

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 10:00 am**  
**Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA**

**Present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Tom Grady, (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Jamin Carrol (PVTA), Allison Egan (BRPC), Jeanne Galloway (HCHC), Austin Sawicki (Intern HCHC), John Paciorek (WMPCA/Deerfield PD), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Jeremy DeMar (Springfield Emergency Comm), Monica Wynne (Baystate Health), Chris Bouchard (Beckett Highway), Shannon Todd (Grainger Inc.) John Dearborn ( Longmeadow FD), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Paul Morrissette ( East Longmeadow FD), Brian Rust (CDH), Bob Barry (MEMA), Peter Pelouquin (CMRPC), Conor McCormack (CMRPC), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting was audio recorded.

Thomas Grady called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

**Approval of Minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 18, 2018 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> John Paciorek moved to approve the December 18, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Paul Morrissette seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady reported on the recent Campus Safety Conference at UMASS, Amherst. The feedback was very positive, and the breakout sessions were very successful.

**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: No report.
  
- POLICE: No report.
  
- EMS: No report.
  
- EMD: No report.
  
- PUBLIC HEALTH: There is an increase in flu cases and other respiratory illnesses. The Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control Commission is working with the local municipalities to encourage participation.
  
- TRANSPORTATION: No report.

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- DPW: Representatives of Andover and Lawrence will give a presentation at the Mass. Highway February meeting on lessons learned from the recent natural gas explosions. MEMA will also give a presentation on the unanticipated human cost of the crisis.
- CORRECTIONS: Members of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Department met with Governor Baker, to discuss various elements of the Criminal Justice Reform Bill.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Hassett attended the SIEC meeting, and noted the delay in approving EHP's due to the backlog caused by the partial Government shutdown. EOPSS anticipates extending project deadlines to compensate for any delays. The state went live with text to 911 in December 2018, and the PSAPs are working out the kinks.
- HOSPITAL: Hospitals are extra busy due to the increase in flu related illnesses.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness noted the upcoming MMA Conference is January 18 & 19, 2019. Carolyn would like an updated newsletter to share with upcoming Selectboard meetings.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No report.
- MEMA: The Region 3 quarterly EMD meeting will be on March 07, 2019. Bob Barry noted that MEMA will host the All-Hazard Preparedness Conference on June 18 & 19, 2019 in Marlborough, MA. The goal is to provide participants the opportunity to network with local, state and federal practitioners from a variety of public safety disciplines and organizations. Bob is seeking proposals and suggestions for topics, presenters and presentations. Bob highlighted several ICS-300 & ICS-400 courses that are planned for February, April and June 2019, and will be held at various locations in the state.
- EOPSS: Nick DaDalt expressed concerns over possible delays to training & exercise projects due to the partial Government shutdown and necessary EHP approvals. The EOPSS office may be relocated to Boston. The office will be re-absorbed into the Grants and Research Division. Nick noted the Public Health proxy appointment was approved.

Tom emailed Secretary Turco expressing his concerns about the transition to a system format that was ineffective in the past. He asked for a meeting of the Council Chairs' with the Secretary to discuss the challenges this change may have on the regions.

Melissa updated the Council on the Massachusetts Interoperability Field Operations Guide (MIFOG) project updates, which will be shared with the stakeholders for review. The electronic version of the MIFOG will be available in an app format later in the year.

EOPSS released an RFP for an independent engineer to draft a transition plan to convert the whole state from analog to digital. Currently the Mass State Police and other

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agencies use the 800MHz radio system. The contract should be in place by mid-February.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Jeanne Galloway was selected as the new Chair. Some FFY17 funds were flipped with FFY18 to give the committee time to work on a project proposal.

FRCOG requested an extension of the FFY17 Pediatric Surge Plan beyond the July 2019 deadline. Raine noted funds can be flipped through the Tech Rescue Team Tow Vehicle project which is utilizing funds from both FFY17 & FFY18. There is sufficient funds in FFY18 to accommodate the \$40,000 remaining in the project.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to flip FFY18 funds of \$40,000.00 with FFY17 to extend the Pediatric Surge Plan project beyond July 2019. John Paciorek seconded. Motion passed by a majority. One abstention.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** CMED is waiting on the procurement contract from MAPC .

**Training and Exercises:** Tom noted all the Trainings & Exercises are listed on the WRHSAC website.

Tom asked for a motion on the following requests:

Emerging Threats Training 2019: Interagency Response Coordination

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$21,500.00 to support the Emerging Threats Training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The proposed training will involve multi-discipline presentations and equipment demonstrations to raise first responder awareness regarding the complex incidents they may face. The presenters will be from agencies throughout western Massachusetts and state and federal partner agencies.

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**Inner Resilience for First Responders:**

**Motion:** Chris Bouchard moved to approve \$ 3,200.00 to support the Inner Resilience for First Responders training. John Paciorek seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The workshop will build resiliency, strengthen awareness and cultivate compassion through mindfulness practices. The training is seven to eight hours, and can accommodate up to 30 participants.

The D4 Hazmat Team completed their Narcotics Field Test training in December, and the D5 Hazmat Team training is scheduled for Jan 16 & 17, 2019.

**Equipment/PPE:**

MassDOT provided Raine some leads on vendors who may provide maintenance to the light towers and message boards. Raine will follow up and provide an update at the February meeting.

Carolyn asked the Great Hydro Company to provide some funding to support the purchase of water equipment for the Tech Rescue Team.

**CBRNE/IED:**

No report.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reviewed the budget and noted that FFY16 funds will be spent down to zero. FFY17 projects are underway and the funding is available until July 2019. The FFY18 contract is available, and projects can get started.

Raine plans to attend the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in Boston on January 18 and 19, 2019. Raine will participate with MAPC who have a booth at the event. Raine asked for reimbursement of her travel expenses.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve up to \$500.00 for travel expenses reimbursement. Chris Bouchard seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

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Tom noted the Northampton Fire Department is seeking to locate two unaccounted for smart dummies, and asked the Council to check with their municipalities and agencies if they have borrowed them. Northampton FD wishes to relinquish responsibility of storage of all the smart dummies. Tom suggested WMEMS may be interested.

Tom noted there are no term limits on the Council and the Council can make changes to the leadership at any time. He acknowledged his time as Chair and indicated he is happy and willing to continue, but wanted to put forward the opportunity to discuss leadership. The consensus was to maintain the current status for another year.

<p><b>Motion:</b> John Paciorek moved to continue with the current leadership for another year. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded. Motion passed by a majority. One abstention.</p>
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**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** None.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next Council meeting will be held on February 19, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA

<p><b>Motion:</b> Jeanne Galloway moved to adjourn. Jamin Carroll seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 10:59 AM

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2018
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report : FFY16 Projects: 01/15/19
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report : FFY17 Projects: 01/15/19
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report : FFY16 Competitive Homeland Security Grant, 01/15/19
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY16 Homeland Security Grant, 01/14/19
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report : FFY17 Homeland Security Grant, 01/14/19
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report : FFY17 Homeland Security Grant, 01/14/19
- MEMA Conference Updates

Respectfully Submitted by  
Ann Dunne,  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments