

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 19, 2019 12:30pm  
Hatfield Fire Department  
3 School Street, Hatfield, MA 01330

**In attendance:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Bob Hassett (Spfld. CMED), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Walter Tibbets ( FCECS), Matt Barstow (MSP), Tom Grady (BCSO), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Jay Hastings (Westfield State Univ. PD), Jeremy DeMar (Springfield Emergency Comm), Paul Madera (Ludlow PD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Rick Viruet (Spfld. CMED) Vincent Balboa (Spfld. CMED), Kathy Haniffy (AMR), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC), Jason Breault (BCSO), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting was audio recorded.

Bob Hassett called the meeting to order at 12:33pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the February 19, 2019 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2019 meeting as submitted. Walter Tibbets seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

### **Updates from the Chair**

*SIEC Update* – Bob Hassett attended the SIEC meeting, and noted that the MIFOG plan updates will be available as an electronic app version soon. Bob cautioned agencies about using FirstNet and individuals about buying plans from vendors, before the State is fully committed. Tom expressed his concerns about FirstNet and the services being offered.

*SWIC Update* –No Updates

### **Project Updates**

*WMLEC Gap Solutions* –Motorola will install the upgrades to the RapidComm Trailer in April. Steve is waiting on the specialty cables to be delivered.

*CMED Hovey Hill* – The FFY17 CMED Hovey Hill Project estimated costs was \$164,650.00, the updated quote from Motorola is now \$245,000.00. The equipment costs are \$65,000.00, and the installation and services costs increased to \$180,000.00 ; leaving a shortfall of \$80,350.00. One factor impacting the installation cost is due to the requirement of using the prevailing wage per Mass Procurement Law for the construction costs. Currently \$38,065.00 is available from other Interops FFY17 projects, leaving a shortfall of \$42,285.00.

At this morning's WRHSAC meeting, Raine identified the remaining FFY17 funds that could be utilized to cover the shortfall.

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It was agreed to spend down any remaining FFY17 Interoperability funds first. Additional funds will be taken T&E FFY17 to cover the remaining balance. Raine has sent an informal request to MAPC and EOPSS for an FFY17 extension as this project will likely extend beyond the grant end date of July 2019.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the lack of vendor services in the region; with little competition we are dependent on Motorola to fill that gap.

*Holcomb Road Project* –Green Mountain Company will complete the work next week.

*COMU Go Kits* –The project is out to bid. It is anticipated that the cost will be less than the \$75,000.00 allocated.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

*Berkshire County* – Tom Grady submitted the 911 Development Grant to complete phase III of the multi-year project. The Police Chiefs will discuss the value of using auto vehicle location (AVL) at their next meeting. This is a valuable asset that contributes to officer safety and decreases mutual aid response time.

*Franklin County* – Walter Tibbets reported they are working on the repairs to the New Salem tower.

*Hampshire County* – No updates

*WMLEC* – Steve Kozloski noted the system wide assessments are ongoing.

*CMED*: Baystate Medical Center is proposing an app that reports cardiac events. Baystate will give a presentation at the next EMS commission meeting. Bob is committed to keeping a reliable communications link for CMED, while embracing new technology.

*MSP* – Local events at UMass Amherst went smoothly.

*Other* – Tom noted that many regional resources were used at a recent critical incident in Berkshire County, and he is grateful for all the trained first responders who assisted during this time. The WRHSAC support of training and exercises and the purchase of regional equipment are valuable resources that benefits our communities.

**Budget Review** – Raine will use the remaining FFY17 funds to cover the CMED Hovey Hill project shortfall.

The FFY18 projects are on the agenda under new business.

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**Requests** – None

**Old Business** - Raine shared from Bill Stubba that he asks the members to report any helicopter communications issues to him as quickly as possible so he can follow up. Bill offered to host a WMRIC meeting at the Barnes Air Base, Westfield, MA.

**New Business** – Raine noted we can start moving on the FFY18 projects, and asked for some clarification of the projects goals.

- a. FFY2018 BCSO Mobile Unit Satellite Internet- \$35,000.00
- b. FFY2018 Video Downlink Upgrades - \$50,000.00

As more detailed information is received, Raine will write the project justification and seek approval from EOPSS.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair** – EOPSS released the FFY19 Homeland Security investment plan guidance, and asked us to base our investment plan on the FFY18 grant award. Raine asked the committee for some ideas and will present the preliminary plan to WRHSAC at the April meeting. Over the last several years, the committee’s projects have ranged in total from \$150,000.00 to \$300,000.00.

Tom suggested to set aside \$150,000.00 to be used towards the HS priority project: Enhanced communications.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady moved to request \$150,000.00. from the FFY19 investment funds, to be used for the enhanced communications project. Steve Kozloski seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.</p>
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Jay Hastings thanked Steve Kozloski for setting up the rapid comm trailer at a recent Westfield State University event, and noted the communications ran smoothly.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2019, 12:30 pm at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

There being no further business, Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Anthony Gentile seconded.

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Voted unanimously in favor. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- Minutes from February 19, 2019 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY17 State Homeland Security Budget – 03/15/2019
- WRHSAC FFY18 State Homeland Security Budget – 03/15/2019

Respectfully Submitted by Ann Dunne  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments