting to zero out all remaining FFY14 funding, it will be allocated to the WMLEC tactical trailer project.

Raine reported that all FFY15 projects are on target.

Old Business

FFY2016 Investment Plan

Raine gave an overview of the competitive grant applications submitted for tech rescue training and equipment, and for the Hampshire Hills interoperability project. Need to look at the preliminary investment plan and consider the need to adjust it if competitive grant applications are not approved.

<p>Motion: John Paciorek moved to allow the Council Chair to make re-allocation decisions to the WRHSAC FFY2016 Investment Plan after competitive grant award notice is received. Bob Hassett seconded. Motion passed unanimously</p>

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MACC Equipment Discussion

Discussion on the handout that includes recommended minimum equipment, estimated cost, and a process for a MACC to request funding to obtain this equipment. Raine noted that at this time no funds have been set aside for this equipment.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the MACC Recommended Equipment list and to add it to the FFY2016 “B” list projects. John Paciorek seconded.
Motion passed unanimously

New Business:

DHS Countering Violent Extremism Grant Program

Discussion about this grant, which is separate from the usual Homeland Security grant through EOPSS. The FRCOG is eligible to sponsor the grant application. Question about staff capacity to apply for and manage the grant. FRCOG staff feel that they can make it work for the Council. Carolyn Shores Ness is interested in funding school resource officer to be trained in how to work with at-risk children. Is there training that already exists that could be brought in? If not, then it is a much bigger project to develop the training from start to finish.

Recommendation to try to find training that already exists to address the needs we see in western MA. Suggestion to form an ad hoc committee to work on the application

Motion: Jeanne Galloway moved to form an ad hoc subcommittee to work on the application. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded.
Motion passed unanimously

Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Shores Ness, Ann Shea and Sandra Martin volunteered to serve on that committee.

Other ideas mentioned for the grant include: another summit meeting like the active shooter meeting at Deerfield Academy, multi-cultural training, and planning for community resilience building.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

None

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The August meeting is cancelled, so the next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 10:00 am at WMEMS in Northampton.

There being no further business John Paciorek moved to adjourn. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.

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The meeting adjourned at 10:40am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2016
- DHS Fact Sheet: FY 2016 Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Grants
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY 14 Homeland Security Grant, 7/19/16
- WRHSAC SHSP FFY14 Projects spreadsheet
- WRHSAC SHSP FFY15 Projects spreadsheet
- Multi-Agency Coordinating Center (MACC) Equipment List
- Letter from Brook Chipman, dated June 23, 2016, RE: WRHSAC FFY2016 SHSP Preliminary Projects List

Respectfully Submitted by
Robert Dean
Franklin Regional Council of Governments