

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 16, 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), Tom Lynch (BMC), Carolyn Shores Ness (DBOS/BOH), Cindy Hahn (ARC), Jamin Carroll (PVRTA), John Pond (WMFCA), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Michelle Goldman (EOPSS), Robert Hassett (SFD), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Fran Nothe (WMFC), Bob Barry (MEMA), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Mike Wynn (PPD), J.D. Hubert (MDMH).

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 July 15, 2014 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2014 meeting as submitted. Ed Lesko seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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**Firefighter Rehab Tag (postponed to the October meeting)**

Raine Brown stated that Mike McLaughlin was not able to come to the meeting. Tom Grady stated that he has asked around in Berkshire County and the project is not well known. Mark Babineau stated that there hasn't been a presentation given to the Western Mass Fire Chiefs about this project. Raine stated that this was a project that was funded by the Northeast Region and they are looking to duplicate the project in other regions. Tom stated that he would feel more comfortable if the project was supported by the Western Mass Fire Chiefs.

**Updates from Chair**

Tom Grady stated that Victoria Grafflin from EOPSS sent a memo out about the FFY11 & FFY12 contract extensions. Interestingly, the Interops projects were not extended. Amy Reilly thanked the Council for their work on spending down the FFY11 and FFY12 funds.

**National Preparedness Month**

Cindy Hahn stated that September is Preparedness Month. Cindy stated that she has been presenting at various meetings to remind everyone to be prepared and to think about if you are prepared to leave your family for 4-5 days if a crisis occurs. Cindy stated that these discussions have generated some great ideas. She suggested keeping a glowstick near the bed. It generates enough light to move through your home if the power goes out. Carolyn Shores Ness stated that a current electric bill or other utility bill is the only proof of residence that the National Guard will accept during an emergency situation to return to an evacuated area. Sandra Martin suggested having a phone that does not use electricity. Cindy stated that a non-electric can opener is a handy tool to have on hand as well. J.D. Hubert suggested taking pictures of your belongings and to keep copies of your important documents in a Ziploc bag. Cindy stated that a picture of you with your pet is also helpful for reunification.

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**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: Mark stated that a 4-Day Tech Rescue training is going on now. The another class will be offered again in October. John Pond stated that the Tech Rescue Team is training regularly. Tom stated that the radios that were requested for the Tech Rescue Team have been delivered.
- POLICE: No update was given.
- EMS: Linda Moriarty stated that the second interviews have occurred for the OEMS Director's position. A new Director should be in place by Thanksgiving.
- EMD: Bob Hassett stated that MEMA held their quarterly meeting last week. A demonstration of the foam trailers was requested by the Springfield LEPC and has been scheduled for Friday at 1pm. Bob stated that it is important to let the area industries know about these resources.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Ed Lesko stated that emergency services are concerned with the Ebola Virus and the returning student populations. The Enterovirus is another current threat. It affects mostly children up to the age of 16 and causes respiratory problems. The Hampshire DPH has a mobile trailer that can be loaned out for flu clinics or other similar uses. There will be a Health Coalition meeting later today. Ed advised everyone to get their flu shot in preparation for the flu season. Linda stated that there is some concern with the Ebola virus coming from West Africa. Bob Hassett stated that Springfield has 4 isolation transportation pods that can be lent out. Tom stated that any bulletins of information like the isolation pods can be sent to Raine or Tom to be distributed. J.D. passed out pamphlets on the Massachusetts Disaster Behavioral Health Services. Discussion followed.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll stated that the PVRTA has expanded their hours and service locations. These changes have been well received by the public. The FRTA is also undergoing some changes in their services.
- DPW: No update was given.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady stated that the Homeland Security resources are being requested and used. It is nice to know the resources are being used and the deployment procedures are working well.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa Nazzaro stated that Dennis Nazzaro and herself participated in helping to rewrite the SCIP. Springfield is hosting a ride to remember to fundraise for the families of fallen first responders on Saturday. Last year there was limited radio communications from Springfield to Boston. This year the organizers reached out for assistance and Dennis will be the Comm U. He will be utilizing two event channels. This is a great example of a statewide interops system being used in a statewide event. Melissa stated that she attended a workshop on the new 911 system. The system has a new interface

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for the dispatchers but no change will be detected by the end users. The Text 911's will use a relay system for now. Tom Grady stated that Verizon has issued notifications that they will no longer support the copper lines that are used to connect many of the tower sites. Verizon is moving away from their land line business and focusing more exclusively on wireless and fiber optics. Tom stated that Jason Breault was recognized for his work as a CommL and CommT during the North Adams incidents at the MEMA quarterly EMD meeting.

- HOSPITALS: Tom Lynch stated that the hospitals are forming a task force to focus on the current infectious diseases outbreaks.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness stated that Ed Lesko, Pat Smith and herself worked on a handout to give out at the Western Mass Regional Selectboard Association meeting about the current projects of the Council.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No update was given.
- MEMA: Bob Barry stated that the EMD quarterly meeting was held on September 10<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. Bob stated that Tom Grady was also recognized at that meeting for his outstanding efforts to deploy WRHSAC purchased resources. Bob stated that he has never had an asset request turned down by Berkshire County. MEMA hosted vehicle ID trainings and it went well. Discussion followed.
- EOPSS: Michelle Goldman stated that David Cruz was not able to come to the meeting today. He is working on the 2014 contracts. The WRHSAC 2014 Plan was one of the first received and will be one of the first awarded. Michelle thanked the Council and especially Raine for their work on spending down the FFY11 and FFY12 plans. Raine stated that Linda Gross and Amy Reilly deserve credit for their hard work as well.

**Planning /Pandemic Flu:**

Linda stated that the subcommittee is focusing on developing the ConOps for the MACC project. The Shelter equipment project was completed. Linda thanked Raine for her perseverance.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:**

Raine stated that the proposed WMRIC Bylaws were included in the meeting packet. Raine explained that the intent is that the Interops Subcommittee be prepared to continue if the Council should dissolve. The WMRIC Subcommittee bylaws formalize how the subcommittee operates now and could be adopted and attached to the Council bylaws as an appendix.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Michael Wynn moved to table the approval of the WMRIC Subcommittee Bylaws for one month to give Council members time to review and comment. Mark Babineau seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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**Training and Exercises:**

Tom Grady stated that the Subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. The Subcommittee discussed the Regional Hazmat Training, the Anti-Counter Terrorism trainings, the WMD/CBRNE and the Regional Shelter Exercise. The Subcommittee made a motion to support a request from the CBRNE Subcommittee for an emerging trends training for first responders.

**Equipment/PPE:**

Raine stated that only equipment still left to purchase is the mobile generators. The RFB is due back next week.

**CBRNE/IED:**

Mark stated that the CBRNE Subcommittee met yesterday. The Subcommittee endorsed an emerging trends training for first responders. Mike Wynn stated that this is a needed training. Sandra requested that the public health sector be notified of the opportunity as well due to housing inspections, etc.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Mark Babineau motioned approve up to \$18,000 of FFY13 WMD CBRNE training funds to hire a consultant to offer an Emerging Trends for First Responders Training in each of the four Western Counties. Motion seconded by Linda Moriarty. Voted unanimously.</p>
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**Fiduciary Report**

Raine stated that the FFY11 and FFY12 funds were spent down. MAPC and staff at the FRCOG worked well together and only left \$0.27 unspent. EOPSS had a few questions of clarification on the FFY14 Plan. The contract is expected soon.

Amy stated that she has the contract and it will be sent out very soon. The new director for MAPC will be at the October meeting. Tom Grady thanked Amy for her hard work and great communication.

**Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

**New Business:**

Tom stated that there is a Chairs meeting scheduled on September 26th. He asked for any questions that should be discussed to be sent to him before then.

Tom stated that he is going to Framingham tomorrow to discuss Berkshire County issues but can bring up any other issues if needed.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair**

No unforeseen business was discussed.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

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The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am at WMEMS.

There being no further business Linda Moriarty moved to adjourn. Ed Lesko seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

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