

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD), Ann Shea (MMC) proxy for Tom Lynch (BMC), Robert Hassett (SFD), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Fran Nothe (WMFCA), Carolyn Shores Ness (DBOS/BOH), Robert Barry (MEMA), Cindy Hahn (ARC), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Jamin Carroll (PVTa) proxy for Nicole Rohan (PVTa), Brook Chipman (EOPSS), Linda Gross (FRCOG), Michael Walsh (EMD Charlemont), Tim Nelson (CBRNE), Nikki Nixon (PVPC), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD), John Hartenbaum (MEMA), Kristin Gorski (MAPC).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:06 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

A round of introductions followed. Tom asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing.

Tom tabled the minutes because a quorum was not present.

Updates from Chair

Tom asked Brook to give an update on the Homeland Security Strategy. Brook stated that a meeting has been scheduled for May 8th and 9th to focus on the State Homeland Security Strategy Update. The update is a federal grant funding requirement but it is also a valuable process to go through. The Chairs of the Council are expected to attend. Brooke stated that he will look into if the fiduciary should attend as well.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: No update given.
- POLICE: Russ Sienkiewicz stated that the statewide implementation for using Narcan is underway.
- EMS: Linda Moriarty stated that the District Attorney is working with the Police Departments and ambulance services to coordinate DPH regulations with police regulations on the usage of nasal narcan.
- EMD: No update given.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko stated that the CDC has issued a travel watch to the Philippines due to a measles outbreak. Ed stated that he was an evaluator at the sheltering exercise at UMASS.
- TRANSPORTATION: No update given.
- DPW: No update given.

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- **CORRECTIONS:** Tom stated that the Florida Mountain tower fell down. It was a catastrophic collapse because it affected many systems. The tower went down at 2 am and by 10:30 am all public safety communications were re-established thanks for the work of the COML team. The vendors were also very responsive and helpful. MEMA and FEMA helped out during the situation as well. It was a really well run operation. Tom thanked the Council for both the physical assets and training that allowed this situation to be handled so smoothly. Bob Barry stated that the REPC did a great job activating the EOC. Linda stated that the MACC project has a lot more interest after this incident. Linda stated that the tower issue was further complicated by the closing of the North Adams hospital on Friday. There was virtually no gap in communications for the three area ambulance services. Discussion followed.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Melissa Nazzaro stated that the initial text 911 meeting was held last week. The texts will go to four wireless PSAPS and then will be sent on to local 911 centers. They are looking for volunteer 911 dispatch centers to participate. The next meeting will be held at the end of the month. The wireless providers have agreed to make the capacity available for the emergency texts by May 15th. Carolyn stated that Shelburne Control may be interested in participating. Melissa stated that the slogan is “Call if you can, text if you must”. Discussion followed.
- **HOSPITALS:** No update given.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn stated that an update on the Homeland Security Council activities was given at the joint Hampshire and Franklin County Selectboard Association meeting.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** No update given.
- **MEMA:** Bob stated that the Quarterly EMD meeting has been scheduled for May 7th at 9 am and 6 pm. On the agenda is a discussion of the next round of EMPG funding.
- **EOPSS:** Brook stated that Victoria was unable to come to the meeting. EOPSS is in the final stages of the hiring process for the permanent EOPSS representative for this Council and the Central Council. The FFY14 Homeland Security funding was increased by 15% from last year. The exact breakdown of distribution is being finalized. The state application to the Federal Government is due by May 15th. EOPSS is asking the Councils to communicate their top project priorities. Brook stated that the FFY14 Homeland Security Plan Guidance will be released soon. It is hoped that the Councils will begin to work on their plans now. The plans will be due back to EOPSS in August. The FFY14 contracts are anticipated to be awarded in September. MAPC will be working with the fiduciary teams to gather information on project specific needs for an FFY12 extension application due by June 1st. Brook stated that MAPC is allowing the Councils an additional month to spend down the FFY11 funds. Discussion followed. Russ asked if the Councils are being asked to help fund the First Net Project. Brook stated that he would look into it. Tom stated that he would

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strongly oppose using Council funds towards this federal/state sponsored initiative due to our experiences with state initiated projects in the past.

Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to deny any requests for WRHSAC funding for the First Net Project. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kristin stated that the new statewide Compass system has migrated to the new CommBuys system. Training is being offered. Tom stated that there is some concern on the complexity of the procurement process. Discussion followed. Kristin stated that she would bring these concerns back to MAPC.

Approval of Minutes

Tom asked the Council to review the minutes now that a quorum was present. The Council reviewed the minutes from the March 18, 2014 meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2014 meeting as submitted. Russ Sienkiewicz seconded. Motion passed.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Linda stated that the Subcommittee reviewed the current projects at the last meeting. The COAD Summit in Northampton was held on March 26th. Over 80 people attended. The first of the public outreach videos were shown and well received. More videos are being produced. The web update has been completed.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Russ stated that the consultant has been working on the CMED and Borden Mountain projects. Russ stated that the funds set aside to purchase a cache of radio batteries will be used on the Impress Motorola batteries. The reviews on the Impact batteries were not favorable. Tom stated that some of the cache radios have been sent to Boston to be used during the marathon.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. Raine asked Brook about the status of the Officer Down Instructor training request. Brook said he would look into it.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine stated that the ordering of the requested regional shelter supplies is almost complete. Some counties have additional funding to spend down.

CBRNE/IED:

Tim Nelson stated that the CBRNE Subcommittee met last Friday. Two projects were discussed. The District 4 JHAT team has requested the purchase of safety equipment. The team was formed in 2009 to act as the eyes and ears for the bomb squad. Discussion followed.

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The second request was from Franklin County to form a Regional Tactical Response Team. The proposal was for both training and equipment. The Subcommittee asked Franklin County to present the request in a phased approach due to the amount of funding requested. Raine stated that the training and the radios would be sent to the respective subcommittees with the endorsement of the CBRNE Subcommittee. Discussion followed.

Fiduciary Report

Available Funds

Raine gave a brief breakdown of budget information in the meeting packet. There is a total of \$19,362.43 available of unallocated funds.

Project Requests

The Planning Subcommittee is requesting \$2,000 for Tracy Rogers to attend the National COAD Conference.

The CBRNE Subcommittee is requesting \$15,000 for ballistic safety equipment for the JHAT team.

The Training and Exercise Subcommittee is requesting \$5,000 for safety equipment to be used for the simunitions classes.

Old Business

Bylaw Discussion/Review

Tom asked if there were any additional suggestions for the bylaws. The updated draft was emailed out by Raine prior to the meeting. Raine briefly reviewed the updated language and changes and asked for input. Melissa suggested that the allowable proxies should be in the same discipline but not need to be previously appointed. Linda suggested that for a Council member to remain active he/she must attend or send a proxy to at least 50% of the meetings per year. Brook stated that word secretary should be changed to fiduciary throughout the document. Discussion followed concerning the bylaws for the subcommittees. It was decided to table that discussion until after the Interops WMRIC project has been completed.

Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve the Bylaws as discussed. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion was withdrawn and tabled until next month.

New Business:

Motion: Tom Grady motioned to release \$4,000 from the FFY12 Regional HazMat Training funds back to the full Council. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve up to \$5,000 to purchase simunitions safety equipment. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve \$1,800 for Tracy Rogers to attend the National VOAD Conference. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the balance of the unallocated funds toward the JHAT Team equipment with the understanding that the CBRNE Subcommittee will fund the remaining balance of the \$15,000 request from FFY13 funds. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom asked if any of the subcommittees had any substantially new projects that are not currently identified to discuss at the State Homeland Security Strategy Update meeting. Discussion followed. It was assured that all of the subcommittees plan to continue with identified prioritized projects with the FFY14 funding.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

No business unforeseen was discussed.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

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

There being no further business Linda Moriarty moved to adjourn. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

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