

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD), Ann Shea (MMC), Tom Lynch (BMC), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Fran Nothe (WMFCA), Carolyn Shores Ness (DBOS/BOH), Pat Carnavale (MEMA), Cindy Hahn (ARC), Jamin Carroll (PVTA) proxy for Nicole Rohan (PVTA), John Fabiano (EOPSS), Linda Gross (FRCOG), Nikki Nixon (PVPC), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD), John Pond (WMFCA), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Steve Kozloski (MPD), Christopher Donelan (FCSO).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:02 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the April 15, 2014 meeting.

<p>Motion: Ed Lesko moved to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2014 meeting as submitted. Mark Babineau seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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Updates from Chair

Tom Grady stated that he attended the Statewide Homeland Security Meeting. The THIRA is tying in the statewide goals. A draft of the THIRA will be released for review soon.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Mark Babineau passed out a global review of Statewide Technical Rescue Teams. Legislation is being pursued to help the teams' sustainability. The Western Team is working on sustaining their team through offering stand by services for area businesses with confined space needs. John stated that the Steering Committee met on May 15th to discuss future trainings and becoming a non-profit. Due to the training requirements for the team and the related costs, the team is losing members. Currently the team has about 80 members. Raine stated that funding requests for training should be brought to the CBRNE Subcommittee. Tom asked John to report to EOPSS about the Western Mass Team's efforts to become sustainable.

- POLICE: Tom stated that the City of Holyoke did a great job on security for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day parade. Russ Sienkiewicz stated that he was not able to attend the Western Mass Chief's meeting but he sent an email regarding the Franklin County Regional Tactical Team proposal. Mark stated that the CBRNE Subcommittee voted to support the team. Sheriff Donelan stated that the Franklin County Sheriff's Office is interested in merging the existing teams into a regional team. The proposal is to take an underfunded, under trained and under equipped program and to regionalize it and bring it up to date with training and equipment. Steve Kozloski stated that the sentiment from the WMass Chief's meeting was to have the Greenfield Police Department take the lead on the project. Discussion followed regarding regional efforts and the need for stake holder buy in. Raine stated that more information will be needed on the radios being requested. Donelan stated that the request is

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for head sets and microphones in the gas masks to allow for clear communication among the team members. Donelan stated that the support requested is to train and equip the team. The Sheriff's office is committed to sustaining the team.

- EMS: Linda Moriarty stated that the DPH Director has resigned. There have been two Narcan trainings in Deerfield and they were well attended. A third one will be held next week. The training will continued to be offered in all four counties. Narcan can only be released to Police Departments at this time. A satellite and emergency facility was opened in North Adams yesterday. Discussion followed.
- EMD: No update given.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko stated that the Regional Coordinator for DPH has resigned. The Emergency Safety Fair held in Greenfield was successful. Ed urged everyone to use bug repellent due to the expected Triple E virus outbreaks.
- TRANSPORTATION: No update given.
- DPW: No update given.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom stated that the female population at the Berkshire County Jail will be moved to Chicopee soon. This change will allow expanded capacity for regional lock up services. This is another way for the police to interact with the Sheriff's office staff which will result in better information sharing.
- COMMUNICATIONS: No update given.
- HOSPITALS: No update given.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness stated that an update on the Homeland Security Council activities was given at the Western Mass Regional Selectboard Association meeting.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Tom stated that he reached out to MSP last week. There was an event recently that the dive team was called in and a search party was organized. MSP was unaware of the Homeland Security Regional assets available such as the light towers, sign boards, traffic safety trailers, etc.
- MEMA: No update given.
- EOPSS: John Fabiano stated EOPSS is finalizing the FFY 11 and FFY12 extension requests. Discussion followed. John introduced David Cruz the new EOPSS Regional Representative.

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Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Linda stated that the Subcommittee reviewed the current projects and priorities for the FFY14 funding at the last meeting. The FFY13 Critical Infrastructure Project is not going to be able to move forward because the system replacing ACAMS is not fully in place yet. The project was allocated \$65,000. The Subcommittee discussed the need for additional portable generators.

Motion: Linda Moriarty made a motion to move the \$65,000 from the Critical Infrastructure project to purchase up to 3 portable generators. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Russ stated that the consultant has been working on the CMED and Borden Mountain projects. A conference call will be held at the Interops meeting with the Collins Center to discuss the next steps for the WMRIC project. At the meeting the radio battery caches will be distributed. An MSP gateway switch has been proposed to solve some of the gaps in radio communication in the Westfield River Valley area.

Motion: Russ Sienkiewicz made a motion to move the \$12,000 from the WMLEC Westfield River Valley project to pay for the WMLEC MSP Gateway switch. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. Tom stated that the Subcommittee discussed training and exercise needs for FFY14. Tom advised other subcommittees to discuss training needs but to keep the categories fairly broad in order to allow for flexibility, and to forward suggestions to the T&E subcommittee.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine stated that the ordering of the requested regional shelter supplies is almost complete.

CBRNE/IED:

Mark stated that the CBRNE Subcommittee will meet again in early June to discuss FFY14 priorities and Franklin Tactical Response Team request. Discussion followed.

Fiduciary Report

Raine stated the spend down of FFY11 and FFY12 funds are moving along. There are projects in each year that she has included in the extension request. There was an EHP missed for the CMED project that would benefit from an extension. The RPA's may have a hard time spending down the FFY12 funds for the Public Outreach project. Discussion followed.

Old Business

Bylaw Review

Raine stated that she made the suggested changes and that the draft was included in the meeting packet. Raine reviewed a few further changes requested by EOPSS.

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<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the Bylaws as discussed. Linda Moriarty seconded. Motion passed.</p>

FFY14 Planning

Raine stated that the FFY14 investment plan will be due in August. Raine explained that she is planning to take some extended time off in August and will need to submit the plan to EOPSS in early August. It may not be necessary to hold the August WRHSAC meeting. Projects will need to be settled in June in order to have a draft done for the July meeting. This will allow time for any suggested changes to be done for submittal in early August. A handout outlining the past few years of funding allocations by Subcommittee was included in the meeting packet. Discussion followed.

New Business:

No new business was presented.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

Tom stated that he wanted to share the positive feedback about this Council's planning, staying on budget, collaboration, etc. Our efforts do not go unnoticed. He thanked all of the Council members for their hardwork.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, June 17th 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 11:10 am.

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