

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 10:00am
WMEMS, 68 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD/DFS), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Nikki Nixon (PVPC) proxy for Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Brook Chipman (EOPSS), Mark Babineau (LFD), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:03 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

A round of introductions followed.

Tom tabled the minutes from the January 21, 2014 meeting because a quorum was not present.

Updates from Chair

Tom Grady stated that the February 13th Chairs meeting had to be cancelled due to weather. Jen Ball will try to reschedule the meeting in a few weeks.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: No update given.
- POLICE: Russ Sienkiewicz stated that Col. Alben of the State Police will be giving a presentation on state and local terrorism response on Thursday at Western New England University.
- EMS: No update given.
- EMD: No update given.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Nikki Nixon stated that the Health Coalitions are updating their emergency dispensing plans. The Hampden County Coalition has received funding to expand their shared nursing program to provide more mandated public health services.
- TRANSPORTATION: No update given.
- DPW: No update given.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom stated that he has received a few phone calls because some people did not realize that the WMSIN program is no longer being updated. WMISN has been migrated to the new statewide system MIDNET. If anyone needs to access MIDNET they can email Tom. The change occurred a few months ago. Melissa suggested posting a note at the home page of the WMSIN program notifying users that the system is no longer updated and the new system is MIDNET. Discussion ensued.

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- COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa stated that applications for the State 911 FFY15 Development Grant funds were released on February 7th. The applications are due on April 1st.
- HOSPITALS: No update given.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: No update given.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No update given.
- MEMA: No update given.
- EOPSS: Brook Chipman stated that Michelle Goldman was hoping to make it to this meeting. She has been hired to relieve Jen Ball from some of her duties such as attending the Council meetings so that Jen can focus on her duties as Chief of Staff. Michelle will be communicating with the Councils throughout the THIRA process. She will also be working on updating the State Homeland Security Strategy. Brook stated that the federal guidance for the FFY14 funds is expected soon. The FFY14 funding plan applications will be due in June.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Raine stated that the Subcommittee approved the NWMIMT equipment request that was approved by the Council last month with the contingency that the subcommittee review and approve the request.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Russ stated that SAIC was selected as the Consultant for engineering support to the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee approved the NWMIMT request for communication related equipment. The request went before SIEC but it was determined that it did not need SIEC approval to move forward.

There has been a question of how the Field Comm Unit transferred ownership to the Tri-State Mutual Aid from the Greenfield Fire Department. Being owned by Tri-State allows the unit to be more accessible during an emergency. If the unit is owned by a Fire Department only a Fire Department member can drive the unit which limits its ability to be deployed during an event. However, it may not have been an allowable transfer because Tri-State is a non-profit and not a state agency. Tom stated that the equipment was purchased for the vehicle and should remain with the vehicle unless the vehicle is housed outside of the state. Raine stated that she will follow up on this matter.

Russ stated that the WMRIC project is moving along. The UMASS Collins Center drafted a survey that was sent out to the Interops Subcommittee and the Council regarding regional authority oversight for the region. A conference call was held last week to discuss the survey results. A second draft of the report will be reviewed later today.

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Russ stated that the replacement batteries for the cache radios will be further discussed at the Subcommittee meeting today.

Raine stated that the Berkshire 385 Northern Extension equipment was also approved. SIEC determined that they did not need to vote on this because it is within the scope of the existing project. Melissa stated that it is good to inform SIEC about these types of changes but they do not require a vote.

Raine stated that all of the EHPs for the CMED project are completed.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that Linda Moriarty is still trying to get information on the TEEEX training.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine stated that a second request for quotes has been released for the durable medical equipment for regional shelter supplies. Only one partial bid was received. Raine and MAPC are approaching vendors directly.

CBRNE/IED:

Mark stated that there are no new updates.

Fiduciary Report

Raine stated that Phase I of the Hampshire Hill project will be completed by the end of this week. FFY10 funds will be spent down completely. FFY11 and FFY12 are moving along. All of the unallocated funds were allocated last month.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

Bylaw Discussion/Review

Raine stated that a copy of the current bylaws and some examples of bylaws were included in the meeting handouts. EOPSS is encouraging the Councils to review the bylaws and make updates as seen fit. Raine suggested that the Council should consider addressing the voting rights for the subcommittees. Brook stated that the Northeast Council decided to address their subcommittees with an addendum to the bylaws. Russ stated that the WMRIC project may impact how the bylaws should be updated. Discussion followed concerning proxy requirements, removing seats, and electronic attendance. Raine will draft the updated bylaws based on the discussion and email it to the Council prior to the March meeting.

MEMA Statewide EMD Conference Proposal

Raine stated that the MEMA Statewide EMD Conference will be held this year on May 28th and 29th. MEMA is looking for presentators. The regional shelter toolkit, the shelter online training and the emergency rest center guide could be presented. The online shelter training will be

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available by then. This will also be an opportunity for the Outreach Project to distribute information. MEMA needs presentation proposals by next week. It was decided that Raine should submit a proposal. A quote for the travel expenses and the costs associated with the conference should be prepared for next month's meeting.

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, March 18th at 10:00am at WMEMS.

There being no further business Mark Babineau moved to adjourn. Russ Sienkiewicz seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

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