

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 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 Carroll (PVTa), Jeanne Galloway (HCHC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Monica Wynne (Baystate Health), Joshua Muszyski (Granger Inc.), Bob Barry (MEMA), Steve Gaughan (EMS/Hatfield FD), Adam Hakkarainen (MSP), Jay Hastings (Westfield State College PD), Paul Morrissette (East Longmeadow FD), Jeremy DeMar (Springfield Emergency Comm.), Ann Shea (Guest), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting was audio recorded.

Thomas Grady called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

**Motion:** Bob Hassett moved to approve the February 19, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted. Jeanne Galloway seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

A round of introductions followed.

### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady noted that Martin O'Shea (Superintendent of the Longmeadow School District) is still interested in representing K-12 as the school representative on the Council. The topic will be added to the April agenda. Tom found the legislative breakfast gathering to be very informative and thanked the Fire Chiefs' Association for the invitation.

The meeting with the new Homeland Security Undersecretary was cordial. The Undersecretary explained their initiatives and the renewed focus on reviewing all available grants. The Undersecretary promised continued support of the program, although Nick DaDalt was unable to attend the quarterly EMD meeting as expected.

### **Updates from Disciplines**

- **FIRE:** The 2019 Western Mass. Area Legislative Breakfast was held on Friday, March 22, 2019, unfortunately several legislators were unable to attend. The City of Chicopee has not appointed a new fire chief yet.
- **POLICE:** No Report.
- **EMS:** Steve Gaughan announced the Regional Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2019. The EMS is working on resolving the FFY 2020 budget shortfall, which is unsustainable. The update of the MCI Plan will be available soon, and there will be two web based versions to be used by first responders and hospital providers. Tom expressed concerns

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about lack of funding and the possible closure of the western mass office and its possible effect on the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team which WMEMS is directly involved with.

- EMD: Bob Hassett met with Samantha Phillips, the new director of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and expressed his concern regarding the lack of funding of programs in western Mass and the impact this has on the regional resources.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: The number of flu cases has decreased. Jeanne Galloway expressed concerns about the decrease in public health funding. Carolyn Shores Ness noted there are emerging infectious disease workshops taking place in the four counties.
- TRANSPORTATION: The PVTA new Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility in Springfield opens on April 15, 2019.
- DPW: No updates.
- CORRECTIONS: No updates.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Hassett attended the SIEC meeting and cautioned agencies on utilizing FirstNet offerings from vendors before the State is fully committed.
- HOSPITAL: Monica Wynne noted the restricted visiting hours due to flu to hospitals is now lifted. Dartmouth/Hitchcock EMS gave a hospital presentation on surviving an active shooter event.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness raised concerns regarding the trend to concentrate resources and funding to the Boston area. The four western counties, with the support of the Cape Cod counties are forming a working group to address this issue at the State level.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Adam Hakkarainen noted the number of weather related road accidents should decrease as spring arrives. The MSP are busy with several local activities and upcoming events in Berkshire County. Adam is a member of the Mass CyberCenter's Cybersecurity Resilience Working Group and several sub groups were established to accomplish various tasks. The group meets monthly.
- MEMA: Bob Barry met Samantha Phillips, the new director of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and is looking forward to working with her. The next quarterly EMD meeting will be held on May 23, 2019.

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- EOPSS: The FFY19 Homeland Security Grant Program investment plan guidance was released. The investment plan must align with the latest Homeland Security State priorities:
  - o Prevent and respond to an Active Shooter Incident
  - o Enhance Cyber Security
  - o Enhance Communications

The investment plan amount should be based on the prior year funding.

**Planning/Pandemic:** The Functional/Access Needs Daily Response Planning project is moving forward. It is looking at adapting or using the Texas A+M University's Tips for First Responders tool. This will be followed by the development of the workshop series.

Children in Disasters Phase IV – Pediatric Surge Plan project is on hold for a couple of months due to work load. This will resume in the summer.

Cybersecurity Planning - There are ongoing discussions on how to utilize the funding to meet the needs of the region and the municipalities.

Public Information Message Maps - The project is at the planning stages, with the focus on providing accurate and timely information by creating a template of pre-scribed guidelines to assist with the process. These can be adapted and used by agencies and municipalities.

Emerging Infectious Diseases - The Public Health Coalitions are having ongoing conversations around emerging infectious diseases, and revisited the idea of vaccine refrigeration for the region. The Coalitions are holding EID workshops in March and will identify gaps and project ideas to present at a future meeting.

Debris Management & SUV Online Training - The MOU are ready and the project justification is at EOPSS for approval.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Initially the FFY17 CMED Hovey Hill Project estimated costs was \$164,650.00. The recently received bid from Motorola is for \$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 balance of \$42,285.00.

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Raine identified the remaining FFY17 funds that could be utilized to cover the shortfall.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve covering the shortfall by allocating the \$38,065.00 funds, and to allow Raine to spend down the FFY17 Interops funds first, and if necessary take \$23,000.00 from T&E FFY17 funds, and any remaining balance from the COMU Go Kits project. Steve Gaughan seconded. Motion passed by a majority. 1 Abstention.

It was agreed to spend down the FFY17 Interops funds first.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom asked the Council to vote on the following motions.

Debris Management Chainsaw Safety Training: additional funding was approved to cover photography of the training.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve up to \$2,000.00 to provide photography of the training. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ATIRC Course available to the region – July 17-19, 2019  
Amherst Fire Department is willing to host the training in July. The training will be open to first responders in the region. The cost is \$10,000.00 approx.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve up to \$10,000.00 for the proposed ATIRC Course training. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Hazmat Team Homemade Explosive Training Request.  
Jon Davine presented his request to use \$11,900.00 of their allocated funds to provide (2) 16 hour training classes presented by Federal Resources. The training is in Homemade Explosives, with an anticipated December 2019 schedule date. The cost covers all Instructor fees and course supplies.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve up to \$11,900.00 for the proposed Hazmat Team Homemade Explosive Training Request. Paul Madera seconded. the motion. Motion passed by a majority. 1 abstention.

Raine will release notification of all the upcoming trainings simultaneously.

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**Equipment/PPE:** Message Board and Light Towers project.

Raine is waiting on an assessment report from the vendor. She will have a report at the next meeting.

**CBRNE/IED:**

Raine sent the specifications for the TECH Rescue team tow vehicles to MAPC for procurement. Bids have been received at less than anticipated. The PO is in process.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine and Adam are members of the Cyber Resilient Working Group. Adam is part of the cyber security sub-working group of training and exercises on cyber resilience. Raine's is participating in the municipal sub-working group, focusing on supporting municipalities with cybersecurity efforts.

Raine has sent an inquiry to MAPC and EOPSS to extend FFY17 to December 2019. There are several projects which require and extension. She has not heard back yet.

The FFY19 investment plan and guidance is the same as previous years. Raine asked the Council to consider project ideas, taking the Homeland Security priority projects into consideration. The projects will be reviewed at the April 16 meeting. The final plan will be presented at the May 21 meeting.

Tom offered the following information as a definition of the EOPSS priority to enhance communications: Under the State 911 Development Grant process, there was an allocation to enhance the commonwealth core communications system, and to provide a buildout and upgrade of the radio network to digital. The State is looking at enhancing the system to extend and provide services to municipalities. As a project, the WMRIC committee could look at investing funds to support this initiative in western mass to make the system truly interoperable.

Amy Reilly noted that MAPC will be reviewing the FFY19 municipal funding report, and the FFY19 statewide investment plan.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** Tom emphasized the importance of maintaining the collaborative relationships between the multi-disciplines, and of building an awareness of the availability of the regional resources.

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**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next Council meeting will be held on April 16, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA

<p><b>Motion:</b> Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn. Paul Madera seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 11:13 AM

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2019
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report : FFY17 Projects: 3/15/2019
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report : FFY18 Projects: 3/15/2019
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report : FFY17 Homeland Security Grant, 3/19/19
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report : FFY18 Homeland Security Grant, 3/19/19
- Hovey Hill Interops Project

Respectfully Submitted by Ann Dunne,  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments