

Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 9:00 am

Subcommittee members present: Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Nick Licata (HMCC/FRCOG), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Xander Sylvain (HMCC/FRCOG)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Michael Nelson (Franklin County Fairgrounds), Brian Nichols (EOPSS)

Subcommittee members absent: Loren Davine (HPHPC/MRC), Tom Grady (BCSO), Hugh O'Callaghan (Baystate)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.*

Call Meeting to Order

Larry Holmberg called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 7, 2025 meeting. Larry Holmberg requested an amendment to reflect that Albert is from the Agricultural Society, not the Historical Society.

<p>Motion: Sandra Martin moved to approve the January 7, 2025 meeting minutes as amended. Jeanne Galloway seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Sandra Martin, Jeanne Galloway, and Nick Licata voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

Fairground Security Project Update

Larry reported that Tony D'Amico was unable to be present. The monthly report is in the packet. Mike Nelson reported that he is happy with the progress so far and excited about the steps being taken. Raine Brown added that they participated in the document review with Tony and with Michael and Cindy from the fairgrounds. Tony has sent it to the chiefs as well. He is doing the same with Cummington. Larry noted that Tony has not reached out to him about regional matters.

Public Health/Flu Update

Sandra Martin reported that there is a lot of respiratory illness out there, including flu. Jeanne Galloway concurred. Raine shared a link to a useful informational video about bird flu. Jeanne noted that bird flu is still a big concern, with a lot of messaging going out to agricultural workers.

Current Projects

FFY21: Cybersecurity Spenddown – Raine reported that we are working on getting the Pittsfield portion of the project out the door.

FFY22: Fairground Security Planning – Discussed above.

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FFY23: Election Security – Raine Brown reported. We received reimbursement applications from twenty towns, for a total of just over \$14,000. Towns spent between \$200-\$1,000. Raine heard from other towns that once we had verification from EOPSS that regular police hours were not going to be reimbursed, they were unable to submit. The required budget for election security was \$34,400, so we now have just over \$20,000 to spend on another project. We are putting the FFY24 election security funds towards the purchase of portable barriers, which cost about \$130,000. We could roll this into that project too, splitting the project between FFY23 and FFY24, and then the freed up funds that were already allocated for the barriers could be up for grabs for other projects. Jeanne asked if we could buy more barriers; Raine explained that it comes as a kit and is not set up to carry any more.

<p>Motion: Jeanne Galloway moved to re-allocate the remaining money from the FFY23 election security project to the portable barriers project. Sandra Martin seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Sandra Martin, Jeanne Galloway, and Nick Licata voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>

Budget Review

Raine reported. FFY21 is on track with the cybersecurity project. In FFY22, we have about \$6,000 from the fairgrounds project left to spend. FFY22 will probably be extended through December. FFY23 only had election security funds. In FFY24 we have another \$100,000 for a continuation of the fairground security project or a related project.

Old Business

WesternMassReady website – Raine reported that the project fell off Eric’s plate over the holidays, but Raine has nudged it back on.

New Business

Regional large scale document scanner – Larry reported that there is a request in today’s meeting packet from Belchertown Fire, also representing Amherst, Pelham, and Leverett Fire. Raine explained that it is challenging for towns to scan blueprints of buildings that fire depts would like to have access to. With this scanner, they could make sure plans are safely stored electronically, and easier to access. Raine indicated Belchertown spoke to the vendor, who explained how it can be moved from town to town. Raine let the chief know that there’s no money on the table for this now. It would likely have to wait for next round of funding. However, they are bringing it to the table now to see if it is a viable project. It is an allowable expense. Sandra noted that she has seen these in surveyors’ offices. They are very big, and she wonders how they could be portable. Raine replied that it can be mounted on wheels. Larry also questioned the viability of moving it from town to town, as that sort of transportation would put a lot of stress on the equipment. Could it be situated in one central location that others can access? Jeanne noted that there are companies out there that will do this for you. She did that with all of their floor plans. Larry pointed out that there could be concerns for departments with that approach, depending on the material, but he would like to know if they investigated that option. He also would like to know if they investigated the sensitivity of the equipment in moving it

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between locations. He feels nervous about spending that kind of money on sensitive equipment that isn't designed to be moved, as it might not last. He also wonders if they have talked with other departments, such as the building dept and BOH. Sandra asked if they could make a dedicated room so people could go there and scan items. It is not a bad idea, and in theory there could be a few of these across the region, but she is not sure how practical it is. Jeanne agreed that the scanning work needs to be done, but she is not sure this is the method.

Items unforeseen by the chair

Raine reported that the de-escalation trainings have been scheduled for early March. Notice will be going out soon.

Next Meeting

The next All Hazards Planning and Equipment subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 4, at 9:00 am, on Zoom.

Motion: Sandra Martin moved to adjourn. Jeanne Galloway seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Sandra Martin, Nick Licata, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- All Hazards Subcommittee February 5, 2025 Meeting Agenda
- All Hazards Subcommittee January 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes (draft)
- Fairgrounds Project Monthly Report for January
- WRHSAC FFY21 All Hazards Budget Report through 1/3/2025
- WRHSAC FFY22 All Hazards Budget Report through 1/31/2025
- WRHSAC FFY23 All Hazards Budget Report through 1/31/2025
- Request from John Ingram / Belchertown Fire for regional document scanner

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason, Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
Franklin Regional Council of Governments