

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Allison Egan (BRPC), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS/OGR), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Barry Ross (Hampden County Sheriff's Office), Val Woodring (FRCOG/HMCC)

**Council members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

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

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

### Approval of Minutes

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

**Motion:** Jon Davine moved to approve the December 21, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, Anthony Gentile, Jon Davine, Jamin Carroll, and Chris Bouchard voted in favor. Larry Holmberg and John Paciorek abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported. They have a tentative Chairs meeting with the Undersecretary scheduled for Tuesday, February 8. Send Tom an email if you have anything you would like him to bring up. Tom received correspondence from Eric Stratton following an incident in Springfield in which a police officer was stabbed in the face. Eric was at the ER and noted that everyone involved had taken WRHSAC's Officer Down trainings. He wanted to reach out to thank the Council.

### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Jon Davine reported. Various departments throughout Western Mass are missing firefighters because of Covid. Hampshire County reached out to do a booster clinic for first

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 10:00 am**

responders. It will be similar to how they rolled out the vaccines last year. If there is enough interest they may also open it up to eligible spouses and children.

- POLICE: John Paciorek reported. Police departments are still working through the criminal justice reform.
- EMS: No one was present to give an update.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg had no updates to report.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Covid is overwhelming the public health system, medical system, and EMS. We currently have the worst numbers we have seen in the pandemic. There have been many changes in procedures in the last two weeks, and today the Governor will be making more changes. Some people are getting sick with both flu and Covid. Public health will also soon be ramping up for mosquito season.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. Covid is running rampant and affecting the workforce. They are still short-staffed and still not seeing an increase in applicants.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. Covid is affecting everyone, including those who do not work directly for DPW, e.g. vendors for salt. With support from MassDOT and MEMA, they will be ready to roll out the Mutual Aid program this spring.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. The changes in CDC Covid guidance have been positive: they have a high vaccination and booster rate, so losing staff has now been minimized.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Anthony Gentile reported. The development grant application period closes March 3. It increased to \$30 million this year.
- HOSPITALS: No one was present to give an update.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported that towns are trying to continue operations while busy with the Covid surge and flu. Salt is a problem. Budgeting is starting. The MMA annual meeting is switching from in-person to virtual. Chris Bouchard reported that the Mass Highway Association will be doing a session at the MMA virtual event on recruitment and retention strategies.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Tom Kettle reported. Students are moving back in and everyone has their hands full with Covid.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: No one was present to give an update.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 10:00 am**

- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk reported with updates from the program manager at FEMA. The FEMA bulletin will be out soon saying that SAAs can apply for a six month extension for 2019. The 2022 NOFO release Congressional Continuing Resolution is on until February 13 and they are hoping for a federal budget signed by then. That would put the NOFO release in mid-April with a 45 day application period until approximately the end of May, 2022. The infrastructure act will provide \$1 billion through CISA to states for cybersecurity within the next year, so this will probably be dropped as a mandated national priority in the HSGP. Ben Podsiadlo added that following the event of the weekend in Texas, CISA is running a call for faith-based non-profits that may be of interest to law enforcement.
- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Jeanne Galloway reported that projects are moving along, including the public health trailer for Greenfield, submissions for the AAR, the NPI quick guide module, and the cybersecurity CISO project. The subcommittee is working on FFY21 project planning.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Anthony Gentile had no updates to report.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. We have a few trainings coming up that can be found on the website. A proposal was brought forward from Chief Davine for another round of the fire officer training that we conducted in Hampshire County, this time in Hampden County.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady moved to approve \$22,500 for fire officer training in Hampden County. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, John Paciorek, Chris Bouchard, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Kettle, Anthony Gentile, Jon Davine, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported. The purchase order has been issued for the Franklin County Fairgrounds AED and Stop the Bleed kits. We allocated \$8,000 but the cost came to just over \$4000, so we will get money back in FFY19. Raine is keeping an eye on supply chain issues for FFY19 equipment projects. The grant ends in June. We have a fair amount of funds in FFY19 that have not been spent yet, including around \$50,000 in the tech rescue team line. Raine will double check with them about projects. If there are other equipment projects we could start on to spend down the money, this is the time to see how we can do it. Raine will be flipping T&E funds from FFY20 to FFY21 for more time.

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

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. Budgetary updates were discussed above. Raine continues in her role on the cyber resilient working group. They are working on goals for the year.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 10:00 am**

Amy Reilly reported that MAPC will be working on federal reporting, collaboratively with Raine, over the next few weeks.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** None.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> John Paciorek moved to adjourn. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, Chris Bouchard, Carolyn Shores Ness, Tom Kettle, John Paciorek, Anthony Gentile, Jon Davine, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for January 18, 2022
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from December 21, 2021 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY19, dated 1/18/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 1/18/22
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 1/13/22
- WRHSAC FFY2020 Homeland Security Budget Report through 1/13/22

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, February 15, 2022, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), 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), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), 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), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Allison Egan (BRPC), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Chris Norris (Easthampton Fire), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS/OGR), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Jason Saunders (WMTRT), Daryl Springman (WMTRT), Emily Tully (PVPC), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

**Council members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), 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 10:01 am.

### Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the January 18, 2022 meeting.

**Motion:** Larry Holmberg moved to approve the January 18, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Jeanne Galloway seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, Tom Kettle, Jeanne Galloway, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Michael Wynn, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Shores Ness, Steve Kozloski, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported. There was a meeting for Council Chairs in Natick. One of the discussion items was about food and venue costs. It became clear that the new guidance is coming down from FEMA. They have been looking at grant programs as a whole with more scrutiny now. Massachusetts is looking to bring in more funding for Homeland Security grants, which also brings in reviews of what we have done and what we spend money on. In most federal grant programs food costs are not allowed. There is still an opportunity for us to have food costs approved, but mostly in exercises or drills where interruption would be detrimental to the outcome of the event. As a Council we need to look more carefully at how we will ask for expenditures for food if it does not interrupt an event.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

Also at the Chairs' meeting Scott Range, who previously managed the Fusion Center for Mass State Police, but now works in Homeland Security under EOPSS, brought in reps from the FBI office in Boston to talk about a program to create threat assessment teams. It looks like it includes things we have asked for in the past, including BOSAR or other trainings around behavioral observation and looking at concerns for threat actors. FBI has put together a team to work with communities at no cost to develop threat assessment teams.

**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that Covid-related issues are diminishing.
- POLICE: Mike Wynn reported that the POST Commission is dominating police operations these days. Steve Kozloski had nothing additional to report.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. A few months ago they had discussions in EMS and felt that regionally Covid was making them stronger, with more work across disciplines and with HMCC. But he is disappointed and concerned about regional support at the State level. For those who work with Western Mass EMS for programs, there will be a reduction in services. EMS has not seen assistance from the National Guard. They expected to see more support but were told it was not possible. Steve asked everyone to try to reach out to legislators. Tom Grady encouraged everyone to reach out to EMS directors to have a deeper conversation. It is becoming more of a problem every year. Ben Podsiadlo reported that he will take this feedback to the Undersecretary. He noted that regulatory-wise, EMS resides in another secretariat, yet it is critical to Homeland Security response capability.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported. MEMA still has grant money available for natural hazard mitigation planning. The NOFO is on the MEMA website. He also encouraged participation in training opportunities through the Texas A&M TEEX programs. Larry attended the MGT314 ICS class there and found it very hands-on and very worthwhile. It is a five day course fully funded by FEMA and is more thorough than what we see at the local level.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Covid numbers are dropping but apathy is at its highest. Mask wearing for schools is likely ending February 28, though it should not. Contact tracing is going down because it was too much to handle. It is also time to start thinking about mosquito control and the opt-out program, food safety, housing, and other things that have been on the back burner for the last two years.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. Staffing shortages continue, with no applicants to replace employee attrition.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. It is pothole season. Mutual aid is working well. They are working with MassDOT to refine the GIS forms. It worked well in the big snowstorm. They received one inappropriate request recently from a Western Mass town, indicating that they need to do more outreach about how to use it. They do not want to send equipment that will not be utilized.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

- **CORRECTIONS:** Tom Grady reported. They are starting to see heads above water with Covid. The bigger struggle is around fatigue about wearing masks and reinforcing policies.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Anthony Gentile reported. State 911 grants are on the website. There are staffing shortages with part-time dispatchers across the Commonwealth.
- **HOSPITALS:** Monica Wynne reported. Covid numbers are declining but are still over 100. There is a high volume of acutely ill people, but critical care numbers for Covid are lower. Hospitals are also facing staffing challenges.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Shores Ness reported. The MMA conference was virtual and less productive than usual, but she thanked Chris Bouchard for the excellent class on recruitment and retention for DPWs. Covid numbers are going down so there is a lot of pressure to eliminate mask mandates. They are trying to extend it a few more weeks in schools, but no one wants to do that anymore.
- **K-12 EDUCATION:** No one was present to give an update.
- **HIGHER ED:** Tom Kettle reported. Westfield State will be hosting a TEEEX training for higher ed next month. There are nine spots remaining. Send him a message if interested. This is also for communities around higher ed institutions.
- **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 that they are still waiting for the NOFO for next year. Ben Posiadlo added that the continuing resolution for the budget was pushed back to March 11, which probably pushes the NOFO date to late April. Marathon planning is underway; they are grateful for the contributions from Western Mass. They are also gearing up to support the St. Patrick's Day parade in Holyoke. There are plans to move one of the MEMA MEOCs (mobile emergency operations center) to Agawam. Non-profit grants are available for faith based communities. That program is growing and will likely include law enforcement and fire.
- **DHS/CISA:** John Warren reported. In light of the geopolitical tension with Russia and Ukraine, they pushed a message called "Shields Up" to members encouraging everyone to keep an eye on suspicious network activity. They are asking stakeholders to share suspicious network activity with DHS as that helps them build a more complete picture on cybersecurity. Locally, they conducted the infrastructure visualization platform demo for Shriners for first responder support to an incident. They are also working with Berkshire Medical on planning an exercise in March. The next active shooter webinar is tomorrow and is full. There will be two more in April and June.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Jeanne Galloway reported. See today's meeting packet for projects that need support. The first is for a Children in Disasters project, building on work the Council has been doing for years. This project would be an opportunity to help people recognize and

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

react to trauma, with a specific focus on how to reach younger age groups. The cost would be \$70,000 for videos and \$30,000 for training, for a total request of \$100,000. The committee allocated \$50,000 in FFY21 for a project related to children and would like to move the rest from the COVID AAR allocation.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$100,000 for the Children in Disasters project. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Michael Wynn, Jeanne Galloway, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, Carolyn Shores Ness, Steve Kozloski, Jamin Carroll, Anthony Gentile, and Tom Kettle voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The other request is to hire a consultant to see what exists or is underway in terms of local and national Covid AARs as pre-research for a later research project. We want to do a review of AARs to help identify gaps, to help direct coming years' Homeland Security projects. Ben noted that this is a topic of interest at EOPSS, especially the nexus of public health funding with Homeland Security funding. They are trying to develop more coordination at a higher level.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$20,000 for the Covid AAR Review Preparatory Assessment project. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Michael Wynn, Jeanne Galloway, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, Carolyn Shores Ness, Steve Kozloski, Jamin Carroll, Anthony Gentile, and Tom Kettle voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Anthony Gentile had no updates to report.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The committee has no motions to bring forward. Raine moved projects to maximize the use of each year's funds.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported. The Franklin County Fairgrounds AED and Stop the Bleed kit project is wrapping up, with some money left over.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported. In today's packet there is information regarding WMTRT funds with spend-down details. We ended up with a total surplus of \$92,259.17 from three projects. However, the team is requesting to utilize these extra funds for equipment, harnesses, PPE, storage and training props as detailed in the packet. The request is for \$103,101.69 but will likely come in lower than that.

**Motion:** Steve Gaughan moved to reallocate the surplus WMTRT funds to the proposed initiatives. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Jeanne Galloway, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, Carolyn Shores Ness, Steve Kozloski, Jamin Carroll, Anthony Gentile, and Tom Kettle voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

John Paciorek posed a question about when the Council will start to cycle down with our support to the Tech Rescue Team, as it is no longer a start-up. John Dearborn replied that it is an ongoing initiative on the horizon at the State level, though it is not progressing fast enough. However, the team is fully operational at this point. Daryl Springman noted that the new water rescue division was last to be added, and now that it is fully operational there will be fewer big requests.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. FFY19 will conclude at the end of June, 2022. We have several projects that are pushing up against the supply chain. One is a trailer we have been waiting on for over a year. Another is a new public health trailer for Greenfield. That one is moving along well, but it is a modified trailer so takes time. We are also waiting for boats for the Tech Rescue Team, but those should be here by March or April. We are also waiting for the Hampden County SRT equipment.

Raine moved several equipment projects for FFY21 into FFY20 to get them going and spend down the funds, including the Southwick PD remote operated vehicle, tactical gear for JHIRT, and tactical gear for the Franklin County SRT. All budgets are in today's meeting packet.

With regard to the Cybersecurity Working Group, there has been a lot of excitement around the joint regional CISO project. The consultants have interviewed many people from a range of places, from small towns up to Boston, to get a good sense of cybersecurity in the state. Amy Reilly added that the CISO project consultant meets with everyone twice a month and has done a good job balancing work across the state.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

***Update from WMTRT***

Daryl Springman introduced Jason Saunders, who took over the Tech Rescue Team. However, Daryl will still be the primary contact for the Council. He reviewed the history of the team, where the team is today, and the status of the Mass Tech Rescue Coordinating Council.

Discussion followed about whether or not the Council should continue to support the team with backfill and overtime, especially with increased fiscal scrutiny. Many disciplines could use that support, but the WMTRT is the only team we currently do that for. John Dearborn pointed out that the difference with the TRT is that the vast majority are not compensated for any of their trainings, monthly drills, or call outs, so when we can provide them something to attend these exercises, it goes a long way. He acknowledged that the Councils have carried this longer than anyone wanted to, but suggested that for now we continue to support OT/backfill if we can, and look at it again down the road.

John Paciorek expressed concern that TRT members are volunteering their time. Under FLSA, to dedicate a person to an agency and not compensate them is opening towns to liability. Amy Reilly noted that in other regions they cap backfill and overtime at \$35-\$40/hour to get buy in from communities. Raine clarified that WRHSAC does that as well. But she also pointed out that the TRT consistently overestimates the need for backfill/OT; for example, a recent request was

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

over by \$25,000. If the team puts more efforts into streamlining requests for OT/backfill, that would free up more money sooner. One suggestion would be for the TRT to adjust budgets for exercises and trainings by cutting that expense in half. There was agreement that they should have to submit more reasonable estimates. John Dearborn explained that overestimates come from not knowing what part fire departments are going to pick up, but he offered to discuss the issue with the fire chiefs to try to lessen the burden a bit. There was agreement to continue the current practice for now, though Jeanne noted that this also brings up equity issue among disciplines. There is not enough personnel in the world to do backfill/OT in public health.

Carolyn noted that it would be helpful to have a summary of what other Councils are doing with this issue, and also to know which departments are paying and which are not. She would like to know what the commitment or other contributions are from those who are not, as it is hard to have this discussion without all the info. Tom Grady noted that we have been switching over the past several years to more regional concepts and that has been beneficial. We keep seeing our funding level or reduced. We need to get the most we can from what we are allocated, keeping in mind that we have 101 cities and towns in the region.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** Tom reiterated the importance of ICS trainings, especially as we see changeovers and promotions, and encouraged everyone to remind their respective groups.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Jeanne Galloway, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, Carolyn Shores Ness, Steve Kozloski, Jamin Carroll, and Anthony Gentile 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 February 15, 2022
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2021 (draft)
- OGR Homeland Security Division Catering Cost Guidance Update
- Project Justification: Children in Disasters – Prolonged Disasters Considerations
- Project Justification: COVID AAR Review Preparatory Assessment
- WMTRT FFY19 Funds Spend Down Detail
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 2/11/22
- WRHSAC FFY20 Homeland Security Budget Report through 2/11/22
- WRHSAC FFY21 Homeland Security Budget Report through 2/11/22

Respectfully submitted by:  
Rachel Mason, WRHSAC Program Assistant  
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

Franklin Regional Council of Governments

DRAFT

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jamin Carroll (PVT A), 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), 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),

**Non-members present:** Bob Barry (MEMA), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Kate Dorrity (UMass), Brad Downey (MAPC), Lori Gifford (MEMA), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Chris Norris (Easthampton Fire), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS/OGR), Amy Reilly (MAPC), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

**Council members absent:** Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

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

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Council reviewed the minutes from the February 15, 2022 meeting.

**Motion:** Larry Holmberg moved to approve the February 15, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. John Paciorek, Tom Grady, Brian Rust, Mike Wynn, Jeanne Galloway, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Steve Kozloski, Jamin Carroll, Jon Davine, Carolyn Shores Ness, and Stephen Gaughan voted in favor. Nina Barszcz and Charlie Burger abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady had no updates to report.

### **Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: John Dearborn, Jon Davine, and Charlie Burger had no updates to report.
  
- POLICE: John Paciorek reported that they are still working through both the 2018 and 2020 criminal justice reform bills. There are currently 251 police reform bills or related bills pending that they are tracking. Steve Kozloski had nothing to add. Mike Wynn reported that in Berkshire County, the courts cleared the way for the landfill in Lee, which is not going

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

over well in the community. There was a request for extra personnel at the landfill site, and the SRT is on standby. Chief Wynn also reported that about 50% of officers who were certified in December will lose certification on June 30<sup>th</sup> unless the POST commission can find a solution. A considerable amount of documentation will be required if chiefs are not able to sign an attestation.

- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. Many fire and EMS agencies work hand in hand with police agencies in trainings, and they realized that they are not in accordance with police reform guidelines. New EMS protocols are out. Nero's Bill, regarding K-9s, will come out with guidance.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg had no EMD updates but reported that regarding Nero's Bill, the Mass Veterinary Medical Association is gearing up to train paramedics and EMTs to understand the veterinary end of it.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Covid will never be over and will become more like the flu in how we manage it. But Covid cases are still out there, flu is on the rise, and other bugs are also spreading more now that people are not masking. Public Health is also getting ready for mosquito season.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. There are still staffing shortages. They are working through the state budget process because they underfunded transit authorities in the State. They are also dealing with Covid mask mandates on public transportation continuing through April even though towns have lifted mandates.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. In-person inspections and annual audits are back.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. State 911 Commission is holding a meeting March 31<sup>st</sup>. Annual certificates of compliance are due for PSAPs by the end of July. The State is pushing hard on educating the public on silent call and text to 911 procedures. Cards are available to assist with that.
- HOSPITALS: Brian Rust reported. Covid in-patient numbers are down, but not going away. Acuity of other patients is high. Behavioral health cases are up. There is a lot of aggressive behavior. Hospitals are dealing with staffing shortages and staff burnout.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. Towns are in the middle of budget season. Everyone is trying to figure out how to balance budgets and afford police reform. They are transitioning to "new normal" with hybrid meetings, which are labor intensive and hard to get right. Towns are short staffed. Patience is low and it is hard to move forward.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 10:00 am

- HIGHER ED: Jay Hastings reported that the TEEX class held at Westfield was well attended, with 36 individuals from different institutions and disciplines.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update. Tom reported that Major Mike Habel has retired as Commander. On behalf of the Council, he expressed his gratitude for the support he gave us.
- MEMA: Bob Barry reported. They are updating emergency management plans with towns and making sure those are kept on WebEOC. The next quarterly meeting will be held March 31<sup>st</sup>, in-person but also with a remote option in the afternoon. There is \$110 million available in mitigation money for the State. The high figure is the result of the pandemic. It is not competitive; if you meet the criteria it is available. Send a letter to the grants dept at MEMA to indicate you want to start the process. You can apply for projects like culverts and dams, with no cap on the amount of money. The grant pays 75% and the town pays 25%. You have to have a mitigation plan in place to apply. By letter you can also apply to get a consultant to write a mitigation plan.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk reported that Congress approved the 2022 budget, so they are anticipating info soon about the NOFO for the 2022 grant. Ben Posiadlo added he is excited that this is moving forward and they will keep us updated.
- DHS/CISA: John Warren reported. There will be a critical infrastructure protection course in Worcester from March 29-31 and also May 2-5 through TEEX A&M. DHS is pushing messaging around Russia/Ukraine. There is a website set up called Shields Up with the latest updates and warnings regarding cyber threats. John met last week with the State Fire Marshall and Undersecretary Benincasa regarding the infrastructure visualization platform and the FBI program Operation Flashpoint that focuses on getting info out to businesses regarding pre-cursor explosive materials. This Friday they will hold a vulnerability assessment at Shriners.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Jeanne Galloway reported. The committee has been busy. The mobile response trailer and COVID AAR projects are moving along. The project supporting storage boxes for PPE supply is underway, though there is groundwork required. There are a few projects related to mental health resiliency. The uncivility mentioned earlier is a big fall out from Covid that we need to address, along with ethics and equity work.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Anthony Gentile had no updates to report. They will have proposals up for discussion at the WMRIC meeting today.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. Raine provided info from other Councils on what they do with backfill and overtime; Tom asked that Council members consider it and maybe we will revisit the topic later. The subcommittee has several motions to bring forward from today:

- 1) Search and Tracking Training – This will be an overnight training held at a camp in Chesterfield. It is geared to law enforcement but does not exclude other public safety agencies from participating.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$32,750 for the Search and Tracking Training. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. John Paciorek, Tom Grady, Brian Rust, Mike Wynn, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Charlie Burger, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

- 2) A request came last month from the Franklin County Regional SRT to send operators to a CQB training, but we asked them to try to bring the training to Western Mass. They returned this month with that proposal. The proposal was originally for the Franklin County team but will now be expanded to all SRTs in Western Mass.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve up to \$18,000 for the SRT Operations QCB Training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. John Paciorek, Tom Grady, Brian Rust, Mike Wynn, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Charlie Burger, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

- 3) SRT Crisis Negotiator Conference – This would support 14 crisis negotiators from regional teams to attend a conference in Hyannis.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$12,100 for the SRT Crisis Negotiator Conference. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. John Paciorek, Tom Grady, Brian Rust, Mike Wynn, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Charlie Burger, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. Jeanne Galloway voted against. The motion was approved.

- 4) Advanced Medical Life Support Training – This builds on the pre-hospital trauma course we funded but will focus more on the pharmacology and medical side of response. It will consist of two sessions, with capacity for 25 participants per session. It is open to anyone who fits the criteria, not just EMS.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$18,750 for two sessions of Advanced Medical Life Support Training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. John Paciorek, Tom Grady, Brian Rust, Mike Wynn, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Charlie Burger, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

- 5) HAZMAT Education Seminar – the Hazmat team requested to send six technician level personnel from each Western Mass district to a Hazmat conference in Baltimore.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$18,000 for 12 technicians to attend the HAZMAT Education Seminar. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. John Paciorek, Tom Grady, Brian Rust, Mike Wynn, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Charlie Burger, Carolyn Shores Ness, Steve Kozloski, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. Jon Davine and Steve Gaughan abstained. The motion was approved.

- 6) JHIRT Bomb Suits – Because of supply chain issues, the bomb suits came in significantly over budget. This proposal is to use T&E funds to cover the gap.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$12,362.55 to support the purchase of JHIRT bomb suits. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. John Paciorek, Tom Grady, Brian Rust, Mike Wynn, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Charlie Burger, Carolyn Shores Ness, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. Jon Davine abstained. The motion was approved.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported. There are no active projects, as the AEDs and Stop the Bleed kits for Franklin County Fairgrounds were delivered.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn had no activity to report.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. The biggest change to the budget is that we receive info that some Tech Rescue Team items will be delayed. These were in FFY19, so Raine flipped them with two trainings from FFY20. There is one other project in FFY19 that she is keeping a close eye on, an equipment trailer for the portable training facility at GCC that we have been waiting on for over a year. Raine might the swap vehicle stabilization training for that. Otherwise wrapping up FFY19 should be fine. FFY20 runs through the end of December and so far seems to be on track. A few FFY21 projects are starting to move.

Amy Reilly reported that they are looking to bring together the program managers to talk about the planning process for FFY22 to see if we can leverage joint projects.

*Cyber Resilient Working Group Update:* Raine reported that projects continue to move forward.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** None.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn. Jeanne Galloway seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. John Paciorek, Tom Grady, Brian Rust, Mike Wynn, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Charlie Burger, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Jamin Carroll, and Steve Kozloski 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 March 15, 2022
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2021 (draft)
- Backfill Overtime Reimbursement Policies of other Homeland Security Regions
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY19, dated 3/15/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 3/15/22
- WRHSAC FFY19 Homeland Security Budget Report through 3/11/22
- WRHSAC FFY20 Homeland Security Budget Report through 3/11/22
- WRHSAC FFY21 Homeland Security Budget Report through 3/11/22

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, April 19, 2022, 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), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), 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:** C.J. Bartone (Hazmat D4), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College), Chris Norris (Easthampton Fire), Amy Reilly (MAPC), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

**Council members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson Police), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police)

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

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

### Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the March 15, 2022 meeting.

**Motion:** Jon Davine moved to approve the March 15, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Charles Burger seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jon Davine, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Jamin Carroll, Charles Burger, Chris Bouchard, Carolyn Shores Ness, and Larry Holmberg voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady had no updates to report.

### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn and Charlie Burger had no updates to report. Jon Davine reported that they are still working with the foam issue and a shortage of paramedics.
- POLICE: John Paciorek had no updates to report.
- EMS: No one was present to give a report. Tom Grady announced that by July 1, Western Mass EMS will be moving upstairs in the same building that they are currently in.

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 10:00 am

- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported. A “CERT Rodeo” is coming up this Saturday in Leicester for Western and Central Mass CERTs and DARTs.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Covid and flu are both on the rise, which is unusual for flu at this time of year. Mosquito control is beginning.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. As of last night, the federal mask mandate on transportation is no longer in effect, leading to mixed reactions.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. They are still waiting for the Governor to push Chapter 90 out. It looks like the extra \$100 million they hoped for will not be in it, but pothole funds will. There are lots of staff shortages and supply shortages. Many orders have been canceled and they are seeing price increases for trucks.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are continuing to work with the POST commission on where Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs fall under police reform. In-person inspections have begun again. They are still considered a congregate setting and are fully masked inside the building.
- COMMUNICATIONS: No one was present to give an update.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Covid numbers are rising, but critical care inpatient numbers are decreasing. They are seeing more aggressive behavior from patients and visitors. Staffing challenges continue.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. They had a Four County Municipal Board meeting at which they talked about ARPA, police reform, and disappointment that their legislative delegation is not bringing more money to Western Mass.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: No one was present to give an update.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: No one was present to give an update.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk reported. There will be some key changes in the 2022 HSGP. Planning guidance will be out later this week. Priorities have changed slightly as two were added and one was dropped. Tricia will send the details to Raine.
- DHS/CISA: John Warren reported. The vulnerability assessment at Shriners Hospital has been completed. They are looking for an alternate date for an active shooter training and de-escalation training at the Springfield Rescue Mission at their request. John has an introductory visit at UMass Amherst next week. The infrastructure protection TEEX training in Worcester is coming up in May and still has seats still available. The SLTT group is

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 10:00 am**

offering an intelligence brief this Friday at 1pm on threats from unmanned aerial and aircraft systems. Let John know if you need the contact info for that; it is unclassified but sensitive.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu:** Jeanne Galloway reported. Projects are moving forward. The proposal to hire a consultant for the Equity in Emergency Management Project is in today's packet.

**Motion:** Jeanne Galloway moved to approve \$40,000 for the Equity in Emergency Management project. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jon Davine, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, Jeanne Galloway, Jamin Carroll, Charles Burger, Chris Bouchard, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Raine Brown reported. The draft Project Justification to update multiband radio caches in Berkshire and Hampden counties is in today's packet. The Franklin County cache was already updated in a recent project, and the Hampshire County cache does not get used much. The current caches are Harris radios; the State 800 CoMIRS system is upgrading to TDMA type P25 but Harris radios can only do FDMA. The quote from Motorola is for \$112,000 for 12 radios, six for each county. The purchase is not eligible for CoMIRS pricing because it is not for departments that are specifically served by CoMIRS.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$112,000 for twelve multiband radios and two bank chargers. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jon Davine, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, Jeanne Galloway, Jamin Carroll, Charles Burger, Chris Bouchard, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. Many trainings are coming up, with the vehicle stabilization training happening today in Northampton. Two motions were brought forward.

- 1) De-escalation training:

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$550 for the de-escalation training. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jon Davine, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, Jeanne Galloway, Jamin Carroll, Charles Burger, Chris Bouchard, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

- 2) Southwick Dive Team ROV: The cost of the ROV came in overbudget.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$2,066 from the T&E budget for the ROV overage cost. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jon Davine, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, Jeanne Galloway, Jamin Carroll, Charles Burger, Chris Bouchard, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 10:00 am**

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported. Last week we received approval from EOPSS to build an equipment shelter in Hampden County. Raine thanked Tricia for her extra work on that to help us understand what we can spend on that. The working group will get moving next month.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported. The subcommittee had long, productive meeting and went over investment planning for 2022. There were many proposals to consider.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. EOPSS is allowing us to seek an extension on FFY19 funds, which was going to end at the end of July. This will be helpful as we have several FFY19 equipment projects that are still bumping up against supply chain issues. There will also be an additional extension for FFY2020. Raine will get info to MAPC about where our challenges are. Other projects are moving along well. She flipped some projects between FFY20 and FFY21 because T&E approved projects that will happen sooner. We are also starting to see some movement on FFY21 projects. Also, we now have a standing contract with Josh Shanley for photography and video of our events. This helps tell the story of how funds are spent.

Amy Reilly reported that they had a program manager meeting to talk about FFY22 planning. They have now hired another person to work on Homeland Security grants who will come to next month's meeting.

*Cyber Resilient Working Group Update:* Raine reported no updates.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

***FFY2022 Investment Planning***

Raine reported that all of the subcommittees met and put together proposals. She shared her screen so everyone could see the up to date spreadsheet, with total requests over the estimated (level funded) budget by \$75,915. Each subcommittee chair presented their subcommittee's intentions. Negotiation followed to reduce several allocations until the budget was balanced.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to accept the investment plan budget as amended. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jon Davine, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, Jeanne Galloway, Jamin Carroll, Charles Burger, Chris Bouchard, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Because of the anticipated tight timeframe, the Council discussed authorizing Tom and Raine to make final changes as needed.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to authorize Tom Grady and Raine Brown to make changes to the investment plan as needed when the guidance come out. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jon Davine, Tom Grady, John Dearborn,

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 10:00 am**

Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, Jeanne Galloway, Jamin Carroll, Charles Burger, Chris Bouchard, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** Tom announced that Tracy Rogers has taken a new position at National Grid. She has been a tremendous asset to the Council. Tom has asked her to continue on subcommittees.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 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. Jon Davine, Tom Grady, Monica Wynne, John Paciorek, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Jamin Carroll, Charles Burger, Chris Bouchard, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for April 19, 2022
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2021 (draft)
- Equity in Emergency Management Needs Assessment proposal (draft)
- Berkshire and Hampden Multiband Radio Cache Update project justification (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY19, dated 4/19/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 4/19/22
- WRHSAC FFY21 Initial Budget Planning

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, May 17, 2022, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), 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), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brad Downey (MAPC), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Katie Goldrick (MAPC), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Chris Norris (Easthampton Fire), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Kayla Toner (EOPSS),

**Council members absent:** Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), 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 10:07 am.

### Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the April 19, 2022 meeting.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve the April 19, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, John Paciorek, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Ness, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, Charlie Burger, Jon Davine, and Susan Rathbun 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 and Charlie Burger had no updates to report.
- POLICE: John Paciorek reported. They are still working through criminal justice reform, rushing to get over 11,000 personnel recertified in the next six weeks. Six injunctions have been filed by unions regarding attestation forms. Steve Kozloski had no additional updates.
- EMS: Tom Grady reported that they had a regional council meeting. The regional office will be moving upstairs in the same building.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 10:00 am**

- EMD: Larry Holmberg had no updates to report.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. We are in an upswing in Covid cases with another subvariant. Flu is also increasing. Mosquito control and trapping starts next month.
- TRANSPORTATION: No one was present to give an update.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are struggling with the same issue regarding where Sheriffs fall in police reform.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. The State is still pushing for communities to test multiline systems for compliance. State 911 is hosting grant reimbursement workshops. Staffing for dispatchers is at an all-time low across the State. There is a huge recruiting push.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Covid numbers are up and hospitals are busy. They are restricting visitation now to one per day.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. The budget year is winding down and most town elections are done. They are following up on infrastructure money not coming to Western Mass. Covid numbers are making everyone crazy; they want to make it through the school year before the next subvariant comes.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: No one was present to give an update.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Scott Flebotte reported. They are working on comprehensive emergency plans and looking at the I Love You Guys program for mass shootings reunification protocols and exercises. They are also looking at reintegrating into the VIPS program (Volunteers In Police Service). MEMA is no longer handling PPE requests. Raine noted that WRHSAC has an in-depth family reunification template, and worked with the I Love You Guys foundation to do trainings in each county. We also brought them in again for family reunification at Big E. She suggested that MEMA look at the WRHSAC template and standardize it across the State. Scott replied that he is aware of WRHSAC's work in this area and does not want to reinvent the wheel but rather build on our templates.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk reported. The FFY2022 NOFO was released on Friday. New numbers were sent out, along with the NSGP grant information for non-profits. Ben Podsiadlo added that the total for the Western Region is \$1,146,637.68. The non-profit security grant program was boosted this year for soft target hardening, primarily for faith based communities. \$125,000,000 shifted to the non-profit side, which meant there was a small cut to Homeland Security grants

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 10:00 am**

but not as bad as it could have been. New this year, emerging threats was dropped as a national priority, while election security and community resilience were added. There is interest in reinvigorating programs like CERT and VIPS.

- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update.

**Planning/Pandemic Flu [All Hazards Planning and Equipment]:** Jeanne Galloway reported. There was a vote to change the name to the All Hazards Planning and Equipment Subcommittee. This better reflects the subcommittee's work. All projects are moving along well.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Anthony Gentile and Raine Brown reported. WMRIC approved a portable tactical repeater, cradlepoint, and duplexer for FC50 in Berkshire County.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$22,115 for the Berkshire County portable tactical repeater, cradlepoint, and duplexer. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, John Paciorek, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Ness, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, Charlie Burger, Jon Davine, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee voted to work toward suspending backfill/overtime funding for the WMTRT by the end of June, 2023. There were two requests to bring forward; one for WMTRT trench rescue training and the second for Western Region School Nurses to bring PEARS trainings to each county, with two in Hampden County.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$12,750 for WMTRT trench rescue training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, John Paciorek, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Ness, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, Charlie Burger, Jon Davine, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to \$14,000 for Western Region School Nurses PEARS trainings. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, John Paciorek, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Ness, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, Charlie Burger, Jon Davine, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown had no updates to report.

**CBRNE/IED:** Raine Brown reported. We are still facing delays in WMTRT equipment projects.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported that FFY19 and FFY20 have been further extended, through December, 2022, and June, 2023 respectively. This will help with supply chain delivery delays. Otherwise, projects are moving along well.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 10:00 am**

Brad Downey reported that MAPC is waiting on some contract extensions. They recently hired Katie Goldrick, whose portfolio includes work related to the fiduciary.

*Cyber Resilient Working Group Update:* Raine had no updates to report.

**Old Business:**

***FFY2022 Investment Planning***

Raine reported. The working budget was included in today's meeting packet, but yesterday we received the final amount for FFY22. We had been working with level funding, or \$1,190,568.30, but the actual total is \$1,146,637, or \$43,930.62 less than anticipated. We learned that the foam project would not be approved, so Raine and Tom had upped the WMTRT exercise allocation to the \$50,000 that was originally requested, put an additional \$25,000 into WMRIC, and increased the allocations for mobile response and training and exercise.

Now, with the actual allocation known, her recommended change would be to reduce the allocations for the tech rescue exercise and mobile response options, and split the remaining shortfall between WMRIC and T&E. Jeanne Galloway suggested keeping more funding in the mobile response options allocation, as the subcommittee would be coming to the Council to ask for more money for that anyway. Carolyn Shores Ness suggested increasing the allocation for T&E by at least another \$20,000 so that we can try to reactivate CERT or work on coop planning. Tom Grady noted that EOPSS is going to try to get the money restored to level funding, and added that we have always been flexible with moving funds between committees. Others expressed comfort with Raine's suggestions and the acknowledgement that there is generally some fluidity.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve the FFY22 budget as adjusted. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, John Paciorek, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Ness, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, Charlie Burger, Jon Davine, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Raine explained how the requirements for allocations to priority areas and LEPTA is working this year and demonstrated that we meet those requirements. The initial budget is due tomorrow and the final plan is due Friday. Raine will share it via email when finalized.

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** Tom noted that we seem to see another mass shooting every day. Today there is a visit by the President in Buffalo. There is indication that the shooter was radicalized online during the pandemic. The effects of the pandemic are wide reaching. We need to remind public safety partners about "see something, say something" and need to stay vigilant to try to prevent incidents from happening.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 10:00 am**

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to adjourn. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. John Paciorek, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Shores Ness, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, Charlie Burger, and Jon Davine voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for May 17, 2022
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from April 15, 2021 (draft)
- Project Justification for Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint, and Duplexer (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY19, dated 5/17/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 5/17/22
- WRHSAC FFY19 Budget Report through 5/13/22
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 5/13/22
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 5/13/22
- WRHSAC FFY22 Initial Project List and Budget

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, June 21, 2022, 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), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), 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), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Jon Miller (Springfield Tech Community College), Chris Norris (Easthampton Fire), John Warren (DHS/CISA), Val Woodring (HMCC)

**Council members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), 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 10:00 am.

#### Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the May 17, 2022 meeting.

**Motion:** Jon Davine moved to approve the May 17, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Charles Burger, Jon Davine, Tom Kettle, Susan Rathbun, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. Chris Bouchard abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

#### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported that he and Ben Podsiadlo have had conversations relating to the uptick in active shooter events. Tom gave him a history of what the Council has supported in past regarding active shooter trainings and other initiatives. If there is an effort at the State level to revitalize these, there will be more to come.

#### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Jon Davine reported. They are digesting a recent memo from OEMS regarding ambulances that may be problematic. Charlie Burger had no additional updates.
- POLICE: Rathbun reported. The recertification deadline for A-H officers was last Wednesday. Most bridge people needed to submit paperwork within the next week. An extension was granted for those who were not able to get certain elements.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 10:00 am**

- EMS: No one was present to give an update.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported that MEMA is instituting a two-tiered training for EMDs, basic and specialized. Regarding mass shootings, the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium is pushing out an 8 hour DHS course, AWR148, geared to mass shootings in rural communities. The course is free and can be delivered at a location you choose. Tom Grady noted that the NFP3000 standard was adopted for active shooter trainings, and that is what the State now wants to comply with.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Covid vaccines were approved for children 6 months to 5 years old. These will primarily be administered through local providers. Mosquito season has started.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. They continue to face staffing shortages and few new applicants. Since the mask mandate was rescinded there are fewer confrontations.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported that Chapter 90 funds were released this morning. WRAP money and Shared Streets money was also released. The challenge now is finding contractors to do the work within the budget.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. Beginning July 1st, masks will be optional for inmates and staff. Some people are fearful of staff bringing risk in from outside.
- COMMUNICATIONS: No one was present to give an update.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. They continue to see high acuity and high volume in the ED. Covid numbers are steady. The infectious diseases unit is prepping for monkey pox.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. Things are crazy at the end of the budget year. Everyone is keeping an eye on the Statehouse for impacts for next year.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Tom Kettle reported. They are catching up and preparing for a new school year.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Jeff McDonald had no updates to report.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk reported. They reviewed the NGSP applications and submitted them for funding last Monday.
- DHS/CISA: John Warren reported. The next active shooter webinar will be in August. They are doing a MassDOT project looking at physical and cyber protocols at RMVs. They conducted a security assessment at the Springfield RMV and will do Pittsfield soon.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 10:00 am**

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment [previously Planning/Pan Flu]:** Jeanne Galloway reported. We are encountering difficulties with the AAR report and may need to put it on the back burner. Other projects are moving along. There is a proposal for webpage development in today's packet. Raine explained that it is for enhanced webpages to support the First Responder Mental Health Resiliency project, using money that is already set aside for the project.

**Motion:** Larry Holmberg moved to approve \$10,000 for Webpage Development for the First Responder Mental Health project. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Charles Burger, Chris Bouchard, Larry Holmberg, Jon Davine, Susan Rathbun, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jamin Carroll, and Tom Kettle voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Raine Brown reported. Franklin County Portable DVRs were approved by WMRIC. These are two portable repeaters in Pelican boxes that can be deployed to remote areas, to act as repeaters for the 800 system.

**Motion:** Jon Davine moved to approve \$47,679 for the Franklin County Portable DVRs. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Charles Burger, Chris Bouchard, Larry Holmberg, Jon Davine, Susan Rathbun, Carolyn Shores Ness, Jamin Carroll, and Tom Kettle voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported and brought forward two motions. The first was for an extra \$11,250 for the advanced medical support training. Chief Norris explained that since the initial quote, the number of instructors required increased as did the cost of textbooks.

**Motion:** Jon Davine moved to approve an additional \$11,250 for the Advanced Medical Support Training. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Charles Burger, Larry Holmberg, Jon Davine, Chris Bouchard, Tom Kettle, Susan Rathbun, Carolyn Shores Ness, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second request came from Springfield Fire, for another round of the Vehicle Lift and Stabilization training. Jon Davine explained that the training in Northampton last month was very well attended by departments up and down the 91 corridor, but they are hoping to get more people from the Hampden County section of the 91 corridor. Springfield has agreed to host it.

**Motion:** Larry Holmberg moved to approve \$5,000 for the Vehicle Lift and Stabilization Training. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Charles Burger, Larry Holmberg, Jon Davine, Chris Bouchard, Tom Kettle, Susan Rathbun, Carolyn Shores Ness, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported. There are no active projects right now.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 10:00 am**

**CBRNE/IED:** Raine Brown reported. They are wrapping up Tech Rescue Team equipment projects, but still waiting on some equipment.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. Last month we received extensions on FFY19 and FFY20, which relieves pressure on equipment projects delayed by supply chain issues. We should see everything wrap up well. We are starting to see some movement on FFY21 projects.

*Cyber Resilient Working Group Update:* Raine continues to be involved. They recently partnered with the Operational Services Division to do a workshop on the State Cyber IT contract.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** Tom Grady reminded everyone that the Fusion Center wants to know about large planned events so they can help with threat assessments and track events in the Commonwealth for reporting to the feds. He also congratulated Chief Burger on a great news report about the team. The 988 number which is replacing the suicide prevention hotline and other mental health resources is scheduled to go online July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 10:00 am; format/location TBD.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for June 21, 2022
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from May 17, 2021 (draft)
- Project Justification for First Responder Mental Health Project Webpage Development
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY19, dated 6/21/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 6/21/22
- WRHSAC FFY19 Budget Report through 6/17/22
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 6/17/22
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 6/17/22

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 19, 2022, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Michael Cantrell (MEMA), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Alex Marcus (EOPSS), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Jon Miller (Springfield Tech Community College), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Amy Reilly (MAPC), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

**Council members absent:** Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), 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 10:00 am.

### Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the June 21, 2022 meeting.

**Motion:** Larry Holmberg moved to approve the June 21, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Jeanne Galloway seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, John Paciorek, Tom Kettle, Jeanne Galloway, Stephen Gaughan, John Dearborn, Charlie Burger, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. Nina Barszcz and Monica Wynne abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported that there have been conversations with EOPSS concerning active shooter incidents and trainings. There is a lot of renewed interest in our active shooter programs. They are putting together a synopsis report for the Governor's office, and there may be requests for the Councils to do more in this area.

### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that regional drought conditions are concerning, and there have already been some forest fires. The drought also impacts water sources for combatting fires. Everyone is encouraged to promote proper disposal of smoking materials. Charlie Burger had no additional reports.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 10:00 am**

- POLICE: John Paciorek reported. Departments are still working through criminal justice reform. Over 60% in the A-H did not complete the bridge program and let their certification drop. There is a new academy build out in Holyoke. They are moving from Springfield Tech Community College to a new facility that will give enhanced training opportunities. They are wading through the mental health crisis, which is everywhere. Susan Rathbun added that they had good results in her department with the bridge program, and the recertification went well.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported that through legislative efforts the office is back to the higher level of funding, with \$200,000 for the regional office. It had been closed on Friday afternoons but will be reopening. It is now on the second floor of the same building. Active shooter incidents are on the minds of EMS personnel, along with the need to do more training. Operationally, there are not enough ambulances to go around. Mutual aid is up to about 20% of the volume, where is never used to be needed. Everyone is sharing resources and working together to get things done. De-escalation programs are important.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg had no updates to report.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Drought is also a public health concern, along with the heat and humidity. Fires can lead to breathing issues. West Nile is appearing in the State now, though the drought limited some of that. Covid is also still a concern, with an increasing number of variants. Vaccines are now available for ages 6 months to 4 years.
- TRANSPORTATION: No one was present to give an update.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are working through the next group of bridge students and have some from the A-H group that are still taking trainings. Tanglewood requires a large presence from the Sheriff's office and local PDs, but they are struggling to fill detail positions. They have asked for mutual aid from other Sheriff's offices to help cover police functions that they used to be able to cover locally. Internally, mask mandates were lifted by DPH for correctional facilities and are now optional, but they are still maintaining an isolation area for new arrivals.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported that 911 has also seen a large volume increase, with a lot of medical calls. Dispatchers are busy. Regarding mental health, 988 was implemented as of July 16<sup>th</sup>. The new fiscal year has begun, and dispatchers are required to restart their continuing ed hours. For most, this is 16 hours per year. Carolyn Ness asked how dispatch handles 988 calls. Nina explained that those calls do not go to 911, but rather to the suicide crisis hotline. It was implemented so that 911 dispatchers are not dealing with those calls. John Paciorek and Tom Grady added that not all the details are worked out yet.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. They currently have 80 Covid patients in the Baystate system, with three in critical care. They are seeing high volume and high acuity in the emergency room, with double digits in behavioral health, both pediatric and adult.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 10:00 am**

- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Shores Ness reported. The house and senate passed a \$52.7 billion budget for 2023, which includes a huge investment in municipal and school aid, and unrestricted local aid of 5.4%. Special ed funding also went up quite a bit. The Condition of Schools report was released, and could lead to additional funds for local schools. DOER released draft language for building code upgrades, and EPA advisories on PFAS have been updated. Both will have impacts at the local level. New house bill H5007, a comprehensive update to economic development, formally establishes the Mass Cybersecurity Center. The Mass Selectmen's Association has an upcoming new selectboard member training. This is expected to be a wet winter; we will have a more active hurricane season to prepare for.
- **K-12 EDUCATION:** No one was present to give an update.
- **HIGHER ED:** Tom Kettle reported. Westfield State just finished an MOU with regional schools to be a reunification center. They are getting ready to conduct a tabletop exercise in August with those stakeholders. Reach out to Tom if you are interested in participating.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** No one was present to give an update.
- **MEMA:** Scott Flebotte reported. They are working on trainings and excited about offering a new basic academy. Mike Cantrell added information about upcoming ICS courses. Details and registration for all courses are on TRS. Contact Mike with questions.
- **EOPSS:** Tricia McGuirk reported. FEMA will be announcing the 2022 HSGP and NSGP by the end of August. The next SIEC meeting will be on August 3. EOPSS is working on the biannual grant reporting to FEMA. Ben Podsiadlo added the key focus for EOPSS at the moment is on active shooters response and recovery, including strong operational coordination, unified command, and other things that came out of the Uvalde AAR. At the national Homeland Security Conference, they focused on complex coordinated attacks, ASHER, what's coming around the corner with the current political climate in the country, and environmental climate emergencies.
- **DHS/CISA:** John Warren reported. They continue to offer active shooter webinars. They are also working with the US Attorney in Western Mass on a Protecting Houses of Worship workshop in September at Westfield State. They will conduct the infrastructure visualization platform for game day scenario at Tanglewood in August, which allows them to look at how they would support an event with full parking lots.

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment [previously Planning/Pan Flu]:** Jeanne Galloway reported. Committee projects are moving along except for the project which was designed to review local, regional and national COVID AAR/IPs to help the committee identify best practices and possible next projects. This project was denied by EOPSS.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** No one was present to give an update.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 10:00 am**

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. Two motions were brought forward from the subcommittee. The first concerned the equipment trailer for the GCC portable training facility. The vendor was not able to fulfill the contract, so it is going back to procurement.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve up to \$8,000 for an equipment trailer for the GCC portable training facility. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Carolyn Shores Ness, Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, John Paciorek, Tom Kettle, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Steve Gaughan, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second was to support a dive/tender training for the newly established regional dive team..

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$6,000 for the regional dive team dive/tender training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Carolyn Shores Ness, Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, John Paciorek, Tom Kettle, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Steve Gaughan, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported. There are no active projects right now. She is working with WMTRT finalizing equipment.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported no new activity.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. Most things are moving along well. She just finished up reporting for the state fiscal year. Quarterly reports were submitted last week. For FFY19, which ends December 31, we are still waiting on a few things for the Tech Rescue Team. FFY20 and FFY21 projects are moving along well.

*Cyber Resilient Working Group Update:* Raine reported that she continues to work with the group and will be listening in on the report of the regional CISO project tomorrow.

Amy Reilly had no additional updates.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** There was agreement to defer the August meeting as per Council custom.

**Motion:** Carolyn Shores Ness moved defer the August WRHSAC meeting. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Carolyn Shores Ness, Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, John Paciorek, Tom Kettle, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, and Steve Gaughan voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 10:00 am**

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** Tom Grady reinforced ICS training – has been looking internally in own agency as have had retirements and promotions, need to get back on track to get people to levels they need to be at. Reach out to MEMA to fill gaps when we need training.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 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. Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, John Paciorek, Tom Kettle, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Carolyn Shores Ness, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, and Steve Gaughan voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for July 19, 2022
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2021 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY19, dated 7/19/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 7/19/22
- WRHSAC FFY19 Budget Report through 7/14/22
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 7/14/22
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 7/14/22

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 20, 2022, 10:00 am**

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), 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), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept), Jon Miller (Springfield Tech Community College), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Z Smith (South Country EMS)

**Council members absent:** Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), 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 10:03 am.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Council reviewed the minutes from the July 19, 2022 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Carolyn Ness moved to approve the July 19, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Monica Wynne, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Ness, Nina Barszcz, Tom Kettle, Jamin Carroll, and Chris Bouchard voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady reported. There was a Chairs' meeting on September 12 in Natick with the Undersecretary that included discussion of ASHER trainings. Massachusetts has adopted the NFPA3000 standard for active shooter events. This has become a topic of high interest in State government. If we would be interested in doing more along that line, we would get support from EOPSS. They also talked about Nero's law, which is now in effect and mandates that EMS provide medical services for K-9s in public safety. With that comes additional required trainings. This will also be discussed later (see "Training and Exercise" subcommittee report below). The statewide fiduciary is out for proposal again. There was also some discussion about the appointment of members to the Councils. EOPSS is trying to find a middle ground with more background investigation but not as cumbersome as the old system. Councils should also discuss roles on the Council.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 10:00 am**

**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported. PFAS is still a work in progress. They met with some State legislators regarding funding but nothing is moving quickly. Charlie Burger had no additional updates.
- POLICE: No one was present to give an update due to the annual Police Chiefs training.
- EMS: No one was present to give an update.
- EMD: No one was present to give an update.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Covid is not gone, though it is slowing down. The bivalent vaccine is now available. Flu season is here; get flu shots before November. This is peak West Nile Virus season, but Western Mass is doing well this year. Temperatures are going to be lowering, which decreases mosquito activity. The Big E is underway.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. They are still experiencing severe staffing shortages and have had to curtail certain services as a result.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported staffing shortages and CDL licenses shortages. It takes 100-120 days to get licenses, which could be challenging for snow removal this winter.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are trying to be as diligent as possible with Covid and are concerned as we go into winter.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. State 911 Commission is having a meeting on Thursday. Barnes airport base is holding an air show in May. They are starting to have meetings about that.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Covid numbers continue to be steady. They continue to be very busy in the ED. Hospitals are currently prepping for flu season.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported. Most focus is on distribution of money in supplemental budgets. There is about \$1.5 billion extra in tax collection and \$2.2 billion in ARPA money to be distributed. New cannabis regulations are gutting host agreements.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Tom Kettle reported. All higher ed institutions are back in session. They conducted a reunification drill at Westfield and learned a lot of lessons. Active shooter scenarios are thought about a lot, but there has been less focus on reunification.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 10:00 am

- MEMA: Jeff McDonald reported. MEMA is taking the lead on the transportation of migrants from the Vineyard and shuffling personnel to manage that, so they are currently short-staffed at the Big E EOC.
- EOPSS: Ben Podsiadlo reported. The situation at Cape Cod has taken a lot of attention. Ongoing outlook into fall looking at 40 million towards school safety, and continued preparedness for active shooter trainings, want to see Councils revisiting that.
- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update.

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment:** Jeanne Galloway reported. Projects are moving forward. We ran into a blockage on the NPI program but came up with alternate ways to spend the money, with \$30,000-\$35,000 requested for shelter management training and \$25,000 for a shelter plan update. With recent changes to sheltering, we need to update our plans to reflect non-congregate settings and address different challenges.

**Motion:** Jeanne Galloway moved to approve up to \$35,000 for shelter management training. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Monica Wynne, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Ness, Nina Barszcz, Charlie Burger, Tom Kettle, Jamin Carroll, and Chris Bouchard voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Motion:** Jeanne Galloway moved to approve up to \$25,000 for a shelter plan update. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Monica Wynne, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Ness, Nina Barszcz, Charlie Burger, Tom Kettle, Jamin Carroll, and Chris Bouchard voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Anthony Gentile had no updates to report. WMRIC meets this afternoon and will discuss a proposal that will likely come to the Council next month.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee met prior to the Council meeting and has three motions to bring forward. The first is for another round of the de-escalation trainings that were successfully held over the summer.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$550 for another round of de-escalation trainings. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Monica Wynne, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Ness, Nina Barszcz, Charlie Burger, Tom Kettle, Jamin Carroll, and Chris Bouchard voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second is a request from WMEMS for equipment for Nero's Law trainings. This is equipment that will be necessary to train all EMTs in the State. Ben Podsiadlo noted that this is a hot topic across the Councils, as there is a February deadline for all EMTs in the Commonwealth to receive the training. The legislation does not have funding attached. Ben has talked to FEMA

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 10:00 am**

and is waiting for a response. Homeland Security money goes toward search and rescue dogs and CBRNE dogs, so this should be an allowable cost. He is advocating for it.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve up to \$12,000 for Nero's Law training equipment. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Monica Wynne, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Ness, Nina Barszcz, Charlie Burger, Tom Kettle, Jamin Carroll, and Chris Bouchard voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The final request was for a Hazmat training from the annual funding set aside for Hazmat.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve up to \$12,000 to support the Hazmat biological agents training. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Monica Wynne, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Ness, Nina Barszcz, Charlie Burger, Tom Kettle, Jamin Carroll, and Chris Bouchard voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported that all of the projects are moving along; however, one of the message boards at the Hampden County Sheriff's Office is not working. Raine asked them to connect with RoadSafe to see if the unit can be repaired and what the cost would be. Jeff McDonald clarified that two of the three units are out of service: one computer board needs to be replaced, which would be expensive, and the other that just went out of service needs new rivets that hold the board to the frame. It is an old style board that the manufacturer does not support.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported no new activity.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. Most of our contracts are moving along well. FFY19 is coming to an end at the end of December. Some tech rescue equipment projects are still in progress. A few projects are wrapping up slightly underbudget. Raine will move things around to make sure we get to \$0.

Amy Reilly reported that they are working on the statewide fiduciary RFR as well as an inventory report for the State. Other Councils are also working on equipment for Nero's Law. Amy will share information about sheltering initiatives that the Southeast Region is working on.

*Cyber Resilient Working Group Update:* Raine reported. The working group continues to meet monthly. The muni group is focusing on establishing guidance regarding IT best practices. The MassCyberCenter municipal cybersecurity summit will be on Thursday, Oct 6. This conflicts with our First Responder Mental Health Resilience virtual series. We are getting less of a response for that series than anticipated; if you can talk it up among your departments and agencies, it is appropriate for all first responders or anyone who may want a better understanding of the science behind resilience and practical skills.

**Old Business:** None.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 10:00 am**

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** Tom Grady reported that there was a suggestion to the T&E committee to look at battery electric vehicle response considerations. GM is providing free trainings; the committee was not sure if the Fire Marshal's office is already doing something along those lines. John Dearborn replied that there are trainings happening. WMFCA will be having discussions and might come to the Council at some point with funding requests. Charlie Burger added that power walls in houses will also be a big thing going forward. Ben Podsiadlo noted that there is a course but it is currently scheduled. If there is a desire to run the course, he can circle back. Regarding electric vehicles for public safety, options are currently being tested.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for September 20, 2022
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from July 19, 2021 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY19, dated 9/20/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 9/20/22
- WRHSAC FFY19 Budget Report through 9/16/22
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 9/16/22
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 9/16/22

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 18, 2022, 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), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Monica Wynne (Baystate), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College; alternate for Tom Kettle).

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield Fire), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Alex Marcus (EOPSS), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept), Seth Peters (Central Mass Regional HSAC), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Xander Sylvain (WMHMCC)

**Council members absent:** Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police)

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

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

### Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the September 20, 2022 meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Ness moved to approve the September 20, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Stephen Gaughan, John Paciorek, Tom Kettle, Carolyn Ness, Monica Wynne, Jeanne Galloway, Jon Davine, Jamin Carroll, Nina Barszcz, and Chris Bouchard voted in favor. Larry Holmberg and Marty O'Shea abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported. Hampden County lost a deputy yesterday; Tom led a moment of silence.

### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Jon Davine reported. Following some issues with task force mobilizations over the summer, Former Chief Anderson did some fire mobilization training in each county. They are also looking at the Central Mass task force concept to alleviate confusion. Departments are still struggling to hire paramedics.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 10:00 am**

- **POLICE:** John Paciorek reported that they are starting annual in-service training, with a minimum of 40 hours of mandatory criteria. Personnel with last names I-P are starting the Bridge Academy or recertification process. There will be no part-time academy in 2 years. Staffing is down massively in most departments, and filling shifts is problematic. National crime data statistics in FBI were revamped in NIBRS. NYC, LA, and a few other large agencies did not update their statistics, but even without them we are still seeing a slight uptick in violent crime and murders. If those agencies had reported, the rise would likely be even higher. Police are also still seeing a mental health crisis in communities.
- **EMS:** Steve Gaughan reported that they are having trouble finding paramedics. Agencies are changing models. They are trying to navigate Nero's Law, which is required but impractical to implement. There is a DPH hearing going on about regulatory changes. If the changes are implemented, agencies will probably lose more staff. It is a reflection of the chain not understanding what is going on with boots on the ground. Steve was in a meeting last month and heard OEMS start speaking about care of first responders, which is the first time he has heard that. Operationally, they are seeing Covid numbers going up. Collectively, first responders are doing a good job responding and have learned a lot over the past few years.
- **EMD:** Larry Holmberg reported. There is good news regarding Nero's Law: SMART has received a \$287,000 grant to establish a training protocol, training supplies, and trainers, including 1,000 hours for trainers. They are working with OEMS and Tufts Veterinary to implement this. The news about the grant is new, so they are so still figuring out how to proceed. Regarding MEMA, they are looking at position-specific trainings. On another note, WRHSAC is funding an O-305 class in two weeks. We recently learned that the Cape Cod team is conducting the same course right now. It would have been better to do one class more centrally located, as both classes had trouble filling up. This requires better coordination.
- **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Jeanne Galloway reported. Mosquito season is pretty much over. It turned out to be a good West Nile season and excellent EEE season. Covid and flu are still here; everyone should get vaccinated. Public Health is embarking on baseline trainings for everyone across the Commonwealth, but only if you are part of a group. Public health is also experiencing staffing shortages.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Jamin Carroll reported. Drivers have been calling out of work because of contracting Covid, which is slicing through managerial staff as well. They are also having staffing recruitment challenges for full time benefitted positions.
- **DPW:** Chris Bouchard reported. They are having serious staffing shortages. Mass DOT is hiring and will start in-sourcing because they cannot get plow drivers. Trying to get CDL test dates is tough. Plowing is going to be a struggle this winter. They have openings but no applicants. They need to build the workforce back up.
- **CORRECTIONS:** Tom Grady reported and echoed staffing challenges. They are updating the Academy curriculum statewide, working towards standardization within Sheriffs Offices.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 10:00 am**

- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Nina Barszcz reported. They are also short staffed, not getting good candidates or any at all. Dispatchers are working many overtime shifts. Testing for multiline telephone systems will be coming into centers more as the State is pushing it.
- **HOSPITALS:** Monica Wynne reported. Covid numbers are starting to climb again. Behavioral health numbers are also climbing, both adult and pediatric. A lot of kids are coming in with respiratory illnesses. They also have a lot of staffing issues. Overall aggressiveness of people coming in continues to rise.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Ness reported. Most towns and cities have received their second installment of ARPA funding. The State auditor released a report last week showing a significant shortfall in State-mandated services and programs. Towns and cities are facing severe financial pressures. The economic bill that was not passed last session is still alive and working its way through the legislature, but it will not have bond authorization because it is an informal session. There is \$2.3 billion worth of ARPA money that the State has not spent yet, plus surplus revenue. It has to be obligated by 2024 and spent by 2026. Towns also face staffing challenges.
- **K-12 EDUCATION:** Marty O'Shea reported. Superintendents are concerned about snow removal. A number have also been talking about readiness to respond to athletic emergencies following the death of an Amherst High School athlete. Childhood mental health is a big area of concern, as they are seeing greater mental health challenges in younger children.
- **HIGHER ED:** Tom Kettle reported. He is setting up a meeting with stakeholders in higher ed.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** No one was present to give an update.
- **MEMA:** Jeff McDonald had no updates to report.
- **EOPSS:** Ben Podsiadlo reported. There are workforce challenges at the State level, too. OGR's focus remains on reinvigorating legacy work around complex coordinated attacks and active shooters. They are trying to coordinate with MPTC and DFS to make sure their work is aligned.
- **DHS/CISA:** No one was present to give an update. Tom Grady reported that John Warren has been pushing out a lot of trainings. If interested, please reach out. Tom signed up for an ASHER training to help local communities. There is a renewed focus on that.

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment:** Raine Brown reported that projects are moving along well. We will be wrapping up the Covid-19 AAR with a virtual regional conference November 26. You can find the registration link on our website. The AAR has a lot of good info, which we will use in the subcommittee to plan upcoming projects. There is a new idea for a cybersecurity project that we are looking to finalize. We had challenges with the Children & Disasters project; we were looking for vendors to do a training for first responders and to create videos for kids and caregivers, but we ran procurement several times and have not received anything. The Equity and Access project has begun. The shelter plan update project and shelter management training project are both at EOPSS awaiting approval.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 10:00 am**

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Anthony Gentile reported. The subcommittee voted last month to approve funding for WMLEC for a microwave link and GPS replacement. However, Chief Kozloski just informed Anthony and Raine that they are not sure if they are going to keep the tower or replace it, so the microwave link part of the project will be put on hold and the request for the GPS replacement at Butternut will be the only item moving forward at this time.

**Motion:** Anthony Gentile moved to approve \$7,500 for GPS replacement at Butternut. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, John Paciorek, Tom Kettle, Monica Wynne, Marty O'Shea, Nina Barszcz, Carolyn Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Jon Davine, Chris Bouchard, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee met this morning but has no new projects to consider. Check the website for upcoming trainings. We have two sessions left in the First Responder Mental Health Resilience conference. The first two sessions have been good. Tom encouraged everyone to sign up and attend.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported. The main project is in partnership with HMCC, supplying gravel pads and electrical work for the Conex boxes that they have for storing PPE and rotating stock. The bid is out for a contractor and we hope to begin work soon.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn was not present but had told Tom there were no updates to report.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. FFY19 ends at the end of December. A few projects may not finish in time, so Raine might need to flip them with others. There is a push to wrap up FFY20 by the June 2023 end date. The current end date for FFY21 is only a month after that, so timing will be tight on a few projects. There is a strong likelihood that we will need to seek an extension for FFY21 because several planning projects have been delayed. We learned yesterday that the FFY22 grants have been officially awarded to the State. We will likely see contracts in December or January. Raine will be away Nov 3-11; if you need anything during that time please contact Rachel.

*Cyber Resilient Working Group Update:* Raine reported. They are trying to establish best practices for municipalities.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** Tom noted that we do not know what may happen with remote meetings once we get a new administration. If anyone has suggestions for possible meeting spaces, please let Raine know.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 10:00 am**

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for October 18, 2022
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2022 (draft)
- Request from Chief Stephen Kozloski/WMLEC, dated 7/29/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY19, dated 10/18/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 10/18/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 10/18/22
- WRHSAC FFY19 Budget Report through 10/13/22
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 10/13/22
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 10/13/22

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, November 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College; alternate for Tom Kettle), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police; alternate for Mike Wynn), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept), Chris Norris (Easthampton Fire), Seth Peters (Central Mass Regional HSAC), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Xander Sylvain (HMCC/FRCOG), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

**Council members absent:** Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), 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 October 18, 2022 meeting.

**Motion:** Monica Wynne moved to approve the October 18, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. Steve Kozloski abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady reported. With the election of a new Governor we will likely see some changes. Tom will keep an ear open for anything that will affect what we do at the Council level.

### **Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: John Dearborn had no updates to report.
- POLICE: Steve Kozloski and Susan Rathbun had no updates to report.
- EMS: No one was present to give an update.

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 10:00 am

- EMD: Larry Holmberg had no updates to report.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. RSV is on the rise and affecting both the old and young. Flu is on the rise earlier than normal; get vaccinated if you have not. Covid bivalent boosters are also still available.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. They are still experiencing staffing shortages, and trying to retain staff and keep staff healthy amid a Covid uptick.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are still working on updating academy curriculum and still in conversations with MPTC regarding training of deputy sheriffs and police reform.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. The State 911 meeting is tomorrow. WMLEC is back up and running after being down for some time. Maine is dealing with multiple reports of active shooter threats in schools.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Pediatric admissions are very high and they are running incident command around RSV. Covid and flu remain steady.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported. Everyone is waiting to see what happens as we transition to a new Governor and other elected officials.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Tom Kettle reported. He has reached out to other higher ed emergency personnel and they will have an inaugural meeting December 8 at Westfield State.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Jeff McDonald noted that Raine sent out an email about upcoming trainings.
- EOPSS: Ben Podsiadlo reported. OGR/EOPSS are actively working across the State to get the cyber grant application out for FFY22. They also have been providing and engaging with FEMA/DHS regarding risk profile and concerns around nationwide changes to that, and advocating for the Commonwealth's unique position and vulnerabilities. They submitted further comment on that this past week and the Undersecretary continues to engage on that. Looking at the upcoming transition, they feel good about EOPSS's position in the handoff to a new administration. They are looking towards rebuilding in-person trainings and complex coordinated attack trainings and larger scale exercises.
- DHS/CISA: John Warren reported that he was invited to attend a good lockdown drill with the Gateway school district last week. The next active shooter webinar is scheduled for tomorrow.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment:** Jeanne Galloway reported. In today's meeting packet are details of a proposed cybersecurity project that will be the start of a bigger pilot project to get a regional IT professional in Berkshire County. Requested funding for the first steps is \$60,000.

**Motion:** Jeanne Galloway moved to approve \$60,000 for the Regional Municipal Cybersecurity Services project. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, Tom Kettle, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. Jamin Carroll abstained. The motion was approved.

The subcommittee has run into several projects not able to move forward for various reasons, but it looks like we might be moving toward a mobile response solution for Hampden County.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Raine reported, as Anthony Gentile was unable to be here today. There are no motions to bring forward. The project approved by the Council last month will be going before SIEC in early December.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee has several motions to bring forward. The first is for additional funding for the de-escalation training, as the price has increased by \$260.

**Motion:** Carolyn Ness moved to approve an additional \$260 for the de-escalation training. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, Steve Kozloski, Carolyn Ness, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second motion concerns the funding already approved for the purchase of training equipment to support Nero's Law. The cost of the equipment will be less than what was approved for this project, and Deb Clapp has requested that the remaining funds be used to pay the veterinarians and vet techs for the training. Carolyn noted that supporting this would be good for our relationship with the veterinary community.

**Motion:** Carolyn moved to support the request to direct remaining funds from the Nero's Law Training equipment purchase towards the cost of the trainings. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, Steve Kozloski, Carolyn Ness, Jamin Carroll, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The third motion is to support a proposal from SBREPC to fund two sessions of rescue task force training, which meets the NFPA 3000 standard that is new in the Commonwealth. They ran this in 2019 with great success and there is an extraordinary amount of interest in running it again.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

**Motion:** Carolyn Ness moved to approve up to \$25,000 for SBREPC rescue task force trainings. Susan Rathbun seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, Steve Kozloski, Carolyn Ness, Jamin Carroll, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The final request is from NWMIMT to send four members to a national conference in California. The trainers from the 305 course recommended that they attend, both for the top notch training and for the networking opportunities.

**Motion:** Steve Kozloski moved to approve up to \$13,000 for four NWMIMT members to attend the AHIMTA conference. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Jeanne Galloway, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Nina Barszcz, Steve Kozloski, Carolyn Ness, Jamin Carroll, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. Larry Holmberg abstained. The motion was approved.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown had no updates to report.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn had no updates to report, but thanked the Council as Longmeadow has been using the shelter training resources from the website. He also thanked Sandra Martin, who has provided additional training.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. The end of FFY19 is coming up at the end of December. We still have a few items challenged by supply chain delivery. Raine will do her best to move things around to zero that out, but we do not have a lot of extra time in FFY20 either, as that grant ends at the end of June, 2023, and has already been extended over a year. The original end date for FFY21 is the end of July, 2023, but there are several projects that have not been able to move forward with was planned. We are making every effort to keep on target with end dates.

*Cyber Resilient Working Group Update:* Raine reported. The muni group has been working on trying to help municipalities understand the importance of having robust IT support.

**Old Business:** Larry Holmberg reported on the O-305 course that was recently held. They had 18 class members from the IMT and several other agencies. It was an excellent training and the instructors were fantastic. He thanked the Council on behalf of the team.

**New Business:** Tom Grady offered a reminder to everyone to reflect periodically on whether they are happy with the leadership on the Council. If anyone would like to make changes to Chair or Co-chair, let Raine know.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** Tom reported that he was able to participate on a panel discussion with Berkshire county teachers around active shooter response, and during discussion it became apparent that a lot of people in schools are not aware that they have representation on the Council. We need to get word out to schools and teachers. They had good ideas for trainings.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

Raine informed the Council that she will likely take four weeks of medical leave, pending approval. If cleared, her leave will begin next week and she will return on December 19. She will send an email toward the end of week to confirm. Rachel Mason, Bob Dean and Linda Gross at FRCOG will cover for her in her absence.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for November 15, 2022
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from October 18, 2022 (draft)
- Draft Project Justification for a Regional Municipal Cybersecurity Services Program
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY19, dated 11/15/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 11/15/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 11/15/22
- WRHSAC FFY19 Budget Report through 11/09/22
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 11/09/22
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 11/09/22

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, November 15, 2022, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Mike Wynn (Pittsfield Police), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Paul Burns (PVTA), Nick Demetrian (Agawam Fire/Western Mass Regional Dive Team), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Nick Licata (HMCC/FRCOG), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), William Millin (Northampton Fire/Western Mass Regional Dive Team), Chris Norris (Easthampton Fire), Ben St. Amand (PVTA), Eric Stratton (Western Mass Regional Dive Team), Xander Sylvain (HMCC/FRCOG), Mike Westcott (Southwick PD)

**Council members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College; alternate for Tom Kettle), 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), 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 10:02 am.

### Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the November 15, 2022 meeting.

**Motion:** Jon Davine moved to approve the November 15, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Jeanne Galloway, Jon Davine, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Mike Wynn, Monica Wynne, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. Anthony Gentile abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reminded Council members that if people ask them for information about how to submit a request, or what kinds of requests are appropriate, they should let them know that we do not fund overtime or backfill, and also that we cannot pay for items already procured. You can refer them to Raine if there are questions about what can be funded.

Tom also reported that WMEMS director Deb Clapp has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer and has announced her upcoming retirement. There will be a search for a new regional director. Scott

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

Cluett is stepping down from the OEMS director position. That likely will not be filled until the new administration is in place.

**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: Jon Davine reported that they are still working through the foam issue, civil service lieutenant exam, and the paramedic shortage.
- POLICE: Mike Wynn reported. They are still focused on police reform and the POST Commission. The POST Commission is finishing some of the regulations. Mike will be retiring in July.
- EMS: No one was present to give an update.
- EMD: No one was present to give an update.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Covid, flu, and RSV numbers are going up. Flu is the biggest concern now, but that is likely to switch as we go through the winter.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. They are still dealing with staffing issues and trying to recruit more drivers. Various respiratory illnesses are going through the workforce.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard reported. Winter is here.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are also dealing with the “triple-demic.”
- COMMUNICATIONS: Anthony Gentile reported. The statewide TERT (Telecommunicators Emergency Response Task Force) program started on Dec 1 with four regions in the Commonwealth. If anyone’s dispatch center is unable to be staffed, they can call State 911 for the TERT team to step in.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. They are seeing a rise in RSV, flu, and Covid. The ED is busy, with 350-400 visits / day. Behavioral health numbers continue to be off the charts. The pandemic has now been reclassified as an endemic.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported that people are excited about the new Governor’s transition team, as they seem to be focused on local government.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Tom Kettle reported. The new higher ed group had their inaugural meeting two weeks ago. Most of the western region higher ed institutions were represented. They talked about future goals. More meetings are to come.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: No one was present to give an update.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

- EOPSS: No one was present to give an update.
- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update.

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment:** Jeanne Galloway reported. Projects are mostly moving along, but some are not, for various reasons. We have a host community almost ready to get a trailer in Hampden County. A project on equity in the region is underway.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Anthony Gentile had no updates to report.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The committee met prior to the Council meeting but has no motions to bring forward. Check the website for available trainings.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown had no updates to report.

**CBRNE/IED:** Raine had no updates to report. However, she noted that the FFY22 budget is now available, and several CBRNE projects were waiting for these funds. After the new year Raine will reach out to the liaisons to start moving on those.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine reported. Things are mostly moving along well. We have some funds left in FFY19 which ends at the end of this month. There is an invoice in FFY20 that she will split so we can spend FFY19 to zero. In FFY20 and FFY21 there are some projects that she is concerned about. We already received a year extension on FFY20, but we have encountered additional challenges. The All Hazards committee had several projects on the books that were not approved, despite being approved in the initial investment plan. We are scrambling to meet the timeline, but we might need another extension unless we can get some CBRNE projects that are currently in FFY22 completed in time. However, those depend on the equipment supply chain. We will definitely need an extension on FFY21, which currently runs through July, 2023. FFY22 funds are now on the books, so we can start moving forward with those funds.

*Cyber Resilient Working Group Update:* Raine reported. They are focused on cybersecurity funding from the infrastructure bill. Raine will be stepping down as the lead of the muni subgroup but will still be involved.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

**Regional Transit Rep** – Jamin Carroll informed the Council that he is stepping down as the Council’s regional transit rep. PVTA has a new candidate, Ben St. Amand, who is on the call.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Jamin Carroll moved to approve Ben St. Amand as the new regional transit representative to WRHSAC. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Mike Wynn, Monica Wynne, Carolyn</p>
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**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 10:00 am**

Shores Ness, Chris Bouchard, Jon Davine, Anthony Gentile, and Jamin Carroll voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Raine will follow up with Ben.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:**

Tom sought to clear up some rumors that he is retiring by explaining that he turned 65 in December, which means he has had to step out of the law enforcement realm. However, he is not retiring but rather continuing in his capacity at the Sheriff's Office, including this Council.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for December 20, 2022
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2022 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY19, dated 12/20/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 12/20/22
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 12/20/22
- WRHSAC FFY19 Budget Report through 12/16/22
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 12/16/22
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 12/16/22

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