

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Sue Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Ann Shea (MMC), Tom Lynch (BHS), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG); Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Linda Gross (FRCOG), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Mark Babineau (WMFCA), Pat Smith (FRCOG), Bob Barry (MEMA), John Pond (WMFCA), Carolyn Shores Ness (Mun. Gov.), Jeffrey Bradford (PPD) proxy for Michael Wynn (PPD), John Fabiano (EOPSS), Gail Bienvenue-Maillhott (MDH), Bob Escott (TTFD), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Robert Hassett (SFD).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:12 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair. A round of introductions followed. Tom welcomed John Pond to the Council. Tom said that John came highly recommended and thanked John for joining the Council.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the December 18, 2012 meeting.

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2012 meeting as submitted. Mark Babineau seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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Updates from Chair

Tom stated that the Western Region's priorities are due to EOPSS by the end of this month to be considered when finalizing the statewide THIRA. The Chairs meeting with Secretary Schwartz is next week. There are two IRAA tabletop exercises happening, one is in Holyoke tomorrow and the other will be held in Pittsfield on Thursday.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: none
- POLICE: none
- EMS: Linda Moriarty stated that a new State Director has not been appointed yet. The city of Springfield will be presenting at the Interops meeting later today to propose a project to improve CMED coverage in the region. Bob Hassett stated that he will wait to propose the project until the gap analysis is completed. Discussion followed.
- EMD: Bob Hassett stated that the quarterly EMD meeting will be held in March. A firm date has not been set yet.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Sandra reminded everyone that it is not too late to get your flu shot. The vaccine is a good match for the strain of flu this year. Discussion followed.
- TRANSPORTATION: none
- DPW: none

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- CORRECTIONS: none
- COMMUNICATIONS: The Intro to Interops Conference will be held January 22nd and 23rd. Contact Melissa Nazzaro if you have not already registered and are interested in attending. The presentations will be the same on both days and are designed for a broad audience.
- HOSPITALS: none
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: none
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Sue stated that she did some outreach to our MSP to see if we might be able to have regular representation again.
- MEMA: none
- EOPSS: John stated that there has been no decision on the FFY09 extension. There was a conference call with DHS last week. The extension request has passed several levels and we are cautiously optimistic. However, today is the deadline and all hourly contracts need to cease spending. Delivery of goods expenses can still proceed but need to be submitted by February 15th. FFY10 funds end June 30th. An extension will be requested in April or May. Discussion followed.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Sandra stated that all of the projects are moving along. The Subcommittee has been discussing how to best approach the FFY10 sheltering supplies. The Subcommittee had been waiting for the sheltering plans to be completed but we are running out of time to spend down the funds. Feedback is welcome. Discussion followed.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Sue stated that the radio reprogramming grant contract was signed and sent back to EOPSS. There is a limited timeline but the consultant should be able to reprogram all of the Homeland Security purchased radios and most of the others.

Training and Exercises:

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

Hampshire MRC Shelter Operations Functional Exercise

Tom stated that this is a continuation of a series of exercises. The table top exercise was done in 2012. The scenario will entail a widespread power outage in Hampshire County that will require a large scale shelter to be opened on the UMASS campus. Hampshire County MRC volunteers will be the primary staff of the shelter. The exercise is scheduled to be held on April 11, 2013.

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Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve up to \$28,000 FFY11 Exercise funds for the Hampshire MRC Shelter Operations Functional Exercise. Sandra Martin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

FRCOG GPS Seminar and Drills Exercise

Tom stated that the FRCOG has proposed holding a GPS seminar and drills exercise. It has practical uses for search and rescue as well as being able to quantify area for FEMA reimbursement paperwork. Bob Barry stated that many Fire Departments are using MPG grants to purchase GPS equipment and that this training will be very timely.

Motion: Carolyn Shoes Ness motioned to approve up to \$35,700 FFY11 Exercise funds for the FRCOG GPS Seminar and Drills Exercise. Sandra Martin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Village Ambulance – Look, Listen, Feel

Tom stated that this is a 7.5 hour training to discuss chemical suicides. This course will keep First Responders up to date and can potentially help prevent a serious injury or death. Chemical suicides are on the rise across the US and pose an enormous risk to First Responders. First Responders also need to be aware of how to speak with family members in critical situations.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve \$16,645 from FFY11 Training and Exercise funds for the Village Ambulance – Look, Listen, Feel training. Sandra Martin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

CTOS WMD RAD/NUC training

Tom stated that this request is for the backfill and overtime to attend the CTOS WMD Rad/Nuc class in Nevada. All other expenses will be covered by FEMA. This education would go a long way if there was ever a dirty bomb at the Big E or Six Flags.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness motioned to approve \$1,892.57 from FFY10 Training and Exercise funds for the CTOS WMD RAD/NUC training. Linda Moriarty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Equipment/PPE:

Sue stated that the traffic trailer arrived last week. Sue has done some research on training for the traffic trailers but has not heard back from Mass DOT. Discussion followed. The two message boards purchased with FFY09 funds have been delivered. Sue will update the resource guide. The Council discussed purchasing two more message boards as well as MDTs and software for future radio reprogramming needs. These purchases have been held off waiting for the FFY09 extension. Sue followed up with the Salvation Army contacts regarding the inability to contact anyone to access the shelter trailers after the gas explosion in Springfield. The contact

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information is correct. The resource guide has been updated to list the cell phone number first. The Salvation Army has been a responsive partner in the past. We are not sure what happened during this event. The Council asked Sue to write a letter to the Salvation Army to discuss a solution to avoid this type of circumstance in the future. Discussion followed.

CBRNE/IED:

A new chair has not been appointed yet. Chief Madison has recommended John Pond for the position. Tom asked John to consider the position. The Subcommittee needs to meet to make final expenditure decisions.

Fiduciary Report:

Sue stated that she had hoped to hear about the FFY09 extension by now. The FFY10 projects should be able to finish on time. Sue informed the Council that if FFY10 is not extended challenges will be encountered in the M&AS budget which funds all FRCOG staff positions. She detailed the timeframe for M&A with and without an FFY10 extension. This will be a challenge for all of the fiduciaries. The statewide fiduciary team is a meeting on Thursday, this is one item that will be discussed. John Fabiano stated that the Council contracts end one month in advance and then there is a 90 day close out period. It may be possible to use the funds for fiduciary tasks throughout the 90 day period. Tom stated that he will bring up this issue at the Chairs meeting next week.

Old Business:

No old business was presented.

New Business:

John Fabiano stated that the 40 applications were submitted for the Homeland Security Trust Fund. Thirteen grants were awarded and eight were in Western Mass.

Business Unforeseen by Chair

Tom stated that MAPC is having an open house on January 29th at 4 pm.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

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

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