

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 10:00 am
Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA

Present: Bob Barry (MEMA), Chris Bouchard (Becket Highway), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jamin Carroll (PVTa), John Dearborn (Longmeadow FD), Allison Egan (BRPC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield PH), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Laford (UMass), Jim Ljunggren (EOPSS), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (MSP), Paul Morrisette (WMFCA/East Longmeadow Fire), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Public Schools), John Paciorek (WMLEC/Deerfield PD), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale PD), Brian Rust (CDH), Martin Spellacy (EOPSS), John Warren (DHS/CISA), Michael Wynn (Pittsfield PD), Monica Wynne (Baystate Health)

This meeting was audio recorded.

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

Approval of Minutes

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

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the November 19, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted. Paul Morrisette seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 17, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Monica Wynne moved to approve the December 17, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted. Jamin Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Jeanne Galloway abstaining.

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

None.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Paul Morissette informed the Council that there are some personnel changes worth noting, including the upcoming retirement of the fire chief in Holyoke and the promotion of the deputy chief, Jeff Przekopowski, to fill that role. There are also upcoming retirements in Northampton and Easthampton. On behalf of the Council, Tom wished Chief Pond of Holyoke well on his retirement; he was former member of the Council.
- POLICE: John Paciorek reported that there is a new president of the Western MA Chiefs of Police Association, Chief Eric Gillis of Agawam. There is also a new Executive Director, retired Southwick Chief Dave Ricardi.

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- EMS: No one was present to give an update.
- EMD: No one was present to give an update.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. The flu and common cold are on the rise, as well as a stomach virus going around. If you recently traveled to Wuhan, China, you could be at risk for the new virus.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported nothing new, just dealing with weather.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. There was a significant ice storm in Berkshire County a few weeks ago. Eversource did a good job with this storm, staging a sufficient number crews to prevent major problems. A DPW worker in the city of Lawrence was shot while out working, probably not as a deliberate target, but it is under investigation. The DPW is working with the Governor's office, along with dispatchers, to get their retirement group changed. They are also trying to push out small bridge grants and other grant funding that has been stalled. A lot of cities and towns are waiting for these grants, but low staffing at Mass DoT has slowed things down.

The proposed changes for CDLs are going to make getting workers harder; Chris would like to see more of a long-term approach to problem solving. The Massachusetts Highway Association will be rolling out the mutual aid system at their February meeting. Mass DoT has helped with the Arc GIS online, and they will roll out their road closure app which will help dispatchers route emergency services around closed roads. Each county organization will have a liaison who will be in touch with Chris or Curt Wilton in the Berkshires who will try to get resources out to them. It's a good online platform, and Chris will present it here when it's up and running. The roll out is starting next month but will be ongoing for some time.

- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. Nothing new.
- COMMUNICATIONS: No one was present to give an update.
- HOSPITAL: Monica Wynne reported. The flu is here and hospitals are dealing with large numbers of patients. Baystate recently broke their previous record for the Emergency Department, with 430 patients in one day. They are at capacity almost daily.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. The next Mass Municipal Annual meeting will be held at the end of this week, and a meeting of the four counties will be held on Friday to follow-up from October. The Selectmens Associations work well together and can use this opportunity to discuss mutual interests and follow up on grants.
- K-12 EDUCATION – Marty O'Shea reported that flu is going around the schools and there have been questions about thresholds for closures, though there does not seem to be specific guidance on that. Marty also extended an invitation from the Connecticut Valley

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Superintendents Roundtable, which meets monthly. If this Council ever wishes to meet with them to discuss any issues with a wider group of superintendents, the person who coordinates the group said he would be happy to carve out time for that. A question arose about EEE guidance and schools; Jeanne said they are working on broad guidelines, e.g. when to cancel nighttime events, but ultimately each town will still have to manage the risk individually, working with local public health.

- HIGHER ED – Bob Laford reported that winter break is over, college students are back on campuses.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP) - Jeff McDonald reported that the new academy class is three weeks in. They started with over 270 new recruits and lost about 50 during the first week but replaced many of them the second week. The Springfield Barracks has been on a record-breaking activity pace recently. They have made 118 arrests out of that station already this month, which is more than the next two highest stations combined. There are many new people there with a lot of energy, and they already have gotten a couple dozen guns and 36 OUIs with average blood alcohol into the 2s.

The hands-free mobile legislation has become law, but Jeff’s understanding is that for the first month or two law enforcement will not be ticketing, just doing education. He does not yet have much info about this. There is a crisis out there with distracted drivers; on average there are about 2 cruiser accidents per day across the state and many are due to distracted drivers striking cruisers on the side of the road.

Mass Highway Districts 1 and 2 exit renumbering will be starting soon, changing exit signs to indicate the mile marker instead of current exit numbers. They might keep old and new numbers on the same sign together for a while, and then transition to just the new numbers. They are not sure yet what is happening for exits that fall within same mile marker, e.g. exits 2, 3, 4, and 5 on I-91 in Springfield are all within the same mile.

John Paciorek added additional information regarding the hands-free law: the law will take effect February 23rd, with a first offense fined \$105, not surchargeable on insurance; second offense \$255, surchargeable; and third offense \$505. Giving warnings instead of citations is not a provision of the law but would be up to officers’ discretion [*note – this was further clarified later in the meeting; see “New Business”*].

Chris Bouchard added a comment regarding exit renumbering, noting that Massachusetts is one of the few states that hasn’t followed federal guidelines on this yet, and it was only a matter of time before federal funds came into play. The cases of multiple exits within a single mile will probably either be labeled with decimals (5.1, 5.2, etc.) or letters (5a, 5b, etc.).

- MEMA: Bob Barry reported. The next EMD meeting will be Wednesday, March 11, at 9:30 am in Agawam. They are currently in the process of filling two positions for which they had 110 applications. They are hoping for the positions to be filled and new hires in place by March.

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- EOPSS: Martin Spellacy – Guidance for next year’s budgets has been drafted and is awaiting approval, hopefully by the end of the week. They don’t have funding yet from FEMA but they are expecting it in the next 2-3 weeks. The state priorities expanded from 3 to 10, which is good for Councils and consistent with FEMA. That will be in letter and is part of the overall strategy that we will see that soon.

The Office of Grants and Research is down to only four people from a staff of eight. They are all fielding a lot of calls and trying to process a lot of paperwork. They are in the hiring process to bring on more team members.

The THIRA was submitted, and Martin expressed his appreciation for the Council’s help on that. In June or July they will put out guidance to start building the yearly plans. For training, grant requests should have a nexus to terrorism threats, as that helps get funding.

As a sidebar, he mentioned that the Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Grants Program has been posted for additional funds for 501c3 non-profits and houses of worship. It’s on a very compressed time frame, with applications due at the end of this month, and the grants have to be executed by the end of June. They can award up to \$50,000 per applicant; he asked Council members to encourage organizations in their communities to apply.

Regarding the 2020 plans, Raine asked when they will want them back. Martin replied that there is no date set yet, but they will figure out the timeline once they get the funding allocation from FEMA. Jim Ljunggren mentioned that there will be some changes with the new state strategy, nothing major but there might be some new items to include in the new plans. They are focusing on protections for faith based organizations, including a new best-practices plan. There will be a kick-off meeting in April for the whole state, probably at Foxboro stadium, to present best practices on how faith based organizations can protect themselves. There are over 2,200 faith based organizations with brick and mortar locations in the state. Jim will be talking with the Chairs of each region to talk about the new state strategy once it is approved.

Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Jeanne Galloway reported. The subcommittee’s projects are moving along, and they have no new requests for funding. The non-pharmaceutical interventions project is actively progressing. The committee is wrapping up the communication project that Mary Kersell was working on. Raine added that there is going to be a “deep dive” discussion on the large and ambitious FFY19 project that the subcommittee is planning, so that they can focus in and develop steps for that before putting in a detailed project justification. The meeting will be in Greenfield at the FRCOG office on January 31st.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

No one was present to give an update.

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Training and Exercises:

Hazmat Team Ammonia Response Training

Tom reported that the T&E subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting and has three motions to bring forward. The first is from December, when there was no quorum present to vote on the Hazmat request for funding for anhydrous ammonia response trainings. See the December meeting minutes for more details.

Motion: Paul Morissette moved to approve \$14,200 for Anhydrous Ammonia Response trainings for the Districts 4 and 5 Hazmat Teams. John Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The second request concerned the purchase of new training tourniquets, because many of the tourniquets currently in use in Stop the Bleed classes have gotten too stretched out to be effective training tools.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$2,500 for the purchase of new training tourniquets. Bob Laford seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The third request was for the purchase of a C3 Pathways “Counterstrike” tabletop exercise system to be housed with the Granby Police Department for regional use. This is the system used by LSU in the ATIRC course, also used by ALERT, and was found to be an effective training tool.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$5,350 for the purchase of two C3 Pathways Counterstrike systems, one stock school environment board, one stock business environment board, one carrying box, and one reunification kit add-on. John Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tom also shared that there was some discussion in subcommittee about the unallocated T&E funds that remain; if you have ideas to propose for targeted trainings or training equipment, talk to subcommittee members or come to the next T&E meeting. Keep regional use in mind. The Council won’t support customized requests but will support regional concepts. REPCs and LEPCs should be able to use these resources, and can use EMPG money or private business funds to get customizable add-ons.

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Equipment/PPE:

Message Boards and Light Towers

Raine reported. This project is still ongoing. Raine sent out an email to Council members that FFY17 was extended because the CMED project wasn't going to meet the Dec 31 deadline. Raine put in an emergency email to MAPC and EOPSS, and we got an extension through end of March. The new Holyoke message board has been ordered and will help spend down FFY17 funds and also dip into FFY18 funds. Repairs to the other board is happening now. We also received notification from Hampden County that the tail lights are broken on one of the boards; Tom will follow up to find out more about this.

WMTRT Backup Batteries

Raine reported. We purchased the backup batteries for the Western MA Tech Rescue team radios. They have been received and the invoice is being processed.

Regarding equipment in general, Tom reminded everyone that with regional assets you need the Council's approval *before* making repairs, ordering parts, etc., unless you are prepared to pay for those yourself.

CBRNE/IED:

Nothing to report.

Fiduciary Report:

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update

Raine reported. The Cyber Resilient T&E subgroup that Adam Hakkarainen sits on is working on an exercise for February. Raine's Municipal subgroup will meet next week. They have a group coming in from MIT with a tabletop exercise for them to test out. It is designed to be used by small towns and municipalities. Raine is getting more and more requests for help from towns and from the other Homeland Security Councils about how to move forward with cyber projects. The working group is hoping to have more helpful info and directions by summer. Related to that is the cyber project that the Council has initiated in Franklin County, which will kick off next week in an initial meeting with the towns and the consultants. Towns need to recognize that cyber security is important and need to start setting money aside for it.

FFY17 Budget

FFY17 will hopefully be spent down this month after the CMED project is completed; Raine hopes to have final numbers by the end of next month.

FFY18 and FFY19 Additional Funds

Raine reported. There are additional funds available for both FFY18 and FFY19 because of the EOPSS audit. We have over \$18,000 unallocated in FFY18 to spend down by end of July 2020. The FFY19 contract is now in place with MAPC and EOPSS, so we can

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start spending those funds; for that budget we have an additional almost \$48,000 from the audit. We need to think about how we want to spend it.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Berkshire County Fit Tester – Raine reported that this was an approved project for FFY19, and we could now use those funds, but we could also flip this to FFY18 because we have funds remaining. We recently purchased fit testers for Hampden and Hampshire Counties and they get a lot of use. One often ends up in Berkshire county, so it would be good for them to have their own. Paul Morissette asked if annual calibration is included in the quote; Raine will find out. This quote is a little lower than previous purchases. Charles Burger mentioned that a lot of departments are going to MSA and wonders if it would be possible to include that here, or if it is already included. He and John Dearborn will try to get more details about specifications and a new quote, making sure that the annual calibration is included in the quote.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve up to \$15,000 for the purchase of a fit tester to be housed in Berkshire County with a contract for annual calibration. Chris Bouchard seconded the motion. The motion passed.

John Warren gave an update for DHS/CISA.

- The interview list is in for a new Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator, and interviews will be underway soon.
- The infrastructure visualization platform imagery capture of the Berkshire Medical Pittsfield campuses was approved for February 25-27. A team from New England and a National Guard team from Virginia will be conducting it, and they will also invite first responders in the area to join the capture, as the product would be one for them to use if there were ever a serious issue at Berkshire Medical.
- John has a placeholder for an Office of Bombing Prevention training for Western MA in mid-June; the last time it was offered in Hartford as three separate day-long courses in IED search procedures, bomb threat management, and protective measures. Those are primarily open to security managers for facilities and organizations. He has also been working with Jeff from MEMA about possibly taking the trainings in a different direction; because it would take place between the marathon and the Big E, they could bring in a surveillance detection course for uniformed personnel with a practical piece in a venue such as the Holyoke Mall. That would require more coordination. John asked for Council feedback on which direction to go with the trainings, i.e. the three one-day courses or the surveillance detection course. Tom wants to make sure the trainings are coordinated with local agencies. John replied that he would be happy to do coordination.

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- He also mentioned that there has been a lot of information coming out of DHS on the Iran threat. If you want to be getting those updates and you are not currently on the list let him know. They are also doing conference calls. Cyber is the main threat from Iran, though there are no threats specific to Western MA. Quinn Sullivan, intelligence analyst from the Fusion Center, gave a threat briefing to the Springfield LEPC last week, and they could also do more of those if there is interest.

John Paciorek revised his previous explanation about the hands-free legislation after looking back at an email: it goes into effect Feb 23rd but they will be issuing written warnings until March 31st. He will send more info to Raine to pass on the Council.

Business Unforeseen by Chair:

Tom reminded the Council about the resource guide that exists on the Homeland Security website. He reminded everyone that there are contact numbers there for emergencies. Tom got a call from the EMD in Chicopee about bringing the inflatable tent after he had called Bonnie at MEMA. He encourages Council members to remind people in their agencies that they can find numbers on the website for reaching contacts directly. Tom will continue to work with Raine to reinforce that the people who are identified as contacts need to answer their phones. In a crisis people shouldn't have to make multiple calls.

A question was asked about whether any After Action Reports would be made available from the Chicopee incident. Raine shared that the City of Chicopee reached out to her to find out if there was funding available specifically for Chicopee for follow-up. She told them that funding was available for regional trainings, and that AAR trainings can be done with real world incidents, so she mentioned that it could be used for that. Martin said EOPSS would be interested in After Action Report. Tom noted that in this situation we were able to provide resources that the Council has purchased, proving the worth of having those assets available.

Tom brought up that the State Police have taken a beating over the last year or two, and that people who represent public safety are often all put into same basket. Tom wants to acknowledge the good work of the agency and focus more on positive aspects on what they bring to the Commonwealth. He wants them to know that they have support. Jeff McDonald added that at the beginning of month the department sent 150 troopers to the funeral of a New York trooper who died of complications from exposure on 9/11. Many others are in the same situation. With public safety, there are a lot of hazards that can affect responders both now and in the future.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 10:00 am at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

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<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn. John Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for January 21, 200
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2019 (draft)
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2019 (draft)
- WRHSAC FFY17 Homeland Security Budget Report through 1/17/20
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 1/17/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY17 Homeland Security Grant - Changes since 12/17/19
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY18 Homeland Security Grant - Changes since 12/17/19
- 12/13/19 Letter from Jon Davine re. Ammonia Response Training funding
- 09/16/19 Tanner Industries Cost Estimate for Ammonia Response Training
- IPS PortaCount Fit Tester Sales Quote

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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John W. Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

Present: Bob Barry (MEMA), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Public Safety), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Jamin Carroll (PVT), Bob Dean (FRCOG), Jeremy DeMar (Springfield 911), Allison Egan (BRPC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield PH), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (Springfield EMD), Jim Ljunggren (EOPSS), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (WMLEC/Deerfield PD), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH / MAPHC), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), Brian Rust (CDH), Shannon Todd (Granger)

This meeting was audio recorded.

Chairman Thomas Grady called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 21, 2020 meeting.

<p>Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve the January 21, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. Bob Hassett seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom reported that Martin Spellacy has resigned from the Office of Grants and Research. EOPSS is actively trying to rebuild staff at the office, but there are some delays in our requests at the moment.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: No one was present to give an update.

- POLICE: John Paciorek reported. The State Academy is in Week 7 now, with about 260 trooper cadets. The Springfield Local Academy started last week with 46 people. Opioid deaths have leveled off in the last two years according to statistics that just came out. We hope to make more headway there. One of the big controversies now within Law Enforcement regards a bill pending in the legislature for undocumented immigrants to be able to get drivers licenses. The Mass Major City Chiefs of Police endorsed it, but statewide people are at all ends of the spectrum on it and there was a heated Executive Board meeting last week at which it was discussed. In Deerfield it impacts them every day because of the farms; there are people who have lived here for many years and are upstanding community members, but the police still need to summons them all the time for driving unlicensed. The Undocumented Drivers' License Law is extensive. It requires them to have a passport from home country, a notice from the consulate of their home country, a driver's ed course and road test like anyone else seeking a license, and

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other requirements. Sixteen other states have already done this, but the federal government opposes it, and the controversy is creating a true division in the state.

There is also pending legislation for Lockdown Drills to be concluded because they are believed to traumatize children. In some places, Police Chiefs and Sheriffs go into schools and fire blank rounds and see how long it takes the school to get into lockdown. This is not done in MA, but it causes trauma for students and faculty. The Massachusetts Teachers Association wants to end lockdown drills in the state. Police want people to know what to do in an incident – at all ages, including adults – but we need to be able to teach people without scaring them.

In terms of other items on the legislative agenda, the season is winding down but there are still a few important items on the agenda. One is exempting the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Executive Director for the Municipal Police Training Committee from retirement provisions. Many people on the Council are likely familiar with the “960 Hour Rule” for salary caps to recruit retired Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs, and Sheriffs to be involved in the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Fire Marshalls, Municipal Police Training, and Academy Directors. There is a problem with perception versus reality, because there is a perception of “double dipping” if a retired Massachusetts Chief is hired, but the reality is that it often just means retired Chiefs from other states are hired instead, and for more money. The Mass Chiefs are also asking for a benefit bill for anyone seriously injured in the line of duty to get 100% disability. They originally filed for Group 3 (State Police) and Group 4 (Fire, Police, Jail Officers and others), but State Police was taken out of it because of the current political climate.

One additional thing to be aware of is that expungement orders are coming down from judges to eliminate criminal records, creating controversy statewide and leaving Police Departments in an awkward situation. This is part of criminal justice reform, with the idea that something minor that happened once should not affect someone’s ability to apply for a job 20 years later, but the implications can go beyond that scenario depending on the judge.

- EMS: No one was present to give an update.
- EMD: Bob Hassett reported that he had no significant updates.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Massachusetts is now dealing with COVID-19. There has been one confirmed case in the state, and others under investigation, including in Western MA. The flu is still out there, and we are starting to see more As than Bs. We are now at higher levels of flu than we have been for the last few years.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. In addition to dealing with the normal wintery weather, he has been reviewing the proposed budget from the state, which includes significant cuts to transportation again, leaving the sector in a “death spiral.”

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Carolyn asked if there are specific requests that we can talk to legislators about. Jamin replied that at the very least, he would like to have funding linked to inflation. He acknowledged that the Western Mass legislators are working with them and that they see the folly that is happening. Tom mentioned that there are more cuts to EMS also in the budget, and he predicts that the Council will be hearing more from regional offices with funding requests.

- DPW: No one was present at the meeting, but Raine received an email from Chris Bouchard who reported that he had no significant updates.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are continuing to work on the Criminal Justice Reform, and in the Berkshires they have a group coming in this month to work on the restrictive housing piece. There is a lack of understanding among the people who voted on the bill about what restrictive housing means; a lot of legislation was passed with very little conversation about it.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Jeremy DeMar reported. At the State 911 Commission meeting last month they announced that the training facility in Springfield should be opening soon. Jeremy recommended that everyone familiarize themselves with Kari's Law, federal legislation that just went into effect requiring multi-line telephone systems from municipal or commercial entities to automatically dial 911 without having to dial '9' first. He also recommended that everyone familiarize themselves with Ray Baum's Act, which requires that specific dispatchable location information come over during a 911 call. That law goes into effect January of 2021. Additionally, development grants guidance is out, and they are encouraging regionalization. Tom added that there have been some significant changes to the guidance this year, and that the funding amount has gone up.
- HOSPITAL: Brian Rust reported that hospitals have been operating at capacity or near capacity for several months now. The flu is here, and there are supply shortages. There have been issues with sources from Mexico and Puerto Rico, and now with China, so it is not likely to improve soon.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. The Selectmen's Association Executive Board met, and they are going to have the Four County meeting April 9. Raine will get a newsletter together by then. The meeting will focus on selectboards, local economies, and supplemental budget requests. They also scheduled upcoming meetings for June 11, Sept 10, and Dec 3. They are trying to be proactive. Last October's meeting was well attended, and people appreciated the WRHSAC newsletter. They are trying to get selectboards to dust off their COOP plans.
- K-12 EDUCATION – No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED – No one was present to give an update.

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- Massachusetts State Police (MSP) – No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Bob Barry reported. The next quarterly EMD meeting is March 11th at 9 am in Agawam. Other upcoming trainings include an ICS300 class in Berkshire County March 17-19, a CERT Train-the-Trainer class on April 1 in Athol, and a WebEOC class in Cummington on April 2. In terms of hiring, they are in the second round of interviews and hoping to have people in place by the end of March or early April.
- EOPSS: No one was present to give an update.

Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Jeanne Galloway was not at the last subcommittee meeting and asked Raine to provide the update. Projects are moving along well. One active project is the Non Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI) project, which Allison Egan explained in more detail. The NPI project team consists of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness planners across the region. The first part of the project focused on discovery, in which they interviewed 32 Boards of Health and Emergency Management Directors and got a sampling of current NPI policies in place or practices they have done in the past to inhibit spread of disease. This includes social distancing policies, school closures, reminders of handwashing, encouraging people to work from home, etc. They are now focusing on sample agreements and looking into potentially running an isolation and quarantine training. This project is relevant now with the outbreak of the new coronavirus and the stress on Boards of Health. There are many laws around what can be done. There are no regional health departments, and local BoHs usually have lots of responsibilities but little training or funding, so this will bolster their efforts.

Another active project is the mental health resiliency project. Raine gave the update. They are now in the process of forming focus groups to discuss the current picture of mental health for first responders in the region. Fire, Police, EMS and Dispatch representatives of WRHSAC received an invitation from Raine to participate in focus groups. They are aiming to do a pilot of the training in June for focus group members and CISM team members.

The subcommittee is also working on transitioning the Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteers training and the Debris Management training to more interactive online trainings. These are being tested now and should be going live soon, hopefully by the time the newsletter is out. There was also an in-depth meeting to discuss the committee's ambitious FFY19 projects. Raine will be putting together project justifications soon, pending some additional research.

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Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Bob Hassett reported that two projects are coming to an end. One is the video downlink units, which will be repaired soon; all labels went out recently. The other is the CMED Hovey Hill Project with Motorola. Crews were up there last week and are finishing tower work today, so they are hoping for an end to the project soon.

Training and Exercises:

Tom reported that the subcommittee met prior to Council meeting. They finalized a date for the Faith Community Active Threat/Shooter Conference, May 27. Raine will have more details soon. There were two motions to bring before the Council for approval:

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve up to \$1,000 for the Franklin County Special Response Team's Crisis Negotiator to attend a Hostage Negotiation conference. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve up to \$2,000 to send two team leaders from the Franklin County Special Response Team to a Hostage Rescue Training in Maine. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Equipment/PPE:

Message Boards and Light Towers

Raine reported that they have finalized equipment repairs. The new message board arrived in Holyoke last week, and they are now coordinating with the vendor to make sure Holyoke knows how to run it. Raine will update the resource guide soon. That project was used to zero out FFY17.

Franklin County MACC Equipment

Raine reported. There are a few remaining pieces to order, but the project should be wrapped up by April.

Berkshire County Fit Tester

Raine reported that this was just approved by EOPSS last week. Raine will move forward with procurement, and this project should be wrapped up by April or May.

CBRNE/IED:

There will be a subcommittee meeting on March 6 to consider a few requests.

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John W. Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

Fiduciary Report:

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update

Raine reported. The group has had ongoing monthly meetings. Raine missed last month's meeting, but the municipal working group tried out a tabletop exercise designed by MIT and it was reportedly well received. The group gave feedback to MIT with suggestions. MIT has another project to look at ways to help towns assess their current cybersecurity situation. There will be more information on roll out within a few months. MIT is bringing together two majors, regional municipal planning and computer science, for cybersecurity planning. There was a statewide tabletop on Thursday at MEMA in Framingham, but Raine hasn't heard the outcome of that yet.

EOPSS Priorities for FFY2020

Raine reported that EOPSS has issued the state's top ten Homeland Security goals for 2020 (in today's handouts). Jim Ljunggren explained that the strategy is still being reviewed in legal and hasn't been released yet, but one thing they are looking to do is standardize things across regions, especially active shooter plans. They want a representative from this region to be part of a new committee to build statewide plan so that everyone is on the same page about how to respond in the case of an active shooter. They want this to be a collaborative effort. There will also be more focus in the new strategy on cyber security. There is a new cyber director starting this week at EOPSS. This is another area in which they are also hoping to standardize approaches and best solutions. Jim is hoping that the strategy plan will be out within the next month.

Tracy noted that not all of the goals on the top ten list include terrorism, and asked if we still need to build a terrorism scenario into every project. Raine responded that if anything is funded with a state homeland security grant, we do need to show a nexus to domestic or foreign terrorism in some way. Jim received more 2020 guidance and says that there are some changes but mostly not significant.

EOPSS is sponsoring a statewide symposium for faith based groups, tentatively set for April 27 at Gillette Stadium; details are still being negotiated. That would be for all stakeholders, including best practices guide, teaching people how to do self-assessments for needs and how to protect themselves. John Paciorek asked if any more school safety money is coming out. Jim replied that he is not sure yet, but that they will announce it when they know.

Tom expressed frustration about the new effort to standardize active shooter response. He noted that he has been asking for almost six years for the Best Practices guide that was supposedly put together by the Commonwealth but never distributed. He was also told that the state was going to adopt NFPA3000 standards for active shooters, but they haven't received any information about that. The Councils have not been kept informed, so Law Enforcement has not been able to standardize anything. Jim replied that he does not know about an existing guide, but would rather have people come together to

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develop a new plan collaboratively anyway. Tom explained this has already been done in the past and it feels like we are being asked to start over again. He does not want to ask people who are volunteering their time on these Councils to keep bringing up the same motions again and again. Jim offered to look for the existing document but also wants to move forward with a new group to make sure we have the best and most up-to-date standardized programs for cross-training and cross-response, and he would like to have involvement from all regions in developing this.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Tom reported that there was a request in T&E committee regarding the establishment of a new Special Response Team with a Tactical EMS component in Hampden County. The traditional model has been to have a medic embedded with a team to support the team, but this one would be different, because the role would be to train with the teams and provide care in an incident. There was also an inquiry from South Deerfield for a Lenco MedEvac unit, with background information from them that their team was trained and ready to go. Tom and the T&E committee had concern about two separate requests for similar things, and the groups are not talking to each other. The committee tabled the motion for now, asking them to talk together with all of the SWAT/SRT groups in the four counties, along with the regional medical directors to ensure buy-in, and then come back. Tom is bringing this up in the Council to request that representatives from Law Enforcement and Fire reach out to the Chiefs groups to find out if they have heard about this and if they are supportive of it. We want to get that feedback before returning to the motion. Carolyn added that it is important that sending agencies are aware of the liability issues, and that they understand that it is different than the Hazmat model. Tom is not sure who would spearhead this piece. Hazmat has a self-sustaining funding mechanism through the Commonwealth, but the other teams do not. Therefore is it important to make sure that all four counties' fire, police, and private EMS agencies weigh in on whether or not they support this. John Paciorek sits on the board for MetroLEC and will ask them about current best practices and get feedback. John wondered if it is worth facilitating a meeting with the SRTs and WMLEC to get everyone on the same page.

Business Unforeseen by Chair:

None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 10:00 am at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

<p>Motion: John Paciorek moved to adjourn. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>

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The meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for February 18, 2020
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2020 (draft)
- EOPSS FFY2020 Homeland Security Strategy Goals
- WRHSAC FFY17 Homeland Security Budget Report through 2/14/20
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 2/14/20
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 2/14/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY17 Homeland Security Grant - Changes since 1/21/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY18 Homeland Security Grant - Changes since 1/21/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
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Conference Call

Present: Bob Barry (MEMA), Chris Bouchard (DPW/Becket Highway), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Charlie Burger (Great Barrington Fire/WMFCA), Jamin Carroll (PVT), John Dearborn (Longmeadow FD), Scott Flebotte (Hampden County Sheriff's Office), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield PH), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Bob Laford (UMass), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Paul Morrisette (WMFCA), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton Fire), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (WMLEC/Deerfield PD), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH / MAPHC), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale PD), Lauren Sacks (MAPC), Jeff Stillings (DHS Springfield), John Warren (DHS/CISA), Scott Flebotte (HCSO)

**This meeting was conducted as a conference call due to COVID19 restrictions. The meeting was recorded.*

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

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the February 18, 2020 meeting.

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the February 18, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. John Dearborn seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Bob Laford abstaining.</p>
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Updates from the Chair

None.

Updates from Disciplines

- **FIRE:** John Dearborn reported. The Western MA Chiefs had a call yesterday morning, and the biggest concern is PPE, with various levels of need. Activity has picked up in the last two days, and they are looking at a critical need. They are in discussion about organizing ambulance task forces and strike teams. There are concerns about staffing. A question was brought up about temporary housing for Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement. John replied that they are doing research about quarantines and if it qualifies for MGL 111F, but that the recommendation at this point is for people to recoup at home if possible. They are also looking at Bay Path College, temporary trailer housing, and other options.

- **POLICE:** Steve Kozloski reported. Agencies are taking the posture that dispatchers can assess 911 calls; if life-critical (cardiac) then they are dispatching cars, but many PDs are deferring to EMS for flu-like calls to prevent departments from being decimated. They made the decision to suspend in-service and specialized training to preserve staffing levels, but basic training will continue at academies. There are about 700 recruits through both disciplines that are affected, and it is important to get them trained so we

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have those responders available for the ranks. John Paciorek added that everything is rapidly evolving and changing. Some departments have moved to two shifts instead of three to reduce spread. John Dearborn clarified that the fire academy will complete training for the current class, but that future classes are suspended at this time.

- EMS: Tom Grady reported that he has been on several conference calls and that EMS also has concerns about PPE availability. In Berkshire County they are already seeing services suffering staffing shortages. Steve Gaughan [who joined later in the call] added that across the board they are seeing some places overreacting and ordering too much. There will be a small focus group discussion with the OEMS director, looking for adjustments and waivers in treatment protocols. Anyone who has a message to convey can reach out to Steve. Bob Hassett added that AMR has deployed a lot of their resources to Boston to help with screening at Logan, so they have a decreased footprint in this area.
- EMD: Bob Hassett reported that EMDs are experiencing the same shortages of PPE as everyone else. Only a few communities have made emergency declarations so far.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Public Health workers are up to their eyeballs in activity and they are experiencing staffing issues. Guidance is directing people to public health. They are trying to get messages out to food service establishments, daycare, health care, fitness clubs, and people who are not taking the threat seriously. In addition to the coronavirus, tick season and mosquito season are also on the horizon, and there are predictions that the ticks will be bad this year.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. They are looking at reducing service to Sunday levels.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. A lot of cities and towns have been cutting staff for public works, and he has already had a request from Bob Barry for mutual aid for one community. Some of the regulations around water and sewer staffing are being relaxed. They have sent out guidance on how to clean trucks and equipment, and they are trying to keep one person per truck or piece of equipment and discouraging people from eating lunch together.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. Corrections agencies are making individual decisions about limiting access to visitors or outside groups and non-contact attorney visits. They are having town hall meetings every day with every jail unit to inform everyone of the evolving situation. They have increased cleaning and disinfecting but are also struggling to find PPE.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Hassett reported that the CMED project has almost wrapped up, and that most people have shipped out their Visilink units.
- HOSPITAL: No one was present to give an update.

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- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. The Four County Selectboard meeting scheduled for April 9 has been canceled. Some towns have declared states of emergency but others have not yet done so. There is mandatory closure of town buildings in some towns, and closure of schools by the state. The situation is evolving quickly, and most towns are concerned with continuing operations.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Bob Laford reported. UMass began spring break on Friday. The decision was first made for remote learning through April 3, but late on Friday that was extended through the rest of the semester. The campus is not empty, as there is a contingent of overseas students and others who cannot leave campus, up to about 3,000 people. They have been told that if they can leave, they should do so by Saturday. The campus is operating with essential staff only. Individual departments are working on COOP plans. The vast majority of the staff will work from home over the next six weeks.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Bob Barry reported. MEMA is collecting info from all cities and towns for situational awareness and posting in WebEOC. They are referring people to HMCC for PPE requests, but asking them to cc MEMA so they can track it. Other requests should go to MEMA. They are not participating in group meetings but are physically activated in Regions 3 & 4 and in Framingham. Many new declarations have come in today, roughly half of all local communities. The main reason to declare locally is to be able to move money internally among departments.
- EOPSS: Melissa Nazzaro reported no update specific to higher level HS/EOPSS.
- DHS: Jeff Stillings reported. Federal agencies are moving towards a mobile workforce. They have a Rapid Response team activated in Boston and ready to move. The mission now is to slow the spread of the disease as best as possible and to keep employees safe. They are operating on “mission critical” only at this time.

Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Raine reported. The last subcommittee meeting was on 3/3, at which point coronavirus preparations were just gearing up, so discussions from that meeting are already out of date. One project that the committee has been working on is Non Pharmaceutical Interventions, which we're now all familiar with. There is a little money left in that project and the hope is for it to go to on-the-spot isolation and quarantine trainings. Many communities are not aware of all of their local responsibilities. But the PHEPs who could deliver those trainings are all very busy now.

The Mental Health Resiliency project is moving forward. The consultants met with focus groups to get a sense of what the perception of needs are. Those sessions reportedly went

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well. They are aiming for a training in June, but that might be affected by the coronavirus. It would be better conducted in person than as a virtual training.

The Regional Cybersecurity project is also moving along. Novus did an in-depth review with each town and is now drafting up possible models for regional solutions. We expect to hear back from them in late April or May.

The public info mapping project has been well received. We are looking to do a risk communications seminar at the end of June if meetings are not restricted at that point.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Bob Hassett gave his report earlier in the meeting.

Training and Exercises:

Tom reported that the subcommittee met prior to Council meeting. They decided to postpone the Faith Community Active Threat/Shooter Conference until the fall. The chainsaw training planned for April 30 and May 1 can probably proceed as scheduled because of its small size and outdoor location. The purchase order has been issued for the tabletop exercise boards.

The subcommittee voted to support a large animal rescue training hosted by SMART; it now needs the approval of the Council.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve \$2,600 for the SMART/MSPCA large animal rescue training. John Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Equipment/PPE:

Franklin County MACC Equipment

Raine reported. There are a few items left for the project. The MACC has been activated and they are using some of the new equipment, including monitors, rolling white boards, and chrome books. They are very appreciative.

Berkshire County Fit Tester

Raine reported that the brand that Berkshire County requested came in at \$3,844 more than anticipated. We can use the EOPSS audit funds to cover this cost if people are willing. The price includes calibration for five years.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve an additional \$3,844 for the purchase of a Berkshire County Fit Tester. Paul Morrissette seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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CBRNE/IED:

The subcommittee met on March 6 to consider a few requests. John Dearborn presented the subcommittee's funding recommendations for approval.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to approve \$32,987 for Western Mass Technical Rescue Team safety equipment. Paul Morrissette seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to approve \$7,000 for bed enclosures for the new Western Mass Technical Rescue Team trucks. John Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to approve \$11,326 for Western Mass Technical Rescue Team equipment upgrades and replacement. Paul Morrissette seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to approve \$4,627 for Western Mass Technical Rescue Team PPE supplies and Field Force Extrication equipment. Paul Morrissette seconded the motion. The motion passed.

John explained that the \$115,000 previously approved by the Council for ballistic armor replacement for the Berkshire County SRT turned out not to be enough. The updated quote came in almost \$20,000 above what was already allocated for that project in the FFY19 budget.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to approve \$20,000 to add to the budget for the Berkshire County SRT ballistic armor replacement. Paul Morrissette seconded the motion. The motion passed.

John added that CBRNE is also making a recommendation for \$26,080 for WMTRT tri-band radios, but that this request needs to be discussed in the Interoperability meeting this afternoon, and will be voted on next month.

There was also a request from the Western Mass Fire Chiefs Association for additional fit testers. There is a strain on the number of fit testers that we have in the region, and they feel that two additional fit testers would fill the identified gaps. Regarding sustainability concerns, the Fire Chiefs have agreed to continue this initiative moving forward so that they will not have to keep coming back to the Council for funding.

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Motion: John Dearborn moved to approve \$28,350 for two fit testers with calibration. John Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion passed.

HMCC Update

Raine reported that she just got an update from HMCC to share with the Council. Staff have shifted all activities away from preparedness to active COVID-19 response. The NWMIMT has also been activated. Staff are working to prepare regular briefings that add value. If WRHSAC stakeholders want additional information, what kind of info would be helpful? Send requests to Raine to pass along to HMCC.

Fiduciary Report:

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update

Raine reported. The working group is continuing to meet monthly. They conducted a tabletop to test the draft incident response plan in February. The municipal working group is making plans for October's Cyber Security Awareness month. EOPSS pulled together a meeting with Stephanie Helm of the Mass Cyber Center to discuss how Homeland Security funds can support cyber security training. She liked the cyber security conference we held a couple of years ago and recommended that the Councils do one on a yearly basis. There is an upcoming project to help build cyber incident response plans, and Councils can help by holding tabletops to test them.

FFY18 & FFY19 Unallocated Funds

Raine reported that we still have some unallocated funds in FFY18 and FFY19, about \$3,000 in FFY18 and \$8,000-\$35,000 in FFY19, depending on what the Interoperability subcommittee decides about the tech rescue radios. Raine is in conversation with MAPC and EOPSS about getting an extension on the FFY18 funds, especially with the current recommendations to postpone activities and people being busy with COVID-19 response. For FFY19, the contracts are active and we can start on those projects. Lauren noted that MAPC staff are all working from home, and that full access is available to continue with POs and finance.

Raine added that we received guidance on how funds can be spent on COVID-19. As long as it meets the nexus of terrorism, Homeland Security funds can be used. However, a lot of what people need right now is PPE, which is not currently available.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

FFY2020 Investment Planning

The initial project list for FFY2020 is due by Friday, March 27, and the final plan is due by April 3. Refer to the WRHSAC FFY2020 Initial Budget Planning document in today's handouts for details about the proposed allocations. CBRNE requests include continued support for the WMTRT and Hazmat, as well as a placeholder for the new

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Hampden County Special Response Team at \$125,000. However, they are still looking for more details about that project. WMRIC has no specific projects yet, but a placeholder for enhancing communications has been included.

The Pan Flu/Planning committee intends to continue the mental health project and cyber security project, as well as a project around NPI, pandemic planning, and virtual platforms. They also intend to add PPE restocking and management (\$40,000), with recognition that in the past, stockpiled supplies have expired, so this needs coordinated management. They are also requesting \$100,000 for Public Health Mobile Response Options. Hampshire Public Health Coalition has a trailer that is in over demand and can serve many needs: isolation, emergency dispensing site, testing site, etc. Public health mobile response options could also include a trailer, retrofitted bus, inflatable tent, or others.

The Training & Exercise committee intends to keep the same investment groups as previous years, for a total of \$239,000. Another \$190,000 would be allocated to FRCOG Program Support and Planning, as EOPSS is now leaving the funds for those expenses in the full award account to the Council.

The total with these proposed allocations would be \$1,244,000, with a balance of \$2,662 remaining to be allocated. Jeanne requested the extra funds for the Pan Flu/Planning committee.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the initial budget planning for the \$1,246,662 award. John Paciorek seconded the motion. The motion passed.

COVID-19 WRHSAC Meetings and Events

All Council meetings will be conducted remotely during the state of emergency. There are challenges to the current conference call format, with lines being overwhelmed and people unable to join the meetings. Raine will explore other options, including paid options, but any funds for this would come out of the FRCOG budget. The T&E committee also discussed looking into moving more trainings online.

Business Unforeseen by Chair:

Tom explained that the Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition (MAPHCO) requested \$56,950 to replenish their PPE cache. Raine explained that we still have some unallocated funds from the FEMA audit in FFY18 and FFY19, as well as some left from a portion of Pan Flu project that was cancelled. She also noted that projects can be moved around and FFY19 projects can move to FFY2020, so we can make the money work if the Council decides to approve the request.

Carolyn explained that even though they know that there is no PPE currently available, MAPHCO would like to get the request in now to start the process so that it is already in

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the pipeline for when supplies become available again. Bob Hassett suggested that this could take a long time, as suppliers are overwhelmed with requests. Tom replied that we can discuss it further after pushing it up through EOPSS.

Raine offered some recommendations to consider: given that supplies are not available at this time, immediate action wouldn't resolve anything, and we will likely see additional requests from other public health coalitions coming in. She suggested tabling the request for now and bringing it to the Pan Flu committee to reach out and see what needs are and develop management plans. John Paciorek replied that if others need assistance, we can redistribute the supplies, but for now it is important to get in the pipeline rather than pushing it back another 4-8 weeks. Carolyn agreed, noting that rotation plans are already being worked on, and that the shortages are shocking. Raine suggested that if we do proceed with the request, we could increase it to \$100,000 and expand the reach to cover the coalitions in all four counties. Others agreed with this suggestions.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve \$100,000 for PPE for regional health coalitions. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 10:00 am, most likely as a conference call or other remote platform.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to adjourn. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for March 17, 2020
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from February 18, 2020 (draft)
- WMTRT Equipment Requests
- Berkshire County SRT Ballistic Armor Funding Increase Request
- Fit Tester Proposal from the Western Mass Fire Chiefs
- Fire Tech & Safety of New England – Quote for Fit Tester dated 3/5/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY17 Homeland Security Grant – 3/17/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY18 Homeland Security Grant – 3/17/20
- WRHSAC FFY17 Homeland Security Budget Report through 3/13/20
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 3/13/20
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 3/13/20
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Investment Plan – Guidance and Considerations

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Respectfully submitted by:

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

DRAFT

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 10:00 am

Present: Chris Bouchard (DPW/South Hadley Highway), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Jon Davine (Northampton PD), Allison Egan (BRPC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield PH), Tom Grady (BCSO), Adam Hakkarainen (MSP), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Bob Laford (UMass), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (MSP), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Marty O’Shea (Longmeadow Schools), Gina Papagiorgakis (EOPSS), Michael Perkins (Cummington Police/Hilltown IMC), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Shannon Todd (Granger), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield PD), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**This meeting was conducted on Zoom due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions. The meeting was recorded.*

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

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 17, 2020 meeting.

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the March 17, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. Jeanne Galloway seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>

Updates from the Chair

None.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: No one was present to give an update.
- POLICE: Steve Kozloski and Mike Wynn reported no significant updates.
- EMS: No one was present to give an update.
- EMD: No one was present to give an update.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Public Health is busy with COVID-19, as well as preparing for the upcoming mosquito season and EEE.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. Transportation is also dealing with COVID-19, changing service levels to meet passenger demand and trying to keep everyone safe.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. Things are moving along. There have been many calls between departments on how to keep employees safe, as well as dealing with waste water concerns. PPE has been an issue but is starting to get a little better. Everyone is worried about how to keep water and sewer operations going if people get sick.

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- **CORRECTIONS:** Tom Grady reported. They are all doing their best to keep the virus out of institutions. They have had some successes, and also some challenges. Most Council members have likely seen the SJC rulings on releases of inmates; that has been happening over the last two weeks. It is posing challenges for sheriff offices, which received a lot of paperwork but not a lot of support. A motion was made on behalf of inmates asserting that not enough testing for inmates is being done, but in Berkshire County they have been successful to date at maintaining staffing and keeping people healthy.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Melissa Nazzaro reported. ESF2 is activated at the state level. They are doing their best to monitor communications partners and network concerns over high demand and high use. They are also paying attention to PSAPS and staffing issues.
- **HOSPITAL:** Monica Wynne reported. The biggest challenge for hospitals is PPE. This has been challenging for supply chain staff, but they are still able to manage patients, and have moved around nursing units to accommodate needs. One concern is that many people are now afraid to go to hospitals because of fear of COVID-19.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Shores Ness reported. They are trying to cope with frequent changes coming down from the Governor's office about how to conduct business. Towns have been focusing on maintaining essential services. Budgets are up in the air because of delays in meetings. The fiscal picture is grim because revenue is not being generated, but towns are coping as much as possible. The primary objective is to keep people safe and healthy.
- **K-12 EDUCATION:** Marty O'Shea reported. There was a state-wide call with the Commissioner's office today, and they are expecting that the Governor will make an announcement today about reopening schools. Even looking ahead to the fall, there are questions about what a safe reopening will look like, e.g. bringing kids back with temperature readings and PPE. They are worried about potential fiscal impacts in the next few years.
- **HIGHER ED:** Bob Laford reported. UMass has a limited number of onsite employees, including those doing critical research. There are about 550 students living on campus, many international, and some will likely still be living there over the summer because they can't go home. University Health Services is now doing testing for COVID-19 and there have been low numbers of positive tests. They are keeping the campus operating at a low level to support those still on campus.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** Jeff McDonald reported. From the troop level, they are doing a good job keeping membership healthy. They are trying to maintain high visibility and respond to services as needed. There have been a few active deployments where the Colonel has brought in people from Investigative Services, and they are giving additional patrols to Springfield PD for every shift. They also have troopers in the Berkshires. The Hilton Garden

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Inn in Pittsfield has 85 rooms reserved for COVID recovery patients. It is not being utilized to the full extent now, but some troopers are there, as well as at the Big E testing site.

- MEMA: No one was present to give an update.
- EOPSS: Gina Papagiorgakis introduced herself as the new Senior Manager for Homeland Security at EOPSS OGR. She just started a few weeks ago and is looking forward to meeting people in person eventually. Though new to this position, she has a lot of experience with EOPSS, most recently with parole.
- DHS: No one was present to give an update.

Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Raine Brown reported. The subcommittee's projects are moving along. The cybersecurity project is expecting to have an update later this month regarding models for feasibility studies for regional approach. The Debris Management and Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteer trainings have been adapted to an interactive online format and will be transitioning to the website within the next month.

Allison Egan gave the update for the Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions project. For the last 8 or 9 months the committee and regional PHEPS have been working on the NPI project, aimed at preventing the spread of disease without vaccines or medications. We are in the midst of this now. About a year ago, they identified a need for planning during the time between identification of a disease and availability of vaccines. This is a timely project, but we're now in an adaptation phase for deliverables based on current needs. A brainstorming call is set up for next week. Everyone is now knee-deep in the current situation, but we also need to position ourselves to be set up well for future.

Raine reported on the remaining projects. The PPE restocking project was approved at the last WRHSAC meeting, and then led to some back and forth with EOPSS because Homeland Security funds cannot be used in direct response to COVID-19. After discussion with EOPSS and DHS they recognized it as dual-use and approved it. At this month's subcommittee meeting, the decision was made to wait on purchases so as not be in competition, especially as this is for restocking. The project will be funded from FFY19, so we have time to figure it out.

The Mental Health Resiliency project was planning to have in-person trainings in June, but the consultants are now looking at what can be done in an online format, as well as looking ahead to holding trainings in the fall.

The Message Mapping Public Information Seminar will be postponed or held online if necessary.

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Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Raine reported that at the last meeting the subcommittee considered multiple requests that need approval. Representatives from two of the proposed projects are at this meeting to present those requests. If approved, these projects would come from FFY19, out of the \$150,000 earmarked for WMRIC projects.

WMLEC Power Supplies and Rapid Comm Trailer Duplexers

Steve Kozloski presented two proposals to the Council on behalf of WMLEC. Last month WMLEC made a request to the WMRIC subcommittee for updated equipment for the rapid comm trailer. In an attempt to keep costs down, they had been operating without radio duplexers which permit multiple channels to operate on the same antennas. They tried a less expensive method to accomplish the same thing, but it was not effective enough and impacted deployment in Springfield. Based on the demands, they need to purchase duplexers. They are requesting three duplexers, one for each radio purchased, for a total cost of \$11,040.

Motion: Monica Wynne moved to approve \$11,040 for three duplexers for the WMLEC trailer. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Steve Kozloski abstaining.

The second WMLEC request was for power supplies. WMLEC is the regional interoperable radio system, and when this was expanded they used cost-saving options by reutilizing or sharing power supplies. Unfortunately many of those are starting to fail, and much of the equipment has reached “end-of-life” status in which it is no longer supported by manufacturers for repairs. WMLEC is seeking funding from the Council for the five sites where the power supplies have failed or are near failure. The quote from Goosetown was for \$30,486, but the Council decided to round it up because Goosetown might not be the bidder on the project.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve up to \$31,000 for the purchase of five power supplies. Bob Laford seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Steve Kozloski abstaining.

Hilltown IMC

Mike Perkins, Chief of Police from Cummington, presented a request to the Council on behalf of the 14 communities that brought the proposal before the subcommittee last month. They recently changed their computer aided dispatch software to IMC/Central Square. This is widely used across the Commonwealth to promote record management and dispatch. Because of how the Northampton dispatch is classified, they were ineligible for grant funding for records management and are now seeking that support from the Council. They are seeking to switch to IMC records management, which would be part of information sharing hubs and could contribute to and be accessed by agencies across the Commonwealth. This improves responder safety and information sharing, and

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prevents agencies from being silos of data. See proposal in today's packet for more information. They were able to bring down the cost by getting credit for agencies that are already using IMC. The intention is to incorporate fire service at a later date. Tom noted that it has been a long time since the Council funded a large info sharing project, which was one of the goals of WMRIC, and pointed out that this is an expansion of a system we helped build with Council funds.

Motion: Steve Kozloski moved to approve \$81,855 for the Hilltown IMC records management system. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

WMTRT Multiband Radios

Raine explained the request. When the Council purchased tow vehicles for the Western Mass Tech Rescue team, we also purchased multiband radios for those trucks. The team is finding them useful, and they want to add another radio to the trailer which is housed in Holyoke and two portable radios for use when the team is deployed.

Motion: Steve Kozloski moved to approve \$26,080 for the WMTRT multiband radios. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Training and Exercises:

Tom Grady reported. The T&E subcommittee met before this meeting. As mentioned, we are following recommendations from the Governor, so in-person trainings are suspended and conferences that were in planning stages are being moving out towards the fall. We will continue to look at the guidance for when we can have gatherings. We are asking everyone to get creative on how to do trainings.

Several proposals were recommended by the subcommittee for Council consideration.

Raine introduced the FirstResilient App. She recently learned about this app produced by First Watch, which is geared to first responders. They currently have a promotion for a 90 day trial of the app at a lower cost. The app scores users with a resilience level that measures where you are strong and what you need help with, and then it communicates with the user. Raine has been using it for about a week and finds it easy to use. She felt that her resilience score was accurate. Since we can't engage with people in-person now, this could be an alternate way to provide support. The subcommittee recommended the option for a 90 day trial for up to 500 subscriptions for \$7,500.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve \$7,500 for a 90 trial of the FirstResilient app for up to 500 subscriptions. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The second request came from the Greenfield Community College PD for the purchase of two portable training facilities. They come in carrying bags with poles, tarps, targets, and side walls. They can be set up in parking lots and configured in different ways. They are designed to absorb the impact of simunitions. With the ceiling coverings they can

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also be used to create low-light scenarios, or used with smoke machines by fire departments. They can also be used for tactical EMS training.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve up to \$22,000 for the purchase of two portable training facilities with ceilings. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Equipment/PPE:

Franklin County MACC Equipment

Raine reported. This project is still ongoing, with only a few pieces left to purchase. The equipment already purchased is being used.

PPE Restocking

The update for this project was given earlier in the meeting.

CBRNE/IED:

John Dearborn had a death in the family and couldn't be present at the meeting. Raine had no updates to report.

Fiduciary Report:

FFY18 & FFY19 Project Shifts

Raine reported. There were a lot of motions at last month's meeting, and Raine was able to move some money to cover different projects. From FFY18, there was money left over from WMTRT projects, from the hospital pediatric surge plan project, and from the EOPSS audit. The Berkshire fit tester project had been in FFY19, but was moved to FFY18. Raine also added some equipment to FFY18 (see the fiduciary report in today's handouts for more details). FFY19 also had the additional money needed for the Berkshire SRT project, but that project has also now been moved up to FFY18. T&E funds have been moved to FFY19 to give the Council more time to figure out new logistics. Raine is working with MAPC to seek an extension on FFY18. Amy Reilly added that they are seeking an extension through the end of March, 2021.

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update

Raine Brown and Adam Hakkarainen reported. The working group is still meeting, virtually. They have an upcoming meeting scheduled for next week. The Mass Cyber Center has come up with guidelines for using Zoom safely, including the use of passwords, managing participant lists, and not using personal devices. Adam offered to share the PowerPoint with whoever is interested.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

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Business Unforeseen by Chair:

Tom said that listening to Allison talk about NPIs reminded him that we should have conversations about vaccine dispensing sites for when vaccines come out. He is also encouraging PSAPS to review COOP plans. A few people on the Council have reached out to Tom to express that remote meetings have been a benefit, so that might warrant discussion for how to do things differently in the future.

Resources from the Council are being used, including signboards and the inflatable tent as a mobile testing site, and radios supporting operations at the Big E. Tom thanked everyone and appreciated some of the things that communities are doing to fill gap, such as making cloth masks, providing first responder respite, distilleries making hand sanitizer, etc. He noted that a lot of good things are going on throughout the state, and he is proud to be associated with Western MA. Stay healthy and safe.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 10:00 am, location to be determined pending COVID-19 meeting restrictions.

<p>Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 11:01 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for April 21, 2020
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2020 (draft)
- Letter of Request and Quotes for WMLEC Power Supplies
- Letter of Request and Quotes for Hilltown IMC
- Request for WMTRT Tri-band Radios
- WRHSAC FFY17 Homeland Security Budget Report through 4/16/20
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 4/16/20
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 4/16/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY17 Homeland Security Grant – 4/21/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY18 Homeland Security Grant – 4/21/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
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Present: Seth Bouvier (EOPSS), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Jamin Carroll (PVRTA), Carrie Clifton (OGR), John Dearborn (Longmeadow FD), Allison Egan (BRPC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield PH), Tom Grady (BCSO), Adam Hakkarainen (MSP), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Bob Laford (UMass), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (MSP), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Marty O’Shea (Longmeadow Schools), John Paciorek (WMLEC/Deerfield PD), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO), Amy Reilly (MAPC), John Warren (DHS/CISA), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**This meeting was conducted on Zoom due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions. The meeting was recorded.*

Chairman Thomas Grady called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 21, 2020 meeting.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to approve the April 21, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. Bob Laford seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom reported that there has not been a lot of communication recently on the Homeland Security Council side, as the focus has been more on public health. Seth Bouvier, the new EOPSS Cybersecurity Director, was introduced to the Council. He explained that he works directly for the Undersecretary and that he is here to support cybersecurity initiatives of EOPSS and the Councils.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that everyone is busy balancing the Governor’s pandemic guidance. They received the WRHSAC fit testers and are still looking for a home for the northern one. He expressed his gratitude to the Council for this purchase.
- POLICE: John Paciorek reported that police are also trying to navigate recent changes. He encourages towns to look at the COVID-19 funds available from the federal government. This is a good opportunity for every community to request their own fit tester. The Academy has moved online through Zoom. Some towns are trying to get police to help Boards of Health with enforcement.
- EMS: No one was present to give an update. Tom mentioned that this is EMS week, and noted the importance of recognizing overworked, underpaid disciplines.
- EMD: No one was present to give an update.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. They are busy with COVID-19 related issues, trying to deal with changing guidance and reopening plans. People have many

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questions. Contact tracing is a challenge; the CTC collaborative is available but hasn't always worked well for everyone. Cases are fluctuating, going up again. They are trying to figure out what will happen with camps and pools, as those are not discussed in the current reopening plan. On a non-COVID note, mosquitos are now out, and Jeanne suggested that addressing this issue may be another good way for towns to focus efforts.

Allison Egan added that Boards of Health in Berkshire County are nervous about complaints by businesses opening up. Not all businesses are Board of Health permitted, so there are no existing relationships with many of them. They are planning to navigate issues as they come up. Memorial Day is a concern. There can be no more than 10 people in a residential backyard, because it counts as an enclosed outdoor space. The reopening guidance has a lot of gaps. Beaches opening, etc., will bring more Board of Health responsibilities. The next few weeks will be difficult. Carolyn Ness added that everyone is very busy answering emails and phone calls. People have many questions.

- **TRANSPORTATION:** Jamin Carroll reported that like the other disciplines, transportation is trying to navigate new guidance and trying to make sure people observe social distancing, especially as more people are starting to use public transit again.
- **DPW:** No one was present to give an update.
- **CORRECTIONS:** Tom Grady reported. They have also been looking at the reopening guidance. Some Sheriff's Offices will be opening as much as they can, but in Berkshire County they will stay locked down as long as possible because it has been successful. A bigger concern has been the COVID-19 releases of inmates, as it has led to some public safety issues. Several former inmates overdosed upon release, several others were soon rearrested, and one was shot multiple times last week. Tom's assessment is that it is not necessarily safer for people outside. They are working with mayors and town managers to put together a response to send to the legislative delegation to try to get more control over releases, as that process is now controlled by courts.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** No one was present to give an update.
- **HOSPITAL:** Monica Wynne reported. They continue to see steadiness in the number of COVID-19 positives. There was a spike earlier this week, but that was from re-testing, not a new pocket. They are still advertising that the hospitals are open, and numbers are starting to go back up in the Emergency Department. They are encouraging people to seek the services they need.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Shores Ness reported. Everyone is busy trying to cope with what is happening. Town meetings and town budget season have been delayed, but it needs to be done by June 30, or towns need to have a plan to move forward. The focus has been on reopening plans and contact tracing, though they are having challenges with CTC. This pandemic has been very time-consuming, but people are working together, and they are starting to see some leveling off.

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- **K-12 EDUCATION:** Marty O’Shea reported. They are thinking about what reopening in the fall will look like. There are concerns about schools being equipped with PPE. Some possibilities may include staggered openings, an on-day-off-day or half day schedule, or other means to limit mixing of students and staff. There is no clear direction yet. The pressing issues now are summer programming and graduations.
- **HIGHER ED:** Bob Laford reported. UMass held a virtual commencement. The campus is close to empty, though there are about 200 labs for research that are functioning. Some of the workforce is still on campus, but only a small percentage needed to support essential infrastructure. Working groups are looking to the future and reviewing guidance. Students are coming back this week to retrieve items by appointment only. With 42 dorms and about 9,000 students, this required a lot of coordination. Additionally, each employee will be required to take a week off without pay in June.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** Adam Hakkarainen reported. The newest recruit training troop came out a few weeks ago. One third are currently learning desk duties, not out on the road yet but learning about station operations; one third were assigned to investigative services; and the remaining third were assigned to State Police Academy to continue further training. This will continue for six weeks and will then be followed with the traditional break-in period, 12 weeks of road training with a trooper. They are bringing back enforcement efforts locally. They hadn’t been stopping cars much, but started noticing a dramatic increase in people speeding. They are trying to bring it back down for safety. They are also continuing to offer other services.

Adam also gave an update for the Cybersecurity Working Group. The Tabletop Exercise Working Group is trying to organize an exercise for the fall, likely online. There are two methods being planned: a three hour event for fifty people, and also a two day event to examine the interaction of public-private sectors during a significant event. The Cyber Response Framework is still in progress.

- **MEMA:** No one was present to give an update.
- **EOPSS:** Carrie Clifton reported no updates from OGR. Seth Bouvier reported that from a leadership perspective, the main focus right now is interpreting the new guidance from the Governor on what a phased return looks like.
- **DHS:** John Warren reported. CISA brought on board a Boston Protective Security Advisor (PSA), whose area of support will be the 128-95 corridor. They are advertising for a Worcester PSA, who will cover Worcester to the NY border. Three classes that were scheduled to be held at the Big E by the Office of Bombing Prevention have been postponed, as the site is still involved in drive through testing site. The classes will probably be rescheduled for after the Big E, into November.

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Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Jeanne Galloway and Raine Brown reported. The subcommittee met a few weeks ago. They are making some adjustments to the FFY18 Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions project budget, shifting \$4,000, but this shift does not require a motion. Additional signage will be created encouraging social distancing and other NPIs, both hard signs and cling-ons. They are still looking into formats and messaging, and are not sure how much money will be required yet. The subcommittee also suggested that the T&E committee consider doing de-escalation trainings, but at the T&E meeting the decision was made to pursue this as a statewide effort.

John Dearborn asked if there are inserts for shelter management plans, or if there has been any discussion on that topic, as they are looking to add to their plans. Jeanne responded that there should be chapters for regional planning from HMCC. There is a subcommittee in progress now around mass care and feeding, both in the COVID-19 context and also more universal, though they are not near a release date yet. Raine added that MEMA has a working group that is meeting twice a week to come up with new guidance. The WRHSAC subcommittee decided not to duplicate efforts. Guidance is expected out in June regarding congregate and non-congregate sheltering.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Raine reported. The three projects approved by the Council at the last meeting (WMLEC duplexers and power supplies, Hilltown IMC records management, and portable radios for the tech rescue team) were all approved by EOPSS. Raine will start working on procurement. Tom noted that for those who have PSAPs, the EMD and training grants for fiscal year 2021 are open. They have extended dates for certification. Check the State 911 website for more details. He added that everyone is now training new dispatchers in-house using a remote program.

Training and Exercises:

Tom Grady reported. The T&E subcommittee met before this meeting, and they have two motions to bring forward. They are also asking everyone to think about how to do trainings moving forward. We will have a further discussion next month. We don't want to lose opportunities to train, even if we can't bring people together.

The first request concerns funding for the 90-day subscription to the FirstResilient app, which was approved by the Council last month. The amount previously approved did not include the set up costs.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve an additional \$1,000 for the set up costs of the FirstResilient app. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
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The second request is for LearnDash, a plug-in that would enable us to set up an online learning management system within the WHRSAC website.

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Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve \$200 for the purchase of a one year LearnDash subscription. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine reported. The fit testers for the Fire Chiefs came in \$645 over budget. The MACC project is wrapping up and will have over \$5,000 left over, both because of items that came in less than anticipated and also because they did not purchase Adobe Acrobat as planned because it is not compatible with the Chromebooks.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve up to \$645 for the fit testers out of the returned funds from the Franklin County MACC project. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tom noted that we need to start thinking about purchasing PPE for in-person trainings and meetings, as well as signage, wipes, etc. We might need to set aside money for our own stash of PPE.

CBRNE/IED: No update.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine reported that we are doing well considering the slow downs. The pending extension from EOPSS will help. The three approved WMRIC projects take care of all interoperability money for FFY19. Other things will start picking up in the next few months. Amy Reilly added paperwork is in place for an extension of FFY18 through the end of March 2021.

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update

Raine added to Adam's earlier update. The municipal working group that Raine is part of has asked her to become the new lead for that working group, which she accepted. If anyone has concerns from the municipal side, let her know and she will push it up. They are doing roundtable discussions every other week that anyone can join. Raine will share the information about those. They are thinking about different ways to get people informed. Webinars through MMA for municipalities have generated interest in the working group. They are looking at coordinating with Homeland Security Councils for Cyber Awareness month in October, through online modules or webinars. Raine has talked with Seth at EOPSS and Stephanie and Meg from the Cyber Working Group about pursuing that.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

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Business Unforeseen by Chair:

None. Tom thanked everyone for their diligent hard work for communities. The pandemic continues to challenge us in unanticipated ways, and we are all trying to adapt and keep people safe and healthy.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 10:00 am, location to be determined pending COVID-19 meeting restrictions.

<p>Motion: Monica Wynne moved to adjourn. Marty O’Shea seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for May 19, 2020
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from April 21, 2020 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY17 Homeland Security Grant – 5/19/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY18 Homeland Security Grant – 5/19/20
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 5/15/20
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 5/15/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
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Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 10:00 am

Present: Bob Barry (MEMA), Chris Bouchard (DPW), Raine Brown (FRCOG), John Dearborn (Longmeadow FD), Allison Egan (BRPC), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield PH), Steve Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Bob Hassett (CMED), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Paul Morrissette (WMFCA), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO), Michael Perkins (Cummington PD), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Barry Ross (Hampden CSO), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**This meeting was conducted on Zoom due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions. The meeting was recorded.*

John Dearborn called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

Approval of Minutes

This was postponed until later in the meeting, a full quorum not being present when the meeting began.

Updates from the Chair

None.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Paul Morrissette had no updates to report.
- POLICE: No one was present to give an update.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported that EMS is continuing to try to move forward, and they seem to be at the tail end of seeing providers out of work because of COVID-19.
- EMD: Bob Hassett had no updates to report.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported that COVID-19 is still keeping Public Health very busy, and they are now focusing on reopening without bumping up numbers. Mosquito season has begun. Samples are being tested for West Nile and EEE. They are also in the process of figuring out how to do flu clinics this year.
- TRANSPORTATION: No one was present to give an update.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update. [Chris Bouchard later joined the call and gave an update at the end of the meeting].
- CORRECTIONS: No one was present to give an update.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Hassett had no updates to report. [Melissa Nazzaro later joined the call and gave an update at the end of the meeting].

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- HOSPITAL: Monica Wynne reported. Hospitals continue to see a decline in COVID-19 cases, and are now allowing some visitation.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. Towns are focused on town meetings, budgets, and reopening. Local governments are trying to band together to figure out how to effectively distribute vaccines when they are available, both flu and COVID-19.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: No one was present to give an update.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Bob Barry reported that they are back out in the field on a limited basis and with precautions. They are monitoring COVID-19 and demonstrations across state.
- EOPSS: No one was present to give an update.
- DHS: No one was present to give an update.

Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Jeanne Galloway reported. The subcommittee had a lively meeting this month. One of the things we want to talk about is systemic racism and how the Pan Flu / Planning and T&E committees, as well as the entire Council, should take on this problem. Raine added that the T&E committee did not get to this agenda item in today's meeting. It is being recognized more and more that systemic racism is a public health issue. As we're seeing across the nation and the world, this is an issue that people are ready to take a look at, more than just through policy changes. From the Civil Rights movement we saw that policies alone have not had a lot of depth in effectiveness in addressing racism. The Pan Flu / Planning committee came up with a project with three tasks. We want to discuss it here, even though police representatives are not present today. We want to include them to find out how to support them to dismantle the current culture regarding racism. [Mike Perkins noted in the chat box that there is a police chiefs meeting happening now.]

The first task is to raise awareness on implicit bias and systemic racism, with trainings regarding systemic racism and policies for Boards of Health, public health agents and municipal officers, for \$50,000.

The second task is to raise awareness for a cultural shift in the first responder community. We need Law Enforcement in this discussion. We look to them to be doing much more than they should be doing. Things that towns do not want to deal with are left for the police to deal with, which is an unfair burden for police. This is a broad topic that we need to start addressing in small ways.

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The third task is to assist the region in implementing a racial equity toolkit. We do not need to “re-invent the wheel”; we can adopt or adapt or join with other efforts.

Allison returned to the point of this being a public health issue, and noted that this project is not just aimed at traditional first responders but also hospitals, public health and planning. Health disparities for people of color are magnified in the care they get at hospitals. Training and education and awareness is important for all relevant disciplines, which includes basically everybody. John Dearborn recalled that he was involved in two relevant conversations recently, one about police settling arguments between teens and their parents and one about the additional work police have to do to enforce by-laws, both of which have aspects of social work. He believes this is a good proposal, but would like input from the Law Enforcement community on it. This is a tough time for their discipline, and we as a Council should make it part of regular discussion. John asked about the timeline for the other two tasks. Raine said that input from Law Enforcement is needed for those. Jeanne suggested that the first part could still be approved to move it forward, and more discussion could happen later. Allison suggested moving it forward but delaying the timeline to gather input from Police, Fire, and EMS.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$50,000 for the Pan Flu / Planning committee from FFY19 funds to raise awareness of and educate boards of health, public health agents and municipal officials on implicit bias, systemic racism, and how “business as usual” perpetuates racial inequity which is often “hidden” in plain sight. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

With a quorum now present, the Council reviewed the minutes from the May 19, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the May 19, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Bob Hassett and Raine Brown reported. The WMLEC power supply project came in at approximately \$4,000 more than what we had allocated (\$31,000 v \$34,997). We did not allocate more because there was no more available. However, the T&E committee flipped a project from FFY18 to FFY19, so we can flip this project to FFY18 and use funds left from the Franklin County MACC project.

Motion: Monica Wynne moved to allow Raine Brown to move the power supply project to FFY18 and use available funds to cover the \$3,997.00 shortfall. Paul Morrisette seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Hilltown IMC project – Amy Reilly reported that advertising for the RFB is going out later this week. They are switching to an all-electronic procurement process and still figuring out what that looks like, but they expect proposals in within the next three weeks.

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WMLEC duplexers – Raine reported that when the quotes came in and Steve Kozloski looked at them, he realized that they were for a more robust system than they needed. He will come back to the Council with new specs, and we will have to do another RFQ for that.

Bob Hassett reported that the repaired video downlinks came in, and one was already used during the protests last week.

Training and Exercises:

Raine reported that several motions were recommended by the subcommittee for consideration by the Council.

The first motion is for American Sign Language (ASL) training for first responders. The instructor can teach up to 25 people at a time in a Zoom room, as she needs to interact with responders and give feedback. The subcommittee wants to make this training available for all first responders, which could lead to a lot of sessions. The subcommittee recommended allocating up to \$10,000 to hold multiple trainings.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve up to \$10,000 for ASL trainings for first responders. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The second proposal came to the subcommittee from Bernardston PD Sgt. John Richardson for simunitions rifles. This would be building on the cache of equipment established at Greenfield Police and linked to the Greenfield Community College (GCC) portable training facility (all equipment previously funded by WRHSAC) to be used as a regional resource for force-on-force training. The subcommittee recommended up to \$13,000 for this equipment. John reported that the subcommittee asked Sgt. Richardson about sustainability and distribution, among other questions, and that the questions were answered well. He feels confident that this would be a good resource. Carolyn noted that the subcommittee bumped up the amount in the proposal to include more magazines than what was initially requested.

Motion: Steve Gaughan moved to approve up to \$13,000 for simunitions rifles. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The next motion concerned activities to range across all four Homeland Security Advisory Council regions for cybersecurity awareness trainings for municipalities, in conjunction with the MassCyberCenter. This is an in-depth project to take materials to a virtual environment to get people engaged. The request is for up to \$15,000 from each Homeland Security Council. This has already been approved by the other Councils.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve up to \$15,000 for cybersecurity awareness trainings. Paul Morrissette seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 10:00 am**

The final request came from the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association for up to \$33,000. Sandra Martin explained that normally, during the summer, Boards of Health start to plan for fall flu clinics. They realized this year that the normal plans do not account for pandemic considerations. They are also thinking ahead to COVID-19 vaccination clinics. They propose to run tabletop exercises for existing plans with an eye for how to change them, and then run drills in the fall based on the outcomes of those. Carolyn asked that lessons learned be transferred to the rest of the region, and she noted that this is a lot of money that normally should go through the Pan Flu / Planning committee. Sandra assured the Council that all documents and after action reports created as part of the exercise would be available to all, and that if other regions want to jump in, they would cooperate and would appreciate input. There was also an idea for a training around PPE for volunteers that could come before the T&E committee next month.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve up to \$33,000 for the BCBOA Vaccination Training and Exercise Project. Jeanne Galloway seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine reported that there are a few projects they are working on with the tech rescue team; those are all moving along well.

CBRNE/IED: No update.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine reported. There are a few movements to make between projects in FFY18 and FFY19 to keep things moving along and spend down FFY18 funds before FFY19. From T&E, we would be moving the faith community active threat workshop to FFY19, and from Planning we would move the risk communication seminar to FFY19. Moving to FFY18 would be the FirstResilient app and the GCC training facility.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to allow Raine Brown to move projects between FFY18 and FFY19. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Raine explained that she and MAPC are doing their best to keep projects moving along, despite some stumbling blocks with the RFB process moving online. Raine is continuing to try to get the FFY18 contract spent down as soon as possible even though we received an extension.

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update

Raine reported that last month she was named lead on the Municipal Working Group. A project coming out of the MassCyberCenter will be helping towns to build their Cyber Incident Response Plans. A workshop series is being developed and will roll out soon. Raine will send emails regarding this series for people to pass along to town officials to try to get together teams to develop cyber incident response plans. This helps towns assess where they are with regard to IT and cybersecurity, as well as steps to take.

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Old Business: None.

New Business:

PPE supplies for meetings, when public meetings are allowed – Continuing a discussion that started last month, Raine raised the prospect of having WRHSAC PPE supplies on hand for when we need them for in-person meetings or events. John Dearborn noted that Longmeadow is holding town meetings outside next week and planning to have a lot of PPE on hand. Paul Morrissette added that he thinks it is a good idea; seeing what schools are planning to do, this is likely to be the new norm for the foreseeable future. If people do not come with PPE, we should provide it. Raine explained that we have not heard anything yet about when we will be required to have in-person meetings again, but we are now operating under special permission put in place in March to not have an in-person quorum. If at some point we move to having combined in-person-and-virtual meetings, we will also need special equipment such as a wide angle camera and a large screen to include people who call in. She asked the Council if we should put aside money for this now or wait to see how things unfold.

Monica suggested that we put aside money now, because the longer we wait, the harder it will be to get PPE. John brought up the question of a larger venue. The Hatfield space is small and our meetings would go over 25% occupancy. Raine replied that MEMA's larger room would be able to host us, and that the FRCOG meeting room also has a larger capacity. John asked how much money would be needed. Raine replied that she did not know, but that she suggests making an allotment for masks, hand sanitizer, and infrared thermometers. Jeanne commented that masks and hand sanitizer are more important than thermometers, and that \$400-\$500 should be enough for small amounts. She also suggested supplies for cleaning surfaces. John suggested \$1,500. Amy noted that they have sources for supplies, and also suggested maybe adding gloves. She believes that \$1,000-\$1,500 should be more than sufficient.

<p>Motion: Chris Bouchard moved to approve up to \$1,500 for WRHSAC PPE supplies. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
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Business Unforeseen by Chair:

Chris Bouchard and Melissa Nazzaro, having both joined the meeting late, gave updates concerning their disciplines at this time.

DPW – Chris reported that they are waiting on Chapter 90 funds. When the senate voted on the \$18 billion transportation bill, they included the MBTA Advisory Board as a condition. The DPW is pushing to have that requirement removed to get funding released sooner.

Communications – Melissa reported that they did not have an SIEC meeting this past month, but that they were busy with protests for about 10 days, coordinating resources across state. Melissa will put together a group to discuss what went well and what did not. She counted over 104 events with interoperability components between June 2 and June 9.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
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Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 10:00 am, location to be determined pending COVID-19 meeting restrictions.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn. Jeanne Galloway seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for June 16, 2020
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from May 19, 2020 (draft)
- Education and Action to Address the Public Health Crisis of Systemic Racism
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY17 Homeland Security Grant – 6/16/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY18 Homeland Security Grant – 6/16/20
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 6/12/20
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 6/12/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
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Tuesday, July 21, 2020, 10:00 am

Present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Seth Bouvier (EOPSS), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Steve Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (MSP), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Paul Morrissette (WMFCA), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO), Michael Perkins (Cummington PD), Lauren Sacks (MAPC), Amy Reilly (MAPC), John Warren (CISA), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield PD), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**This meeting was conducted on Zoom due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions. The meeting was recorded.*

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the June 16, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the June 16, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Raine introduced Patricia McGuirk, the new EOPSS coordinator.

Updates from the Chair

None.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Paul Morrissette had no updates to report.
- POLICE: Mike Wynn reported. This week, law enforcement's primary focus is what is going on at the State House. The Chiefs' Association was busy last week giving written commentary in advance of the house bill.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. There are budgetary concerns both regionally and in the Commonwealth. The Governor's budget cut roughly \$80,000 from each of the five regional offices. Cuts like this are not uncommon, but those cuts were previously made up in supplemental budgets, which are mostly not available this year. About 90% of regional offices' budgets are personnel, so they now have to figure out how to handle the cuts. In Western MA, they are reducing the office by half a day a week (closed Friday afternoons). By January, or sooner, that will probably go up to one day a week. EMS is in crisis across the Commonwealth, and there will be trickle down effects such as education applications taking a lot longer for approval. There is also some concern among providers about what is going to come out of the house bill. EMS works alongside police, who keep EMS providers safe. There are concerns that there will be a push not to send police officers along to calls, which could lead to safety issues for EMS providers. This is a real issue that has to be faced across

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the Commonwealth and the country. Carolyn asked if Steve could circulate some bullet points that she or others can use to write letters to advocate for EMS interests. Steve agreed to do that. Tom reiterated that as Steve mentioned, funding cuts is not a new issue; it happens every year, but if you can reach out please do to help get any level of funding restored.

- EMD: Bob Hassett had no updates to report.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Norene Pease reported. Public Health is still busy with the coronavirus. One concern is about messaging not having as much effect as early on, as there is now more reluctance to wear masks in social gatherings. They would appreciate help from police and other disciplines in modeling appropriate behaviors. Carolyn added that mosquito risk is increasing. EEE is circulating early in Franklin County. She asked everyone to help get messaging out about bug spray and long sleeves.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. They are still trying to navigate the “COVID world.” Budgets for the next few years are uncertain, but likely lower. They are working with state reps to advocate for their needs. Some drivers are having issues with passengers refusing to wear masks. Police have helped in removing non-compliant passengers.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are in the same situation as the police, waiting to see what happens in Boston with the house bill. They are also maintaining daily reporting to the SJC on compassionate releases and other actions being taken to prevent COVID-19 transmission. There still have not been any active COVID cases in the Berkshire jail.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Hassett had no updates to report.
- HOSPITAL: Monica Wynne reported. Hospitals continue to see a drop in admitted COVID-19 cases, but they are also seeing high numbers of people coming into the ED for non-COVID matters, as well as high numbers in in-patient care.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. Everyone is focused on COVID-related operations. Towns are trying to manage budgets but still have questions from the federal and state level. Many decisions are on hold. They are also busy with reopening plans.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: No one was present to give an update.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Jeff McDonald reported. MSP is in the middle of recruit training, about a third of the way through. This is an unconventional field training because of COVID. Jeff echoed other chiefs in their concerns about the police reform bill. They have been arguing for change and reform for years and would like to see it standardized, but many

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feel that these bills are being pushed forward too hastily, with not enough input. He predicts that there will be an exodus of senior officers if the Police Review Board goes forward.

- MEMA: No one was present to give an update.
- EOPSS: Raine Brown conveyed a report from Patricia McGuirk (who was on the call but having microphone issues). WRHSAC closed out FFY17 in March, but one other Council still had some funds in use; this will be fully closed out at the end of July. The 2020 SHSP application has been received and approved by FEMA. The state will receive just over \$6 million in funding by the end of summer. FEMA has awarded Massachusetts over \$1.6 million in non-profit security grants for non-profits and places of worship that are at increased risk of terrorist attacks. The award amount will be made at the end of the summer. Seth Bouvier added that EOPSS has put in a lot of effort to try to influence the house bills. There is also a lot of attention going to COVID. There might be an order coming soon for a mandatory quarantine for out of state visitors.
- DHS: John Warren reported. They are starting to get back to a “new normal.” They are now available, upon request and approval, for physical security assessments for stakeholders. The Worcester protective security advisor position interviews will be starting within the next week or so. Three rounds of the Office of Bombing Prevention training that were scheduled for June at the Big E were postponed due to the pandemic. Cliff and John are working to get the next round of classes on the calendar when possible. The highest priority for CISA right now is cyber security in the health sector, especially as there are major players in the development of a vaccine in Region 1.

Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Raine reported.

- The subcommittee is working with regional health coalitions to restock PPE. They came up with the items and quantities that they are seeking; Raine will now be working on the specifications to send to MAPC soon.
- The creation of signage for supporting Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions is moving forward. The working group has decided on the content of the signs, and work on graphic design is now underway. The intent is to get them printed and distributed through the health care coalitions.
- Message mapping project – The subcommittee reviewed the Scope of Work for moving the Risk Communications Seminar online. They are seeking a vendor to help with the transition.
- Regional cyber security – The feasibility study has been presented to the FRCOG and will be presented to the involved towns tomorrow. Raine will share this with the full Council and the subcommittee after that. They had hoped for a simple regional solution, but this is a complex issue and requires complex solutions. Moving forward, it will take time to build something sustainable so it will likely require an expansion of the project.

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- Mental health resiliency project – The consultants have developed online training modules to introduce the project to leaders. These will hopefully be online in August, using the new learning management system purchased by the T&E subcommittee.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Bob Hassett and Raine Brown reported. WMRIC had purchased new multi-frequency video downlink units because upgrading the old units was not possible. To keep the costs within our budget, the vendor did not include new antennas with the order. The old antennas can receive on the lower frequencies, but we need the new ones to access the higher frequencies. We received estimates that also included optional batteries and chargers, for a total cost of \$20,100. WMRIC does not have enough money left to cover this, so there is a need for \$16,172. The request was presented to the T&E subcommittee this morning and a motion was made to allow the funds to be transferred from the T&E budget to WMRIC for the new antennas, batteries, and chargers.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the transfer of \$16,172 to WMRIC for the purchase of video downlink antennas, batteries, and chargers. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Bob Hassett abstaining.

Regarding other active WMRIC projects, WMLEC is replacing end-of-life power supplies and batteries and also adding duplexers to the rapid comm trailer. Purchase orders have been issued for these. Purchase orders have also been issued for the Tech Rescue Team multiband radios. We just received bids for the Hilltown IMC project; they are currently under review.

Training and Exercises:

Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee met earlier today. The GCC portable training facility came in over the amount that was previously allocated, so they need an additional \$3,080.14 to complete the purchase.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve \$3,080.14 for the increased cost of the portable training facility. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Because we still do not know when indoor gatherings will be able to resume, most of the subcommittee's trainings have been put on hold or are moving to a virtual platform.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine reported. The PPE restocking project was reviewed earlier in the meeting.

CBRNE/IED: Raine reported. They are getting additional equipment in for Tech Rescue Team. They just received bids for the seismic sensor, which are currently being reviewed.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine reported. We are moving along well on spending down the FFY18 budget. Raine has been flipping equipment projects from FFY19 to FFY18 to spend down that grant. Finding good trainings for an online format is an area we are keeping an eye out for. Send ideas to Raine or

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Tom. We would like to keep offering substantial trainings in the region, as this is a way we have built strong relationships. The FFY19 budget is looking good. A lot of the projects that were on the table are active and moving along, despite some delays with vendors.

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update

Raine reported. There is a meeting next week of the municipal working group. The cyber working group has been holding roundtable discussions, and one thing that keeps coming up is that many towns want a regional solution for cybersecurity, as it is too much for small towns to handle on their own. We will keep an eye on how we can continue helping with that.

Old Business:

WRHSAC Communications Representative – Jeremy DeMar has moved on, so we need a new communications representative. Raine asked for ideas about who we might tap from the region. This will be part of today’s discussion at the WMRIC meeting. Melissa Nazzaro suggested that the dispatch director from Westfield would be a good addition to the group.

New Business:

Melissa reported that the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) for 2020 was approved by the Governor’s office, replacing the 2015 version. Melissa will send a link to the pdf on the mass.gov website. The state’s MIFOG is also available electronically; there are also some printed copies at MEMA. At the SIEC meeting they approved an encryption informational bulletin for the first responder community to ensure that there is basic information available to law enforcement about encryption, and to put agencies in touch with subject matter experts who are not vendors.

John Warren added to his previous update, reporting that Tanglewood had requested a tabletop exercise for this fall. They were just in early discussions about it when the season was canceled. The request was moved to the fall of 2021. Anyone who wants to stay updated about it can contact John.

Business Unforeseen by Chair:

Tom thanked the Council for the good work and capabilities and assets we have put together over many years. The work that we have done continues to reap benefits.

Tom mentioned that the Council traditionally does not hold a meeting in August. He asked if anyone was opposed to that this year; no one was, so the next meeting will be in September.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 10:00 am, location to be determined pending COVID-19 meeting restrictions.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Jamin Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>

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The meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for July 21, 2020
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2020 (draft)
- IMT Quotation dated July 10, 2020
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY18 Homeland Security Grant – 7/21/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report: FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 7/21/20
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 7/17/20
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 7/17/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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

DRAFT

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 10:00 am

Council members present: Chris Bouchard (South Hadley Highway), Jamin Carroll (PVRTA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Robert Laford (UMass), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne)

Non-members present:

Bob Barry (MEMA), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Seth Bouvier (EOPSS), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO), Amy Reilly (MAPC)

Council members absent: Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Paul Morrissette (WMFCA), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**This meeting was conducted on Zoom due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions. The meeting was recorded.*

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

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the July 21, 2020 meeting.

<p>Motion: Jeanne Galloway moved to approve the July 21, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Steve Kozloski, John Dearborn, Chris Bouchard, Susan Rathbun, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, Brian Rust, and Jamin Carroll voted to approve. Bob Laford and Steve Gaughan abstained. The motion passed.</p>

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom reported that the undersecretary reached out to the Homeland Security Council chairs to set up a meeting for September 29 in Natick.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported no updates.

- POLICE: Steve Kozloski and Susan Rathbun reported no updates.

- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. For everyone who does continuing education (OEMS), the push is to do things remotely, including refreshers, but it is still possible to hold in-person classes. OEMS has documented cases of spread from con-eds, so the goal is to prevent this by doing trainings remotely. Call the regional office if you have questions.

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- EMD: Bob Hassett reported that a few things are going on in the Atlantic. No major storms are directed at us, but we are in a significant drought, so the Commonwealth is asking us to limit outdoor watering activities and making fire departments aware of increased risk.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported that public health is very busy. We are getting to the end of mosquito season, which will lower some of the risk. EEE was not as bad as feared, because of the drought, but we are in a multi-year outbreak. West Nile is also kicking up, but should be ending soon. Flu season is almost upon us. No one is sure what will happen with a COVID and flu combo.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. They are still dealing with COVID related challenges. Also, the City of Northampton narrowed Main St for a few weeks, which impacted transit, but they have now widened it again.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported no updates.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. There have been numerous statewide conference calls with the Department of Corrections and the Sheriffs' offices, with a focus on the duty to intervene and developing statewide language to use for that. They are seeing lower numbers of inmate populations across the state.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Hassett reported that hard copies of the final MIFOG are available for distribution, and the electronic version is in final review by the feds. As soon as that is released it will be available electronically. There are some minor changes in the ICIP for special conditions for getting approval from SIEC.
- HOSPITAL: Brian Rust reported. COVID rates of hospitalization are going down, unfortunately there are many high acuity patients in house, and EDs are busy. They are also planning for the upcoming flu and COVID season.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: No one was present to give an update.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Bob Laford reported. It's a different world on campuses this semester, with very few students and staff. UMass has some in-person classes, mostly labs. They are running a COVID testing center, testing over 2,000 people a day, Monday through Friday, both drive-through and walk-up. College of Nursing students and School of Public Health students are helping with that. They are also doing isolation and quarantine. They have a public facing dashboard for UMass at umass.edu/coronavirus/dashboard. Any student who has an in-person class has to be tested twice a week, and faculty and staff are tested once or twice a week. They have had a very low positivity rate; most quarantines are because of travel. Starting later this month, the testing site at the Mullins Center will also be a flu clinic to vaccinate everyone.

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- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Bob Barry reported. Extensions are being granted into December for the 2019 HEMP and EMPG grants, due to COVID. Will be launching EMPG 2020 soon and delivering new emergency response guides within the next few weeks. They have held several small WebEOC classes in the four counties, with proper precautions, as well as small workshops for ICEP.
- EOPSS: Seth Bouvier reported. They are continuing work on the police bills in the state house and the COVID enforcement teams.
- DHS: No one was present to give an update.

Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Jeanne Galloway reported that the subcommittee has been active through the summer and has a lot in the works. Raine Brown gave updates on the active projects.

- The mental health resiliency training is shifting to an online format; consultants have been developing e-learning modules that will precede a live virtual event, likely broken into a series of trainings. The focus is on helping leadership create a positive mental health environment within first responder disciplines. We are looking to roll out the e-learning modules in late October or November.
- There are several aspects of the non-pharmaceutical interventions project currently underway. A “short guide” will be coming out within next few months to assist with implementation of NPIs. There is also work being done on an emergency planning considerations checklist for how to adjust plans given the COVID environment. This includes a checklist, facilitators guide and presentation, all modified from MEMA materials. We will also be purchasing sandwich sign boards with interchangeable signs for health coalitions to distribute to towns or keep in a regional cache.
- Funds for the systemic racism project will be returned to subcommittee for other projects because it was not approved for this funding cycle. The subcommittee will look at moving this forward for the next funding cycle.
- The PPE restocking bids are due today at MAPC, so we should see this project moving along to get equipment out to the health coalitions.
- Instead of an in-person risk communication seminar, we are working on e-learning modules with a live online event to be held in January or February to support the modules.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Bob Hassett reported. The MIFOG is printed and waiting for distribution. There will be minor changes for ICIP for special conditions.

Training and Exercises:

Tom Grady reported that the subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. A number of trainings are on hold or moving forward slowly. The subcommittee discussed the MYTEP (Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan), following a small group meeting on Zoom that

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generated ideas which Raine is consolidating. The document will hopefully go to the Council next month. We are also reaching out to form a small group to look at the online shelter training and whether we want to update it or give up on it.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine reported. The current PPE project is through the Pan Flu / Planning subcommittee. Most of the equipment in this category is for the Western Mass Tech Rescue Team. We are wrapping up FFY18 projects and starting discussions with the team on the FFY19 projects.

Tom added to his previous subcommittee update, reporting that the new training facility has arrived at GCC and we are looking into doing a demonstration of those and the new AR15 simunitions rifles.

CBRNE/IED: John Dearborn reported no new activity.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine reported. FFY18 is moving along fairly well. A couple of projects might need to be flipped to FFY19 to make sure they wrap up on time. We can already see the need for an extension for FFY19 because of T&E and Pan Flu / Planning projects that were delayed due to COVID. Otherwise, FFY19 is going along as well as possible. Amy Reilly added that they are still working remotely, including doing procurement remotely, and that it is working out well. She added that she wanted to highlight Raine's work on the cyber project, coordinating all four regions. Raine is moving it along well and her leadership has been great.

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update

Raine reported. She is still leading the municipal sub group, which is going well.

Old Business:

WRHSAC Communications Representative – We have a vacancy as noted in July, with Jeremy DeMar leaving. WMRIC took up the topic last month. As there is no regional entity to make a suggestion, the subcommittee made a motion to nominate Nina Barszcz (Westfield), with Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham) as alternate. Nina introduced herself to the Council. She is the public safety director in Westfield and has been dispatching for 14 years. She explained that Melissa Nazzaro reached out to her and filled her in on the role and responsibilities. She is happy to make the commitment, noting that she will need some guidance on what it means to be a voting member.

Motion: Bob Hassett moved to accept the nomination of Nina Barszcz as the primary WRHSAC member representing communications, with Anthony Gentile as the alternate. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Steve Kozloski, John Dearborn, Chris Bouchard, Susan Rathbun, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Bob Laford, Brian Rust, and Jamin Carroll all voted to approve. The motion passed.

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Raine will be in touch with Nina regarding next steps and approval from EOPSS.

New Business:

None.

Business Unforeseen by Chair:

None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Jeanne Galloway moved to adjourn. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Steve Kozloski, John Dearborn, Chris Bouchard, Susan Rathbun, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Bob Laford, Brian Rust, and Jamin Carroll all voted to approve. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for September 15, 2020
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2020 (draft)
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 9/11/20
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 9/11/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 10:00 am**

Council members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Robert Laford (UMass), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO, alternate for Jeanne Galloway)

Non-members present:

Bob Barry (MEMA), Jeanne Benincasa-Thorpe (EOPSS), Gail Bienvenue (DPH), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Seth Bouvier (EOPSS), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire), Scott Flebotte (Hampden County Sheriff's Dept), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Barry Ross (Hampden County Sheriff's Office), Lauri Solomon (FRCOG), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

Council members absent: Chris Bouchard (South Hadley Highway), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Paul Morrissette (WMFCA), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**This meeting was conducted on Zoom due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions. The meeting was recorded.*

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the September 15, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Bob Laford moved to approve the September 15, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. Jamin Carroll seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Charles Burger, Mike Wynn, Jeanne Galloway, Bob Laford, Nina Barszcz, Bob Hassett, Bob Laford, Steve Kozloski, and Jamin Carroll voted to approve. The motion passed.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom reported that a Council Chairs' meeting was called by Undersecretary Benincasa on Sept. 29th at which they went over the state homeland security strategy. The PowerPoint presentation that was shared is in today's meeting packet. Our goals as a Council are aligned with the state's.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported. He extended his thanks to Chief Sirois and others who responded to the Bondi's Island fire. He also thanked Melissa Nazzaro for supporting

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communications. They used the U-Tac and V-Tac systems and found them very useful. They also used the light towers and other available resources. Salvation Army provided meals.

- POLICE: John Paciorek reported. Police are preparing for the elections, both election day and post elections, including preparations for riots and demonstrations.
- EMS: No one was present to give an update.
- EMD: Bob Hassett reported. He also thanked the communities who helped out with the Bondi's Island fire. He was just on a conference call with the National Weather Service; there is still in severe drought in Western Mass. We are coming up on end of hurricane season, already past the peak.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Public health is dealing with COVID and the upcoming flu season, with a lot of drive-through flu clinics. Mosquito season is almost over. They are gearing up for a COVID vaccine, and also for the day after the election.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. They, too, are dealing with COVID restrictions and gearing up for winter and flu season. They are also looking to see what budgets will be for upcoming year.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. Corrections will play a support role for the election as needed. As a state agency, they are struggling with budget cuts and encouraging retirements to avoid layoffs.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Hassett reported no updates.
- HOSPITAL: No one was present to give an update.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported that most communities are gearing up for early voting and looking at Nov 3rd. Everyone is nervous about very tight budgets.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Bob Laford reported. They also have budget concerns and have been facing furloughs for staff. They have offered people the opportunity to retire with added bonus. UMass has passed a new testing threshold, over 3,200 in one day, though they are averaging 1,300 per week. They have a public facing dashboard. Students will be leaving November 20, and the remainder of the semester will be completely remote. However, they still have 7,000-8,000 students in rental properties in surrounding towns, so they will continue to hold a testing clinic though not every day. The Chancellor will be making a decision soon regarding next semester. Multiple committees are working on this.

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- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Bob Barry reported. They will be doing COOP workshop in person, limited to ten people, in Lanesboro, with COVID precautions. Let Bob know by email if would like to participate. MEMA will be distributing the Emergency Response Guides that come out every four years. They will also be distributing the new MIFOG books shortly.
- EOPSS: Seth Bouvier reported. The main thing keeping them busy is the election. Statewide public safety agencies have convened to coordinate readiness and assets across the state. The plan is to go into heightened state the day before election, which will last about a week, though that could be adjusted. Also of note, Secretary Turco will be stepping down at the end of the year. No replacement has been announced yet.
- DHS: John Warren reported. They have made the selection for the Worcester protective security advisor, Glenn Cannavo from Manhattan. An initial job offer was also extended to cover Connecticut. DHS is ramping up for the election, trying to push product out as rapidly as possible. John had a conversation with intelligence analysts this morning; there are no specific or direct credible threats to Western Mass, but they are requesting enhanced vigilance. There is plenty of foreign reach in elections and in COVID research. They are working closely with the Fusion Center on things like phishing, malware, and denial of service attacks.

Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Jeanne Galloway reported. The committee is doing well. They had a robust conversation around a public health response trailer this month and have a request for additional funding. As of right now, the allotment for the trailer is just over \$102,000, but the goal is to get it to match the configuration currently in use in Hampshire County, with an 8x20 ft trailer. A new one outfitted similarly will cost more than the current allocation, with funding estimates in \$140,000-\$150,000 range. They would like to request a reallocation of \$72,338 from the FFY19 project for regional prevention, response, and recovery for active threats, for a total of \$175,000. They would also like to switch the project from FFY2020 to FFY19.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to allocate \$72,338 from the FFY19 Regional Prevention, Response, and Recovery project to the Public Health Response Trailer project, and to switch the project from FFY2020 to FFY19. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Mike Wynn, Bob Laford, John Paciorek, Charles Burger, Jamin Carroll, Steve Kozloski, Bob Hassett, Nina Barszcz, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted to approve. The motion passed.

The committee has also had conversations on the NPI project, which is moving along well.

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Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Bob Hassett reported. Springfield CMED just entered an agreement with Motorola for a contract that should cover the next 11 years. Steve Kozloski reported on the projects funded by the Council for the rapid comm trailer and infrastructure repairs, which are in the final stages of completion. Nina Barszcz reported that the next State 911 Commission meeting will be held Thursday. They will talk about the effort for regionalization in the area. Melissa Nazzaro reported that the MIFOG books are available; they do not have the same distribution model as previous years, but both printed copies and the online link are available. E-FOG beta testing will begin this month, with an app for end users. Melissa also noted that that the success at Bondi Island was due to tactical channels programmed in all the radios. ESF2 will be activated for the election. They are ready to support wherever needed.

Training and Exercises:

Tom Grady reported. The committee met prior to this meeting and there are three motions to bring before the Council. The first is for three more sessions of the chainsaw safety course. One session is in progress now in Turners Falls, and it filled up very quickly with a waitlist.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to allocate \$18,000 for three chainsaw safety courses in 2021. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Mike Wynn, Bob Laford, John Paciorek, Charles Burger, Jamin Carroll, Steve Kozloski, Bob Hassett, Nina Barszcz, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted to approve. The motion passed.

The second motion involves the new portable training facility housed at GCC. They did a couple of deployments for demonstrations, and there was quite a bit of interest. However, they found that transporting the units in the canvas bags they came with is not sufficient, so they submitted a proposal for a small trailer with ancillary shelving and totes. Steve Kozloski commented that Monson hosted one of the demo sessions and that it was evident that a trailer would be useful.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to allocate up to \$6,500 for a small trailer and ancillary equipment for the portable training facility. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Mike Wynn, Bob Laford, John Paciorek, Charles Burger, Jamin Carroll, Steve Kozloski, Bob Hassett, Nina Barszcz, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted to approve. The motion passed.

There is a need to update the shelter training videos because Flash is obsolete and will be entirely unavailable soon. Raine has found a vendor that can capture the information and voice files so that we can use them. Carolyn added that the trainings proved to be useful when they were created, and that it would cost a lot more money to re-create them. Bob Laford asked if we have usage data. Raine explained that unfortunately it was not originally set up to track use, but that we will do that with the new trainings.

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Motion: Tom Grady moved to allocate up to \$100,000 for the series of shelter training modules. Charles Burger seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Mike Wynn, Bob Laford, John Paciorek, Charles Burger, Jamin Carroll, Steve Kozloski, Bob Hassett, Nina Barszcz, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted to approve. The motion passed.

Raine reported that the MYTEP update included in today's meeting packet will be submitted to EOPSS. The committee mostly kept the categories as before. Also in the packet is a draft letter to the region encouraging doing trainings and exercises around planned events, as well as using those events to train junior officers or staff.

Tom reported that the simunitions rifle project is complete, and that those resources are now available through Bernardston.

Equipment/PPE:

Raine reported. The PPE project for restocking public health coalitions had a lot of bids, and should be getting into purchase orders soon.

CBRNE/IED: Raine reported. She is continuing to work with the tech rescue team to get in the final pieces of FFY18 equipment, as well as working on the FFY19 allocations. They will get the specifications for another trailer to MAPC soon, and are also moving ahead with the swift water rescue project measurements.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine reported. Things are moving along fairly well considering the challenges of holding events in person. That put a damper on our ability to spend down funds, though we will use a lot of it for the online shelter training. We need to flip the ammonia response training and large animal rescue training to FFY19. Raine asked if the Council is still ok with her flipping projects as needed; there was general agreement that she should proceed. The tactical response team project came in under budget and the unspent funds will return to the Council.

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update

Raine reported. She is still serving as Chair of the Municipal Working Group, which has been busy with Cyber Awareness Month activities.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Equipment Shelter Facility Request - Hampden County Sheriff's Office

Scott Flebotte explained that Hampden County houses equipment purchased by the Council. The equipment is stored in the open, exposing it to harsh weather conditions. They feel it would be better to bring everything indoors, to keep things ready and available at all times. They are proposing a facility that would be used to house the light towers, sign boards, message boards,

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and other items. In addition, it often is difficult to get a Point of Distribution (POD) site set up quickly, so this can be a dual purpose building that can be used as a POD. They can have pallets and a forklift ready. This would be a secure facility and available 24/7. The basic proposal (included in today's meeting packet) is for \$77,169 for building and foundation; site work, electrical, and other costs bring the total quote to \$112,669.

Bob Barry reiterated that the region has been blessed to have the Council's support in getting these resources, but that they have not been able to keep them under shelter. For longevity and proper maintenance, it would be highly beneficial if the Council can move in this direction. He repeated that it can be used as POD site would be great for Hampden County.

John Paciorek asked if we have the money, and if so, where it could be taken from. Raine replied that technically all of the money is allocated for projects or committees, so if this is something the Council wants to move on immediately, we would have to take it from a committee, likely T&E because money is sitting there. However, it would require a request to EOPSS because this is not in our investment plan and does not really fit into our "B" projects except perhaps "mass care and sheltering." Another option is to wait until the FFY2021 funds are announced. That is usually sometime between Feb-April 2021, but we do not know if this year will follow that pattern. Raine also reminded the Council that we received a similar request a few years ago from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, and the Council said no. If we move ahead with this, we should be prepared to revisit the FCSO request and prepared to receive requests from other host locations.

Jeanne noted that looking at the plans, it is not a drive through building. However, if it were a point of distribution it should be. This design would not be useful for vaccine distribution. Bob Barry replied that they were not thinking about vaccine distribution, but rather other supplies. Bob Laford suggested that in thinking about past and future requests, we should hold off on this and think about whether we can fund a larger, multi-county project in 2021. Tom was also in favor of tabling this for now, to give everyone a chance to think about it. If we move forward with this proposal, Berkshire County would also be interested in one. It may be time to rethink how we are storing caches of equipment. We could look at two locations in Western MA to house all of the assets to make them available. Once we open the door on providing shelters to hosts, how do we say no to anyone else storing assets for us? He suggested that we leave it on agenda and bring it back for discussion next month. Raine asked if it is worth putting together a working group. Tom responded that this is a good idea, and noted that there are at least six groups hosting assets who should be included. Raine will send out a doodle poll. Scott added that they would be willing to host more equipment if they have this facility. They feel that there is a need.

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New WMFCA Representative

Raine reported that Paul Morrissette has stepped down from the Council. The WMFCA have recommended Jon Davine as replacement.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve the nomination of Jon Davine and send his name to EOPSS for approval. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Bob Laford, John Paciorek, Charles Burger, Jamin Carroll, Steve Kozloski, Bob Hassett, Nina Barszcz, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted to approve. The motion passed.

Tom noted that Chief Davine has been behind the scenes as an active participant in the Council's work, and he is excited to have him on board. Charlie Burger noted that his appointment still has not made it through the government office. Raine replied that the way it stands now is that once the Council approves a member at the local level, they can be a voting member unless they hear otherwise. She added that it took over two years to get Jeremy DeMar to be officially approved, then he left.

Bob Hassett reported that the Springfield Fire Department has a fire safe trailer looking for a new home. It has heat and A/C and a fog machine. The primary use is for teaching school children about fire safety. If you would like it, contact Bob or Raine.

Jon Davine commented that in Northampton in the spring, they had a COVID related shelter for homeless in the high school. He had heard a rumor that Dawn Brantly of MEMA had been working to find locations for winter, and he wondered if anyone knew more about that. Bob Barry replied that he was at a meeting last week at which it was indicated that they are looking at that. He will follow up. Regionally, they are looking at different areas to support that effort, primarily by looking to beef up abilities to turn existing buildings into shelters.

Business Unforeseen by Chair:

Tom thanked everyone involved in the Bondi Island incident, and also those who were involved with the response to a report of explosive devices in Monterey. A large scale operation formed, and a substantial amount of explosives were removed in a well-organized operation. Many Council resources were used and proved their worth.

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Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to adjourn. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Nina Barszcz, Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Bob Laford, John Paciorek, Jamin Carroll, Steve Kozloski, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted to approve. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for October 20, 2020
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from September 15, 2020 (draft)
- State Homeland Security Strategy Implementation and Strategic Plan
- WRHSAC Multiyear Training & Exercise Plan 2021-2023 / October 2020 MYTEP Update
- Announcement Re: Utilizing Large Planned Events as Exercise and Drill Opportunities
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 10/16/20
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 10/16/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY18 Homeland Security Grant – 10/20/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 10/20/20
- Hampden County Sheriff's Office – Letter and Proposal for on-site enclosed garage
- Letter from WMFCA dated October 14, 2020

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 10:00 am

Council members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Chris Bouchard (South Hadley Highway), Jamin Carroll (PVTa), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Robert Laford (UMass), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

Non-members present:

Raine Brown (FRCOG), Seth Bouvier (EOPSS), Adam Hakkarainen (MSP), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Michael Nelson (DPH), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Barry Ross (Hampden County Sheriff's Office), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

Council members absent: Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police)

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

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the October 20, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Bob Hassett moved to approve the October 20, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. John Dearborn seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jon Davine, Nina Barszcz, Bob Hassett, Tom Grady, Chris Bouchard, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, and Jamin Carroll voted to approve. Monica Wynne abstained. The motion passed.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady had no updates to report. Things have been relatively quiet on the Homeland Security side, and busy locally with the resurgence of COVID-19.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn had no updates to report.
- POLICE: John Paciorek had no updates to report.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported that funding issues are heading in the right direction. They had a regional council meeting recently and learned that some servicers are not wearing

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proper PPE because they say they do not have enough. If you know an agency having trouble procuring supplies, have them contact Western Mass EMS.

- EMD: Bob Hassett reported. He attended the National Weather Service winter weather conference, but there was nothing significant to report.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. There is a high number of COVID cases, they are understaffed, and some experienced professionals in the region will be retiring in the next few months. There will be a gap in public health professionals in the near future. There has not been a lot of flu yet this season, but it could be coming. Mosquito season is over.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. There has been an outbreak of COVID at the Springfield facility, with 13 people testing positive in the last week or so. They now have weekly onsite testing at all facilities to try to stamp it out.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. A lot of departments have been discussing how to deal with staffing if they are hit with COVID, as they will still need to handle wastewater treatment and other responsibilities. They are trying to keep staff safe and coming up with reduced staff plans. They are also slowly rolling out the mutual aid plan with the Mass Highway Association. They have not been able to do the tabletop yet. Mass DOT is working on the GIS program, so they can't do anything until they are done with that. They will show it to this committee before rolling out the road closure app.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. The sheriffs continue to meet on a weekly basis for COVID updates. They just received another request from the ACLU for information regarding COVID, which adds to their workload.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz had no updates to report.
- HOSPITAL: Monica Wynne reported. Baystate will be suspending visiting hours effective tomorrow. They continue to see an uptick in COVID cases, and are working on plans for how to utilize community hospitals for people who do not need the highest levels of care.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: No one was present to give an update.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Bob Laford reported. UMass has had a spike on campus after Halloween, but no different than the rest of the state. Students living on campus will be heading home this week. They will be continuing to run their testing site throughout winter break, but with fewer hours. Following Thanksgiving, classes will be remote through the first week of December and will remain remote through January. The spring semester starts February 1.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Adam Hakkarainen reported. The new recruits have come on board. MSP is adjusting to the Governor's orders that have changed their operational

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model to try to keep everyone safe and healthy. Regarding election operations, they were ready with extra resources but did not end up using many in Western Mass.

- MEMA: No one was present to give an update due to the fire at Jacob's Pillow.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk reported that FFY2020 contracts were signed and ready to go.
- DHS: John Warren reported. They are working with FEMA to support the ESF14 private sector mission as the COVID case counts continue to climb. They are still working on the multi-asset security assessment with MassPort. The new Worcester protective security advisor will be starting in December. They are also working with CISA headquarters on a house of worship self-assessment tool. This is FEMA-accepted for grant purposes. When it is ready, they will teach people how to do the self-assessment and assemble teams.

Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Raine reported on the subcommittee. They are in the last stages of the first phase of the non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI) project, developing a short guide. Signs from the signage project will be delivered to the public health coalitions in January. The Emergency Preparedness in a Pandemic resources and video have been completed and will be coming out next month. The mental health project will launch the online modules in December, with a virtual real-time series for leadership starting at the end of January. Information will go out in December. The project justification for the public health mobile response trailer is at EOPSS for approval, after which Raine will move forward with procurement. Some projects were flipped to FFY2020 so that the trailer could be in FFY19.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Bob Hassett reported. SIEC did not meet this past month because there were no items for approval. The beta version of the electronic MIFOG is being tested by committee members. Testing should be completed within a week, then the app will be released. Distribution of the hard copies is coming soon.

Training and Exercises:

Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee met this morning. The chainsaw safety training went well, with a full class. We will be doing more of those next year. There is one motion to bring forward to the Council. WMRIC requested multi-key radio programming, which was missed when the radios were ordered. Because the WMRIC subcommittee has spent all of their current funds, they reached out to the T&E subcommittee for the funding. T&E approved the request.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to allocate \$1,026 from the T&E subcommittee for the purchase of multi-key radio programming. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, John Dearborn, John Paciorek, Bob Laford, Jon Davine, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Monica Wynne, Chris Bouchard, and Jamin Carroll voted to approve. Bob Hassett abstained. The motion passed.

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A number of other T&E projects are still in the works, with the faith-based active threat project being one of the larger ones. Check the website for upcoming trainings. The ASL classes are starting this week.

Equipment/PPE: Raine reported. The PPE project for health coalitions restocking is moving forward. It was challenging because of many vendor responses, so there were many bids to check. We allocated up to \$100,000, but the cost of items is less than anticipated so we will likely do a second round of procurement.

CBRNE/IED: John Dearborn reported no activity from the subcommittee.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine reported. In the budgets there have been changes as to where projects are sitting. Some trainings in FFY18 have flipped to FFY19, and the mobile response trailer originally in FFY2020 switched to FFY19. Funding for the next phases of the first responder mental health project and the NPI project is now entirely in FFY2020. Raine will make sure that MAPC has those changes for the FFY2020 contract. In general we are doing well. Raine has spoken with MAPC and EOPSS about an extension for FFY19 funds. Other Homeland Security Councils also want that; they will have meeting soon with EOPSS to discuss. Raine has a goal to put out an e-newsletter every other month, starting in December.

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update

Raine reported that the work is going well. They had a busy October for Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The Councils worked together on training modules for municipal officials, for which they have had a good response. The training modules are now on the Council websites. This is a basic level training to start to give a holistic picture of cybersecurity. The municipal working group is starting to talk about how to partner with the Councils for next year, too.

Old Business:

Equipment Shelters

Raine reported that a small sub-group met, and they will develop a working group to continue working on this. This is on the agenda as a place holder for now. They had all of the Sheriffs' offices on the call, as well as others.

New Business:

None.

Business Unforeseen by Chair:

Tom relayed a message from Bonnie Roy at MEMA, who sent out thanks to the host agencies in the Law Enforcement community who helped with distribution of KN95 masks.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

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Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 10:00 am**

Motion: John Paciorek moved to adjourn. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Bob Laford, Jon Davine, Nina Barszcz, John Paciorek, Monica Wynne, Chris Bouchard, Steve Gaughan, and Jamin Carroll voted to approve. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for November 17, 2020
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2020 (draft)
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 11/13/20
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 11/13/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY18 Homeland Security Grant – 11/17/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 11/17/20

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason
Homeland Security Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council
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Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 10:00 am

Council members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Chris Bouchard (South Hadley Highway), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jamin Carroll (PVRTA), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Robert Laford (UMass), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Seth Bouvier (EOPSS), Amanda Doster (FRCOG), Allison Egan (BRPC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (MSP), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Michael Perkins (Cummington PD), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Barry Ross (Hampden County Sheriff's Office), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

Council members absent: John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

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

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the November 17, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the November 17, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. Bob Laford seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Nina Barszcz, Steve Gaughan, Chris Bouchard, Carolyn Shores Ness, Bob Laford, Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, and Jon Davine voted in favor. Steve Kozloski and Charles Burger abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom reported that there is a Chairs meeting scheduled for January 12 in Natick. He will attend.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Charlie Burger had no major updates, but he mentioned that there has been general discussion around the Council and other entities funding new projects versus funding maintenance for existing projects. People are hoping that the Council would be willing to fund projects that we initially funded to keep them from going under. Tom asked if there are any in particular. Charlie replied that the tech team is struggling. There is a light at end of tunnel, when the State takes it over, but a lot of equipment is coming up on needing to be replaced, and it is hard to find alternate funding now. There are likely other projects as well. Tom replied that this is a discussion we have had in the past, and that while he understands

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the current environment, the Council has always advocated for being the seed money for new initiatives. However, we do not want to abandon projects. We will look at each on a case by case basis in the relevant subcommittees.

- POLICE: Steve Kozloski reported that they are watching the police reform bill and anticipating potential effects.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported that funding issues are hopefully being resolved. The regional office is hoping to return to full service January 1st. There is some concern regionwide about vaccination of providers, specifically concern about how to catch the entire population of private and public providers.
- EMD: Bob Hassett reported. Everyone should be preparing for the upcoming storm this week.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. There is a lot going on right now in public health. There are changes in funding with the Cares Act ending, though the Governor's budget allowed some funding for public health. Flu has not been a big concern yet this year but could be. They are still working on getting flu vaccinations out, while also getting into COVID vaccine planning. For the first two phases, COVID vaccines will not administered by public health, but they will get involved in Phases 3-4 for vaccinating the general public.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll had technical difficulties and gave an update later in the meeting.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. They are anticipating the upcoming storm. There have been conversations about the fact that the Cares Act does not reimburse public works even though they are first responders. The roll out of the public works mutual aid has begun. DOT has been making updates and they are waiting to roll out road closure app because changes are being made. It is a work in progress. A lot of cities and towns are having contractor issues and trouble finding CDL drivers and wastewater operators. There are many positions open. We will probably will see a reduced level of service. Hopefully everyone will heed the weather warnings.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They, too, are watching the police reform bill. Several Sheriffs met last week with MPTC to talk about trainings and the recertification process. Reporting requirements for corrections during COVID have been a monumental task. There are still no cases of COVID among inmates in Berkshire county. There has been no new activity on compassionate release or other topics that were in the fore at the start of pandemic.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Hassett reported that the new MIFOGs will be distributed by MEMA. The multikey project was approved by SIEC. Nina Barszcz reported that the last day for applications for most of the State 911 grants is December 30, though the development

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grant deadline is March 4. If any PSAP is down for critical staffing because of COVID, email Monna Wallace for staffing assistance.

- **HOSPITAL:** Brian Rust reported that hospitals are busy with the pandemic. Numbers have reached or exceeded the highs from last May. They are also working on vaccination plans.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Shores Ness reported that most towns are focusing on trying to keep town halls operating with high numbers of cases. There are concerns about funding running out at the end of the month. Budget pictures are bleak. They are hoping for more federal money. They continue to try to get everyone to hunker down, wear masks, and practice social distancing to keep everyone safe.
- **K-12 EDUCATION:** No one was present to give an update.
- **HIGHER ED:** Bob Laford reported. The fall semester has ended at UMass and other Western Mass colleges and universities, and most students are gone. They continue to do testing on campus at the Mullins Center, around 1,500 tests a day Monday through Thursday. They are starting to do community testing by appointment, too. They can test up to 3,000 community members a week.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** Jeff McDonald reported that they too are watching the reform bill, and trying to weed out the “bad apples.”
- **MEMA:** No one was present to give an update.
- **EOPSS:** Tricia McGuirk reported. A new nomination approval process for the Councils was rolled out in November. New members are no longer required to submit a background check to OGR. This policy is retroactive for outstanding appointments, to make the process more efficient. Notify Tricia of new members. Seth Bouvier added that the big ticket item for EOPSS is the police reform bill. If you have specific questions about it you can ask him. They are also busy with COVID testing sites and vaccination plans. Secretary Turco’s last day is approaching. Ideas for Council funding on Cybersecurity programs will be coming out shortly. They will discuss it at the Chairs meeting in January, and talk about best practices.
- **DHS:** John Warren reported. Their big focus now is continued engagement with vaccine development and distribution agencies. There are several in New England involved in development, and there are also distribution networks through CVS, Walgreens, and others.

Planning/Pandemic Flu:

Raine Brown reported. The subcommittee’s projects are moving along well, though there might be some hold up on the NPI project because the same people are involved in COVID response. The public health mobile response trailer is out for procurement. FRCOG came forward with another request for cybersecurity funding, building on the feasibility project we funded.

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Amanda Doster of FRCOG addressed the Council to present the request. They have been looking at regional approaches to cybersecurity for several years. A consultant, Novus, studied ten towns in Franklin County to assess IT capabilities and cybersecurity. They did the research in January-February and produced a report with a proposal for a two phase program. The first phase would be to build capacity among member towns and gain support through a series of workshops for town administrators and coordinators, select board members, and others in decision making roles. They would spend 8-10 months fleshing out a series of workshop to get buy-in and understanding, while also seeking additional funding elsewhere to implement the technology approaches. Raine noted that the subcommittee approved the \$60,000 request, from the FFY19 funding that was set aside for cybersecurity.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve the allocation of \$60,000 for the FRCOG regional cybersecurity project. Jeanne Galloway seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Nina Barszcz, Steve Gaughan, Chris Bouchard, Carolyn Shores Ness, Bob Laford, Tom Grady, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, Jon Davine, Jamin Carroll, Brian Rust, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Updates from Disciplines, continued

TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported that they are gearing up for winter with COVID restrictions in effect. They are also watching funding. They are trying to ensure that all passengers wear masks while on board.

FIRE: Jon Davine added to the previous discipline update. The Chief from the Boxboro Fire Department is the Fire Chiefs' representative for vaccinations for first responders. He spoke with Jon about sites in Western Mass for vaccinating first responders, possibly UMass. They are looking for locations where it is easy for police, fire, and others to get to a site, get their vaccination, and get out.

Interoperability/Information Sharing:

Bob Hassett reported that the new MIFOGs are in and awaiting distribution, and the multikey project was approved by SIEC.

Training and Exercises:

Tom Grady reported that the subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. The ASL class was much appreciated and has yielded positive feedback.

Raine reported that last month Bob Hassett put her in touch with Michele Keane-Moore, a professor at Western New England University who was looking for a way to get involved with COVID response in the region. Raine spoke with her and with several others at FRCOG and they came up with an idea of her putting together an informational presentation regarding vaccines for first responders and others in line for some of the first doses. She did so and ran the slides and presentation by Raine and a few others. The roll-out will not cost anything because she is volunteering her time, and we can do it as a webinar and host it on our website. Raine asked the T&E subcommittee if they are willing to sponsor/host this, and it was approved.

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Motion: Jeanne Galloway moved to approve the Council's involvement as a host/sponsor for Michele Keane-Moore's COVID-19 vaccine webinar. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Nina Barszcz, Steve Haughan, Chris Bouchard, Tom Grady, Steve Kozloski, Bob Laford, Jeanne Galloway, Susan Rathbun, Jon Davine, Charles Burger, Brian Rust, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion passed.

Equipment/PPE: Raine reported. We are still working on the PPE restocking project for health coalitions. Purchase orders for the first round have been issued and the first supplies are coming in. There is money left so we will probably see a second round of orders.

CBRNE/IED: Raine reported that the Tech Rescue Team projects are ongoing.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine reported. Things are moving along well to wrap up FFY18 by the end of March. She has been flipping projects between different years to spend the grants down. She has given MAPC and EOPSS a heads up that we will need an extension for FFY19.

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update

Raine reported. The working group remains active. Raine has been getting calls from different State entities relating to cybersecurity. They are trying to break down silos in different departments and trying to ensure that towns are not receiving different information from different places.

Amy Reilly reported that all 2020 contracts are in place. She is now working with Raine on the budget and the MOU with FRCOG. Program managers meeting this week to talk about projects, including next steps for cybersecurity.

Tom added that someone from MGH attended the ASL training and suggested it be offered in the east.

Old Business:

Tom reported that Raine pulled together all of the cache holders of Homeland Security equipment in an ongoing discussion of building storage structures. We now have a working group that will be meeting monthly. He also informed the Council of a submission of request for the Hampden County SRT from Barry Ross (Hampden County Sheriff's Office) to CBRNE. We asked them for more info on requested communication equipment to make sure it meets SIEC standards.

New Business:

None.

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Business Unforeseen by Chair:

None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Chris Bouchard moved to adjourn. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Nina Barszcz, Chris Bouchard, Tom Grady, Steve Kozloski, Carolyn Shores Ness, Bob Laford, Steve Gaughan, Jeanne Galloway, Susan Rathbun, Jon Davine, Charles Burger, Jamin Carroll, and Brian Rust voted in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for November 17, 2020
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2020 (draft)
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 11/13/20
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 11/13/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY18 Homeland Security Grant – 11/17/20
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 11/17/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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