

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Oct 17, 2017, 10:00 am
Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Carolyn Shores-Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Bob Hassett (Springfield CMED), Jamin Carroll (PVRTA), John Dearborn (WMFCA), Stephen Gaughan (EMS Rep/Hatfield FD), Paul Morrisette (WMFCA), Michael Nelson (MDPH), Ann Shea (MMC), Gail Bienvenue (MDPH), Ann Dunne (FRCOG), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Monica Wynne (Baystate Health), Mary Kersell (NWMIMT), John Paciorek (Deerfield PD/WMPCA), James Penniman (MSP), John Pond (WMFCA), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC), Jeanne Galloway (West Spfld Public Health), Duane Nichols (Northampton Fire Dept.), Amy Reilly (MAPC).

This meeting is audio recorded.

Chairman Thomas Grady called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 12, 2017 meeting.

Motion: John Paciorek motioned to approve the September 12, 2017 meeting minutes. Steve Gaughan seconded. Motion passed by a majority with one abstention.

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair - Tom Grady

Tom reported on the topics discussed at the recent HS Council Chairs' meeting:

- Concern was expressed about the future sustainability of current strategies and assets. If grant funding continues to decrease, what is the long-term viability of programs already in place.
- Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) is a 4 step common risk assessment process that supports a community in understanding its natural hazard risks, and estimating capability requirements. THIRA will have a greater role in providing strategies and guidance at the State and Regional Level.
- Discussion of the critical infrastructure and strategies and how to encourage private industries to get involved with the THIRA and the Homeland Security planning process.
- The DHS Regional Representative is willing to investigate how he can be a conduit in building cross border relationships with Trans-Canada and cross border agencies.
- Inter-State Relations – EOPSS discussed sharing of information and best practices.
- EOPSS asked the Councils to share their success stories and accomplishments. Mary Kersell issued a press release announcing the joint team of emergency management personnel from MEMA and the Northwest Massachusetts Incident Management Team (NWMIMT) are on a fourteen day deployment to Puerto Rico to assist with response planning and logistics. Mary expressed the teams' gratitude to the Council for their support, the training opportunities and funding, which has culminated in their ability to participate in this mission. Raine Brown reported on the recent sharing of resources, the hydration misters were deployed to several local events during the September heatwave.

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Tom also noted that October is depression awareness month, and reminded Council members to share the many resources available to assist our communities.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Pond noted the Tech Rescue Teams are actively involved in several training exercises, and expressed concerns with the possible decrease in available funds to replace equipment.
- POLICE: John Paciorek welcomed MSP Captain Penniman, who is representing Lt. Jeff McDonald, at the meeting. Jeff replaced Paul D'Auteuil as the new Operations Officer. John updated the Council on the proposed criminal justice reform bill, and his continued participation with the opioid task force. The training hours at the fulltime Police Academy are reduced to 700 hours; a pilot program will take place in Reading. John also announced that Phil Adams is retiring as the Western Mass Police Chiefs' Executive Director.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan updated the Council on the Mass MCI Conference on October 19, 2017, with the pre-conference planned for October 18. Steve shared the MCI index card, to be distributed to all participants attending the conference.
- EMD: Bob Hassett reminded the Council of the upcoming two-day MEMA Conference on November at the DCU Center, Worcester.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway noted that mosquitos are still active, and we are entering flu season. The DPH is waiting on the Commonwealth to confirm the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District that will help combat the disease going forward.
- TRANSPORTATION: No updates.
- DPW: No updates.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady attended the Mass Sheriffs meetings on the criminal justice reform bill, and discussed the impact it will have on the system.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Steve Kozloski noted the following updates as part of the WMLEC Gap Solutions project: The Portable IT Command Module is almost completed, and expects delivery in late November. The replacement of the Franklin County Field Comm 40 oldest radios is also underway. Steve is working on the specifications for the repeaters for the Berkshire County Command Post, and on the additional upgrades to the Rapid Comm Trailer.
- Steve noted the communications command trailer was in use at several area events and festivals, and commented on the interest in the camera capabilities to send area video to the dispatch centers. WMLEC is concerned about the sustainability of their projects; while dues cover the rental obligations. WMLEC will meet with stakeholders to discuss funding ideas to

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cover the equipment maintenance costs, while being sensitive to what communities can afford.

- **HOSPITALS:** Ann Shea noted that hospitals have a November 15 deadline to meet the new requirements of the Centers for Medicaid/Medicare Emergency Preparedness, or risk losing Medicaid/Medicare funding. The requirements involve additional staff training, and include the ability to track patients and staff during an evacuation to other facilities or locations.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Shores Ness requested an updated newsletter to share with selectboard associations, and noted the use of the debris management template through outreach is gaining momentum.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** Captain Penniman represented Lt. McDonald and commented on the new State Police Division of Homeland Security and Preparedness. Tom praised the ability of the MSP to de-escalate and manage incidents, which does not always reach the media.
- **MEMA:** None
- **EOPSS:** Nick DaDalt mentioned the (THIRA) increased role in guiding the state and the regions in the risk assessment process. The FFY 17 investment plan will not change, and he anticipates the FFY18 funding will remain the same. Nick has conducted site visits to meet people throughout the region, and has received positive feedback on the training and exercises offered, and on the equipment purchased with WRHSAC funds.

Planning/Pandemic Flu: Ann Shea updated the Council on current projects. The Family Reunification Trainings will take place on October 25, Oct 26 and Oct 27, 2017. The subcommittee turned over CVE funds of \$40,000.00 to the T&E subcommittee. The MACC Phase V was behind schedule, but the survey is now in the development stages. The US Attorney's Office sent a draft agenda, offering a program on Government resources for faith based communities and house of worship, with dates scheduled for November /December. Ann also noted the subcommittee changed the meeting time to begin at 9:30am rather than 9:00am.

Interoperability/Information Sharing: WMRIC Chair appointment. Tom Grady noted that Bob Hassett agreed to chair the subcommittee.

Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve Bob Hassett as the WMRIC Chair. Steve Kozloski seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Tom expressed his gratitude to Bob for accepting the position.

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Training and Exercises: Tom asked the Council to vote on the following motion from the T&E Subcommittee meeting:

Pre –Hospital Trauma Life Support Training:

Steve Gaughan moved to approve \$10,500.00 to support the Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Training. John Paciorek seconded. Vote was unanimous.
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Tom encouraged everyone to participate in the trainings currently offered.

Registration will open soon, for the Behavioral Analysis Workshop to be held at UMass Amherst on Dec 14, 2017. This is a follow up to Deerfield Symposium, and accommodates up to 600 participants.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine reported there are no active projects,

CBRNE/IED: John Dearborn received the MACC survey, and asked about the details. Raine noted the survey is the first step.

Fiduciary Report: Raine Brown noted there are some funds available in FY16, as some projects came in under budget. Raine will review and report on the FY18 guidelines for the next Council meeting. Raine asked for her travel expense to be approved, to allow her to attend the 2-day MEMA conference in Worcester. Raine will facilitate a panel discussion on the second day.

Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve up to \$350.00 for Raine to attend the meeting. John Paciorek seconded. Vote was unanimous.
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Raine noted she is away November 8 through November 19, 2017.

Old Business: WRHSAC Vice-Chair.

Chief John Dearborn is interested in filling the position.

Carolyn Shores Ness moved to appoint Chief Dearborn, as the WRHSAC Vice-Chair. John Pond seconded. Vote was unanimous.
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Tom welcomed John Dearborn, and thanked him for accepting the position.

Public Health Proxy:

Tracy Rogers was advised to decline this position, due to a possible conflict of interest. The alternate withdrew due to personal reasons.

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New Business: WRHSAC Communications Representative.

Melissa Nazzaro conducted some informal discussions with Lauren from the Westfield Dispatch Center. Nick DaDalt noted the representative must have a supervisory role at a 911 Dispatch Center. Tom asked the Council members to advocate in their communities where they have PSAP centers. Nick will also check with the Mass Communications Supervisors Organization for suggestions.

Amy Reilly thanked the Council for their participation in the stakeholders' survey, and noted that the overall results were positive.

Business Unforeseen by Chair: None

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on November 21, 2017 at 10:00 am at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness made a motion to adjourn. Ann Shea seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
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The meeting adjourned at 10:55am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from Sept 12, 2017
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report : FFY 16 Homeland Security Grant, 10/17/17
- WRHSAC Projects Report: FFY16 Homeland Security Grant , 10/13/17
- West & Central Competitive FFY16 State Homeland Security Program, 10/13/17.
- Public Health Proxy Letter.

Respectfully Submitted by
Ann Dunne, Franklin Regional Council of Governments