

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Nikki Nixon (PVPC), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD), Tom Lynch (BHS), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Cindy Hahn (ARC), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD/DFS), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Ed Lesko (BOH/BOS), Bob Barry (MEMA), Amy Riley (MAPC), Mark Babineau (LFD), Victoria Grafflin (EOPSS), Robert Hassett (SFD), John Pond (WMFCA), Fran Nothe (WMFC), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Gail Bienvenue (MDPH), Stephanie Jo Kent (LLR), Tony Pettaway (HHSD), Amy Riley (MAPC).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:04 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair.

A round of introductions followed.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the November 19, 2013 meeting.

<p>Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2013 meeting as submitted. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed.</p>
--

Western Mass Tech Rescue Team

The Team gave a PowerPoint presentation. John Garriepy thanked the Council for their continued support. The Tech Rescue Team fills a need that no one department could reasonably have the equipment and the training to do on its own. The regional team has been trained on confined space rescues and low and high angle rescues. The next series of training will cover trench rescues in June. An equipment list needed for the training is being compiled. The next and final training needed is structural collapse rescue.

The FEMA teams can arrive at a location within 6-12 hours. The Regional Team can be on site within an hour. The Worcester area is working on forming a Tech Rescue Team. Discussion followed.

Tom thanked the Team for their hard work and dedication.

Updates from Chair

Tom Grady stated that Jen Ball has been trying to schedule a chairs meeting. The THIRA process has gone more smoothly this year. Victoria thanked everyone that reviewed the capabilities worksheet. She stated that we know have a better understanding of where we are and where we want to be.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: none.
- POLICE: none.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

- EMS: Linda stated that the state is switching over to the national registry.
- EMD: Bob Hassett stated that the Springfield area is concentrating on early childhood education disaster planning. Many daycare centers are not prepared for a disaster event. The Springfield area has hosted two sessions so far and they have been well received. Bob will present the idea at the regional EMD meeting.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko introduced Nikki Nixon. She will be his official proxy. The first Health and Medical Coordinating Coalitions meeting was held on December 2nd. Flu season has begun. Municipal employees can get a voucher for a free flu vaccination. Tom welcomed Nikki.
- TRANSPORTATION: Raine stated that Jamin was not able to attend the meeting. The PVRTA is changing their service hours and will soon be offering routes on Sundays.
- DPW: Raine stated that Chris emailed her that the DPWs are signing mutual aid agreements and completing the Web EOC training.
- CORRECTIONS: none.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Tom welcomed Melissa back. Melissa stated that the SIEC meeting is tomorrow.
- HOSPITALS: none.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: none.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): none.
- MEMA: none.
- EOPSS: Victoria stated that John Fabiano will no longer be the liaison to the Council because he has been reassigned. Victoria will be attending the meetings until a permanent replacement is hired. Victoria stated that the reorganization of the Homeland Security funds should help make the expenditure of funds less stressful. Amy stated that there will be a table set up at the Annual MMA Trade Show to represent all the good work done by the Council. Two new staff have been hired to assist with the fiscal year paperwork deadlines.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Linda Moriarty stated that the Planning Subcommittee spent the last meeting giving updates of our current projects. The MACC Phase 2 project will be looking to coordinate with the Health and Medical Coordinating Coalitions project. The two projects should work well together. Raine stated that she is finalizing the scope of works for the Public Outreach and Mass Receiving projects.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Russ Sienkiewicz stated that WMLEC accepted ownership of the WMLEC system last month. There have been a few meetings for the WMRIC project. Motorola was selected as the consultant for the Berkshire 385 project. The EHPs are being completed for the CMED project.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. There was one request presented. Sandra stated that it is crucial for the right people to be able to give information at the right time during a disaster. Sandra would like to hire Susan Santos to offer two Public Information Officer (PIO) trainings, one in the valley and one in the Berkshires. The training focuses on what to say and not to say and to whom. Ed stated that he went to this training a few years ago and it was very beneficial. Raine stated that the training would have to be put out to bid. Raine stated that social media should be covered in the training.

<p>Motion: Ed Lesko motioned to to approve \$12,300 FFY12 unallocated funds for the Public Health Coalition PIO Training. John Pond seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

Equipment/PPE:

Raine stated that the shelter equipment is being ordered. The items requested that were covered in the prior one year quotes have been ordered. Raine is working on the specification requirements for the computers. The computers will be housed and maintained by the EMDs or other identified departments. The purchases should be completed by March.

CBRNE/IED:

Mark stated that there are no new updates.

Fiduciary Report

Raine stated that there is about \$18,000 left in unallocated funds. Russ stated that there is a need for new batteries for the cache radios. John Pond stated that he can put together an equipment list for tech rescue equipment. Discussion followed. Raine asked for the requests to be prepared and presented at the next meeting.

Raine stated that the administrative funds that were moved to projects were assigned to the Hampshire Hills project. That project should be completed by the end of January.

Old Business

Linda stated that DPH held the first meeting to plan the Health and Medical Coordinating Coalitions. Many Council members attended. There will be four more meetings held. DPH wants to work with existing processes and fit in the DPH piece. Sandra stated that the planning process will take one year. DPH and CDC want to build a response organization to coordinate medical and health situations. The concept is to work with regional organizations rather than individual towns.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

New Business:

Russ suggested postponing the Interops meeting due to the inclement weather. Discussion followed and it was decided to not postpone the meeting.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

No unforeseen business was discussed.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

Tom wished everyone a happy holiday season. Tom thanked everyone for all their hard work over the year. He stated that it is an honor to work with you all.

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, January 21st at 10:00am at the Northampton Police Department.

There being no further business Linda Moriarty moved to adjourn. Russ Sienkiewicz seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

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