

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 16, 2015, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Matt Grudgen (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Jeanne Galloway (WSpfld HD), Carolyn Shores Ness (DBOS/BOH), Chris Bouchard (DPW), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Robert Barry (MEMA), Sandra Martin (BCBHQA), Michael Nelson (DPH), David Elvin (PVPC), David Cruz (EOPSS), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Gail Bienvenue (DPH), Robert Hassett (SFD), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Fran Nothe (WMFCA), John Pond (WMFCA), Ann Shea (MMC) proxy for Tom Lynch (BMC), Michelle Goldman (EOPSS), Tim Donnelly (DHS), Hans Olson (EOPSS).

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

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the May 19, 2015 meeting.

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2015 meeting as submitted. Bob Hassett seconded. Motion passed.</p>

A round of introductions followed. Tom Grady introduced Tim Donnelly from DHS. Tim will be taking over the Western Massachusetts region that Gabe Palazzi had been covering.

Updates from Chair

Tom Grady stated that he attended the National Homeland Security Conference in San Antonio along with two staff from EOPSS. The Conference was held on June 8-11th. Tom reported that the conference was very informative and well run. Tom and Victoria Grafflin presented at one of the break out sessions. Tom stated that he heard from people all over the country about how they admired the work of this Council. Raine stated that she has had requests to use the Disaster Animal Response Plan as a template at least five times.

Michelle Goldman thanked Tom for attending the National Homeland Security Conference. Michelle explained that EOPSS staff is going through a transition period. The new Under Secretary started last week. Michelle stated that this will be her last meeting. Michelle introduced Hans Olson. Tom thanked Michelle for her time with the Council and expressed that he hopes their paths cross again.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: No update was given.
- POLICE: No update was given.
- EMS: No update was given.
- EMD: No update was given.

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- PUBLIC HEALTH: No update was given.
- TRANSPORTATION: No update was given.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard announced that there was another DPW tragedy in Palmer at 3 a.m. DPW will continue to advocate and train on safety and driver fatigue awareness. The Driver Skills and Training better known as the Snowplow Rodeo will be held on July 15th. The winner of the competition will be sent to Colorado to compete nationally.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom stated that Corrections is looking closely at internal staffing. The recent breakout of two inmates in New York has heightened this focus. The missing inmates have been at-large for 11 days.
- COMMUNICATIONS: No update was given.
- HOSPITALS: Ann Shea stated that Baystate will host an active shooter exercise on June 26th from 9 a.m. to noon. Ann invited anyone interested in observing to contact her.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness stated the Mass Watershed Task Force is compiling a best practices handbook. It will include a cost estimator for issues such as failed culverts. This will help when compiling paperwork to request reimbursement from MEMA and FEMA following a declared disaster.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No updated was given.
- MEMA: Bob Barry stated that there will be two seminars offered on Masscare and Sheltering on June 23rd at the Berkshire Community College on June 24th in Chicopee. Both sessions will be held from 7:30 a.m. to noon. The seminars are open to all disciplines. Bob stated that there will be two sessions offered for the EMD quarterly meeting in Agawam on July 1st. Kurt Schwartz will be attending to present the EMD of the year award.
- EOPSS: Michelle stated that the FFY15 guidance will be released in the next week or two. Amy Reilly stated that MAPC has hired an Administrative Assistant. He started yesterday.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Linda Moriarty stated that the projects are moving along. A region wide conference with key note speakers for the Children in Disasters project is scheduled for late September. The Subcommittee supported a proposal to purchase a fit tester for the Western Mass Fire Chiefs. A copy of the proposal was included in the meeting materials. Mark Babineau explained that the device checks respiratory protection masks. The masks are required to be tested once a year. The cost to do the test with an outside agency is \$30 per mask. The tests can alter fit due to the age of the mask, weight loss or gain, etc. Raine stated that there is only about \$7,000 in available funds but advised approving the project with the condition that it will be purchased as funds become available.

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Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the purchase of a Respirator Fit System and a five year warranty in the amount of \$10,660.00 as funding becomes available. Mark Babineau seconded. Motion passed.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Tom announced that Melissa Nazzaro was appointed Chair of the WMRIC Subcommittee last month. Melissa stated that the Subcommittee met after the Council meeting last month. There was an update given on the FCECS system issues.

Training and Exercises:

Tom stated that the Training and Exercise Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. The outstanding projects were reviewed. There was a proposal to offer up to four presentations of a condensed version of the Hazmat Emerging Trends for Boards of Health members.

Motion: Tom Grady motioned to approve \$5,000 to conduct up to four Hazmat Emerging Trends condensed trainings for Boards of Health. Linda Moriarty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom stated that the Subcommittee will meet at 9 a.m. next month in order to have time to discuss the Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan (TEP). This is a plan that will outline our Training and Exercise goals for the next three years. Tom asked members to invite anyone that may be interested in the discussion. Raine noted that the IP from the AAR for the Anti-Terrorism Exercises was included in the meeting materials. The IP recommended action items that pertain to all of the Subcommittees.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine indicated that much of the tech rescue equipment has been purchased. A training was held for the newly purchased air struts. The next round of tech rescue equipment that was approved last month has been approved by EOPSS. The lights for the Hampshire EDS trailer have been purchased and installation is expected to begin soon.

CBRNE/IED:

Tom Grady announced that several tech rescue workers attended the large animal rescue exercise in Berkshire County. The exercise went very well. A river rescue training is being coordinated. Carolyn inquired about offering a large animal rescue exercise in Franklin and Hampshire County. Tom stated that he will pass along the contact information from the Berkshire training.

Fiduciary Report

Raine Brown said that all of the FFY13 projects are on time and within budget. The travel expenses for Tom to attend the National Homeland Security Conference in San Antonio were not able to be covered by EOPSS and have been submitted to the Council for consideration.

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Motion: Linda Moriarty motioned to approve \$2,032.67 to pay travel to the National Homeland Security Conference. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed. Tom Grady abstained.

Raine explained that there will be some funds leftover. She stated that she will work with Linda Gross to do their best to spend the FFY13 funds down completely. The Council will need to begin to concentrate on the FFY14 projects to ensure those funds are spent down on time.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

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, July 21st 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 10:42 am.

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