

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 20, 2018, 10:00 am
Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA**

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Tom Grady, (BCSO), Bob Barry (MEMA), Bob Hassett (CMED), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Ann Shea (MMC), Jamin Carrol (PVTA), Allison Egan (BRPC), Jeanne Galloway, John Dearborn WMFCA/Longmeadow FD), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), John Paciorek (WMPCA/Deerfield PD), Jeff McDonald (MSP) and proxy for Steve Kozloski, Bob Hassett (CMED), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Brian Rust (Cooley Dickinson), Karla Schoenthal (MMC), Siavash Arash (EOPSS), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting was audio recorded.

Thomas Grady called the meeting to order at 10:11 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 16, 2018 meeting.

<p>Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve the Oct 16, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. John Dearborn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady provided a Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) update. EOPSS is seeking input from the Homeland Security Councils to complete aspects of the state THIRA review. The Council will provide input regarding the capability gaps within the core capability areas later in the meeting.

Chief John Pond resigned as WMFCA member due to his increased responsibilities as Holyoke Fire Chief. The Western MA Fire Chief's Association recommended Northampton Fire Chief Duane Nichols to replace Chief John Pond. Tom thanked Chief Pond for his work on the Council and his dedication to his community.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: No report.
- POLICE: Jeff McDonald noted the Northampton Marijuana Dispensary opened today, and expressed concerns with law enforcement testing positive due to drug exposure. The implementation of the criminal justice reform act continues to prove challenging to implement.
- EMS: No Report.
- EMD: No report.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne noted that public health is preparing for the flu season.

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- TRANSPORTATION: PVTA is preparing for the snow season.
- DPW: No report.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom reported on the expansion of the pilot medication-assisted treatment program for addicts and the continued challenges in implementing the criminal justice reform act.
- COMMUNICATIONS: No Report.
- HOSPITAL: Ann Shea is retiring in December 2018. The hospital group voted to recommend Monica Wynne as her replacement and Brian Rust to be the alternate. A letter of recommendation will be sent to the Council.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: No Report.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No Report.
- MEMA: Bob Barry noted the MEMA quarterly EMD meeting was held on Nov. 13, 2018.
- EOPSS: Some communities who sought the EMPG funding are receiving denials on rescue taskforce personal protection equipment. The FFY18 contracts should be approved soon.

The Central Region scheduled a ATIRC, train the trainer class for Feb 2019, and some seats will be available to the Western Region. Nick introduced Siavash Arash - Program Coordinator, Homeland Security Division. Siavash will oversee the THIRA stakeholder peer review.

Melissa Nazzaro updated the Council on the FirstNet release of the ITT 72 contract, to include the public safety broadband portion. The request for response for an engineer was extended to the end of November, the engineer will look at the specific sites for expansion and upgrades to the statewide radio systems in Massachusetts. Melissa noted that USACE is using an asset management tracking system, which may be of interest to the western region.

Planning/Pandemic Flu: Raine shared a copy of the “Family Reunification Following Disasters Plan”, as prepared by the American Academy of Pediatrics, in collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital. The WRHSAC Family Reunification Plan Template is acknowledged as a resource and planning tool used in the development of the plan.

Interoperability/Information Sharing: No Report.

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Training and Exercises: Tom updated the Council on the upcoming Cybersecurity Conference, and the Campus Security Conference, and asked the members to encourage participation from their local communities and agencies.

Tom asked for a motion on the following requests:

Officer Down Recertification Training:

There is an interest in holding another session in the spring 2019. The cost for the 3- day training is \$29,000.00.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve \$29,000.00 to hold another Officer Down Recertification Training. John Dearborn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Hazmat Team Narcotics Field Testing Operations Course

Jon Davine requested \$38,000.00 of the allocated funds to provide four (4) sessions of an 8-hour training classes presented by OPS 15, sponsored by the National Sheriffs Association for District 4 & 5 Hazmat Teams. The course will be conducted locally for District 4, and will be held in Berkshire County for District 5. The training is Narcotics Field Testing Certification Course, and the course will give members the ability to perform presumptive field testing of narcotics safely and effectively utilizing a proven system and set of recommended tools. Each session costs \$9,500.00.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve \$38,000.00 for District 4 & District 5 to hold four (4) sessions of an 8-hour training class of the Hazmat Team Narcotics Field Testing Operations Course, and to give Raine the flexibility to flip FFY17 funds with FFY18 if necessary, to secure the training dates. John Dearborn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom and Raine attended the statewide training & exercise planning committee meeting in Westborough. The multi-disciplines in attendance discussed the benefits of shared regional training, and particularly in cybersecurity and active shooter trainings.

Equipment/PPE:

As there are still challenges in finding a vendor to provide maintenance to the light towers and message boards, the project was moved to FFY17, to extend the completion date to July 2019. Raine will contact MassDOT who may be able to give us some leads on a vendor.

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CBRNE/IED:

Western Mass Tech Rescue Team Tow Vehicles: WMTRT

WRHSAC approved the \$89,905.00 purchase of a tow vehicle for the WMTRT from the FFY18 investment plan. The vehicle will be used to move the team's equipment trailers for response calls and other planned events. WMTRT has identified a critical need for two vehicles, and requested the purchase of an additional vehicle. The estimated cost of two outfitted vehicle is \$140,000.00. Since the initial approval, the WMTRT has found a more appropriate vehicle costing less than the initial vehicle.

The proposed funding is as follows:

FFY18 WMTRT Tow Vehicle	\$89,905.00
FFY17 WMTRT Structural Collapse Equipment	\$28,901.58
FFY18 WMTRT Field Force Training & Equipment	<u>\$21,193.42</u>
Total	\$140,000.00

The following motion was made to approve the purchase of two vehicles, and any remaining FFY17 funds leftover from WMTRT's participation in the Vigilant Guard exercise will be utilized prior to using funds from FFY18.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve \$140,000.00 for the purchase of two vehicles for the WMTRT. John Dearborn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

A brief discussion followed on the possibility of the Mass. Department of Fire Services absorbing the tech rescue teams in the future, and ownership of the of equipment will need to be considered.

WMTRT FFY16 Equipment Spenddown

The available FFY16 funds were spent down by moving FFY17 Officer Down Rescue project to FFY16, however \$6,746.00 remains. With approval from Tom Grady and John Dearborn, the WMTRT provided an equipment list to utilize the funds. Based on the preliminary approval a project justification was submitted to EOPSS to begin the approval process at the state level. Full WRHSAC approval is still required. The handout listed the details of the equipment requested.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve the purchase of the WMTRT equipment up to the spenddown amount for FFY16. If FFY17 funds are needed, they will be taken from the already approved WMTRT Structural Collapse Equipment project. John Dearborn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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Fiduciary Report:

Raine reviewed the budget and noted the FFY16 funds were spenddown by moving the Officer Down Rescue Training from FFY17 and the purchase of equipment for the Tech Rescue Team.

FFY17 projects are underway and the funding is available until July 2019. The FFY18 contract is expected in the coming weeks.

The Planning & Pan Flu committee continue to discuss the emerging infectious disease proposal. It was suggested to flip the project funds of \$50,000.00 with the FFY18 Tech Rescue Team Tow Vehicle project, to allow more time to research and develop the proposal.

Motion: Jeanne Galloway moved to approve flipping FFY17 funds with FFY18 funds, to allow more time to develop the proposal. John Paciorek seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: School Representative/s.

Bob Laford's application to represent higher education as a Council member is in process. The recommended changes to the bylaws are ready to be sent to EOPSS. John Dearborn reported that Martin O'Shea's contract was not renewed in Longmeadow, which was a surprise to most in town. He asked the Council to wait a month to allow the situation to be resolved and hopefully the contract renewed.

Nick Dadalt noted the Undersecretary will investigate the appointment process delays and hopes to have EOPSS manage the background portion to speed up the process.

New Business:

The following two motions were made to accept John Pond's resignation and Duane Nichols acceptance letter to fill the position.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to accept Chief John Pond's resignation as the WM Fire Chief's Association representative on the Council. John Dearborn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to accept Chief Duane Nichols as representative of the WM Fire Chief's Association on the Council. John Paciorek seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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Business Unforeseen by Chair: Tom noted the invaluable field training received while working alongside other agencies and disciplines, which is as important as the trainings provided by WRHSAC.

Tom wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked the members for their dedication and continued hard work.

THIRA

EOPSS is seeking input from the Homeland Security Councils to complete aspects of the state Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment /Stakeholder Peer Review (THIRA/SPR). Raine presented the core capabilities to the Council and sought their input on capability priorities and additional gap or strength identification. Discussion and input ensued. Raine will incorporate the Council member's input and submit the report to EOPSS. She will share WRHSAC's process with the other Councils.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on December 18, 2018 at 10:00 am at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA

<p>Motion: John Paciorek moved to adjourn. John Dearborn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 11:55AM

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2018
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report : FFY16 Projects: 11/16/2018
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- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report : FFY17 Competitive Homeland Security Grant, 11/16/2018
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY16 Homeland Security Grant, 11/20/2018
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report : FFY17 Homeland Security Grant, 11/16/2018
- Request letter from Fire Chief Czerwinski , City of Pittsfield
- WRHSAC THIRA/SPR Worksheet
- WM Fire Chief's Association letter of recommendation of Chief Duane Nichols
- Letter of resignation from Chief John Pond.
- Western Mass. Tech Rescue Team Tow Vehicles
- Easthampton Fire Department letter
- FFY16 Spenddown WMTRT Equipment

Respectfully Submitted by
Ann Dunne,
Franklin Regional Council of Governments