

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Sue Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (Berkshire County Sheriff's Office), Carolyn Shores-Ness (Deerfield Selectboard), Bob Hassett (SFD), Tom Lynch (BHS), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Ann Carroll (MMC), Nicole Rohan (PVTA), Eric Madison (WMFCA), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD/DFS) proxy for Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), John Fabiano (EOPSS), Catherine Ratte (PVPC), Pat Smith (FRCOG), Jenn Ball (EOPSS), Todd Zukowski (PVPC), Noreen Suriner (MEMD), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Josh Shanley (NEM), Kathleen Conley Norbut (MRC).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:10 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair. A round of introductions followed.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the May 15, 2012 meeting.

<p>Motion: Sandra Martin moved to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2012 meeting as submitted. Eric Madison seconded. Voted unanimously.</p>
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Tom Grady called for a moment of silence in honor of Officer Ambrose.

Updates from Chair

Tom said that he did not have any updates and asked if Jenn Ball had anything to announce. Jenn stated that the Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment RFR has been issued. It is hoped to have a consultant on board for late July.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Chief Madison stated that there has been resolution with the Hampshire Sheriff's office and the emergency resource equipment. The Hampshire Sheriff's Department has agreed to deliver the equipment to an emergency location. There is now a 24- hour phone number, 413-858-0195. The number will be updated in the Resource Guide and Sue will email it out. The light towers and message boards will need to be picked up during normal business hours and transportation will not be provided for any non-emergency uses. Eric thanked Sue and Tom for their assistance on resolving this issue.
- POLICE: Tom stated that EOPSS has contacted him officially on Chief Wynn replacing Chief O'Brien on the Council. Chief Wynn had a prior commitment and was not able to attend today. Tom requested a motion to approve this change.

<p>Motion: Eric Madison moved to approve the change from Chief O'Brien to Chief Wynn as a official Police representative to the WRHSAC. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Voted unanimously.</p>

- EMS: none

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- EMD: Bob Hassett thanked everyone that helped Springfield with the funeral for Officer Ambrose. All of the help was deeply appreciated.
 - PUBLIC HEALTH: Sandra suggested contacting hospitals and hotels to purchase clean, serviceable, used linens for sheltering supplies. It is more affordable than purchasing disposable linens. Tom asked Sandra to supply some points of contact and have Sue distribute via email.
 - TRANSPORTATION: Nicole Rohan stated that she attended a table top exercise in Holyoke recently and was surprised that some of the attendees did not know about the Resource Guide. Discussion followed concerning new approaches to reaching out to stakeholders. Jenn Ball stated that the RMS system is being updated and it will be required that any new equipment purchased be added to the system.
 - DPW: none
 - CORRECTIONS: Tom stated that the public safety traffic trailers are being purchased. There was a real need for them during the tropical storm Irene.
 - COMMUNICATIONS: none
 - HOSPITALS: none
 - MUNICIPALITIES: Carolyn Shores Ness stated that Josh Shanley set up a training on May 29th with the Fusion Center. It was well attended. Deerfield is currently working to form a DPW task force. The DPW crews work on the recovery after disasters and need to be more knowledgeable and coordinated about proper procedures. It is hoped that the Deerfield Task Force will be a model for other towns.
- Carolyn gave an update at the June 11th joint Hampshire and Franklin County Select Board Association meeting on the shelter trailers, Dart trailers and upcoming Hamm radio exercise.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): none
- MEMA: none
- EOPSS: John Fabiano stated that the extension request for FFY08 and FFY09 funds were granted. The FFY08 funds have been extended through February 2013 and the FFY09 funds were extended through December 2012.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Sandra stated that all of the Planning projects are moving forward. The new logos for the WRHSAC and Western Mass Ready were included in the meeting packet. The website project is

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now concentrating on the content. Sandra thanked John Fabiano for the good news about the extensions.

Faith Community Partners for Preparedness Summary

Vivian Orłowski thanked the Council for their ongoing support of the Faith Community Project. A copy of the Power Point presentation was included in the packet. The goals of the Faith project include:

- Strengthen capacity building for Whole Community preparedness by leveraging the collaboration and resources of the Faith Community
- Engage the leaders of faith based organizations (as trusted institutions) to help advance emergency preparedness among their members and community partnerships

Many congregations played active roles in the disasters that struck Western Mass in 2011. Five focus groups were held throughout Western Mass with a total of 56 participants. The focus group goals were:

- Engage: enable small group dialogue to share their emergency experiences and future needs
- Empower: Elicit positive examples of how their congregation or faith based organization responded to an emergency
- Educate: Provide preparedness handouts/links
- Energize: Motivate to start planning efforts and to participate in upcoming forums

County Coordinators shared information about the Faith Community project at over 80 local, regional and state meetings. Two forums were held for Faith Community and Emergency Responder Forums that had 204 participants in total.

Phase II of the Faith Community Project has begun. Phase II will include outreach, training and collaboration to strengthen regional capacity building.

Carolyn stated that it would be very helpful if volunteers were encouraged to take ICS or CERT training. Sue suggested a condensed Faith Community contact list that can be used to invite participants to trainings and exercises. Discussion followed. Tom thanked Vivian for her presentation, a round of applause followed.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Sue stated that a cost summary for the WMLEC Microwave Systems IP Cloud Upgrade was included in the meeting packet. This IP Cloud will provide redundancy on the system. Discussion followed.

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve reallocating \$132,704 from FFY10 Interoperability System Hardening to FFY10 WMLEC Expansion. Sandra Martin seconded. Voted unanimously.</p>

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Training and Exercise:

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

FRCOG/Franklin REPC Elected Officials Training & Exercise Series – September 2012 through January 2013 - \$45,700

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve \$45,700 from FFY10 Exercises for the Elected Officials Training and Exercise Series. Sandra Martin seconded. Voted unanimously.

BCBOHA Region 1 Public Health Workshop/Tabletop Exercise – December 2012 - \$22,000

The proposal is a combined workshop and tabletop exercise to be conducted in each county.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve \$22,000 from FFY08 Exercises for the Public Health Workshop/Tabletop Exercise. Eric Madison seconded. Sandra Martin recused herself. Motion passed.

Pittsfield Action Ambulance Emerging Threats Towards First Responders in Western MA – \$20,680 – November 3, 2012

Motion: Sandra Martin motioned to approve \$20,680 from FFY10 Training for the Emerging Threats Towards First Responders in Western MA training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sue noted that this is the third and final offering of this training. Bob Hassett stated that training will be open to all four counties and can have up to forty participants.

Deerfield Police Department – Officer Down Rescue Instructor – \$67,450

Carolyn stated that Deerfield offered to host the Officer Down Rescue Instructor training to encourage participants from the Northern County area. The training will be held at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club.

Motion: Sandra Martin motioned to approve \$67,450 from FFY10 Training for the Officer Down Rescue Instructor. Tom Lynch seconded. Carolyn Shores Ness recused herself. Motion passed.

Smoke Generator

Sue stated that the smoke generator came in at \$58.40 over the anticipated amount due to the separate shipping charges.

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Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve the additional \$58.40 from FFY10 Training for the smoke generator. Sandra Martin seconded. Dennis Nazzaro abstained. Motion passed.

Sue explained that she was referring to an old budget when the \$75,000 was allocated to Tech Rescue training. Upon review it was discovered that this training can be accommodated under the CBRNE funds. Sue recommended a motion to replace the funds to unallocated Training and Exercise funds.

Motion: Eric Madison motioned to move \$75,000 from FFY10 Tech Rescue Training to Training and Exercise unallocated. Sandra Martin seconded. Unanimously approved.

Equipment/PPE:

Sue stated that the new sheltering special needs cots have been received and are excellent quality. The blankets and pillows have been ordered.

The traffic safety trailers have been ordered. The new DART trailer for Monson is in the process of being ordered.

The Franklin County Sheriff's office is requesting a three sided shelter to protect the equipment that is housed there. This type of procurement will require a waiver. Tom stated that the request is for materials only. The inmates and staff will construct the shelter. Discussion followed. The request will be processed through the Planning/Pan Flu Subcommittee.

CBRNE/IED:

Eric Madison stated that equipment purchased by the CBRNE Subcommittee has been arriving. Training has begun using the new equipment.

Fiduciary Report:

Sue stated that most of the fiduciary items have already been reviewed. There are 45 active projects currently totaling over \$6 million.

Old Business:

No old business was presented.

New Business:

Sue stated that this location is not available for the September meeting. Discussion followed.

Tom stated that DPW representation has been lacking at the Council meetings. He would like to reach out to the DPW representative.

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Business Unforeseen by Chair

No unforeseen business was presented.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting of the Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, July 17th at 10:00am at WMEMS.

There being no further business Eric Madison moved to adjourn. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

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