

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 16, 2012, 10:00am
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA

In attendance: Sue Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Bob Barry (MEMA), Ann Shea (MMC) proxy for Tom Lynch (BHS), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG) proxy for Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Brook Chipman (EOPSS), Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Alyssa Larose (FRCOG), Carolyn Shores Ness (Dfld SB), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD/DFS), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Jason Breault (PPD), Linda Gross (FRCOG), Josh Shanley (NEM), Amy Reilly (MAPC) Eric Madison (LFD), Michael Wynn (PPD), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Jenn Ball (EOPSS).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:02 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair. A round of introductions followed.

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

<p>Motion: Linda Moriarty moved to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2012 meeting as submitted. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Tracy Rogers abstained. Motion passed.</p>
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Updates from Chair

Tom stated that the State is conducting a Statewide Abilities Assessment (THIRA). The four regions are being consulted to help create the state plan. The Statewide Animal Sheltering group continues to be active. The consultant for the Mass Care and Sheltering Committee, SAIC, is continuing to work on that project. The IMAT Committee has hired Tetra Tech as the consultant. Discussion followed.

Jenn Ball stated that the Western Mass THIRA meeting is this Friday at the Northampton Police Department. Tetra Tech is the consultant for this project. The report is due by December 31, 2012. Sue Brown stated that representation from Fire, Police, EMS, EMD and Public Health is needed at this meeting. Sue offered to resend the information on the meeting. Jenn stated that the results of the study will be used to help prioritize funding decisions.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Eric Madison stated that the Tech Rescue Committee is working on developing a leadership structure. Discussion followed.
- POLICE: Michael Winn stated that the Bearcat vehicle is scheduled to be delivered on November 7th. It will be available to the region by the end of the year.
- EMS: Linda Moriarty stated that a new Commissioner of Public Health has not been hired yet. Discussion followed.
- EMD: Bob Barry stated that the RMS trainings will be rolled out over the next two months. Discussion followed.

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- PUBLIC HEALTH: none
- TRANSPORTATION: none
- DPW: none
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady stated that the CAD system is being replaced with the IMC system.

COMMUNICATIONS: Melissa Nazzaro stated that the fiber network that is part of the METFON project (connects Chelsea data center to the back-up data center in Springfield by way of Framingham) will go live next month. Once the MBI fiber project is completed (projected summer 2013) the western part of the state will be connected to points east using this infrastructure. The plan is to run CJIS and LEAPS over this framework, as well as Next Gen 911 services once in place. The discussions around Next-Gen 911 are currently moving along at the State 911 Department level. They hope to have an RFP out this fall. Although not a member of the formal review committee, Melissa has been attending as a Comm Center Director and will be keeping the Council advised on the plans for roll-out.

- HOSPITALS: Ann Shea stated that the acute care hospitals will participate in the October 21st exercise involving distributing patients via helicopter in 500 mile arcs. There are six black hawk helicopters at Barnes Airport. Each helicopter can carry six patients each. Russ Sienkewicz suggested doing some public outreach to notify the public that this is an exercise prior to the event.
- MUNICIPALITIES: Tracy Rogers announced that the National Guard will be presenting on how to best utilize their services during an event in December. Sue will post information about the event on the website.

Carolyn Shores Ness thanked the MSP for updating two servers to create better capacity. The old servers will be refurbished and will be used as back ups. The Hamm Radio drill will be held before Thanksgiving. A date has not yet been finalized.

- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): none
- MEMA: none
- EOPSS: Brook Chipman stated that the 2012 obligation letter has been sent out. The Plans are being reviewed by EOPSS. It is hoped that the contracts will be sent out to the Regions in early December. EOPSS is gathering information to appeal to the Federal Government for extensions of the FFY2008 and 2009 funds. Discussion followed.

Jenn Ball stated that Congress is close to passing a no extension rule. Discussion followed regarding any leftover funds in all of the funding years and outstanding projects that will

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need extensions. Amy Reilly stated that she would work with Sue on the necessary extension requests.

Planning /Pandemic Flu:

Sue stated that all of the projects are moving along. The IRAA SOG exercises are scheduled to begin on November 13th and will run Tuesday through Friday. A focus group will meet on October 29th. There is still time to register. It is important to have the disciplines participate. Discussion followed.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Russ stated that there is a competitive radio reprogramming grant available. The proposed application will have two phases. The first phase proposes reprogramming all the radios that have been purchased with Homeland Security Funds. The second phase will request reprogramming town owned radios. The suggestion of purchasing a laptop and software to conduct reprogramming needs as needed was deemed an ineligible request under this grant. There was a lot of response from the disciplines. The estimated cost is \$300,420.

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the application submittal for the radio reprogramming grant. Eric Madison seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

Russ reported that most of the Interops projects are moving forward. The Franklin County Data Sharing project has been tabled until today's Interops meeting at 12:30. The Berkshire 385 Update project was not approved by SIEC. Discussion followed.

Training and Exercise:

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

Tom stated that the Social Media training was well received. This proposal will continue the momentum built by providing direct assistance for advanced social media training and continuation of the blog through October. Discussion followed.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady motioned to approve \$4,900 from FFY08 Training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

Tom stated that MEMA will be offering the ICS 300 and 400 training once a month. Training can be done at a local location with a minimum of 15 participants. The Urban Shield exercise will be held on November 3rd and 4th. Tom Grady and the Pittsfield Sheriff will be attending. Anyone interested in also attending should contact Sue or Tom as soon as possible. Attendees must be pre-credentialed to attend. Discussion followed.

Brook stated that it is time to conduct the annual TEP update. Sue stated that TEP has been reviewed and just needs to add the upcoming trainings. The 2015 trainings can not be added because the funding has not been allocated yet. Discussion followed concerning conducting a training that would involve DPW personnel.

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Equipment/PPE:

Sue stated that the final pieces for the shelter trailer have been received. The DART supplies are being wrapped up. The video project for the usage of the trailers is nearing completion.

CBRNE/IED:

No report was given.

Fiduciary Report:

Sue stated that most of the fiduciary report had been covered earlier in the meeting. The Quarterly report was submitted yesterday. Tom Grady congratulated Sue on a job well done.

Old Business:

Tom stated that the FRCOG staff is working to complete an inventory of all the Homeland Security purchased assets. He recommends that these assets be added into the RMS system. Sue stated that the project is moving along smoothly.

Eric Madison asked about ordering additional sheltering equipment. Sue stated that the Planning Subcommittee will be discussing how to handle this project at their next meeting. The Regional Sheltering Plan will be reviewed for recommendations for equipment needed. Discussion followed.

New Business:

Jenn stated that the FY2013 funds have not been committed yet. It is expected that the funding may be increased slightly. Guidance on the funding is not expected until the spring.

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, November 20th at 10:00am at WMEMS.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 am.

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