

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Training and Exercise Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2013, 9:30 am
WMEMS, 68 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.**

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Ann Shea (MMC), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD) proxy for Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Josh Shanley (NEM), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Robert Barry (MEMA), Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Bernard Forgea (CFD/CPD), Phill Grannan (TVFD), Carolyn Shores Ness (DBOS/DBOH), Jason Breault (PPD), Stephen Jones (MSP), Stephen Gawron (MSP).

Chairman Tom Grady brought the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the August 20, 2013 meeting.

<p>Motion: Bob Barry motioned to approve the minutes from August 20, 2013. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Additional WRHSAC Funds

Raine stated that the Council has additional funds because the fiduciary funds were allowed to be transferred to project funds. There is also additional money due to unused backfill and overtime funds. Raine reviewed the handout in the meeting packet. The total of amount of funds available form FFY12 is \$128,246.77 and FFY13 has a balance of \$42,447.00. The Council has asked the Subcommittees to review their priorities to present requests at the Council meeting later today.

GPS Training with State Agency Partners

Rained stated that Bob Hassettt intended to present this project but he was unable to come because he is running an exercise. The GPS training is proposed to coordinate with the GPS unit cache that was approved by the Planning Subcommittee. The cache will be a set of 10 GPS units that will be housed at each of the Sheriff Departments. The units have a radio but it acts similar to a walkie-talkie so it will not be interoperable with public safety radio systems. The radios are meant for use during situations such as search and rescue missions. The DPW GPS training had 97-98 communities sign up and participate. Raine thanked MEMA for their outreach efforts in support of this training. The feedback from the training has been overwhelmingly positive. This training will be opened up to State Agency partners. It is proposed to accommodate 50-60 participants. MEMA has offered to host the training in Agawam.

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Motion: Linda Moriarty motioned to approve the GPS Training from FFY12 unallocated funds in the amount of \$5,000. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Hilltown Regional Functional Hazmat Exercise

Bob Barry stated that he is presenting this project on behalf of the Town of Tolland. This will be a functional exercise that is a follow up to the table top exercise that was previously approved by this subcommittee and held in June. Phil Grannan stated that the exercise is regional in scope. The exercise is expected to have 50-100 participants and be held on a weekend day. Discussion followed concerning food and the budget.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve the Hilltown Regional Functional Hazmat Exercise in the amount of \$27,500 from FFY12 unallocated funds. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed. Josh Shanley abstained.

Digital Forensic Training

Tom stated that he is recommending this project but Stephen Jones and Jason Breault will speak to it. Steve stated that there is a need for digital forensic equipment on the regional level. The state has the equipment but as demand increases it is clear that supplemental regional resources are needed. Other funding is being sought for the equipment purchase. This proposal is for the training component. Steve will be attending a 2 week course and Jason Breault will receive a passport that will allow him to attend trainings for one year. Three letters of support were included with the proposal in the meeting handouts.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve the Digital Forensic Training in the amount of \$21,885 FFY12 unallocated funds. Linda Moriarty seconded. Motion passed. Tom Grady abstained. Discussion outlined below.

Tom stated that he has had very good feedback on this training. This is a needed asset in the region. Raine stated that there are some challenges with the funding due to the timeframe. Raine stated that EOPSS has stated that the passport is an allowable expense. However, the travel can only be reimbursed until July 2014. Raine asked for an updated estimate of travel costs for the reduced timeframe. It was decided to recommend the full amount and adjust the total at a future meeting.

Review FFY2013 T&E Plan/Projects

Regional Hazmat Team Training

This agenda item was tabled until next month.

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Anti-Counter Terrorism Training

This agenda item was tabled until next month.

WMD/CBRNE Training

This agenda item was tabled until next month.

Regional Shelter Exercise Training

This agenda item was tabled until next month.

Rest Center Plan Training

This agenda item was tabled until next month.

Communications Training

This agenda item was tabled until next month.

New Business

This agenda item was tabled until next month.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

No unforeseen business was discussed.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19th at 9:30 at WMEMS.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.

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