

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 10:00am  
Northampton Police Department, 29 Center Street, Northampton, MA**

In attendance: Sue Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Thomas Grady (BCSO), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD/DFS) proxy for Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Linda Gross (FRCOG), Josiah Neiderbach (PVPC), Pat Smith (FRCOG), Sandra Martin (BCBOHA), Russell Sienkiewicz (NPD), Tom Lynch (BHS), Carolyn Shores Ness (Municipal Rep.), Bernard Forgea (CFD/PD/EMD), Ann Shea (MMC), Mike Wynn (PPD), Josh Shanley (NEM), John Pond (HFD), Lisa Herrington (WMEMS) proxy for Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), Robert Barry (MEMA).

The meeting was brought to order at 10:10 am by Thomas Grady, Council Chair. Tom asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the bombing in Boston.

A round of introductions followed.

The Council reviewed the minutes from the March 27, 2013 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Sandra Martin moved to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2013 meeting as submitted. Tom Lynch seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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**Updates from Chair**

Tom stated that he reached out to MEMA Region 3 and 4 and Rene Fielding in Boston to offer condolences and offer any resources or personnel to assist with the situation in Boston. They thanked us for reaching out.

**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: John Pond stated that confined space rescue training was held last month. The training will be offered again in the fall. The tech rescue trailers have been delivered and the equipment has been coming in.
- POLICE: Chief Wynn stated as an observation that he only received one request for assistance during the Boston incident. The request did not go through MEMA but came to the Department directly.
- EMS: none
- EMD: Bob Hassett stated that the EMDs are preparing for Hurricane season. ICS classes are being offered. The classes have been well attended with a lot of enrollment from businesses.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Sandra passed out a flyer about the Volunteer Management Training. The Greenfield session was well attended. The Berkshire session will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- TRANSPORTATION: none.
- DPW: none

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- **CORRECTIONS:** Tom stated that all four Sheriff Departments are going to meet this Thursday with the vendor to discuss the WMSIN system and how it is performing.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Dennis stated that the attendees for the COML class have been selected. The attendees for the COMT class will be selected next week.
- **HOSPITALS:** Tom Lynch stated that an Active Shooter Drill was done earlier this month. The drill went very well. Ann stated that it was a great exercise. There were a lot of good lessons learned. Bob Hassett stated that the drill went very well with incident command. Ann stated that Hamm radio was working the whole time in Boston and was used as a back up system. The hospital will be testing their Hamm radio capabilities in an exercise in June.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn stated that public safety was given an update on the Hunter Cad system. Fire and EMS have not started on the project yet.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** Tom stated that most MSP were deployed during the incident in Boston for mandatory 12 hour shifts.
- **MEMA:** Bob Barry stated that MEMA is working with communities on their EMPG grant applications.
- **EOPSS:** Amy stated that EOPSS is completing the FFY10 funding extension request. It should be submitted to DHS in the next day or two.

**Planning /Pandemic Flu:**

Sandra stated that the Planning Subcommittee is working on wrapping up multiple planning projects. There was a request for Adams Cheshire Regional school district go kits. Chief Poirot requested 220 kits for staff members. They have a crisis management team. They have had several real incidents that would have been useful to have the kits. The Crisis Management Team will provide training.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Sandra Martin moved to approve up to \$19,000 from FFY09 and FFY10 unallocated funds for the Go Kits. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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Tom stated that Chief Poirot is retiring and thanked him for his years of dedication to his region. Chief Poirot said that he appreciates the trainings and resources funded by this group.

Sandra stated that the \$50,000 for training on the ACAMS system as part of the Critical Infrastructure Phase 3 has been returned to the Training and Exercise Subcommittee. The Federal Government is in the process of phasing out the ACAMS system to a new system. Culverts are not part of ACAMS system currently. Culvert information is vital during a flooding incident. Sandra asked the Council for guidance on how to proceed with the rest of this project.

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Josh stated that the purpose of the project was to collect information and enter it into the ACAMS system. In the previous phases Josh and his staff were able to collect information for the 8 larger communities in our region. One of the largest vulnerabilities is culverts which are not currently identified in the ACAMS system. However, Josh did not feel that Phase 3 should continue to be funded at this time. Tom asked that a representative from the Fusion Center attend the next Council meeting to give an update. Discussion followed.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:**

Russ stated that the Subcommittee had a long meeting last month. Russ stated that an engineering study is required for the Borden tower.

**Motion:** Russ Sienkiewicz motioned to approve up to \$10,000 FFY10 Unallocated funds for the engineering study for the Borden Tower. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Russ stated that a request was presented at the last meeting to bring 14 police departments on to the 800 system to utilize the 800 network. The request was supported by the Subcommittee but tabled. The project proposal is being re-worked to clearly show that it is multi-jurisdictional as well as multi disciplinary in order to be approved by SIEC. The project may be able to be done in phases.

**Training and Exercises:**

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

Westfield Fire Department – WMD R/N Course - \$2,625.96

Tom stated that two members of the Westfield Fire Department have requested to attend the WMD R/N Course for the HazMat Technicians held in Nevada on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** Tom Grady motioned to approve \$2,625.96 FFY11 Training funds to pay for the backfill and overtime for two members of the Westfield Fire Department to attend the WMD R/N Course training in Nevada. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sandra stated that the \$50,000 previously allocated for ACAMS training has been sent back to Training and Exercise Subcommittee. They will review the past most successful trainings and sponsor trainings with the funding accordingly.

**Equipment/PPE:**

Sue stated that the sheltering equipment project is moving forward. MAPC was sent the scope of work. The contract will be kept open for a year. Municipalities wanted to purchase at the quote price. This proved more difficult to accomplish than anticipated but municipalities are welcome to call the vendors to request the same pricing offered in this contract.

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Tom stated that a freedom on information request was received concerning the distribution of PPE equipment for EMS. Discussion followed.

**CBRNE/IED:**

Sue stated that there is a four hour Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings (IRTB) and a four hour Prevention of and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents training scheduled for both May 17<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Clarion Hotel in Northampton. Both days will be the same training. Each day can accommodate up to 100 participants. Lunch will be provided.

**Fiduciary Report**

Sue stated that there is a balance of \$14,655 in FFY09 and FFY10. The Council needs to determine how to expend these funds soon. Most of the FFY10 projects are on schedule but the WMLEC and Berkshire 385 projects may have some issues meeting the funding deadline. If the FFY10 funds are not extended there will be some challenges to the administrative support funds. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** Tom Grady motioned to approve FFY 10 Unallocated funds to purchase five UHF bank chargers for Berkshire County. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Sandra Martin motioned to move the balance of the FFY09 and FFY 10 Unallocated funds to Sheltering Equipment. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Amy stated that the FFY13 funds are slightly more than the FFY12 funds. It has not been determined how the funds will be distributed to the Councils.

**Old Business**

Sue stated that she submitted a PJ for the portable x-ray and metal detectors purchase. She has been asked to include additional information with the request such as the credible threats in last three years that would have utilized this resource. How many of these credible threats were foreign and how many were domestic. Discussion followed. She also needs to offer measurable success of the project. Sue asked for specific information to be sent to her by email.

**New Business:**

No new business was discussed.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair**

Tom stated that based on the events yesterday in Boston, he is very pleased on the Council's work on how to prepare, respond, mitigate, etc. The trainings funded through the Council has reaped the benefit. Tom thanked everyone for their efforts and he hopes to continue our work for as long as we can. It does make a difference. Discussion followed.

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**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

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

There being no further business Russ Sienkiewicz moved to adjourn. Sandra Martin seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

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