

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Bob Dean (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (Berkshire County Sheriff's Office), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD), Carolyn Shores-Ness (Deerfield Selectboard), Alyssa Larose (FRCOG), Bob Barry (MEMA) proxy for Bob Hassett, Tom Lynch (BHS), Linda Moriarty (WMCMS), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Ann Carroll (MMC), Nicole Rohan (PVTA), Eric Madison (WMFCA), Steve Kozloski (MPD), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Stephen O'Brien (LPD), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD/DFS), John Fabiano (EOPSS), Don Snyder (MDPH), Mary Praus (FRCOG), Catherine Ratte (PVPC).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:12 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair. A round of introductions followed. Tom called for a moment of silence for Sue Brown and Rorie's loss.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the April 17, 2012 meeting.

<p>Motion: Russ Sienkiewicz moved to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2012 meeting as submitted. Steve O'Brien seconded. Voted unanimously.</p>
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Irene After Action Report Summary

Lindsey Britt gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Irene After Action Report (AAR). Copies of the AAR were passed out. There had been a few days notice that Tropical Storm Irene was headed our way and therefore our region had a few days to prepare. The American Red Cross worked closely with MEMA. Memorandums of Understanding where they existed were very helpful. The greatest area needing improvement identified in the plan was resource management. There are many resources available but there was confusion such as how to utilize the National Guard. Official communications were not streamlined which made it difficult coordinating shelter operations. A recommendation is to create a back up for the WebEOC due to widespread power failures. Another recommendation is to create a plan for media outlets prior to an emergency to clarify who to accept information from, etc. Sandra stated that the Planning/Pan Flu Subcommittee has a project looking at communication strategies. The regional shelter policy and procedures will help with the sheltering issues identified. Discussion followed.

Updates from Chair

Tom stated that the Chairs met with Secretary Schwartz last Tuesday. MEMA is trying to get people trained and using the Resource Management System. All Council purchased equipment will be required to be listed in the system. The currently owned assets will be entered in the system. Towns and cities will be responsible for keeping the system up to date as new purchases are made. Discussion followed.

The Evacuation Plan Working Group RFR was released last Tuesday. The Animal Shelter Working Group will meet on May 22nd. The IMAT Strategy Group has met once. The Fire Services Group is up and running. The See Something Say Something campaign has been approved to use 911 but may not be used due to the desire of potential callers for anonymity.

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Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: none
 - POLICE: Chief O'Brien stated that the new UHF system in Berkshire was used during a large bike race in the Berkshires and it worked very well.
 - EMS: none
 - EMD: Bob Barry stated that Bob Hassett was selected as EMD of the Year.
 - PUBLIC HEALTH: none
 - TRANSPORTATION: none
 - DPW: none
 - CORRECTIONS: none
 - COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa Nazzaro stated that 911 training grants are available. The SIEC Conference on May 3rd went well. It was mentioned that there is interest in having a Communications Field Day in Western Mass possibly next year at the Big E. The COMM T class is the technical version of the COMM L class. The COMM T class will be held from July 23 through July 27th. The class is open to fifteen participants. The class is open to NERAC members first and then will open up to others. The City of Springfield completed the narrowbanding of their radios for the Police Department. It was a long process but went well overall. There was some loss of coverage. More buildouts for additional coverage may be needed in the future.
 - HOSPITALS: none
 - MUNICIPALITIES: Carolyn Shores Ness stated that she is working with Bob Barry to create a Hamm Radio exercise.
 - Massachusetts State Police (MSP): none
- MEMA: Bob Barry stated that there is a quarterly meeting today and another at 6pm tonight.
- EOPSS: John Fabiano stated that EOPSS is still waiting for a decision on the extension request for FFY08 and FFY09 funds. EOPSS is working with MAPC to supply additional information. FFY12 guidance should be released this summer. EOPSS is working on an equipment focused grant. The funding will come from the sale of commemorative 9/11 license plates. Information will be released in June. Discussion followed.

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Planning & Public Awareness:

Monson MRC DART Trailer

Sandra stated that the Town of Monson has a DART team organized and active. The Monson MRC has requested the purchase of a DART Trailer.

Motion: Sandra Martin motioned to approve \$18,000 from the FFY08 and 09 budgets to purchase a DART trailer and equipment to be housed in Monson. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed with one abstention and two opposed. Discussion outlined below.

Eric Madison asked how many DART trailers and sheltering trailers are owned by the Council currently. Five DART trailers are owned and eight sheltering trailers. Sandra noted that the DART trailers are primary resources and come with trained volunteers. Discussion followed.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Russ thanked Melissa for her great presentation at the SIEC Conference. He thanked Dennis Nazzaro for his work on the map used at the booth. The consultant, SAIC provided a nice PowerPoint presentation for the conference as well. Approximately 400 people attended.

Russ gave a brief update of each interops project. The WMLEC Expansion Project has experienced some additional costs due to damage caused to some of the towers during Tropical Storm Irene.

Training and Exercise:

Tom stated that the subcommittee met just prior to this meeting.

Motion: Tom Grady motioned to approve \$51,400 from FFY10 Exercises for the Hampden County Operation Game Day Exercise. Sandra Martin seconded. Voted unanimously.

This will be a full scale exercise held in October. The exercise will simulate a mass public exposure to Anthrax. Regional Emergency Dispensing Sites will be activated in Chicopee, Springfield and Ludlow. The table top exercise has been completed. A consultant will be hired to conduct the exercise.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve \$67,452 from FFY10 Training for the Southwick OFD Train the Trainer training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The OFD Train the Trainer training will be the second of three planned train the trainer trainings. It will be held in September.

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Motion: Tom Grady motioned to approve \$21,500 from FFY10 Training for the Northampton Current Threat Awareness Training. Sandra Martin seconded. Voted unanimously.

The Current Threat Awareness training will be offered to forty participants. It will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Northampton. The training will cover searching a vehicle, drug trends, gang culture, etc.

Motion: Tom Grady motioned to approve the additional \$514.35 from FFY10 Training for the Social Media Training. Eric Madison seconded. Voted unanimously.

This amount is requested to accommodate the additional amount over the 25,000 already approved.

Equipment/PPE:

Bob Dean stated that Sue Brown has not purchased the replacement equipment for the shelter and DART trailers yet but will soon. The Franklin County Shelter trailer to be housed in Buckland will be delivered in June.

CBRNE/IED:

Eric Madison thanked Tom Grady and Sue Brown for their diligence and hard work.

Fiduciary Report:

Tom referred to the FFY08 and FFY09 Unallocated funds handout in the meeting packet. The request for multiband radio cache and extra batteries, multiband radio cache chargers and antennas were requested at the Interops meeting last month. The request for Western Mass Ready and website campaign materials was requested at the Planning Pan Flu meeting earlier this month. The WMFCA WMLEC Mutual aid radios request is new and has not gone to a subcommittee for review. Russ requested that the new request be reviewed first by the Interops Subcommittee. Discussion followed.

Motion: Russ Sienkewicz motioned to approve \$17,873.20 of FFY08 and FFY09 unallocated funds for Multiband Radio Cache batteries, chargers, antennas as well as Western Mass Ready and website campaign materials, with \$7,873.20 for the radio accessories and \$10,000 for Western Mass Ready materials. Linda Moriarty seconded. Motion passed.

Motion: Eric Madison moved to approve the remaining FFY08 and FFY09 unallocated funds to the Interoperability Subcommittee to spend as they deem best. Linda Moriarty seconded. Motion passed.

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Old Business:

No old business was presented.

New Business:

Catherine Ratte stated that September is Preparedness Month. She stated that there will be a calendar of events promoted. She requested that agencies that are holding events or would like to host an event contact her.

Bob Dean asked council members if there was interest in including photos of the members on the website. The consensus was that photos were not needed.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

No unforeseen business was presented.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

Tom thanked Melissa and Dennis Nazzaro for a great job done at the SIEC Conference on May 3rd. The WRHSAC's booth was one of the best. The Conference went well and was well attended. It was interesting to see some of the new assets. Congratulations on a great job.

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, June 19th at 10:00am at WMEMS.

There being no further business Russ Sienkiewicz moved to adjourn. Melissa Nazzaro seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 am.

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