

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 10:00 am**

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Chris Bouchard (South Hadley Highway), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), 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), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/ Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brad Downey (MAPC), Allison Egan (BRPC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (MSP), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Michael Perkins (Cummington PD), Barry Ross (Hampden County Sheriff's Office)

**Council members absent:** Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), 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 December 15, 2020 meeting.

**Motion:** Jon Davine moved to approve the December 15, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jon Davine, Nina Barszcz, Bob Hassett, Steve Gaughan, Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Kozloski, Chris Bouchard, Bob Laford, Monica Wynne, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom reported that there was a Council Chairs meeting in Natick last week, which included discussion about metrics and ways to track what Councils and state agencies do. Statewide working groups are beginning to meet to look at strategies with regard to the Commonwealth's Homeland Security plan. They also discussed sharing resources to maximize dollars and going jointly into projects when possible. Tom noted that we have been part of a few statewide projects in the past that have not worked out well, so we need more information moving forward.

### **Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: Jon Davine reported. They are finishing up a successful first round of COVID vaccinations for first responders, and he has not heard of anyone who wanted it not being able to get it. The second doses will be given the week of February.

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- **POLICE:** John Paciorek reported. The police have been grateful for the vaccination sites. They are also dealing with mass protests, trying to stay neutral and keep society peaceful. The other major topic they are dealing with is the criminal justice reform bill. It creates 17 new advisory committees, and has unintended impacts that legislature did not consider. There is now one training standard, and the vast majority will be 900 hours. With part time personnel this will mean looking at a bridge academy in excess of 500 hours of training. Small departments will have trouble paying for that. Retired police will be a hot commodity. Steve Kozloski echoed John's gratitude to the fire service for the vaccination clinics.
- **EMS:** Steve Gaughan reported. Vaccination has gone well. The last few months have been a great undertaking with people working together on PPE and vaccinations. They are now seeing a lot less lost time in the field, as people are getting better at PPE cleaning. They secured additional funding for the region, so overall things are going well.
- **EMD:** Bob Hassett reported that they are preparing for potential protests.
- **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Jeanne Galloway reported. Public health has been doing some of the vaccine clinics, and they are planning for bigger ones. They are getting it done on short notice because they were initially told public health would not be involved until Phase 3. They are also doing contact tracing. The new variant of COVID has now been found in Massachusetts. There is no difference in symptoms but it is more communicable and will spread faster. If you get the vaccine you still have to continue to take protective measures.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Jamin Carroll reported. They are trying to hold off COVID and awaiting when they will become eligible for vaccination.
- **DPW:** Chris Bouchard reported. There has been talk about enhanced security around water sources. They are also in their annual push for chapter 90 funding. The new mutual aid program is working; in a small town in the Berkshires the whole department is on quarantine, and mutual aid is covering. They will be rolling out a fuller version in February and getting MEMA more involved.
- **CORRECTIONS:** Tom Grady reported. They are also looking closely at the police reform bill. Most officers are on reserve status, looking at transition. They are conducting their own in-house vaccination clinics. They have struggled to get their full vaccine allocation; Berkshire County only got 100 doses, but just learned that they will get another 300 today.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Nina Barszcz reported that the fiscal year 2022 deadline is March 4.
- **HOSPITAL:** Monica Wynne reported that they continue to see a high number of COVID positive cases. Almost 75% of workers in the Baystate system are now vaccinated.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** No one was present to give an update.

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- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Bob Laford reported. UMass continues COVID testing. They split the Mullins Center into two sections, one for community Stop the Spread testing and one for UMass testing. They will reduce the numbers of community testing as students come back. About 5,500 students will be living on campus, with another 8,000 off campus. Anyone with an on-campus class or meal plan has to be tested twice a week; staff will also be tested once or twice a week. Students will be back starting next week. UMass is also a vaccination site. They did first responders and campus health providers last week, approximately 250 a day. They will also do two days this week, and more as we enter different phases.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Jeff McDonald reported. He is in quarantine. They are getting the troops ready for possible protests this week.
- MEMA: No one was present to give an update. Tom noted that Pat Carnevale is back at MEMA at the request of the Governor and attended the Chairs meeting last week. John Paciorek added that Tom Turco at EOPSS will be staying at least until the end of April.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk reported. SIEC has an updated ICEP form. There is a new faith-based safety and security toolkit/e-course that she spoke with Raine about putting on the WRHSAC website.
- DHS: No one was present to give an update.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:**

Jeanne Galloway reported that the subcommittee had discussions about vaccines and active projects. Sandra Martin reported on the Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions project. They are finishing up the short guide to how to choose and implement NPIs. It is about 6 pages long and will hopefully end up as a laminated guide that can help people be more prepared next time. Raine reported on several other projects. Bids were received and are being reviewed for the mobile health response trailer. We will likely see a contract issued soon. Cybersecurity planning and the mental health resiliency projects are moving along. Several projects are running into delays, as people are involved in the COVID response. The subcommittee asked if there is a way to switch some of the projects into other contract years. This is also an issue in T&E.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:**

Bob Hassett needed to leave the meeting early.

**Training and Exercises:**

Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. There was a discussion about the faith community active threat conference; because of generally low attendance at virtual events and the distractions of COVID, the subcommittee decided table this project and wait until the event can be held in person.

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**Equipment/PPE:** Raine reported. The first round of PPE restocking for health coalitions is finished. Expenditures came in less than anticipated, so there is money left for another round of purchases. They are starting to work on that. The equipment shelter working group met again this month. They had some discussion about who would house the shelters, and decided to focus on the Sheriffs' offices because they are all interested in hosting and the locations are secured. Raine is working on a survey to send out to them to get their feedback. The working group is meeting on the second Tuesday each month.

**CBRNE/IED:** Tom reported that there is an upcoming subcommittee meeting in a few weeks. Raine reported that we are mostly focused on wrapping up several projects related to the Western Mass Tech Rescue Team, and ready to get moving on swift water rescue equipment. The upcoming meeting was called because the Tech Rescue Team has identified ways they would like to spend money in the FFY2020 grant. We are also wrapping up the purchases of tactical equipment for the Berkshire Special Response Team.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. The extension for FFY18 runs through the end of March. Right now we have a little over \$7,000 to spend. The Tech Rescue Team's trailer is split between FFY18 and FFY19 so we will spend it down. We are waiting to hear final word from EOPSS about extending the end of FFY19 through the end of December. This would help with some projects but we still would not get to some, especially in T&E. The FFY2020 grant is on board. We are looking to move equipment projects into FFY19 to spend down money, and flip other projects to FFY2020. No committee will be losing money, as Raine will ensure equal flips.

***Cyber Resilient Working Group Update***

Raine reported. She continues to lead the municipal subgroup. Efforts are being made to try to fill gaps where municipalities are aware they need to take cybersecurity efforts but have staffing and budgeting challenges.

Brad Downey reported that MAPC is working on the BISR as part of the quarterly report.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

***BCSO Sheltering Equipment Replacement Request*** – Tom reported that he had reached out to Raine about the possibility of resupplying the shelter trailer in Berkshire County, and he is now bringing the request to the Council. The trailer has been deployed a lot during the pandemic, and they discovered that the plastic roof vent had cracked and leaked, causing some damage. They are hoping to restock with pillows, blankets, special needs cots, and a few other items. The Council did this once before a few years ago. Raine added that the request from the Sheriff's Office is in today's packet. The total amount is \$3,285. This could be a way to spend down the FFY18 funds. There was damage in the North Adams trailer a few years ago cause by mice, and the Council replaced the equipment, so there is precedent.

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**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve up to \$3,500 for BCSO Sheltering Equipment Replacement. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Nina Barszcz, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Kozloski, Chris Bouchard, Bob Laford, Jon Davine, John Paciorek, Steve Gaughan, Monica Wynne, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. Tom Grady abstained. The motion was approved.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:**

None. Tom informed all of the chiefs at the meeting that he has been pushing everyone to get registered on the MPTC training portal. The annual in-service training is online, and everyone should get it done as there will be a lot of scrutiny on training hours. John added that they provided it for free this year, and his agency is mandating that it gets done by end of March.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for January 19, 2021
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from December 15, 2020 (draft)
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 1/15/21
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 1/15/21
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY18 Homeland Security Grant – 1/19/21
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 1/19/21
- BCSO Shelter Supplies Replacement Request

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Chris Bouchard (South Hadley Highway), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jamin Carroll (PVT), 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), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Bob Barry (MEMA), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brad Downey (MAPC), Allison Egan (BRPC), Scott Flebotte (Hampden County Sheriff's Dept), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Michael Nelson (DPH/Franklin County Fairgrounds), Barry Ross (Hampden County Sheriff's Office)

**Council members absent:** Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Robert Laford (UMass), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn)

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

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Council reviewed the minutes from the January 19, 2021 meeting.

**Motion:** Chris Bouchard moved to approve the January 19, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, John Paciorek, Mike Wynn, Chris Bouchard, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Shores Ness, Monica Wynne, Nina Barszcz, Charlie Burger, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom had nothing new to report.

### **Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: Jon Davine reported. They are continuing with vaccination clinics. The second round of vaccinations for first responders should be done by Friday. Longmeadow and a few other sites did not receive their vaccines from the state but Northampton did. They are administering close to 200 vaccines a day, and continuing with the 75+ group.
- POLICE: John Paciorek reported. They are still trying to figure out the impacts of the criminal justice reform bill on small to mid-size agencies that use part time police officers.

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There will be massive ramifications state wide on budgets, and there has been a lot of push back to the legislature. Mike Wynn added that there has been a large focus on providing traffic and security for vaccination clinics.

- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. They are also continuing vaccinations and continuing to see the impacts of contact with COVID positive people, as they are still losing staff to quarantines. They will hold their annual meeting and elections in April, and they might do some reorganizing. Reach out if you are interested in joining the regional EMS council.
- EMD: Bob Hassett reported no updates.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Public health is doing vaccination clinics and running into a shortage of vaccines. They are also doing some testing sites. People need to keep up with masking, social distancing, and staying home, especially because the B.1.1.7 variant is here. Think about double masking.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. They are eagerly awaiting eligibility to receive the vaccine. They are experiencing difficulties with compliance with mask orders, including some combative passengers. They are also dealing with weather challenges.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported no updates.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are also looking at the impacts of the police reform bill and what is coming out with post standards. Many questions remain. Two sheriffs are on the revising committee and are good advocates.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Hassett and Nina Barszcz reported no updates.
- HOSPITAL: Monica Wynne reported that they are seeing a slight decline in COVID-positive patients. Vaccine clinics are continuing to run until they run out of vaccine. Most hospital employees have been vaccinated. The testing sites are still up and running.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. The MMA conference was held at the end of January, but the virtual format was not very effective in getting things done. They tried to get a Four County meeting together to deal with the reform bill; that has not happened yet but they are trying again for March 25<sup>th</sup>. Many are appalled by the financial impact on small towns, even if the intentions were good. Community policing will be impacted, and in the smallest towns part time police will be replaced by state police with no local knowledge or interactions. They are pushing back with the local elected delegation and also working with Barnstable County because of similar issues. They are also trying to get local communities vaccinated. There will be clinics in South [Franklin] County this week.
- 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 quarterly State Emergency Response Meeting was held on Zoom on February 9<sup>th</sup>. One REPC was recertified for five years with a great proposal. They are expecting several more at the next meeting. The quarterly EMD meeting was held on February 10<sup>th</sup>. It went well, with good participation. MEMA is offering a lot of courses by Zoom now that have traditionally been in-person, including ICS300 and 400. Go to the TRS training registration site. They are trying to keep sizes small, so a lot are full, but let Bob know if you really need it and he can try to squeeze you in even if a class appears full on the website. They are supporting public health with the Food and Security Program. MEMA's role is distribution to cities and towns once the order is placed through WebEOC. On Feb 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> they will be holding COOP workshops for cities and towns.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk reported. The NOFO for 2021 will be released later this month. The anticipated time frame for submitting it is about a month. They put in for a FFY19 contract extension for all regions through 12/31/21.
- DHS: No one was present to give an update.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:**

Jeanne Galloway reported. The subcommittee had a productive meeting this month. We are making progress on the trailer acquisition and putting in new orders for additional PPE restocking. We are looking at doing After Action Reports on the pandemic, and wondering who else is doing them. Let Jeanne know if you know of any being conducted. The NPI project is coming along. There are no motions to bring forward this month. Raine added that the FRCOG Cybersecurity project is moving along.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:**

Bob Hassett reported. The interops subcommittee will meet this afternoon. There are no motions to bring forward.

**Training and Exercises:**

Tom Grady reported. The T&E subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. There is one motion to consider. The Council supported purchasing a trailer for the GCC portable training facility, but it came in over the allocated budget. We are looking for an additional \$1,000 to complete the project.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve an additional \$1,000 for the GCC portable training facility trailer project. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Jon Davine, Mike Wynn, Chris Bouchard, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Nina Barszcz, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Monica Wynne, Jamin Carroll, and Charlie Burger voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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Tom reported that Raine is going to try to get a newsletter out this week and will remind everyone about ways to use T&E funds. We have suspended in-person trainings so we have money to spend down.

**Equipment/PPE:** Raine reported. The first round of the PPE restocking project for public health coalitions came in less than anticipated so we are working on another round of procurement. The equipment shelter working group is meeting to discuss shelters for regional equipment, focusing attention on the Sheriffs' offices because they can be secured. That group will be coming forward with recommendations when we see the 2021 funds from EOPSS. The Berkshire trailer restocking request has been sent to EOPSS for review.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported. The CBRNE committee met last week to consider proposals from the Tech Rescue and Hazmat teams. Under consideration today are the water rescue and structural collapse exercise series. The Hazmat request will likely be pushed to 2021.

Raine reviewed the Tech Rescue Team's requests (included in today's packet). CBRNE had already set aside funds in FFY19 for general projects in these areas; these proposals provide more specifics. The structural collapse exercise series will be conducted throughout the year. They are asking for a total of \$44,350.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$44,350 for the Western Mass Tech Rescue Team structural collapse exercise series. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Jon Davine, Mike Wynn, Chris Bouchard, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Nina Barszcz, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Jamin Carroll, and Charlie Burger voted in favor. Steve Gaughan abstained. The motion was approved.

The second proposal is for an exercise series related to water rescue. This is a new skill the team is adding. The request is for \$40,000.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$40,000 for the Western Mass Tech Rescue Team water rescue exercise series. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Jon Davine, Mike Wynn, Chris Bouchard, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Nina Barszcz, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Monica Wynne, Jamin Carroll, and Charlie Burger voted in favor. The motion was approved.

John Dearborn thanked the Council for the continued support of the Tech Rescue Team, noting that they are hoping the state will start taking over more in the coming years.

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**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. Last week the members of the fiduciary team met with Lisa Sampson and Chris Brule of the EOPSS OGR research department. They are working on a project to develop a dashboard to track how the state is meeting the objectives and goals of the State Homeland Security Strategy. This will be available for the Councils to review so that we can see how we are doing in the state and in the region regarding meeting goals and objectives. They are now in the process of using the investment plans to populate the dashboards, then they will reach out to the fiduciaries to get information on how funding was actually spent each year compared to the investment plans. This should help us identify gaps where we need to pay more attention. It probably will not be a usable tool until summer.

Raine has moved some projects from FFY19 to FFY2020 to give them more time. From the Pan Flu / Planning subcommittee this includes: the Prevention, Response, and Recovery project; some of the Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions project; and the risk communication seminar project. From the T&E subcommittee, she moved the regional symposium. In exchange, she moved other projects from FFY2020 into FFY19, including the Hampden County SRT equipment project and the Tech Rescue Team structural collapse training. As Tricia noted, the NOFO for FFY2021 will be coming out this month, so we might need to call earlier meetings of the subcommittees to get priority lists for next month, depending on the timeline for submission. Everyone should start thinking about projects that could begin in about a year, and/or projects that we are already working on that could use another phase.

Brad Downey reported that the Biannual Strategy Implementation Reporting (BISR) was due at the end of January. It has been sent off to EOPSS.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:**

Michael Nelson presented a request in his role as the president of the Franklin County Fairgrounds. They are looking for funding for a communications system upgrade at the fairgrounds. There is no current system in place to notify the public of any incident taking place at the fairgrounds. They intend to apply for a non-profit securities grant through EOPSS that is due the second week of March. They are looking to purchase a system that would allow coverage of entire property. They currently rent a system during the Franklin County Fair that only covers about half of the property. They are looking to put in a permanent system that would include interoperable radios to connect with fire, police, and EMS so they can communicate with the public during a disaster. Michael is requesting that WRHSAC write a letter of recommendation to EOPSS in support of this project.

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Carolyn expressed her support, noting that the fairgrounds was used as a camping site when pandemic started, as well as being a mass emergency dispensing site for Greenfield and the venue for many events held throughout the year. It is a useful resource to the entire county. Michael added that they have about 30 events there throughout the year, but they only rent a system during the fair, so the rest of the time there is no communications system. They are also in talks with the city about using the fairground as a mass dispensing site for Phase 3.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved for the Council to send a letter of support for the Franklin County Fairgrounds' grant application to acquire a permanent communications system. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Jon Davine, Mike Wynn, Chris Bouchard, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Nina Barszcz, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Monica Wynne, Jamin Carroll, and Charlie Burger voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Michael will send a synopsis to Raine.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 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, Jon Davine, Mike Wynn, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Nina Barszcz, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Jamin Carroll, and Charlie Burger voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for February 16, 2021
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2021 (draft)
- WMTRT Water Rescue Proposal of February 1, 2021
- WMTRT SCT Proposal of January 25, 2021
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY18 Homeland Security Grant – 2/16/21
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 2/16/21
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 2/12/21
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 2/12/21
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Homeland Security Budget Report through 2/12/21

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason  
Homeland Security Program Assistant  
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council

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Franklin Regional Council of Governments

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**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
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**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), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Robert Laford (UMass), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/ Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Bob Barry (MEMA), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Patrick Carnevale (MEMA), Brad Downey (MAPC), Allison Egan (BRPC), Adam Hakkarainen (MSP), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (MSP), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Lauren Sacks (MAPC), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

**Council members absent:** Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), 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 February 16, 2021 meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the February 16, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, John Dearborn, Jon Davine, Tom Grady, Monica Wynne, John Paciorek, Jeanne Galloway, Jamin Carroll, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. Bob Laford abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom reported that he has had Zoom meetings with members of OGR to talk about the proposed dashboard and look at reporting capabilities to track resources and trainings. It looks interesting and promising. At some point Tom will invite them to do a presentation for the whole Council. Tom also went to a meeting in Framingham last week to discuss law enforcement related issues that we are looking at possibly having Councils involved in, but this is in very early stages.

### **Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: Jon Davine reported that they are continuing with vaccination clinics. They have the ability to do 840 per day, but have not been able to get even the 750 doses allotted per day.

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Amherst Fire will be doing mobile vaccination in Amherst and in Northampton for people who are homebound. John Dearborn reported that red flag warnings continue; there have been no major blazes so far but some brush fires.

- POLICE: John Paciorek reported. The criminal justice reform bill remains a major focus. John called on the Western Mass legislative delegation to address the fact that part time police officers would essentially be eliminated, and that has created some turmoil. They have been warning police chiefs about the budgetary implications. EOPSS is in concurrence, but the legislative delegation is not. Small communities will not be able to meet the requirements of the bill.
- EMS: No one was present to give an update.
- EMD: Bob Hassett reported. Andrew Morehouse, who used to chair the Pioneer Valley COAD, is stepping down. They are looking for a new chair.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Public health is still doing vaccines despite not getting enough doses. They are trying to develop regional clinics and do homebound vaccinations. People are coming from eastern MA. We need more sites and more vaccines. Hopefully we are past weather delays. Cases are dwindling but not eliminated. There have been changes with how to handle quarantines and travel for people who are fully vaccinated. They are working on public health messaging that you still have to take precautions. Mosquito season is coming soon, too.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. Personnel are eagerly awaiting vaccine eligibility. They are running service as usual.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported no updates.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are still working on vaccines for inmate populations and are finding that more people are willing to accept them. Sheriff's offices are also looking at the impacts of the police reform bill and will be discussing it at an upcoming meeting. Budgets are a big concern.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Hassett reported that the Commonwealth's interoperability field operations guide is out, and it is also available online from app store. Nina Barszcz reported that for PSAPS the three state 911 grants are out.
- HOSPITAL: Monica Wynne reported. They have vaccine appointments Tuesday through Saturday that are fully booked. Vaccine availability continues to be driving force behind how many they can do.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. The Franklin County Selectmen's Association will meet on March 25 to discuss the financial impacts of the police reform bill. They are supportive of police accountability but fear that there was no consideration of small

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towns or sustainability issues. John Paciorek has worked with them to put together great speakers. They are hoping the five counties will have an impact. Town meetings have been delayed, but everyone is excited about the COVID-19 stimulus package because it will have huge impacts and fewer strings attached. The infrastructure bill is also looking hopeful.

- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Bob Laford reported. UMass is continuing with the testing program for people on campus, including remote students, as well as stop-the-spread community testing. They are doing about 28,000 tests per week, Monday through Friday. They are also doing vaccine clinics. COVID cases have come way down, and last week they had the lowest positivity rate of the semester. St Patrick's day is tomorrow and there is usually a lot going on at UMass. The campus police are ready to respond. They are looking forward to May 14 when students go home. They still do not know what the fall will look like. This is Bob's last meeting with the Council, as he will be retiring April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tom thanked him for his dedication and contributions to the Council.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Adam Hakkarainen reported that he is also retiring as of April 18. He will continue doing the cybersecurity work and hopes to continue to attend those meetings after retirement. Tom thanked him for his work and noted that he would love to keep Adam involved in the Council.
- MEMA: Pat Carnevale reported that they have worked out with EOPSS that he will be attending more of these Council meetings and looking to see how MEMA can help the Councils. Bob Barry reported that for the Western Region they have been working aggressively to close out EMPGs, recertifying REPCs and LEPCs every 5 years, and working on new templates for comprehensive emergency planning. They also launched virtual 300 and 400 classes which have gone extraordinarily well so far. You can sign up on the website, but if you have difficulty signing up, call the office and they will try to get you in. They have been offering a series of workshops by county. The next topic is EOC, to give an overview of how to set up an EOC and make the FEMA model more applicable to a rural model.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk reported. The Commonwealth Security Trust Fund Grant was released to enhance local police and fire departments' abilities to respond to emergencies, including responses to acts of terrorism. It is on the OGR website and she will send the link to Raine.
- DHS: John Warren reported. On the cybersecurity side, they are working on the Microsoft Exchange vulnerability and the Solar Winds compromise. That breach may take the next 18 months to recover from. On the physical security side, they are working on vaccination supply chain security. The FEMA non-profit grant is closing out mid-May. Let John know if you know houses of worship that could use their self-assessment tool.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Jeanne Galloway reported. The subcommittee had a productive meeting this month. Projects are moving along. They also discussed investment planning.

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**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Bob Hassett reported that the radios for Hampden SRT project were approved.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. We are moving forward with three rounds of chainsaw safety training. There were two motions to bring before the Council; one concerning an additional cleaning fee for one of the upcoming Hazmat ammonia trainings, and one to use remaining Hazmat funds for an 8-hour gasoline tanker truck grounding and bonding course for the D4 team in Springfield and the D5 team in Pittsfield.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$343.20 for cleaning at the Hazmat ammonia training location. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Bob Laford, John Dearborn, Jon Davine, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, John Paciorek, Nina Barszcz, Chris Bouchard, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$15,500 for grounding and bonding courses for Hazmat D4 and D5. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Bob Laford, John Dearborn, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, John Paciorek, Nina Barszcz, Chris Bouchard, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. Jon Davine abstained. The motion was approved.

**Equipment/PPE:** Raine reported. We are working on restocking PPE for public health coalitions. The cost of the first round came in less than anticipated, so Raine now has numbers from the coalitions for a second round of procurement. The equipment for restocking the Berkshire shelter trailer came in and that project has wrapped up.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported. The subcommittee has met twice and set a proposed budget last week. There were good conversations and good proposals. According to Chief Sirois, the state is moving toward supporting the tech rescue team, but we will need to support them for a little longer. They are doing great work.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. We are doing well considering the challenges to getting things done. FFY18 wraps up at the end of this month. The WMTRT trailer project is split between FFY18 and FFY19 and will be used to make sure to spend the FFY18 grant down to zero. The planning projects were moved to FFY20, as people have been consumed with vaccinations and other COVID issues. FFY19 was extended to the end of December. FFY2021 funding will be discussed later in the meeting.

Amy Reilly reported that they have a meeting about cybersecurity tomorrow. They are looking for ideas on statewide projects to see how to leverage funds across the Commonwealth.

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**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

***FFY2021 SHSP Investment Planning*** – Raine reported that the Council’s funding for Fiscal Year 2021 is \$1,190,568. The grant timeline likely will begin in January 2022, and will run through July 2023. This is not quite level funding with last year’s grant (about \$50,000 less). A new consideration for this year is that EOPSS and DHS have put minimum criteria spending for five national Homeland Security priorities. We need to spend a certain percentage of our grant in these areas. See today’s meeting packet for details. We also need to meet the 25% requirement for Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities. We got confirmation that the minimum criteria can overlap with LETPA spending, but there cannot be splitting of projects to meet the minimum criteria. This will take some extra focus. The proposed projects from each subcommittee are in today’s packet, and each chair can speak to their subcommittee’s priorities. On the last page of the handout is the current tracking of the budget. The current requests are more than the budget. The initial budget is due April 5 and the final plan is due April 23. We will be able to review the final plan and approve at the April meeting.

The chairs of each subcommittee spoke on behalf of those committees. Raine added information from the working group that has been discussing building shelters for WRHSAC-purchased equipment. The estimate for these is approximately \$200,000 apiece. All four would be \$800,000, but this could happen in phases.

Tom asked if the Council wants to move forward with supporting the shelters, one in each of the next four federal fiscal years. There was general consensus that it would be good to invest in the shelters to protect the equipment we have invested in. Therefore cuts need to be made elsewhere in the 2021 proposed budget.

John Paciorek pointed out that with the current proposed list, we are not meeting the \$89,292.60 required for cybersecurity. He suggested that before we start additional negotiations, we should make sure that the minimum criteria are fully funded. This was done by putting \$50,000 in the Pan Flu Planning committee and the rest in T&E. Further discussion led to additional concessions from other committees to get the budget in line with the grant amount.

John Paciorek noted that we need to be careful about how much we are allocating to special response teams. We need to be cognizant of what we are doing. John Dearborn responded that the CBRNE committee shares these concerns and has been pushing for the various organizations to sit together and come up with resource sharing. Some of the proposed spending for the Franklin County team is to keep them operational for now, but we need to look at the bigger picture moving forward. John Paciorek noted that this is a national red flag right now; we need to be looking at how to heal society. We have expertise from the MSP STOP team that can respond in the I-91 corridor. We need to consider are we allocating resources in best interest of society as a whole. Tom agreed that it has been a concern for him and others as well, and we have expressed a desire from the Council that they begin to meet and develop mutual aid to avoid redundancy. There also has been a fair amount of discussion about the role of SRT teams

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becoming more about negotiation than tactical entry, so maybe we need to focus less on equipment and more on talking people out. We have done the same with tactical EMS proposals, dive teams, and tech rescue teams, continually asking them to look at the bigger picture and how will they sustain themselves when this funding is not available. John Dearborn pointed out that another challenge is consistency among the Councils. Raine added that the challenge now is also having minimum criteria spending, which tend towards law enforcement enhancement. If these criteria stay, we will need to get creative about what projects meet them.

Raine also noted that we have to identify “B” projects. Usually we identify broad categories. There was agreement to use the five categories in the spreadsheet (tech rescue equipment, mass care & sheltering, public health, T&E categories, and interops/information sharing).

**Motion:** Jeanne Galloway moved to proceed with the budget recommendations as discussed. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Bob Laford, John Davine, John Dearborn, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, John Paciorek, Nina Barszcz, Chris Bouchard, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:**

None.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** John Dearborn moved to adjourn. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, John Dearborn, Jon Davine, Tom Grady, Chris Bouchard, John Paciorek, Bob Laford, Monica Wynne, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Jamin Carroll, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for March 16, 2021
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2021 (draft)
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 3/12/21
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 3/12/21
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Homeland Security Budget Report through 2/12/21
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY18 Homeland Security Grant – 2/16/21
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 2/16/21
- FFY2021 Investment Plan 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**  
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**Council members present:** Chris Bouchard (South Hadley Highway), Jamin Carroll (PVT), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/ Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Bob Barry (MEMA), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brad Downey (MAPC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Lauren Sacks (MAPC), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

**Council members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), 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 10:01 am.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Council reviewed the minutes from the March 16, 2021 meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the March 16, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. Bob Hassett seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Monica Wynne, Tom Grady, Norene Pease, Carolyn Shores Ness, Chris Bouchard, Steve Kozloski, Jon Davine, Anthony Gentile, John Dearborn, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady reported no updates.

### **Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: Jon Davine reported. They are continuing with vaccination clinics and have vaccinated up to 940 people in an 8 hour day. They are now cutting down on days but increasing hours. This will likely run at least another 90 days.
- POLICE: Steve Kozloski reported. Many are still deep in budget cycles, working with their associations and state legislators trying to identify the intended and unintended costs of the police reform legislation and how it will affect taxpayers.

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- EMS: No one was present to give an update.
- EMD: Bob Hassett reported. We are under elevated fire conditions today. Springfield has been experiencing a lot of brush fires. Everyone is awaiting the outcome of the Derek Chauvin trial and worried about protests. Tom noted that there has been an ongoing protest in Albany over police reform with nightly fires.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Norene Pease reported. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is on hold, which has created challenges for scheduling. Vaccines are now open for everyone and things have been busy. Once we get everyone vaccinated who wants it, we need to step up outreach for vaccine hesitant people. It is also time to begin thinking about mosquito borne illnesses and monitoring pool and lake water cleanliness programs in time for swimming.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. Employees are getting vaccinated. They are preparing for summer season, and for the return of 60,000 students to the area in the fall.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. They are pressing the Governor's office to release Chapter 90 money for cities and towns. They are getting ready for a mutual aid training and planning a May meeting in person and hybrid.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. There was a two day seminar in Ashland with Secretary Turco with discussion about the police reform bill. A lot needs to be addressed. Budgets are horrible. The inmate populations keep decreasing.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Hassett reported. Last week they had a training with John Ruggiero on the new downlink units. The training revealed the need for a few accessories. The request will be taken to WMRIC.
- HOSPITAL: Monica Wynne reported. Baystate is continuing to run vaccine clinics that are booking completely. Almost all employees are vaccinated. They are also keeping an eye on the Chauvin trial, as the only level 1 trauma center in Western Mass.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. The March 26 meeting on police reform was cancelled and no new date was set yet. They are trying to focus on how to afford it and make it sustainable. It has a huge impact on budgets because it is unfunded.
- 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. Tom noted that we are waiting to get a new MSP representative for the Council, as Jeff and Adam have retired.
- MEMA: Bob Barry reminded those who have emergency management program grants that they will expire at the end of June, so purchases must be made by then. Both ICS300 and 400

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trainings are being done remotely and being well received. They are booked out, but if individual departments have a senior officer who needs those trainings, reach out to Bob and he will squeeze them in. They have upcoming workshops on the comprehensive emergency management plans with templates for transferring information from old plans to new plans.

- EOPSS: Patricia McGuirk reported. The full FFY2020 SHSP plans are due the end of the week.
- DHS: John Warren reported. The active shooter webinar for May 11 has about 100 seats left. There is modest representation from Western Mass. Let John know if you need the link. DHS is keeping an eye on the Chauvin trial as well. They are not seeing any directed threats to Western Mass, but reach out to Quinn Sullivan if needed.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Monica Wynne reported. There are three requests to bring before the Council from this month's meeting. The first is for the Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions Implementation Guide Training and Workshop Series. The online training will walk people through the quick guide, with scenarios and quizzes, and it will be followed by 4-6 workshops.

**Motion:** Monica Wynne moved to allocate \$25,125 from FFY2020 for the NPI Implementation Guide Training and Workshop Series. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Tom Grady, Norene Pease, Chris Bouchard, John Dearborn, Jon Davine, Carolyn Shores Ness, John Paciorek, Steve Kozloski, Monica Wynne, Anthony Gentile, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second request concerns an NPI After Action Report Scope and Approach Development project. The subcommittee would like to conduct an in-depth AAR on COVID, but in discussions it has been difficult to narrow down the scope. A facilitated process is needed. This will involve hiring a consultant to support the desired outcome.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to allocate \$40,000 from FFY2020 for NPI AAR Scope and Development. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Tom Grady, Norene Pease, Chris Bouchard, John Dearborn, Jon Davine, Carolyn Shores Ness, John Paciorek, Steve Kozloski, Monica Wynne, Anthony Gentile, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The third request concerns First Responder Mental Health Resiliency Trainings and Research, which will continue work begun in FFY18. There are three tasks included in this: additional sessions of the leadership training; researching existing trainings or creating a new one for advanced skills for first responders; and hosting a First Responder Mental Health Conference.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to allocate \$60,000 from FFY2020 for First Responder Mental Health Resiliency Trainings and Research. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Tom Grady, Norene Pease, Chris Bouchard, John

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Dearborn, Jon Davine, Carolyn Shores Ness, John Paciorek, Steve Kozloski, Monica Wynne, Anthony Gentile, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Bob Hassett reported. They had a great training on the new video downlink units, but found out they need some accessories to make them work better. They will present a request soon. Anthony Gentile reported that the State 911 Commission meeting was quick; they had 21 applications for grants and double the available amount of money requested, so they will be going through the applications carefully.

Bob Hassett presented three requests for approval. The first is for 64 backup batteries for the WMLEC WMFCA radio cache. The current batteries are at their end of life and need to be replaced to keep the system operational.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to allocate \$3,625 from FFY2020 for 64 UHF radio cache batteries for WMLEC/WMFCA. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Tom Grady, Norene Pease, Chris Bouchard, John Dearborn, Jon Davine, Carolyn Shores Ness, John Paciorek, Steve Kozloski, Monica Wynne, Anthony Gentile, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second request was for a Westcomm Motorola System Key. Westcomm uses Kenwood radios. For interoperability, they need a key so those with the Motorola radios can talk to them.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to allocate \$500 from FFY2020 for the Westcomm Motorola System Key. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Tom Grady, Norene Pease, Chris Bouchard, John Dearborn, Jon Davine, Carolyn Shores Ness, John Paciorek, Monica Wynne, Anthony Gentile, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. Steve Kozloski abstained. The motion was approved.

The final request was for CoMIRS radio upgrades and accessories for the NWMIMT. Franklin County is going with the state interoperable system and there is a grant for certain radios, but only the basic models. This project would fund 3 mobile and 6 portables to be upgraded to the higher levels for NWMIMT and the fire communications van.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to allocate \$10,000 from FFY2020 the NWMIMT CoMIRS radio upgrades and accessories. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Tom Grady, Norene Pease, Chris Bouchard, John Dearborn, Jon Davine, Carolyn Shores Ness, John Paciorek, Steve Kozloski, Monica Wynne, Anthony Gentile, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee did not have any motions to bring forward this month. Raine sent a newsletter out last week that identified trainings. We are working on getting in-person trainings back up, with an upcoming chainsaw safety training.

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**Equipment/PPE:** Raine Brown reported. She is finalizing the specs for the second round of PPE procurement for health coalitions, which will go in with other orders through MAPC.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported nothing new from the subcommittee.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. FFY18 closed at end of March and was zero'd out with a split project. Most of our FFY19 projects are moving along, though we need to put concerted effort into T&E because we still have about \$90,000 unallocated. We are hoping for more in-person events in the summer and fall. A few FFY2020 projects are beginning. Raine is still involved with the cyber resilient working group and leading the muni group. They are in conversations about another joint project with all Councils. FFY2021 plans are due by Friday. Raine will be on vacation next week, returning Monday, May 3.

Amy Reilly reported that FFY18 is fully spent out and they are processing the paperwork. MAPC is in the middle of the PPE bid. They held a meeting of all SWIFTs to discuss planning and collaborations. There are areas of common spending where we can leverage resources.

**Old Business:**

***FFY2021 SHSP Investment Plan Review*** – The draft of the FFY2021 plan is in today's meeting packet. Raine drew attention to the budget on p.17, which was settled on at last month's meeting. She also asked for feedback on the executive summary. She chose several projects to highlight from the year. This needs approval before she sends it by the Friday deadline.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the FFY2021 plan as submitted. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Tom Grady, Norene Pease, Chris Bouchard, John Dearborn, Jon Davine, Carolyn Shores Ness, John Paciorek, Steve Kozloski, Monica Wynne, Anthony Gentile, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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**New Business:**

None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:**

Tom was asked by the acting chief and deputy chief of the U.S. Capitol police to extend their thanks to Western Mass for the outpouring of support during the return of the body of Officer Billy Evans to North Adams. Many agencies participated as the motorcade came through, which was much appreciated.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

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**Motion:** Jon Davine moved to adjourn. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Tom Grady, Norene Pease, Chris Bouchard, Jon Davine, Steve Kozloski, Monica Wynne, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Carolyn Shores Ness, Anthony Gentile, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for April 20, 2021
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from March 16, 2021 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY18 Homeland Security Grant – 4/20/21
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 4/20/21
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 4/16/21
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 4/16/21
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Homeland Security Budget Report through 2/12/21
- WRHSAC FFY2021 Investment Plan (draft)

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, May 18, 2021, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Chris Bouchard (South Hadley Highway), 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), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** CJ Bartone (D4 Hazmat/West Springfield Fire), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brad Downey (MAPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Barry Ross (Hampden County Sheriff's Office), Lauren Sacks (MAPC), Lauri Solomon (FRCOG), Eric Stratton (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept/tactical EMS), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

**Council members absent:** Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/ Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn)

*This meeting was conducted on Zoom. 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 April 20, 2021 meeting.

**Motion:** Jon Davine moved to approve the April 20, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Jon Davine, Nina Barszcz, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Mike Wynn, Carolyn Shores Ness, Bob Hassett, and Monica Wynne voted in favor. Steve Kozloski and Chris Bouchard abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady had no updates to report.

### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Jon Davine reported. To date they have given over 30,000 doses of vaccine, now including children 12 and up. The plan is to finish with first doses in May and second doses in June, and to shut down by July 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- POLICE: Steve Kozloski reported that they are still digesting the police reform legislation and working with local legislators to find funding sources for unfunded mandates. Mike Wynn reported that they have been supporting vaccine clinics. The Berkshire chiefs discussed that last year's public disorder events revealed some gaps that they are trying to

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address. Tom noted that Chief Wynn was appointed by the Governor to the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission.

- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. EMS resources have been dedicated to clinics, but those are starting to wind down. Some regulatory changes from DPH for the pandemic have been rescinded and operations should be getting back to normal.
- EMD: Bob Hassett reported. Hurricane season starts on June 1, and the National Weather Service is predicting a bad season.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Yesterday's announcement from the Governor lifting all restrictions was a bit of a surprise, but they will do the best they can.
- TRANSPORTATION: No one was present, but Jamin Carroll sent an update via email. They are gearing up for when colleges come back in the fall, and still working with the budget.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. Approximately 70% of DPW employees have received the vaccine. They are waiting on funding for roadwork. The construction boom is costing money for towns because they are now competing for resources.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are waiting for final guidance from the Governor's office about the new rules. It looks like they still will be under a mask mandate, which will likely create angst among unions. They are also still looking at the effects of the police reform bill.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Hassett reported that we lost Melissa Nazzaro as the SWIC (Statewide Interoperability Coordinator). At the moment the SIEC is in limbo and no projects were passed this month. The next meeting is June 3. Bob noted that we have developed good relationships, and it is frustrating to see those eroded. Nina Barszcz reported that Wilbraham Dispatch is regionalizing starting today, merging with Hampden 911. The State 911 Commission meeting will be held this Thursday at 1 pm.
- HOSPITAL: Monica Wynne reported. They continue to see admission rates drop for COVID positive cases. They started visiting hours and have had long lines for this. They are also continuing with vaccination clinics.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. Most towns are caught up in budgets and town meetings. They were caught off guard by the Governor's announcement and will now have to figure out hybrid meetings and what to do with mask requirements and how to keep the population safe, especially with those under 12 not yet vaccinated. They do not have any guidelines yet.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: No one was present to give an update. We are still looking for a new representative for the Council.

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- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: No one was present to give an update.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk reported and thanked the Council for meeting the FFY2021 investment plan deadline. It was approved by EOPSS and submitted last Friday. The Commonwealth Non-Profit Security Grants were announced last week, and the Western region had four organizations receive grants which totaled over \$260,000.
- DHS: John Warren reported. He shared the link to a CISA guide released last week on the impacts of doxing on critical infrastructure. The new executive order on cybersecurity is beefy and they are still trying to unpack it. It makes DHS/CISA more of a proactive lead in investigation and protection of other federal agencies, and provides for easier and more proactive sharing of info with private sector partners.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Raine Brown reported. Projects are moving forward. The committee voted on several projects for final approval. The RFQ is out for the AAR scoping project and anticipated back later this week. We will be going out to bid for a vendor to develop an online training module for the NPI quick guide and virtual workshops for that project. We are also out to bid for consultants for the next round of the first responder mental health project. Raine also noted that the Department of Mental Health does a law enforcement mental health conference every year; it will be held online in June this year. Raine can send out info for anyone who is interested. Bids for the second round of PPE have come in and MAPC is going through them. Purchase orders are likely going out in next several weeks. The cybersecurity capacity workshops for Franklin County will start in the fall.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Bob Hassett reported. Due to the SWIC vacancy, two projects are still in limbo: one for radio upgrades for the fire communications van and cache and for the incident command team, and one for the Motorola connection to Westcomm.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The committee met prior to the Council. Check the website as regulations ease and we start doing more in-person trainings, including a new session of the chainsaw safety course starting in June.

**Equipment/PPE:** Raine Brown reported. The Public Health PPE project was discussed above.

**CBRNE/IED:** Raine reported that they are working on swift water rescue and boats for the Tech Rescue Team. Some of the specs were causing challenges, but those have been worked out now so we can go ahead with procurement. Specs for hydraulic equipment are now at EOPSS. Equipment for the Hampden County Special Response team is out for bid. The Tech Rescue Team was approved to do awareness briefings through the region. There is a structural collapse workshop and exercise series starting at the end of May, consisting of some virtual content plus in-person drills later in the summer and into the fall.

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**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. Raine is continuing to look at moving projects between FFY19 and FFY2020 based on what can be completed by the end of this calendar year, when FFY19 currently ends. She flipped some equipment projects to FFY19 and some T&E projects to FFY2020 to give more time. Things are moving along fairly well. We are unlikely to need another extension for FFY19, but we are likely to need one for FFY2020.

In Raine's ongoing work as the lead of the cyber resilient municipal working group, they are continuing to focus on the Minimum Baseline of Security, which is a recommendation for municipalities. The Cyber Center has been working on turning that into online modules. There was a meeting with Seth Bouvier of EOPSS to talk about a potential joint project of all of the Homeland Security Councils.

Amy Reilly reported on a staffing update at MAPC. Lauren Sacks, who leads on procurement with Brad Downey, is moving into a NERAC program manager role. MAPC is now hiring for a procurement grants specialist.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:**

Jon Davine reported that he will be stepping down as training coordinator for the Hazmat team. CJ Bartone will be taking his place in that role. CJ has been on the team 5-6 years and is also on the JHIRT team.

Mike Wynn asked Council members to keep in mind those battling the fire in Clarksburg.

Tom noted that he will reach out to try to get formal information about the SWIC position.

Raine noted that the changes announced by the Governor might affect our meetings. Once the State of Emergency is lifted, we may have to go back to standard open meeting law requiring an in-person quorum. We are waiting for guidance to see if we can continue to meet virtually while we try to find an appropriate place to meet in person. Raine will research equipment to allow hybrid meetings, as many Council members have appreciated being able to participate virtually.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 10:00 am. Location/format TBA.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Jon Davine moved to adjourn. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jon Davine, Nina Barszcz, Tom Grady, Mike Wynn, Steve Kozloski, Chris Bouchard, Carolyn Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, and Monica Wynne voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 10:43 am.

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List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for May 18, 2021
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2021 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY18 Homeland Security Grant – 5/18/21
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 5/18/21
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY20 Homeland Security Grant – 5/18/21
- WRHSAC FFY18 Homeland Security Budget Report through 5/14/21
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 5/14/21
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Homeland Security Budget Report through 5/14/21

Respectfully submitted by:

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

DRAFT

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Chris Bouchard (South Hadley Highway), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jamin Carroll (PVT A), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Bob Barry (MEMA), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brad Downey (MAPC), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sherriff's Office), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College), Barry Ross (Hampden County Sheriff's Office)

**Council members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/ Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), 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 April 20, 2021 meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the May 18, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Jamin Carroll, Susan Rathbun, Charles Burger, and Steve Kozloski, and Monica Wynne voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reminded the Council that the Governor's State of Emergency expires today, but that some orders issued under DPH are still in effect as a result of the continuing public health emergency. Check the state website to learn what is and is not affected.

### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that two of the four foam trailers purchased several years ago with support of the Council are out of service because of an issue with the foam. The Fire Marshall has formed a task force to investigate how to move forward. Jon Davine reported that Northampton plans on closing their vaccination clinic by July 2. They have administered

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over 31,000 doses. Northampton Fire, along with Hampshire County Chiefs, will host a fire officer training in Hadley in September. There is a large protest planned for this afternoon in Northampton. Charles Burger had no additional updates to report.

- POLICE: Steve Kozloski and Susan Rathbun had no updates to report.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. As in the past, the regional offices are in a funding crunch and will be reducing services. The State of Emergency is being lifted, but there has been some dispute between the Governor's office and DPH on some of the orders. Some of the changes that were enacted led to improvements in some service areas.
- EMD: Bob Hassett reported. We are in the throes of an active hurricane season and everyone should stay vigilant. Bob also announced that he will be retiring at the end of July. He will be submitting his resignation to the Council and has been talking with Bonnie Roy at MEMA about a replacement.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Sandra Martin reported. Vaccination clinics are winding down, but vaccination efforts are not; they are becoming more targeted. Because of variants, people should not drop all precautions even if fully vaccinated.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. They have been dealing with the changing requirements. The State has dropped most mask requirements, but federally, the Department of Transportation is still requiring masks in public transit, leading to more confrontations from passengers.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. They are trying to advise cities and towns on funding for sewer, water, and lost revenue. There is a line paint shortage this summer as they are competing with contractors. They are waiting for Chapter 90 and other money to be released.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are trying to deal with the lifting of the State of Emergency. Within facilities there is still a requirement for people to be masked. Some staff are resisting. They will stick with current protocols for at least another month or two.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Hassett reported. There still has not been an SIEC meeting, as this month's meeting was postponed. There is a full SIEC executive meeting scheduled for July 7. Bob has spoken with the new SWIC, Rich Fiske, and feels that they are starting off a good relationship.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Baystate will be closing the Whitney Avenue vaccine clinic by July 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are currently 10 patients hospitalized with COVID. Visiting hours are back; some areas allow two visitors per patient, but most still limit visitors to one per patient. They are still requiring masks and probably will until the fall. They have had some battles with people who come in not wanting to wear masks.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. Most towns are trying to get through town meetings and associated work, and are also transitioning from the State of

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Emergency to normal business. The Pioneer Valley Mosquito District is trapping mosquitos and will start testing this week.

- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: See “New Business” below.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Bob Barry reported. On June 23 they will do two remote sessions on resource management from the MEMA perspective, WebEOC, and resource ordering. A hazmat awareness class will be done remotely June 29-30, 6-9 pm.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk reported. The new SWIC began and the next SIEC meeting is scheduled for July 7<sup>th</sup>, when the WMRIC projects will hopefully be approved.
- DHS: No one was present to give an update.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Monica Wynne reported. Purchase orders are in process for the second round of procurement for the Health Coalition PPE restocking project. The new Public Health Trailer for Pittsfield is anticipated by late June, and procurement for a second trailer for Greenfield will go out in July. For the First Responder Mental Health Resiliency project, the consultants from Phase I have been rehired to continue the Building Healthy Workplaces Leadership training, research advanced skills training for all first responders, and begin development of a region-wide conference to be held next summer. BRPC has been hired to facilitate the planning and scope development process for the COVID-19 AAR.

A new project for a Regional CISO Feasibility Study was approved by the subcommittee at this month’s meeting and needs the full Council approval. See today’s meeting packet for more details. This would involve the other Homeland Security Councils in the Commonwealth as well; Central and Northeast have already approved it and Southeast has considered it but wants more information and will reconsider it in August.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Monica Wynne moved to approve up to \$30,000 from FFY2020 for WRHSAC’s share of the CISO feasibility study. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, John Dearborn, Chris Bouchard, Steve Gaughan, Susan Rathbun, Charles Burger, Steve Kozloski, Monica Wynne, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Bob Hassett reported. There are two projects pending with SIEC; one is for the Westcomm system key and the other is for CoMIRS radios for Franklin County. Pending for today’s meeting is CMED replacement radios for Franklin County. Bob will be sending his letter of resignation after next month’s meeting. Nina Barszcz has been slated to

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take his position on WMRIC, and the Commonwealth will come up with a replacement for him for Emergency Management.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. In-person trainings are resuming, with a large animal rescue training and a chainsaw safety training coming up later this month. The subcommittee has two motions to bring before the Council today. The first is from Easthampton Fire for two offerings of a pre-hospital trauma life support training.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$27,500 for two offerings of a pre-hospital trauma life support training program hosted by the Easthampton Fire Department. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, John Dearborn, Chris Bouchard, Steve Gaughan, Susan Rathbun, Charles Burger, Steve Kozloski, Monica Wynne, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second request was from NWMIMT. Several members are registered to attend a training provided by TEEEX in Texas. The flights were arranged by FEMA and will be departing at 5:30 am, so the request to the Council is to support hotel accommodations near the airport for the night before the flights.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$1,320 for NWMIMT hotel accommodations. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, John Dearborn, Chris Bouchard, Steve Gaughan, Susan Rathbun, Charles Burger, Steve Kozloski, Monica Wynne, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Equipment/PPE:** Raine Brown reported. The PPE restocking project was discussed earlier.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported no new updates from the subcommittee.

#### **Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. We are moving along well towards spending down FFY19 by the end of the calendar year. We have started a few of the longer terms projects funded by FFY20, but we will likely need an extension on that.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** The seat for a higher education representative on the Council has been vacant since Bob Laford's retirement. There is no clear route for filling this vacancy, because there is no single agency to make a recommendation. Several people have noted the vacancy and reached out to inquire about filling the seat. These include: Jonathan Miller from Springfield Tech, who has been doing emergency response for a while; Tom Kettle from Westfield State, who brings 10 years in the military, 20 years in fire service, and 8 in higher ed; and Dan Nietzsche, formerly of FRCOG and now working at GCC. Raine suggested that the Council invite them all to attend meetings for a few months and then in August or September ask them to submit a letter of intent.

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Then the Council could decide on a full representative plus a proxy. There was general consensus among Council members to pursue this strategy.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:**

Jeff McDonald reported that Scott Flebotte is on a short leave, during which Jeff will be taking over grants for Hampden County and other responsibilities. He also announced that the WRHSAC light towers and message boards will be sheltered in a warehouse until the new shelter is built. MEMA is in the process of getting a vehicle to retrieve items left behind in Agawam. If anyone wants anything, the R-POD is going to be shut down soon and inventory will be sent back to the central warehouse.

Raine reported that as things stand now, we will need to meet in person in July with a quorum of at least 9 people. We will do hybrid meetings so people can still join remotely. Raine is looking at different pieces of equipment so people can still see and hear each other. If there is an extension of the Open Meeting Law exemption, we will continue to hold virtual meetings

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 10:00 am. Location/format TBA.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Jon Davine moved to adjourn. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, John Dearborn, Chris Bouchard, Carolyn Shores Ness, Steve Gaughan, Jamin Carroll, Susan Rathbun, Charles Burger, Steve Kozloski, and Monica Wynne voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for June 15, 2021
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2021 (draft)
- Regional CISO Feasibility Study Proposal
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 6/15/21
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY20 Homeland Security Grant – 6/15/21
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 6/10/21
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Homeland Security Budget Report through 6/10/21

Respectfully submitted by:

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

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 20, 2021, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jamin Carroll (PVT A), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), 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), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/ Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Tyrone Denson (Springfield Fire), Brad Downey (MAPC), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Dan Nietzsche (GCC), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Barry Ross (Hampden County Sheriff's Office)

**Council members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), 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 June 15, 2021 meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the June 15, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Charles Burger, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, John Dearborn, Jon Davine, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady had no updates to report.

### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Jon Davine reported that Northampton wrapped up their vaccine clinic with over 33,000 vaccines administered. They will continue using the trailer for mobile vaccine clinics. John Dearborn gave an update on the foam issue. A draft advisory has been built in concert with Mass DEP regarding how to replace the foam in the empty trailers safely. Charles Burger had no updates to report.

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- POLICE: Steve Kozloski reported that the Western Mass Chiefs of Police met last week. They are still waiting on answers for agencies employing part time officers regarding the impact of getting those staff trained to new standards.
- EMS: No one was present to give an update.
- EMD: Bob Hassett reported that the rainy weather pattern is expected to continue. There is a damage update meeting at MEMA Region 3 this afternoon. Springfield had no significant impacts or major flooding from the recent storms. Today is Bob's last meeting as EMD representative to the Council. He will be replaced by Larry Holmberg. This will be ratified at the next MEMA EMD meeting.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. We had a little reprieve from COVID but cases are now going up again thanks to the Delta variant and unvaccinated individuals. The State is discontinuing the contact tracing collaborative as of the end of September, putting the responsibility back on local agencies. There has been some changeover in public health staffing in Western Mass. They are trying to get additional personnel through the SAFE act, designed to improve public health efficiencies. There have been some cases of West Nile in MA this season, mostly in the eastern part of the State. They are still doing mosquito collections and testing. The rainy weather has made this a difficult year.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. They are still dealing with passengers refusing to wear masks or not bringing them. Conflicts with drivers have been increasing.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. DPW operations have been impacted by the large amount of rain. They had been testing for COVID regularly at the plant, but have suspended that because of the rains. They will go back to that for baseline readings before schools start. Mass DOT will not do bridge inspections until tides go down. They are waiting for the Governor to sign Chapter 90 and anticipating additional state and federal funds.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. Correctional facilities are still considered congregate settings, so most COVID protocols are still in place. They continue to do staff monitoring, temperature checks, and in-house testing in coordination with Berkshire Medical Center's lab to contain things quickly.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Anthony Gentile reported that State 911 grants have started to be reported. Bob Hassett reported that the requests before the SIEC for CoMIRS radio and for Motorola licensing for WestComm were both approved. The next SIEC meeting will be in September. Bob just learned that Nina Barszcz will not be able to take over his position as subcommittee chair, so he asked Anthony Gentile to take that position. Anthony agreed.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. COVID admissions are down to single digits but overall admissions are high, and they are preparing for a fourth wave. They are also still dealing with people refusing to wear masks.

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- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Shores Ness reported. Most towns have received notice of ARPA money availability; with damage from storms that will probably go into wastewater and infrastructure repairs. Elementary school aged children are not vaccinated yet and it is now looking like they will not be eligible until winter. Towns are feeling vulnerable for fall.
- **K-12 EDUCATION:** No one was present to give an update.
- **HIGHER ED:** There is no permanent representative to the Council yet.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** No one was present to give an update. Tom Grady noted that MSP is facing substantial staffing challenges, and that arson investigations going to be particularly thin.
- **MEMA:** No one was present to give an update.
- **EOPSS:** Tricia McGuirk reported. FEMA has announced preliminarily that the FFY2021 grant will be awarded at the full amount that was proposed in the spending plan.
- **DHS:** No one was present to give an update.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Jeanne Galloway reported that the subcommittee's projects are moving along. The first public health trailer is due to arrive in Pittsfield soon. The NPI project is moving along. The subcommittee had a productive meeting about forming a plan for the AAR.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Bob Hassett reported. As reported earlier, the subcommittee's projects were approved by SIEC, and Anthony Gentile will be taking over Bob's position as committee chair. There was one request to bring before the Council, for CMED Med-2 and Med-8 radios in Franklin County. The FCECS will take on the management of the radios.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$14,000 for Med-2 and Med-8 radios for Franklin County. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Charles Burger, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Chris Bouchard, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Jon Davine, Steve Kozloski, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported and brought forward three motions from the subcommittee. The first was to cover some additional funds that were needed for food costs for the large animal rescue training.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve an additional \$465.20 for the large animal rescue training. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Charles Burger, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Chris Bouchard, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Jon Davine, Steve Kozloski, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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The second motion concerned two offerings of a Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) Provider Courses, including the opportunity for people to become instructors.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve up to \$35,000 for two TECC courses, including training of instructors. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Charles Burger, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Chris Bouchard, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Jon Davine, Steve Kozloski, Jamin Carroll, and Anthony Gentile voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The third motion concerned a three-day fire officer training course proposed by Jon Davine, to be held at the Courtyard Marriott in Hadley in September. The first two days would accommodate up to 75 people; the third would be limited to 30. Carolyn Ness expressed concern that if most people promoted in local fire departments are from an EMS background, this may be a structural problem or long term trend that is beyond the mission of the Council to support in the future.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve up to \$20,000 for the fire officer training course. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Charles Burger, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, Monica Wynne, Chris Bouchard, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Steve Kozloski, Jamin Carroll, and Anthony Gentile voted in favor. Jeanne Galloway voted against the motion. Jon Davine abstained. The motion was approved.

**Equipment/PPE:** Raine Brown reported. The PPE project for restocking for public health coalitions is nearing completion, with the second round of orders to be delivered soon. For equipment, a trailer has been on order since February for the portable training facility housed at GCC. It has been delayed due to supply chain issues. Some equipment projects are also in process for the Tech Rescue and Hampden SRT teams.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported no updates.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. We will likely need another extension on FFY19 because of delays in equipment delivery due to COVID and extreme weather interrupting production of base elements. Raine is hoping for an extension through the end of June 2022, as the boat motors will be delayed at least until March but possibly longer. FFY2020 projects are beginning to move along. The end date for that grant is the end of July 2022, but we will need an extension. T&E funds are starting to move again but there is still a significant pool of money there to be spent.

The Cyber Resilient Working Group has developed a minimum baseline of security recommendations for towns. Towns often do not have funding to keep things going because they are not prioritizing it in the budget. The proposed Regional CISO project will hopefully be moving forward to help municipalities. It has been approved by all of the HS Councils except the Southeast, who will consider it at their August meeting.

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Amy Reilly reported that MAPC is working on federal reporting for EOPSS. They also have two open positions that they are hoping to fill by the September meeting.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** Tom noted that Pat Carnevale reached out to him to assist during the storm with signboards, light towers, and other WRHSAC assets. Council purchases continue to be used. He also thanked Bob Hassett for his years of service to the Council and to his community.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Monica Wynne moved to adjourn. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Carolyn Shores Ness, Bob Hassett, Charles Burger, Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Chris Bouchard, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Steve Kozloski, Anthony Gentile, Jamin Carroll, and Jon Davine voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for July 20, 2021
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2021 (draft)
- Project Proposal for CMED 2 and CMED 8 Radio Upgrade
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 7/20/21
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY20 Homeland Security Grant – 7/20/21
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 7/16/21
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Homeland Security Budget Report through 7/16/21

Respectfully submitted by:

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

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Tyrone Denson (Springfield Fire), Brad Downey (MAPC), Allison Egan (BRPC), Justin Green (USAF), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS/OGR), Amy Reilly (MAPC), John Warren (DHS/CISA), Paul Wentworth (Mercy Medical Center)

**Council members absent:** Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/ Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police)

*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 July 20, 2021 meeting.

**Motion:** Jon Davine moved to approve the July 20, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Steve Gaughan, Jon Davine, Tom Grady, Monica Wynne, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Susan Rathbun, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady updated the Council on challenges with providing food and paying for locations for trainings that we learned about while planning for an approved fire officer training. He has requested that EOPSS coordinate a statewide meeting of Council Chairs to discuss this.

### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that he gave an update to Homeland Security Council Chairs on the statewide firefighting foam issue. They are also working with the PFAS taskforce on that. Most fire departments now have foam with PFAS, which is one of many sources of PFAS contamination. They anticipate coming to the Council at some point to assist with

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replacing the foam in regional assets. They are also looking for legislation to support this effort. Jon Davine had no additional updates to report.

- POLICE: Susan Rathbun reported that agencies are still working on trying to understand the bridge guidelines and stay in tune with what is going on as more details come out.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported that EMS is seeing an uptick in Covid cases, including breakthrough cases. The regional office will continue to provide support.
- EMD: There is no new representative. Raine reported that we are waiting for a nomination from MEMA. She will check in with Bonnie Roy.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Public Health has been busy with Covid cases on the rise in many places. Schools are back in session. West Nile virus is present in the lower Pioneer Valley, but the EEE outbreak of the past two years seems to have ended. Flu vaccines are available and she encouraged everyone to get them. Covid boosters are available for those at high risk.
- TRANSPORTATION: No one was present to give an update.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported that they had some Covid cases in Berkshire County, but they had good pre-planning and managed it successfully. They are continuing to test and monitor. The sheriffs are also still waiting for guidance on reserve intermittent status officers.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported that at the State 911 Commission meeting they noted a 17% uptick in 911 calls since Covid restrictions were relaxed. The development grant may be increasing from \$22 million to \$25 million. The new State 911 training center is opening in Springfield and had an open house recently.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. They are seeing higher acuity and volume and are almost at capacity. Visitation is restricted to one visitor per day per patient.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. Towns have been distracted with the Covid surge, debating masks and town office opening. They are gearing up to deliver flu vaccines. The last mosquito testing date is October 1. West Nile is circulating, but not EEE.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: There is no permanent representative to the Council yet. Jay Hastings reported that it is good to have students back on campus.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: No one was present to give an update.

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- EOPSS: Ben Podsiadlo reported that EOPSS accepted the FFY21 award. The award to the Western Region will be \$1,190,568.30. Regarding comments earlier and in the previous meeting [about EOPSS resistance to spending money on food and venues], committee members' comments were heard and will be discussed. He is looking forward to working together and building consensus.
- DHS: John Warren reported that they have been conducting virtual active shooter webinars throughout the region with great attendance. The next will be October 20, focused on houses of worship. He will send Raine information about it to share.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Jeanne Galloway reported that the subcommittee's projects moving along. There were two motions to bring before the Council.

The FFY19 Health Coalition PPE restocking project went over budget by \$4,166.92. The subcommittee voted to cover this using the \$3,845 remaining in FFY19 Cybersecurity planning and \$391.92 from FFY20 NPI AAR.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$3,845 from FFY19 Cybersecurity Planning and \$391.92 from FFY20 NPI AAR for a total of \$4,166.92 for the over expenditure in FFY19 Health Coalition PPE Restocking. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Steve Gaughan, Jon Davine, Tom Grady, Monica Wynne, John Dearborn, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second motion was to approve the allocation of \$125,000 for a consultant to conduct the COVID-19 AAR/IP, and up to \$13,000 for an AAR conference.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve a total of \$138,000 from FFY20 NPI Pandemic Preparedness and Response to conduct a Response to COVID-19 AAR/IP, with \$125,000 for the consultant to conduct the AAR/IP and up to \$13,000 for an AAR conference. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Steve Gaughan, Jon Davine, Tom Grady, Monica Wynne, John Dearborn, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Sandra Martin reported on the AAR Scope of Services that BRPC prepared. The focus is on Western Massachusetts and things that we can potentially change at our level. BRPC developed a detailed scope of services and Pattern of Implementation Plan which includes certain questions we want answered and certain responder groups we want involved. This can help us determine how we can effectively invest Homeland Security money in the future to prepare for the next pandemic. We hope to have a consultant in place by December or January.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Anthony Gentile reported that he was unable to attend this month's SIEC meeting. He had no further updates to report.

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**Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 10:00 am**

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee met this morning and has one motion to bring forward to the Council, to send members of the Tech Rescue Team to a medical specialist training in Florida.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$21,616 for the WMTRT Medical Specialist Training. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Steve Gaughan, Tom Grady, Monica Wynne, John Dearborn, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Raine reported that she has been noticing an uptick in cancellations and no-shows for trainings since resuming in-person trainings. In the past there was about a 20% cancellation or no show rate, but now it seems to be closer to 30-40%. The trainer from last week's training has also seen this recently. Registration for the trainings is filling up, but not as many show up as expected.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine reported that the health coalitions are fully restocked with PPE and are working to distribute it to make sure it can be used before it expires. There are several equipment projects related to the Tech Rescue Team; some are encountering production delays.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported no updates.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. FFY19 currently has an end date at the end of this December. We have asked for the end date to be extended because of equipment delays. The extension request is being worked on with EOPSS. FFY20 ends at the end of July, 2022. We asked for an extension through December, 2022 to give the AAR enough time, and because there is over \$330,000 in T&E that needs to be spent down. We put very little T&E money in FFY21, so once that is online we can probably flip some projects around.

Raine continues to be the lead on the muni subgroup of the Cybersecurity Working Group. On October 7, the MassCyberCenter will be holding a Municipal Cybersecurity Summit, a daylong virtual event with over 350 people already registered. Raine will be leading one of the breakout sessions. Raine has agreed to continue in the lead role through at least the end of this year and will assess whether to continue at that time.

Amy Reilly reported that MAPC is working on an inventory update due to EOPSS at end of the month. Raine is assisting.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

***Review Higher Ed Representative Letters of Intent***

Several people expressed interest in filling Bob Laford's seat, but Tom Kettle was the only one who sent a formal letter. He introduced himself to the Council and noted that he has a unique role of being an EMD for both a state school and community college.

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**Motion:** Monica Wynne moved to accept Tom Kettle’s application to fill the seat of Higher Education Representative to the Council. John Dearborn seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Steve Gaughan, Tom Grady, Monica Wynne, John Dearborn, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Raine noted that we often have a proxy for seats on the Council. Jonathan Miller expressed interest in that position.

**Motion:** John Dearborn moved to accept Jonathan Miller to serve as a proxy for the role of Higher Education Representative to the Council. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Steve Gaughan, Tom Grady, Monica Wynne, John Dearborn, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** None.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

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

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Steve Gaughan, Tom Grady, Monica Wynne, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Shores Ness, Nina Barszcz, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for September 21, 2021
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from July 20, 2021 (draft)
- Project Justification for WRHSAC COVID-19 AAR
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 9/21/21
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY20 Homeland Security Grant – 9/21/21
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 9/17/21
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Homeland Security Budget Report through 9/17/21
- Letter of Intent from Thomas Kettle

Respectfully submitted by:

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

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Bob Barry (MEMA), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brad Downey (MAPC), Allison Egan (BRPC), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS/OGR), Amy Reilly (MAPC), John Warren (DHS/CISA), Paul Wentworth (Mercy Medical Center)

**Council members absent:** Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/ Western Mass Police Chiefs), 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 10:03 am.

### Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the September 21, 2021 meeting.

**Motion:** Jeanne Galloway moved to approve the September 21, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, John Dearborn, Charles Burger, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Nina Barszcz, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported that there has not yet been a meeting concerning food costs associated with trainings. However, they did have a Chairs meeting with the Undersecretary related to the Boston Marathon and what assets were available from the Councils. It was a good educational session to remind everyone where we list our available resources and how to get them. For larger scale events they would like to reach out more to the Councils to use the assets more. Tom also noted that he was invited to participate in a regional drill at Brunelle's Marina in South Hadley and that it was good to hear the discussions about regional concepts for teams.

### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that WMFCA formed a PFAS working group that will meet this month. Jon Davine reported that there was a chlorine leak on Bondi's Island in Agawam

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on Saturday night. The Hazmat team was supported specifically for this by the Council and were able to wrap it up quickly. Charlie Burger reported that the fire officer training sponsored in part by the Council went well.

- POLICE: No one was present to give an update, as all police chiefs were at a conference.
- EMS: No one present to give an update. Tom Grady reported that Deb Clapp is pulling together a group to discuss challenges with staffing and the availability of ambulances, as it is becoming a critical problem.
- EMD/MEMA: Bob Barry reported that they have been busy over the last few months supporting the Josh Billings, Big E, and Boston Marathon. They also launched the 2021 EMPG program, for which there is a hard date of October 28 for submission. The size of the grant is dependent on the size of the community. They are continuing to work with communities on Points of Distribution plans.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. We are almost done with mosquito season. There was no EEE this year, but West Nile was present in the region. There is no flu yet in the region. Covid is still active; cases seem to be plateauing, but public health officials are hesitant because it could change. There were 1.5 million people at the Big E. They are getting reports of Covid associated with attendees, but this needs to be shaken out in detail.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported that they are experiencing a significant lack in staffing and have had to reduce service. They are keeping Covid protocols in place.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported that the infrastructure report was released. The Governor's Office will hopefully look at changing the Chapter 90 formula, which has not changed since the 90s. Everyone is experiencing supply shortages, with current shortages affecting water pipes. There are concerns about shortages this winter with trucking salt and snow removal contractors. Mass Highway is moving forward with mutual aid and holding a meeting soon. In February, new regulations will go into effect for CDL licensing that will be good overall but may make it harder to fill the jobs. There has been talk about electrification of trucks, but the grid infrastructure in New England will not support a fully electric fleet.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are still trying to navigate through the Police Reform bill. He will be attending a meeting in Worcester later this week. The bridge training is active and available on the MPTC website.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. Development grant quarterly reports were due on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Reimbursement workshops are scheduled. They are looking to have PSAPs submit reimbursements more often.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported that Covid numbers are still high but seem to have stabilized. The Baystate flu vaccine program has begun and will run until mid-November, though there is no flu in the region yet.

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- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Shores Ness reported. Most towns have had fall meetings to adjust finances, and everyone is trying to decide how to spend their ARPA funding. Many towns are fighting to get FEMA to acknowledge the July storm damage, which was incurred through multiple events. Towns are still concerned about the effects of the police reform bill. MMA canceled the in-person Four County meeting, but there is a willingness to have conversations and they are hoping for a January meeting. Carolyn also noted that in her role as president of the Mass Association of Conservation Districts she is trying to do outreach to let people know that we may experience a food security issue this winter. New England is at the end of the supply chain for trucks bringing things from the West Coast. Wildfires and drought in California may lead to issues here. There are weaknesses in our food distribution system.
- **K-12 EDUCATION:** No one was present to give an update.
- **HIGHER ED:** Tom Kettle reported. He is beginning outreach with higher ed partners in the region and starting discussions about holding a critical incidents training at Westfield State.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** No one was present to give an update. Tom noted that he had a discussion with the Undersecretary about getting a new representative for the Council.
- **MEMA:** See EMD report, above.
- **EOPSS:** Tricia McGuirk reported that they are working with MAPC on getting FFY21 contracts in place. Ben Podsiadlo reported that they expect to get an email out about the Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) in December, which we need to get funded. They are working on metrics for progress reports. Regarding food at trainings, there are some draft policies being considered at EOPSS. He took feedback from our meeting last month and will circle back again.
- **DHS:** John Warren reported. Tomorrow they will hold the first DHS/CISA active shooter webinar focused on houses of worship. About 75% of those registered are from Western Mass. They have received requests for the TEEX Critical Infrastructure Protection Course series. John talked to the State Training Officer about securing the training, probably in the Worcester area. It consists of four courses in a week.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Jeanne Galloway reported. Subcommittee projects are moving forward. ADA compliance on trailers is an unforeseen issue and we may need to ask for more money. The AAR project is moving forward. The Project Justification for the Mental Health Resilience Conference is in today's meeting packet. Raine added that this is part of the ongoing mental health resilience project; one of the recommendations from the consultants in the previous phase was to begin holding a mental health conference every other year. This would be first one and is being planned for next October. It would consist of plenary and breakout sessions, and they already have nationally recognized speakers lined up. It will likely be held at UMass Amherst and would accommodate up to 400 people. The committee asked for up to \$30,000 from the first responder mental health resiliency line.

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**Motion:** Jeanne Galloway moved to approve up to \$30,000 for the first responder mental health conference. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Grady Jon Davine, John Dearborn, Charles Burger, Jamin Carroll, Monica Wynne, Nina Barszcz, Chris Bouchard, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** No update was provided, as Anthony Gentile was called away to deal with a radio issue in his center.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting. There was a proposal from NWMIMT for an all-hazards incident management team training from the US Fire Administration, at a cost of \$37,750.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve up to \$40,000 for the NWMIMT all-hazards incident management team training. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, John Dearborn, Charles Burger, Jamin Carroll, Monica Wynne, Nina Barszcz, Chris Bouchard, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Tom Grady noted that it is helpful when people report back real life uses of trainings.

**Equipment /PPE:** The PPE restocking has wrapped up, and invoices are being processed.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn had no updates to report. Raine reported that the Tech Rescue equipment projects are still ongoing, as they have been affected by supply chain disruptions.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. FFY19 is currently scheduled to end at the end of this calendar year, but several projects are delayed. We are working with MAPC and EOPSS for and extension through June, 2022. We are also seeking an extension on FFY20 through then end of December, 2022. It going through the process. FFY2021 will be coming on board soon as an active grant and we can begin the project to build a shelter for WRHSAC-purchased equipment. We had a small working group for this last year and will start it up again to decide on the location and type of structure.

Raine gave an update on the Cyber Resilient Working Group. The Municipal Cyber Security Summit was held on October 7, with over 500 people registered. Raine facilitated two well-attended breakout groups.

Amy Reilly reported that they are waiting on a couple more regions to provide information regarding the FFY19 extension. The updated inventory was submitted to EOPSS and they will be working with the Councils to make sure everything is properly tagged and decal'ed.

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**Old Business:**

**EMD Representative Nomination** – There was some miscommunication with MEMA about how to fill this position, but we now have full support of MEMA and EOPSS for the nomination of Larry Holmberg to fill the seat of EMD representative on the Council.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the nomination of Larry Holmberg as WRHSAC's EMD representative. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, John Dearborn, Charles Burger, Jamin Carroll, Monica Wynne, Nina Barszcz, Chris Bouchard, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** None.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, John Dearborn, Charles Burger, Jamin Carroll, Monica Wynne, Nina Barszcz, Chris Bouchard, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for October 19, 2021
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from September 21, 2021 (draft)
- Project Justification for WRHSAC First Responder Mental Health Conference
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 10/19/21
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY20 Homeland Security Grant – 10/19/21
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 10/14/21
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Homeland Security Budget Report through 10/15/21

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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**Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 10:00 am**

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), 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), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/ Western Mass Police Chiefs), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police), Monica Wynne (Baystate), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD).

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brad Downey (MAPC), Allison Egan (BRPC), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept), Michael Nelson (Franklin County Fairgrounds), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS/OGR), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

**Council members absent:** John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn)

*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 16, 2021 meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the October 16, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Jon Davine, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, Chris Bouchard, Larry Holmberg, Charles Burger, Monica Wynne, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. Steve Gaughan abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady reported that the approved version of the Massachusetts State Homeland Security Strategy is out and available online. The Council chairs had a meeting yesterday in Natick.

### **Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: Jon Davine reported. Yesterday a letter from DPH went out to all fire-based EMS services regarding assisting hospitals and nursing homes with transfers. However, they do not have the staffing to support this. They hope to have an update next month.
- POLICE: Steve Kozloski reported. They are continuing to focus on implementing police reform and are getting more guidance from the POST Commission and MPTC regarding bridge training for part time officers. Many classes are under-enrolled, which means either

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agencies are not taking advantage of it or they are waiting until the end. Mike Wynn added that a second concern that has arisen more recently involves volunteer and auxiliary law enforcement, many of whom are also subject to the bridge requirement but have no path forward. There is a significant lobbying effort on their behalf now. Staffing the POST commission is an ongoing effort. The commission's current project is to figure out a process to transmit within two days all complaints regarding allegations of misconduct.

- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. They had regional meetings last month about staffing shortages. Discussions with DPH suggest that there are people there at high levels who do not understand the realities of Western Mass.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported. Applications for the Hazardous Materials Emergency grant for LEPCs and REPCs are due December 10.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Covid cases leveled out but may be going back up in some places. They are starting to see the new "Delta plus" in some places. Flu is here now, at typical seasonal levels. Last year flu levels remained pretty flat but this year could be different because fewer people are wearing masks. ARPA funding will bring much needed staffing funding for public health. It also includes funding for the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. They are experiencing staffing issues and a shortage of CDL-trained people. They have already reduced service, and more reductions will go into effect in December. Vaccine mandates are not in effect yet for transportation workers, but if they go into effect they will likely lose more people.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. They are worried about trucker shortages. There was a meeting with MEMA after the last coastal storm; public works mutual aid worked well. It was good for MEMA to see how they weed out requests. Mass DOT is helping with the GIS platform. They are changing the road closure app and beta testing before deploying it.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are still trying to navigate through bridge training as it relates to corrections. Another challenge is that while Sheriff's offices are excluded from the executive order on vaccine mandates, corrections is not. The National Guard is being called and deployed to fill positions.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. The application deadline for FY22 State 911 grants that PSAPs can apply to is December 30. The FY23 development grant should be coming out soon. State 911 is also hosting a 40 hour Telecommunicator Certification Program free of charge for people interested in becoming telecommunicators for the state. Reach out to Nina for contact info. The State 911 Commission meeting will be this Thursday.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Covid numbers are stable, and Springfield moved from Red to Yellow. The flu is here but there has not been a large influx yet.

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- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Shores Ness reported. Towns are trying to understand the new opportunities presented under the infrastructure bill and how to spend ARPA money. The Police Reform bill is still a concern. There may be a Four County meeting in March. The next MMA meeting will be in January.
- **K-12 EDUCATION:** No one was present to give an update.
- **HIGHER ED:** Tom Kettle reported. He reached out to all of the institutions of higher ed in the region regarding upcoming trainings, including one through TEEX on Management of Critical Incidents.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** No one was present to give an update.
- **MEMA:** No one was present to give an update.
- **EOPSS:** Ben Podsiadlo reported. At yesterday's Chairs meeting, Undersecretary Benincasa focused on overarching goals and the downtrend in funding since 2007. She is continuing to advocate for funding and wants to showcase the work of the Councils. They also talked about quarterly reports to capture metrics, as well as inventory and how to have more uniformity with deployable assets across the regions. Rich Fiske added that they discussed interoperability and communications projects statewide and emphasized following P25 compliance guidance and public safety encryption guidance for anything going into the CoMIRS system.
- **DHS:** John Warren reported. The Active Shooter Headquarters Working Group has no in-person trainings right now but is offering webinars. The next will be December 3. They will deliver a large tabletop exercise for Simon Malls (which includes Lee Premium Outlets), for mall security and first responders. Online shopping safety guidelines are coming out soon for the holiday season. CISA will be delivering an infrastructure visualization 360 degree product for Shriners on December 9. It is a good tool for training and exercise.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Jeanne Galloway reported. The NPI training module will be available soon and workshops will be held in January. The first public health trailer was delivered to Pittsfield. The Greenfield trailer is out to bid. In a future budget cycle we will look at getting one for Hampden County. There was one motion to bring before the Council. HMCC has requested funding to install foundations, lighting, and HVAC in their new Conex boxes. The \$70,000 requested would come in part from the \$40,000 in PPE Restocking and Rotation, and the remainder from the funds left from the NPI AAR Development project and the First Responder Mental Health project line as needed. Raine explained that in FFY20 we had identified PPE restocking and rotation management as a priority. HMCC has developed a rotation management plan so that things do not expire. This project would be a way for the Council to support them in this rather than developing a new plan.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Jeanne Galloway moved to approve up to \$70,000 for HMCC Conex Boxes foundation, lighting, HVAC utilizing \$40,000 from PPE Restocking and Rotation Management and left over funds in FFY20 NPI, AAR Development and First Responder Mental Health. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held.</p>
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Mike Wynn, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Jamin Carroll, Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Kettle, Charles Burger, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. John Paciorek abstained. The motion was approved.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Anthony Gentile was unable to provide an update.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee has three motions to bring before the Council. The first is for \$10,000 to support the Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning Committee to hold a full scale exercise.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$10,000 for the Franklin REPC Exercise. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Mike Wynn, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Jamin Carroll, Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Kettle, Charles Burger, John Paciorek, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second request was to support an air monitoring training for Districts 4 and 5 Hazmat teams.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$4,000 for the Hazmat Air Monitoring Training. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Mike Wynn, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Jamin Carroll, Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Kettle, Charles Burger, John Paciorek, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The third request was from the Northampton Fire Department for a vehicle stabilization and lifting training for groups that have responsibilities responding to highway incidents.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve up to \$6,500 for the vehicle stabilization and lifting class. John Paciorek seconded the motion. Mike Wynn, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Jamin Carroll, Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Kettle, Charles Burger, and John Paciorek voted in favor. Jeanne Galloway voted against the motion. The motion was approved.

Tom Grady encouraged everyone to think about trainings in their disciplines that would be beneficial for the region, as we have a substantial amount of T&E funds available.

**Equipment /PPE:** There were no updates to report.

**CBRNE/IED:** Raine Brown reported that the equipment we are purchasing for the Tech Rescue Team is slowly coming in. We are also sending them to a medical specialist training in Florida.

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**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. We have received an extension for FFY20 through the end of December, 2022. We are still waiting to hear about the requested extension for FFY19. We have restarted the equipment shelter working group to help figure out where and what type of equipment shelter should be built with FFY2021 funds. This month's meeting had representation from all four Sheriff's offices; at the meeting they were tasked with looking for suitable locations and determining their needs. The next meeting will be December 14. EOPSS issued their Stakeholder Preparedness review form. Raine took the numbers from two years ago and adjusted for minor changes. FFY19 and FFY20 projects are moving along, except for some delays with equipment.

Within the Cyber Resilient Working Group, Raine is still the lead on the municipal group. They are continuing to work on a minimum baseline of cybersecurity guidance for municipalities. There are new training modules out on the MassCyberCenter website. We are ready to issue a contract for the Regional CISO feasibility study. The project will likely begin in December.

Amy Reilly reported that the FFY19 extension is in process for all four regions, with a new ending expected to be at the end of June, 2022. The FFY21 funding is in and contracts are signed, so probably at the next meeting everyone can begin looking at budgets. They are looking to pull together all program managers in the next week or after Thanksgiving. Regarding the PPE project, the Northeast Council has also developed a cache and rules for running that system. Amy will share the document with Raine.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

*Franklin County Fairgrounds AEDs and Stop the Bleed Kits Request* – Carolyn Ness presented a request from the Franklin County Fairgrounds for up to \$5,000 for two AEDs and two Stop the Bleed kits. The Fairgrounds is one of the largest gathering places in the county and has had a 500% increase in events this year. It is a regional asset. Raine expressed some concern because it is a non-profit entity. Amy replied that she believed it is not forbidden as long as items are used for a public purpose. Ben concurred that he believed it would be allowable, but he offered to do more research to confirm.

Raine asked where the Council would take funds from and whether it would need to go to a subcommittee. She pointed out that T&E has a cushion of about \$9,000 in FFY19 and that there are a few other projects that have come in under budget, but she is not sure where this project belongs. Carolyn suggested that this would be a good way to use leftover funds as the year closes out. Tom Grady pointed out that the Council has usually given Raine some flexibility to spend down funds and that she should be able to choose from remaining FFY19 money rather than taking this to a subcommittee. Others agreed with this approach.

Steve Gaughan noted that it is a good idea for them to have these supplies on site, but he cautioned that if we open this door, we are likely to hear similar requests from other counties. He also wondered if the funds requested were sufficient. Michael Nelson replied that the request was based on items available on Grainger and other websites, but he acknowledged that higher quality AEDs are more expensive and that he would defer to people with more experience for

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recommendations. Steve Gaughan recommended checking with Greenfield Fire for interoperability and a recommendation. Raine noted that the Council recently purchased AEDs for other projects at a cost of about \$2,000 each. There was agreement to increase the amount to up to \$8,000. Jeanne noted that if these are available to the general public, they need to be units that walk people through the steps. She also asked about maintenance. Michael replied that they understand that this would be a one-time purchase from the Council and the Fairgrounds would take care of maintenance.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve up to \$8,000 for the Franklin County Fairgrounds AEDs and Stop the Bleed kits. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Mike Wynn, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Jamin Carroll, Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Kettle, John Paciorek, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. Charles Burger abstained. The motion was approved.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** Tom Grady thanked to Chief Wynn for bringing the new Pittsfield Police support dog following an inmate suicide. He also offer condolences on behalf of the Council to the City of Chicopee on the line of duty death of Michael Dion.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to adjourn. Chris Bouchard seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Mike Wynn, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Jamin Carroll, Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Kettle, John Paciorek, Charles Burger, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for November 16, 2021
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from October 19, 2021 (draft)
- Project Justification for HMCC Conex Boxes Pad, HVAC and Shelving
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY19 Homeland Security Grant – 11/16/21
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report FFY20 Homeland Security Grant – 11/16/21
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 11/15/21
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Homeland Security Budget Report through 11/15/21
- Request from Michael Nelson, Franklin County Agricultural Society, dated 10/29/21

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason  
WRHSAC Program Assistant  
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council

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Franklin Regional Council of Governments

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## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 21, 2021, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Jamin Carroll (PVT A), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Kate Dorrity (UMass EMD), Allison Egan (BRPC), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Erin Hastings (WESTCOMM), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Debbie Lynangale (Collaborative Resolutions Group), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS/OGR), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Tracy Rogers (FRCOG), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

**Council members absent:** Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne)

*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 November 16, 2021 meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve the November 16, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. Chris Bouchard seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, John Paciorek, Larry Holmberg, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Shores Ness, Mike Wynn, Steve Gaughan, Chris Bouchard, Jon Davine, Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Jamin Carroll, Nina Barszcz, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported. He thanked the Council for buildouts of infrastructure that was used recently in Berkshire County. Law enforcement and dispatch in the town of Dalton were hit hard with Covid, and they were able to roll over dispatch to the Sheriff's Office because of State 911 and WRHSAC resources.

### Updates from Disciplines

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

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- **POLICE:** John Paciorek reported that criminal justice reform is still an ongoing issue. Mike Wynn reported that the POST Commission has been busy. Changes went into effect on December 1; anyone not sworn in yet by that date has to meet new requirements before they graduate. They have been working to figure out a path to get current students fully compliant. More thorough guidance will be coming regarding what is accepted for a psychological assessment. Background investigation will get more stringent, including national database and interstate checks. Steve Kozloski had no updates to report. Susan Rathbun reported that Hinsdale was part of the dispatch that had to flip last week, and that it has been flawless.
- **EMS:** Steve Gaughan reported. Private and municipal EMS still face the same hurdles, including ongoing shortages impacting moving patients between hospitals. They are seeing really sick pre-hospital Covid patients again and trying to protect the workforce, but they are now more prepared with PPE. Steve also spoke to WMTRT members who went to the medical specialist training, and it sounded like it was a wonderful course.
- **EMD:** Larry Holmberg reported. Last Thursday, MEMA published the needs assessment report. Larry has not fully read it, but the recommendations and considerations include strengthening regional offices and collaborations between the State and EMDs, encouraging regional collaboration, improving access for at-risk populations, and emphasizing an all-hazards approach to training. The MEMA West (Agawam) Office will soon have more people on staff, including a new Franklin-Hampshire coordinator. EMD orientation training is coming up for new EMDs and is a good refresher for others. There are three local to our region in January. Ask Larry if you want a copy of the assessment.
- **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Jeanne Galloway reported. Local public health is busy with the Covid upswing, trying to get people to get vaccinated and get people to stay home, cancel sports and other events. Flu is also on the rise, with current levels twice as high as it was last season. Another respiratory bug is going around now, too. Hospitals are full. People are tired and do not want to do this anymore.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Jamin Carroll reported. They are still seeing low numbers in recruits and new trainees, though hiring has increased a bit. They will be functioning on reduced staffing levels for the foreseeable future until they can hire more people than they are losing. Drivers are still seeing people resistant to wearing masks and have called police a few times.
- **DPW:** Chris Bouchard reported. They are tracking the federal infrastructure money and when it can possibly trickle down. For anyone going to the MMA show in January in Boston, they will be doing a table talk.
- **CORRECTIONS:** Tom Grady reported. Overall inmate counts are down consistently across the state. They are concerned about an uptick in Covid.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Nina Barszcz reported. Covid is on an upswing and 911 has been getting a lot of ambulance calls for very sick people. The FY23 development grant is out, with a due date of March 3. The shutdown of 3G cellular networks is coming in Feb-March; this will affect people's ability to call 911 on older devices. MCSA is conducting two days of

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executive trainings for Next Gen 911, including a preview of the NG 911 call handling system. Nina recommends that dispatchers register for that.

- **HOSPITALS:** Monica Wynne reported. Covid is on the rise and they are currently at double digits for ICU patients. Workforce challenges remain; they are over capacity in Springfield and close to capacity elsewhere.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Shores Ness reported. There is a mixed bag of mask mandates and advisories and people doing nothing. Everyone is wishing for a statewide mandate because now the patchwork is not effective. Towns are starting the budget process and the impact of the police reform bill is starting to be felt. They are hoping that discussion at the January MMA conference will help to figure out how this will work. Towns need more support than what has come so far.
- **K-12 EDUCATION:** No one was present to give an update.
- **HIGHER ED:** Tom Kettle reported. Outreach continues with other higher ed institutions. There are 15 spots left in the TEEEX training on March 10 for higher ed EMDs.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** No one was present to give an update.
- **MEMA:** Scott Flebotte has been added as the MEMA representative to the Council. He reported that distribution of test kits went well. They will have an Emergency Management 101 type course for EMD certification, training staff in regions as well as at headquarters. Full EMI certification is coming. Scott will send out info once dates are confirmed. They are working on COOP plans and ISEP plans. HMPG grants are out; contact Scott if you need help with those.
- **EOPSS:** Tricia McGuirk reported. The Undersecretary asked that regions be notified that she is encouraging T&E programs emphasizing special events incidents response, as there is elevated concern and risk for these events. MEMA will be offering trainings in 2022. Ben Podsiadlo reported that the National Guard will be deploying hospital support and EMS support across the State and with interfacility transfers. The cyber grant is being worked on by Seth Bouvier. The PFAS foam issue continues to be a challenge due to environmental concerns and the need to ensure capability. DHS and others are concerned about mass gatherings. They are preparing for Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) and CBRNE at the Big E and elsewhere and how best to respond to incidents.
- **DHS/CISA:** John Warren reported. They have completed the info collect on the 360° high definition infrastructure visualization platform at Shriners Children Hospital and that product will be heading back to the hospital in a few weeks. They will follow up with a vulnerability assessment. Ty Denson invited CISA to speak to the Springfield Local Emergency Planning Commission; the Cybersecurity advisor for the State went to brief them on products available, including those centered on online presence. Two TEEEX critical infrastructure protection courses were approved for the Worcester area for March 29-31 and May 3-5. These are good for facility managers, EMDs, and public works. John will send info to Raine once everything is finalized.

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**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Jeanne Galloway reported that the subcommittee's projects are moving along. The bid for the second public health trailer came in higher than the first because of supply chain issues, so the project will need the Council to approve another \$27,000 (including \$5,000 for supplies). The proposal is to take \$22,000 from funds that remain in completed FFY19 projects, and up to \$5,000 from completed FFY20 projects.

**Motion:** Jeanne Galloway moved to approve the re-allocation of \$22,000 from completed FFY19 projects and up to \$5,000 from completed FFY20 projects for the public health trailer project. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Shores Ness, Mike Wynn, Steve Gaughan, Chris Bouchard, Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Jamin Carroll, Tom Kettle, Jon Davine, Nina Barszcz, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Raine Brown reported. In today's meeting packet is the Project Justification for the Hinsdale rehab bus radio. This would give the rehab bus interoperability into the 800 trunk system. The bus serves Berkshire County and beyond, providing rehab space at incidents. The additional radio will allow communication and means that the bus can serve as an incident command vehicle if needed. WMRIC approved up to \$4,000 for the radio and installation from FFY20.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve up to \$4,000 from FFY20 for the Hinsdale Rehab Bus Radio project. Chris Bouchard seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Shores Ness, Mike Wynn, Steve Gaughan, Chris Bouchard, Tom Grady, Jamin Carroll, Tom Kettle, Jon Davine, Nina Barszcz, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee has no new motions to bring forward. He relayed thanks from Chief Norris for the Prehospital Trauma Life Support training.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported that the request from Franklin County Fairgrounds for AEDs and Stop the Bleed kits was approved and is moving forward. Tech Rescue equipment purchases are also moving forward.

**CBRNE/IED:** Raine Brown reported no updates.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. EOPSS asked for a summary of recent accomplishments and upcoming initiatives. She sent the information to Amy Reilly, who is putting together an update on behalf of all the Councils. In FFY19 most projects are moving along. We have an extension until the end of June, 2022, and Raine does not anticipate challenges with that as long as we receive equipment that has been delayed. FFY20 projects are moving along well. We have an FFY20 extension until the end of December, 2022. We have a significant amount of funds in T&E, but now that FFY21 is coming on board there are several equipment projects that can be flipped to

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get them started. The Council did not allocate much for T&E in FFY21 because of the current excess and anticipating we would flip funds between FFY20 and 21.

Amy Reilly reported that the MAPC team is working to get FFY21 budgets in place over the next few weeks. They had a kick off meeting for the regional CISO project, and she thanked Raine for her excellent work in leading that initiative.

Cyber Resilient Working Group: Raine reported that they kicked off the regional CISO project last week and she is optimistic about the consultant. There are many stakeholders involved. The working group continues to meet every month. The muni group just did its year-end report, which will be incorporated into Stephanie Helms' report to the State. They are setting goals and objectives for 2022.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Debbie Lynangale from the Collaborative Resolutions Group introduced herself to the Council. There was interest expressed in trainings related to de-escalation. She wants to hear what potential needs might be so that they can customize a training.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:**

Tom Grady reported that Scott Range has retired from the State Police and is now at EOPSS. Ben Podsiadlo added that he will be doing part-time work looking at risk assessment roles at EOPSS and how to bring more funding to the State. We have unique risks and challenges that warrant more attention.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Steve Kozloski moved to adjourn. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, Steve Kozloski, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Shores Ness, Mike Wynn, Nina Barszcz, Steve Gaughan, Jon Davine, Chris Bouchard, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for December 21, 2021
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from November 16, 2021 (draft)
- OGR guidance on funding requests for food/beverage
- Thank you letter from Christopher Norris for PHTLS Training
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 12/17/21
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Homeland Security Budget Report through 12/17/21

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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