

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 10:00 am

Council members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College; alternate for Tom Kettle), 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), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Nick Licata (HMCC/FRCOG), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Butch Garrity (MSP), Jeff McDonald (HCSO), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS/OGR), William Millin (Northampton Fire/Western Mass Regional Dive Team), Benjamin Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Z Smith (South County EMS), Eric Stratton (South Hadley Fire/Western Mass Regional Dive Team), Xander Sylvain (HMCC/FRCOG), John Warren (DHS/CISA), Mike Westcott (Southwick PD / Western Regional Dive Team)

Council members absent: Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), 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 December 20, 2022 meeting.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve the December 20, 2022 meeting minutes as submitted. Jeanne Galloway seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Monica Wynne, Susan Rathbun, John Paciorek, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, Carolyn Shores Ness, and Benjamin St. Amand voted in favor. Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, and Jonathan Miller abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady noted that the new administration is now in place.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn had no updates to report.

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- POLICE: John Paciorek reported that the Police Academy is moving into new facility in Holyoke, and the new campus is amazing. Criminal justice reform is still ongoing. Susan Rathbun echoed the praise for the new academy, noting that it will be great for recruits.
- EMS: Tom Grady announced that a search committee has been formed to replace Deb Clapp, who is retiring June 30.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg had no updates to report.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Covid, flu, and other illnesses persist. We may be exiting a drought, but we need more precipitation to prevent a summer drought.
- TRANSPORTATION: Jamin Carroll reported. They are still facing staffing shortages and supply chain issues trying to get parts for buses.
- DPW: Chris Bouchard had no updates to report.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported that illness continues to affect staff and inmates.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. State 911 put together a standards committee to review and update Enhanced 911/Next Gen 911 standards. They held a hearing last Friday for public comments. For regional dispatch centers and those hoping to regionalize, the development grant is due March 2.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Capacity is a challenge. Flu is going up, Covid is holding steady, and other respiratory illnesses are in play.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. The MMA conference is this week. The State budget process will start next week.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Jonathan Miller reported that the new semester is starting.
- 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 moved from Boston to Braintree last month. Telephone numbers have changed, but email addresses remain the same. The electronic quarterly reporting system is being rolled out and will hopefully make things run more smoothly. FFY23 planning will begin soon. Ben Podsiadlo reported that Secretary Reidy and Undersecretary Benincasa-Thorpe are staying on in the new administration, which he noted is good for consistency in EOPSS. Several non-profit grants are active now, including a new one funding personnel security at non-profit sites, as well as the STOP grant through the DOJ, involving developing threat assessments and crisis intervention teams at schools. Most of these

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grants require coordination and partnership with local law enforcement. They will continue to look towards higher threats around ASHER, complex coordinated attacks, and large scale exercises to test anti-terror capabilities. They are also interested in testing deeper into support disciplines such as reunification and mental health support, which he noted that WRHSAC has been doing.

- DHS/CISA: John Warren – new year, flavor of assessment world this year has been on school districts, and houses of worship. They have recently done some assessment projects in Hampden County and Berkshire County. They are also working with Mass DoT around highway facilities. In February they will be back at the Big E working on a physical security assessment, as well as working with Westfield State and the Gateway school district.

All Hazards Planning and Equipment: Jeanne Galloway reported. The subcommittee is moving along on projects where possible and trying to figure out what to do with the others.

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

Training and Exercises: Tom Grady reported. The committee has a few upcoming trainings, including Advanced Medical Life Support at the end of the month. There are two motions from the Western Regional Dive Team to bring forward.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve \$2,340 for the full face mask certification training. Carolyn Shores Ness seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Jonathan Miller, Susan Rathbun, Nina Barszcz, John Paciorek, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Jamin Carroll, Steve Kozloski, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to approve \$2,340 for the dry suit certification training. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Jonathan Miller, Susan Rathbun, Nina Barszcz, John Paciorek, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Jamin Carroll, Steve Kozloski, and Carolyn Shores Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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

CBRNE/IED: John Dearborn reported that with FFY22 now available, we can proceed with some of the projects we were waiting on. Raine reported that she is doing outreach to liaisons on those projects. There is some money left over in FFY21, and Raine just received a request from Mike Wescott regarding the underwater ROV. She will respond to him about moving forward.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine reported that FFY19 was closed out at the end of December. FFY20 currently runs through June. We are on track for that. There are some extra funds for Tech Rescue Team equipment. Items still need to be identified and go through procurement, and timing may depend on the supply chain. For FFY21, several planning projects were not approved and that caused some

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delays, and we have a few projects that had no consultants bid, so we have a significant amount of money remaining. Raine will try to flip projects from FFY22 that can wrap up before then, but we are likely going to need an extension. FFY22 is now active. Raine started out reach on equipment projects to get specs from the project liaisons. The All Hazards committee has several project which need further development to begin.

Amy Reilly reported that they added a new staff member to team. MAPC is working on reporting. Most if not all regions will need an extension on FFY21. They will start coordinating.

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update: Raine reported. She is continuing to work in the group, but not in a lead role.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

WRHSAC Member Approval Process – Raine reported that when she submitted resumes for Ben St. Amand and Paul Burns to EOPSS for approval as the new PVTa rep and alternate, she learned that OGR is updating the approval process. Going forward, when there is an open seat, they want the Council to send notice out to the region for input on candidates. Eligible candidates will then have two weeks to submit their resumes, which will then to OGR for review before they go to the Council.

Business Unforeseen by Chair:

Raine reminded the Council that several months ago Jeff McDonald reported that several of the sign boards in Hampden County were broken. She asked Jeff to seek out quotes and then come to Council with a request. Last week he went to United Rentals and found that they had gone ahead and made repairs to one of the items. The Council cannot pay for that because it was not approved in advance, but there are additional repairs pending to the other boards. Jeff added that he will submit quotes and a formal request. He made it clear to United Rentals not to start any additional work. The Sheriff's office will find a way to pay the bill for the one that was already repaired, but they would like to ask the Council to pay for the others, if they are worth repairing.

Tom Grady brought up the renewed focus on NFPA 3000 and ASHER standards. He suggested that we could try to a coordinate meeting with the president of Western Mass Chiefs, Fire, EMS, and schools about collaborative efforts moving forward. The new standards focus on a whole community approach, so it may benefit us if we can get a subcommittee together to do regional trainings and exercises. John Paciorek reported that there will be a meeting this Thursday on that topic; he will send that information to Tom.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

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Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. John Paciorek, Jonathan Miller, Susan Rathbun, Benjamin St. Amand, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, Chris Bouchard, Monica Wynne, Anthony Gentile, Carolyn Shores Ness, and Steve Kozloski 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 January 17, 2023
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from December 20, 2022 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY19, dated 1/17/23
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 1/17/23
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 1/17/23
- WRHSAC FFY19 Budget Report through 1/13/23
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 1/13/23
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 12/16/22
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 1/13/23

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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Council members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), 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), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

Non-members present: C.J. Bartone (Hazmat D4), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brad Downey (MAPC), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Nick Licata (HMCC/FRCOG), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (HCSO), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS/OGR), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Christopher Norris (Easthampton Fire), Benjamin Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Avery Serra (MAPC), Z Smith (South County EMS), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

Council members absent: Chris Bouchard (South Hadley DPW), Charles Burger (Great Barrington Fire), Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne)

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 17, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve the January 17, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Nina Barszcz, Steve Kozloski, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. Steve Gaughan abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady announced that Chris Bouchard and Charlie Burger will be leaving the Council.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Jon Davine reported that the rollout of NFPA 3000 is underway, with a training coming to Western Massachusetts in March. It is a Training of Trainers model with spots for fire, police, and dispatch. John Dearborn reported that the Nero's Law rollout was pushed back by OEMS. There have been challenges with getting it done, but it is still a priority.

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- POLICE: Stephen Kozloski reported that they are tracking swatting incidents in the region and across the State, in coordination with the Fusion Center, FBI, and others. Most of the swatting was clustered in a few days and appeared to be loosely following communities by alphabetical order. Susan Rathbun noted that they had a couple such incidents in their area, too. She also reported that police are deep into budget season. They are also still working on bridging officers. It has now opened up so that everyone A-Z who needs to bridge can go on Acadis and do that. Tom Grady added that they had a swatting call come in at the Berkshire Sheriff's Control last week intended for Great Barrington, which meant they had to transfer from PSAP to PSAP.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. Everyone is working together trying to comply with ASHER and Nero's law. With regard to the latter, OEMS has been critical of applications for training. They got an extension but it is difficult to comply. They are thankful to the Council for the equipment funding. WMEMS is in the middle of an executive director search, currently interviewing candidates. They hope to have person selected by April 1 for a two month transition. The annual WMEMS meeting will be April 9. Brockton Hospital had to be evacuated earlier this month. It was an eye opener to see the hurdles. They intend to look at the event and learn from it.
- EMD: No one was present to give an update.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. They are still seeing the trifecta of illnesses, but things are starting to settle. Mosquito season is coming soon. There is a lot of transition in Western Mass with public health officials moving around or leaving. HMCC had a conversation about the Brockton incident and also will be looking at learning from it.
- TRANSPORTATION: No one was present to give an update.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady had no updates to report.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. They also had a swatting incident on Monday the 13th, for Westfield. Development grants are due March 2.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Hospitals continue to be very busy, with high volume and acuity. Covid and flu are still around.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. Everyone is focused on the budget process. It will be a tight year without extra money from Covid and ARPA.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update. Tom reported that Raine reached out to Marty O'Shea, and that Chief Dearborn has also been communicating with him to see if he is still available. If anyone has someone in their communities who would be interested in the position, please reach out to Raine, as we need more consistent representation.

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- HIGHER ED: Tom Kettle reported. The Western Region Higher Ed group will be meeting next month. Westfield State has a 360 degree evaluation in progress with CISA/John Warren.
- 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. They received guidance from FEMA on the FFY23 HSGP award. The federal NOFO is expected to be released next week, with an 80 day application period and a due date of May 18. Tricia shared the new national priorities and relevant minimum percentages. Ben Podsiadlo drew the Council's attention to the new election security spending requirement of 3% and noted that they would be open to dual purpose projects like anti vehicle ramming at election sites. He shared information about other grants including the nonprofit CNSGP, smaller CNSPGP for personnel, and the STOP grant, which is a DOJ grant for schools. There are some projects in Western Mass likely to receive these grants. EOPSS is encouraging a state-wide approach to large scale exercises. They are also encouraging briefings on events held in Western Mass when possible. Discussion followed about resources to assist with implementation of NFPA 3000. Tom Grady noted that EOPSS should anticipate that we will identify gaps. In addition to PPE, there will be a need for more ballistic protective equipment. As those requests come forth, we may meet challenges with levels of funding.
- DHS/CISA: John Warren reported. The next active shooter webinar will be held 16 March. They are doing work with the Big E based on the after action report. They are bringing a suite of courses to Western Mass in April and May. John has been meeting with various school districts in the region. Regarding ASHER, older trainings may need to be updated. The STOP grant may not directly support ASHER, but he can seek clarity. Regarding election security, if there are concerns about building a case for election security, CISA can come out and do vulnerability assessments on polling stations in municipalities.

All Hazards Planning and Equipment: Jeanne Galloway reported that subcommittee projects are getting going. There are two motions to bring forward. Details are in today's meeting packet. BRPC will release the equity project report soon, which Jeanne hopes everyone will read.

Motion: Jeanne Galloway moved to approve \$34,700 for the continuation of the First Responder Mental Health Resilience project. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Susan Rathbun, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. Ben St. Amand abstained. The motion was approved.

Motion: Jeanne Galloway moved to approve the resubmission of the Project Justification for shelter management training with the original allocation of \$35,000. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Susan Rathbun, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. Ben St. Amand abstained. The motion was approved.

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

Training and Exercises: Tom Grady brought forth five motions from the subcommittee.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve \$10,000 for the Hazmat Colorimetric Training. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Susan Rathbun, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve \$11,900 for the Hazmat Corrosive Materials Training. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Susan Rathbun, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve \$18,000 for the Springfield Fire Department Advanced Hydraulic Rescue Training. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Susan Rathbun, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Motion: Carolyn Ness moved to approve \$14,700 for the SRT Crisis Negotiators Conference. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Susan Rathbun, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Motion: Carolyn Ness moved to approve an additional \$3,321.49 for the FCSRT Level 3 shields. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Susan Rathbun, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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

CBRNE/IED: John Dearborn reported that CBRNE met. He presented several motions.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve \$6,875 of the funds leftover from the FFY20 WMTRT water rescue allocation for a new ROV tablet and cable. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Susan Rathbun, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve the use of \$13,056 from the WMTRT regional exercise allocation for trench rescue equipment. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Susan Rathbun, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve the use of \$23,300 from the WMTRT regional exercise allocation for 25 sets of USAR gear. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Susan Rathbun, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve the use of \$3,400 from the WMTRT water rescue allocation for 25 sets of overshirts and pants. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Susan Rathbun, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve the use of \$37,000 from the WMTRT regional exercise allocation for the regional dive team. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Susan Rathbun, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

John reported that there have been discussions regarding ASHER and noted that we need to be consistent and fair as additional requests come in. Additional discussion led to the decision to form an ASHER working group, which Jon Davine agreed to chair.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine Brown reported. FFY20 ends at the end of June. Raine is keeping a close eye on projects to make sure we spend it down. The current end date of FFY21 is at the end of July, but we will need an extension. Raine is trying to move projects from FFY22 to FFY20 or FFY21 when they can be completed sooner. FEMA/DHS has been hosting webinars on national priority areas. Raine has been attending to get an idea of what kinds of projects will be approved. Election security will be new. The Council has not done that kind of project before.

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update: Raine reported that she has not been able to attend recent meetings because of schedule conflicts but hopes to attend next month.

Brad Downey had no MAPC updates to report.

Old Business: None.

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New Business:

WRHSAC Fire Rep opening and DPW opening – Tom Grady reported that we have openings for both fire and DPW representatives to the Council. WMFCA and the DPW group will put forward names, but there is now a new process. Raine explained that we now have to do a public announcement about the open seats and provide up to two weeks for potential candidates to submit their names. Those names then need to be submitted to EOPSS for review before going to Council. There were numerous concerns among Council members about this new process. Tom suggested that this should be discussed with Ben in a meeting with all Chairs.

Business Unforeseen by Chair:

John Warren clarified that the training that is coming to the Big E for IED and surveillance detection is for all local first responders and public and private security.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting unless otherwise notified.

Motion: Carolyn Shores Ness moved to adjourn. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, John Dearborn, Carolyn Shores Ness, Steve Kozloski, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:24 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for February 20, 2023
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2023 (draft)
- Project Justification for First Responder Mental Health Resiliency Continued
- Project Justification for Shelter Manager Training Development Resubmission
- Project Justification for Underwater ROV Tablet and Side Scan Cable
- Project Justification for WMTRT Trench Shoring Equipment
- Project Justification for WMTRT USAR PPE Gear
- Project Justification for WMTRT Overshirt and Pants
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY19, dated 2/21/23
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 2/21/23
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 2/21/23
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 2/17/23
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 2/17/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 2/17/23

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason
WRHSAC Program Assistant

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Franklin Regional Council of Governments

DRAFT

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Council members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA),

Non-members present: C.J. Bartone (Hazmat D4), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brad Downey (MAPC), Allison Egan (BRPC), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Butch Garrity (MSP/NWMIMT), Erin Hastings (WESTCOMM), John Ingram (Belchertown Fire), Nick Licata (HMCC/FRCOG), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS/OGR), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Kurt Seaman (FRCOG), Z Smith (South County EMS),

Council members absent: Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College; alternate for Tom Kettle), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), 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 21, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve the February 21, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, Steve Gaughan, John Dearborn, Nina Barszcz, Ben St. Amand, Brian Rust, Jon Davine, Susan Rathbun, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. Marty O'Shea abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported that the Undersecretary has asked for a Chairs meeting to discuss statewide ASHER initiatives.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that WMFCA will hold its legislative breakfast this Thursday. The AML task force was activated for the Blarney Blowout. The system worked to get resources allocated. Jon Davine reported that the new solar code has increased their workload. They are also trying to figure out how to implement NFPA 3000 standards.

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- POLICE: John Paciorek reported. They are working on rolling out the AFIS fingerprinting system across the State. For recerts they are now doing I-P, but they are still waiting for POST to come out with what that includes. In service for policing is 80-100 hrs/yr. The last part of the alphabet is open for the Bridge academy. Police are still working through the 2018 and 2020 reforms, but there are new bills that would introduce even more reforms. It is making retention and recruitment challenging. Susan Rathbun agreed that retention and movement is hard, and noted that AFIS requires a 16 hour training.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. EMS is continuing to fight unfunded mandates, including Nero's Law, ASHER, and AIR training. They appreciate the support of the Council. WMEMS is in the final stages of selecting a new Executive Director in advance of Deb's retirement. Their annual meeting is April 13 in Easthampton. They are encouraging legislators to come to get a better understanding of EMS. Regarding the Ambulance Task Force deployment, it worked out but they are looking at how they can do it better next time. The Regional MCI committee will meet again; reach out to Steve if you want to participate.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported. After last week's snowstorm, they are encouraging towns that were affected to do a brief AAR and IP, hoping to fill identified gaps. Larry and MEMA received calls regarding needs for generators and other problems. Not everyone knew what they had in municipal buildings.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: No one was present to give an update.
- TRANSPORTATION: Ben St. Amand reported that the recent snowstorm briefly reduced service to life-sustaining trips only, but by noon they had resumed normal operations. They are still dealing with driver shortages. Ben went to the emergency management class last week and will be talking more internally about coop plans and other topics.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are still dealing with the challenges of criminal justice reform and staff recruitment and retention.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported and asked that Council members keep an ear out for PSAP complaints about interpreter services. There is a new vendor now and they need to log issues. At the regional directors meeting this Thursday they will talk about troubles with regionalization, standardizing the process to bring on new communities, and hiring and retention challenges. Annual compliance forms are up on the State website for PSAPS.
- HOSPITALS: Brian Rust reported. Hospitals have had overwhelming census in EDs for over a year, along with severe staffing shortages. Covid has stabilized. Baystate opened new ORs. Cooley broke a record for number of ambulances in a 24 hour period, thanks to UMass.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Shores Ness reported. On March 9 the Governor and Lt. Governor announced in Deerfield the creation of a new Director of Rural Affairs. Meetings may continue to be virtual until March 2025. They are still looking at town meeting

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requirements. Town budgets are in progress. The administration filed a \$734 million supplemental budget including \$75 million for school special ed. On March 13 there was a major legislative budget hearing on revenue sharing to get more local aid. On April 1 there will be a western and rural selectboard conference in Holyoke.

- K-12 EDUCATION: Marty O'Shea reported. They are still exploring ways to support kids' behavioral health and mental health, and are appreciative that the State is recognizing the importance of that with increased funding. Superintendents are looking forward to learning more about how NFPA 3000 standards will involve schools.
- 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. Town administrators will be asked for a rough estimate of snowstorm costs. There has been false reporting about MEMA giving back money to towns if they filed an emergency declaration. This is not true, but they are going to try to get money to reimburse some costs if possible. A new academy, NEMTEC, will host all of the FEMA courses. It is not one brick and mortar building; they will bring ICS courses and others to different locations for the benefit of all of New England. Scott sent Raine a brochure to send to the Council. They will get a survey out to towns about what classes they need the most.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk reported. FFY23 planning guidance will be out this week. Last week they had a terrific FFY18 site visit. The FFY23 Non-profit security grant AGF was released. The webinar is tomorrow. Applications are due April 14.
- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update, but Raine shared info she received from John Warren that there are seats left in the IED course on Apr 11-13.

All Hazards Planning and Equipment: Raine Brown reported. Some projects are moving but there is a lot of money left due to a variety of obstacles, including over \$300,000 in FFY21 and over \$200,000 in FFY22 that the subcommittee has not been able to move forward on. The focus will be on flipping projects between grant years. Raine has already been doing that because of Covid and other delays, but she wanted to make the full Council aware of the ongoing challenges. She has been reviewing budgets to make sure we spend down the FFY20 grant by end of June. There is no official word on FFY21, but we are expecting an extension through the end of December. The cybersecurity project in Berkshire County has started and is garnering interest. The equity in emergency management project had a lot of tangible outcomes and recommendations for the subcommittee to consider.

Interoperability/Information Sharing: Raine Brown brought forward a motion approved at the subcommittee level to purchase a video downlink for the Berkshire Mobile Command Center to access the State Police Airwing video.

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Motion: Carolyn Ness moved to approve \$75,000 for the video downlink purchase. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Marty O’Shea, Brian Rust, Carolyn Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, Ben St. Amand, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. Tom Grady abstained. The motion was approved.

Training and Exercises: Tom Grady brought forward a number of motions from subcommittee that he grouped into two comprehensive motions. The first motion was for a total of \$151,900 to include trainings in battery emergencies, advanced medical life support, and ASHER-related training of trainers in Active Attack Integrated Response.

Motion: Carolyn Ness moved to approve a total of \$151,900 for the battery emergency training, advanced medical life support training, and ASHER training as described to the Council. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Marty O’Shea, Brian Rust, Carolyn Ness, Jon Davine, Nina Barszcz, Ben St. Amand, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. Steve Gaughan abstained. The motion was approved.

The second group of motions concerned Hazmat requests totaling \$32,056, comprised of \$20,056 for a radiation response training and \$12,000 to send representatives from the D4 and D5 Hazmat teams to the annual conference in Baltimore.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve a total of \$32,056 for the radiation response training and Hazmat conference as described to the Council. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Marty O’Shea, Brian Rust, Carolyn Ness, Jon Davine, Nina Barszcz, Ben St. Amand, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. Steve Gaughan abstained. The motion was approved.

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

CBRNE/IED: John Dearborn reported. The subcommittee met last week and had more proposals than they had funding for. Details will be discussed later in the meeting.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine Brown reported. Most things are moving along well, with the exception of All Hazards projects as discussed above. Raine will move projects so that all funds are spent down in time.

Cyber Resilient Working Group Update: Raine has been unable to participate in the last few working group meetings. The undersecretary of EOTSS is coming to FRCOG on Monday to talk about cybersecurity in the region; Raine is going to attend.

Old Business: None.

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New Business:

Review candidates for open seats – Raine reminded the Council that as discussed last month, there is an open law enforcement seat from Mike Wynn stepping down. Susan Rathbun has been his proxy and is stepping up to take the third law enforcement seat on the Council. Raine noted that all of the names of potential candidates on today’s agenda have been approved by EOPSS.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve Susan Rathbun as a law enforcement representative for the Council. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Marty O’Shea, Brian Rust, Carolyn Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

For the open seat of DPW representative, both outgoing rep Chris Bouchard and the Mass Highway group recommended Dave Desrosiers of Granby.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve Dave Desrosiers as DPW representative for the Council. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Marty O’Shea, Brian Rust, Carolyn Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, Ben St. Amand, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

There was a lot of interest in the open seat for a fire representative. WMFCA has not made their recommendation yet but will be voting on theirs at the end of this month. Raine also received a letter of interest that she did not have an opportunity to send to EOPSS yet. The Council will consider the candidates and vote next month. John Dearborn clarified that the WMFCA recommendation was delayed because the board decided to bring it to the full body.

FFY2023 Investment Planning – Raine reported that she received notice from EOPSS that the State plan is due in May. Guidance will be forthcoming, but Raine has been organizing the planning as we have every year. All subcommittees have met and made their budget recommendations. The total award for FFY23 is \$1,146,637.68, level funded. Proposals on the table fit within the budget. Carolyn explained that the All Hazards subcommittee’s request is low this year because of the aforementioned challenges spending down the last few years’ allocations. John Paciorek questioned the CBRNE recommendation to spend \$115,000 on a vehicle. Discussion followed, as several other Council members agreed that this was not the best use of Council funds. As a result, the CBRNE recommendations were considered line by line.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to earmark \$71,457 in the FFY23 plan for regional dive team support. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Marty O’Shea, Brian Rust, Carolyn Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, Ben St. Amand, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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Motion: John Dearborn moved to earmark \$18,283 in the FFY23 plan for Western Mass Technical Rescue Team support. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Marty O’Shea, Brian Rust, Carolyn Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, Ben St. Amand, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to earmark \$5,804 in the FFY23 plan for WMTRT rope rescue. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Marty O’Shea, Brian Rust, Carolyn Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, Ben St. Amand, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to earmark \$115,000 in the FFY23 plan for the Franklin County regional fire support vehicle. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, Brian Rust, Carolyn Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, Ben St. Amand, and Susan Rathbun voted in opposition. John Dearborn and Marty O’Shea abstained. The motion was not approved.

John Paciorek noted that if Greenfield Fire reduced amount of the request and offered more justification, he would be willing to reconsider; others agreed. Discussion followed about how to reallocate the \$115,000. The Hazmat request had been submitted as \$15,000; the Council discussed raising that to \$30,000 and adding a line to the CBRNE requests for a \$100,000 allocation for ASHER equipment.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to earmark \$30,000 in the FFY23 plan for Hazmat team support. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Marty O’Shea, Brian Rust, Carolyn Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, Ben St. Amand, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to earmark \$100,000 in the FFY23 plan for ASHER equipment. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Marty O’Shea, Brian Rust, Carolyn Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, Ben St. Amand, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to accept the remainder of the FFY23 budget plan as presented. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Marty O’Shea, Brian Rust, Carolyn Ness, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, Ben St. Amand, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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Business Unforeseen by Chair:

None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting unless otherwise notified.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to adjourn. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Paciorek, John Dearborn, Brian Rust, Jon Davine, Marty O’Shea, Carolyn Ness, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, and Susan Rathbun voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for March 21, 2023
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2023 (draft)
- Project Justification for Berkshire Mobile Command Video Downlink
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 3/21/23
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 3/21/23
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 3/17/23
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 3/17/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 3/17/23
- Susan Rathbun - Resume
- David Desrosiers – Resume and bio
- John Ingram – Resume
- Robert McCaffrey – Letter of interest and resume
- Dennis Nazzaro – Letter of interest and resume
- Philip Wonkka – Letter of interest and resume
- WRHSAC FFY23 Initial Budget Planning

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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Council members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College; alternate for Tom Kettle), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTa), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

Non-members present: C.J. Bartone (Hazmat D4), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Nick Demetrian (Agawam Fire), Brad Downey (MAPC), Rich Fiske (EOPSS/SWIC), Nick Licata (HMCC/FRCOG), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS/OGR), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS/OGR), John Warren (DHS/CISA),

Council members absent: Paul Burns (PVTa; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale 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 21, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve the March 21, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Larry Holmberg, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Nina Barszcz, Marty O'Shea, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. Jeanne Galloway abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported. There was an ASHER discussion with EOPSS and the other Council Chairs at which they heard from John Mazza, who was hired by MPTC as statewide coordinator for ASHER training. The goal is to have trainings conducted jointly with Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS to start building a model of interagency cooperation from the beginning.

Tom asked Ben Podsiadlo to elaborate on a conversation they had related to election security. Ben explained that they still getting guidance from FEMA, as election security is new this year as a national priority with a minimum investment requirement. They are trying to figure out projects that comply with that to guide investments towards what will be allowable. It is still a work in progress. EOPSS will be working closely with the State Chief Election Officials to make sure

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they understand what the HSGP is. We also need to ensure alignment with FEMA. Allowable projects might include paying for backfill/OT at election sites, moveable barricades, and election-related cybersecurity. OGR wants to ensure that local decisions remain local. Ben anticipates that this will remain at a 3% minimum for the foreseeable future.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Jon Davine had no updates to report. John Dearborn reported on the four foam trailers that the Council purchased in 2009. They have been a valuable asset, but in last few years they have run into an issue because the foam contains PFAS, which is going to be banned. Two trailers are already empty and out of service. This week the other two will be pumped out by DEP. This will eliminate bulk foam capability in Western Mass. They are working on alternative plans. Transitioning the trailers to non-PFAS foam is complicated because of contamination, but they may be able to retrofit the trailers to green (non-PFAS) foam. They have identified a funding source to purchase enough green foam for one trailer, at \$28,000, but they do not yet have a funding source for the others nor funding to retro-fit the trailers.
- POLICE: John Paciorek reported. On May 11 they will meet with the entire Western Mass legislative delegation regarding ongoing police reform and its impact on small communities in Western Mass, especially the elimination of part-time police officers.
- EMS: Christopher Norris reported. WMEMS will be transitioning to a new executive director, Dominic Singh. Deb Clapp will be retiring at the end of June. The annual meeting was held last week and was well attended.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg had no updates to report.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. May 11 is the end of the Federal and State Public Health Emergencies for the pandemic, though this does not mean that Covid is over. There is no definitive word yet on whether there will be annual Covid vaccines, but we should hear soon. Flu season is over, and mosquito season is beginning. The Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District has a new full time director.
- TRANSPORTATION: Ben St. Amand reported that they are always looking for more drivers. They have been pushing training and are looking at ways to move training in-house so drivers can get CDL licenses without having to go to outside trainings.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported that they are listening for Federal and State guidance for how the changes on May 11 will affect congregate settings.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. Grants are on the State911 website for PSAPs. Many dispatch centers are severely understaffed. Be kind to your dispatchers. The TERT program has been live since December. This is group of trained dispatchers that can be activated using the MEMA dispatch 508 number. Tom Grady added that Smith Voc has worked with State 911 to add basic telecommunicators training into high school curriculum,

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so if you have a vocational school in your area, reach out to Nina or Tom about bringing this in.

- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Emergency rooms continue to be very busy. Covid numbers are stable. Staffing remains a challenge in many parts of the hospital.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported. They had over 100 attendees at the Four County Selectboard Association meeting April 1st. The Governor and Lt. Governor seem to be taking the new position of Director of Rural Affairs seriously. The House Ways and Means Committee released a \$56.2 billion state budget with slightly less Unrestricted Government General Aid than was in the Governor's budget. House debate starts next week.
- K-12 EDUCATION: Marty O'Shea reported. This is school vacation week.
- HIGHER ED: Tom Kettle reported. The higher ed group got together a few weeks ago and discussed unique issues in higher ed emergencies, as well as sharing resources. CISA came and discussed additional available resources. Tom is working on trainings at Westfield State.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Larry Holmberg reported that MEMA Region 3 has re-started their volunteer adjunct group made up of IMT and CERT members and EMDs, to lend support to the regional office. They had their first re-training earlier this month and they expect additional trainings once every three months to bolster MEMA staff as much as possible. Any CERTs or MRC members with an interest can talk to MEMA about being added to that group. Tom Grady thanked everyone who worked on the Boston Marathon pre-planning and execution.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk reported that regional plans are due this Friday. Rich Fiske reported that the next SIEC meeting will be May 3rd and WRHSAC projects will be considered at that meeting. There is a current initiative regarding P25 cap compliance update; some terms are going to change regarding encryption. AES multikey compliant capability will be the new requirement for agencies leveraging encryption. One caveat to TERT is that it cannot be used for agencies that are short staffed because of labor issues; it is only for short-term assistance with staffing due to disaster-relief or other catastrophic incidents. They would like more TERT participation from Western Mass PSAPs; please contact Rich if interested.
- DHS/CISA: John Warren reported. A few years ago the Western Region had identified a need for training at the Big E similar to marathon training, but it was postponed due to the pandemic. The first courses were held last week and were well received. There is a follow-up May 2-4 with two additional courses in Holyoke. Regarding election security, CISA can conduct soft target vulnerability assessments that can help include language in justifications for security enhancements for polling stations, chain of custody for ballots, barriers, etc. They are still well engaged with school districts in Western Mass, with more requests coming in. They are also in discussion with the Five College Consortium for a facilitated tabletop exercise for a natural weather disaster event. It will be open to other Western Mass colleges, too. It will likely be held in August. That program is also available for others, e.g. hospitals.

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All Hazards Planning and Equipment: Jeanne Galloway reported. The subcommittee has a number of projects underway and is trying to move others things along.

Interoperability/Information Sharing: Raine Brown reported. The subcommittee has a motion to bring forward for 150 backup batteries for the UHF radios in caches around the region.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve \$8,151 for the purchase of 150 batteries. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Larry Holmberg, Jeanne Galloway, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Nina Barszcz, Marty O'Shea, Ben St. Amand, and John Paciorek voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Training and Exercises: Tom Grady reported. Many projects are moving along, with others still awaiting approval. There is a motion for fire extinguisher training equipment to consider. Tom Kettle explained that this is digital laser equipment that can be used in any conditions.

Motion: Tom Kettle moved to approve \$15,016 for the purchase of fire extinguisher training equipment. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Jeanne Galloway, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Nina Barszcz, Marty O'Shea, Ben St. Amand, and John Paciorek voted in favor. Tom Kettle abstained. The motion was approved.

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

CBRNE/IED: John Dearborn reported on a leftover item from the last CBRNE meeting, a request from Berkshire County for fit testers. The subcommittee pushed it back to the Berkshire County Fire Chiefs and Western Mass Chiefs to discuss the reallocation of existing equipment across the region. There does not seem to be a need to purchase new equipment at this time.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine Brown reported. FFY20 funding ends at the end of June. There is one project Raine is concerned about, the HMCC Conex boxes in Greenfield for storing PPE, which has faced challenges finding a vendor to do the HVAC and electrical work. Responses for the third round of procurement are due later this week. There are a few other FFY20 equipment projects still in progress for the dive team and tech rescue team. For FFY21, the current end date is still at the end of July; MAPC will be submitting an extension request. One of the biggest concerns in FFY21 is the Hampden County equipment shelter project which has faced delays. Also, the All Hazards subcommittee still has over \$276,000 in FFY21 that is not yet allocated to any specific projects. Raine does not have any concerns for FFY22 yet, but she has been moving FFY22 projects that are ready to start into FFY20 or FFY21 to spend those down first.

Brad Downey reported that MAPC will be putting in a request today to extend FFY20 through the end of December and FFY21 through June, 2024.

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Cyber Resilient Working Group Update: Raine reported. Many members of the group are working hard on the State plan for the critical infrastructure cybersecurity funds.

Old Business:

FFY2023 Investment Plan – Raine reported. A draft of the plan is in today’s packet.

Fire Representative – Raine reported. WMFCA has not made a recommendation yet, but they anticipate a vote by the end of April, so we will reconsider this item at next month’s meeting.

New Business:

K-12 Proxy Kristen Smidy – Raine reported. Kristen Smidy of Gateway Regional School District is interested in serving as proxy for Marty. Her resume is in today’s packet. EOPSS has reviewed and approved her as a candidate. Larry Holmberg and John Warren noted that they have both worked with her and endorse her candidacy.

Motion: Carolyn Ness moved to appoint Kristen Smidy as K-12 proxy representative to the Council. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Larry Holmberg, Jeanne Galloway, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Carolyn Ness, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Nina Barszcz, Marty O’Shea, Ben St. Amand, and John Paciorek voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Business Unforeseen by Chair:

Tom Grady shared that the Fusion Center asked the Council to remind communities to reach out to them for assessments in advance of large events. Also, there are reporting requirements for events that reach certain levels. As we move back to hosting more large scale events, it has been a while since we talked about the COML and COMT programs. We have strong resources in Western Mass; do not hesitate to reach out.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 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. Tom Kettle, Larry Holmberg, Jeanne Galloway, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Nina Barszcz, John Paciorek, Carolyn Ness, Marty O’Shea, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for April 18, 2023
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2023 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 4/18/23
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 4/18/23
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 4/14/23
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 4/14/23

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- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 4/14/23
- WRHSAC FFY2023 Investment Plan Budget & Project List (draft)
- Resume of Kristen M. Smidy

Respectfully submitted by:

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

DRAFT

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

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Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 10:00 am

Council members present: Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College; alternate for Tom Kettle), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA)

Non-members present: C.J. Bartone (Hazmat D4), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Brad Downey (MAPC), Allison Egan (BRPC), James Fitzgerald (Deerfield Police), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriffs), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS/OGR), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS/OGR)

Council members absent: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

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

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

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the April 18, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve the April 18, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, John Paciorek, Brian Rust, Jonathan Miller, Carolyn Ness, Jon Davine, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. Steve Gaughan and Kristen Smidy abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported that in Berkshire County they are starting to get a lot of requests for WRHSAC assets now that in person events have resumed. Tom and Eric Stratton are planning a meeting for the regional dive team on May 31. They have set up a schedule of trainings and things are moving forward.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Jon Davine had no updates to report.
- POLICE: John Paciorek reported. Last Thursday there was a meeting between a group of Western Mass police chiefs and the Western Mass legislative delegation regarding police

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reform and the impact that eliminating part time officers has on local budgets. John will be following up again to present them with alternate options.

- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. WMEMS leadership is transitioning from Debb Clapp to Dominic Singh. It is a two month transition; both will be there until July 1. Regarding Nero's Law, the Central Mass HS Council has developed the online video portion to meet half of the training requirement; agencies are still working on getting the practical aspect in. This is another unfunded mandate that they are trying to overcome. The MCA trailer was deployed as standby to the airshow at Barnes.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported that there will be some changes in local MEMA coordinators, as Bob Barry is retiring in June. Todd Zukowski from PVPC will be handling Hampshire County. On the national level, Larry attended a webinar/Q&A for EMDs on the situation at southwest border. It was interesting to hear colleagues from that part of the country and from New York express their concerns about funding of migrant resettlement. We have seen buses and planes with migrants coming into the Commonwealth as well, including into Springfield and Holyoke. There will be money coming but it is still unclear how it will reach local levels. There should be a NOFO within 2 months or so. If you are having to shelter migrants, keep eye open for this.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. The public health emergency ended on May 11, but Covid is still around. We will be heading into flu season again soon. Mosquitos are also coming. There will be changes coming soon to Public Health across the Commonwealth around training. There will be a triathlon in Western Mass next month.
- TRANSPORTATION: Ben St. Amand reported. The Transportation Innovation Conference was held on May 2-3. PVRTA did a presentation on how they are working to improve bus shelters in our area by getting communities involved in art projects. The new initiative to train drivers in-house to get CDLs launched last week. Mass DoT is allowing them to use the Liberty St. location for this. A tabletop exercise is being planned for August to see how different branches will work together in a local emergency. They will connect with local EMS in July to update and get updates to make sure they have a mutual aid plan in place.
- DPW: Dave Desrosiers reported that they are still struggling with the statewide mutual aid program. The software is working, but they are having issues with MassDOT making changes that prevent people from logging in. This is troubling because everyone needs to be able to access it in an emergency. They are talking about getting a separate backup login. Mike Collins from NERAC had volunteered some funds for this. Dave will probably bring a proposal to WRHSAC as well.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They had a working group reviewing the academy; that process has been completed and the recommendations were approved at the Sheriffs meeting. We will now see more consistent training across the Commonwealth.
- COMMUNICATIONS: No one was present to give an update, but Raine read an email update from Nina Barszcz. Grant applications are up from State911. PSAPs are severely

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understaffed. On a positive note, the airshow in Westfield was a good success. Tom Grady noted that if you have a co-responder program or other mental health initiatives, you should re-read the guidance as there is an additional \$15,000 and up per year, based on call volume. State911 will be putting in mandatory training for mental health awareness.

- HOSPITALS: Brian Rust reported. Hospitals are back to normal operations following the end of the federal and state emergency. There are still severe staff shortages and high census.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported that municipalities are working through town meetings and local elections. The \$55.8 billion budget was released by the Senate. It has more local aid and Chapter 70 school aid.
- K-12 EDUCATION: Kristen Smidy reported. Last week the Mass Juvenile Police Association had their annual school safety conference. There was a definite push to ensure that SROs remain in schools and there were several ASHER workshops. Student mental health continues to be an issue. There are staffing shortages across schools as well. All schools are working to complete fire drills and lockdown drills, 4 required per year. State Police appointed Shannon Gilbo as Western Mass representative to the Statewide Safety Task Force.
- HIGHER ED: Jonathan Miller reported. The school year is ending and things will be fairly quiet until August.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: See “EMD,” above.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk thanked the Council for the FFY23 plan. They are in the midst of inputting it. There were 76 NSGP applicants; those applications are currently under review. They are also in the process of contracting the CNSGP. Two new hires are starting at EOPSS and they will be welcoming the FEMA rep for site monitoring for one week. Ben Podsiadlo commended the way that WRHSAC incorporates all of the support disciplines such as highway. As for PSAPs, EOPSS is promoting enterprise in ASHER trainings to ensure that they are incorporating dispatchers as a distinct discipline and not as an afterthought. They are the first responders and can assist by doing things like prompting units on scene to declare an MCI early. EOPSS is also working on the STOP grant, a DoJ grant geared toward schools. In Western Mass, Gill -Montague and Hampden-Wilbraham have been awarded these grants.
- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update.

Updates from Subcommittees

All Hazards Planning and Equipment: Jeanne Galloway reported that the subcommittee came up with plans to use the majority of the available funds, but we have run into a few snags and will be getting some of that money back. We may decide to use some of the funds to purchase additional shower trailers, but we would need hosts. Let Raine know if you have interest. There was one motion to bring forward for consideration.

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Motion: Jeanne Galloway moved to approve \$65,000 for the continuation of the equity in emergency management project. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, John Paciorek, Brian Rust, Jonathan Miller, Kristen Smidy, Jon Davine, Carolyn Ness, Steve Gaughan, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Interoperability/Information Sharing: Raine Brown had no updates to report.

Training and Exercises: Tom Grady had no motions to bring forward but asked Raine to share an update about one project. Raine explained that although the Advanced Medical Life Support training was approved by the Council at \$32,500 based on a quote from the local vendor we have worked with in the past, EOPSS would only approve up to \$16,000 for 48 students. Chief Norris, who put forward the request, decided to withdraw it out of concerns that they will not get the same quality of training. Those funds are back on the table for the T&E subcommittee.

Equipment /PPE: Raine Brown reported. The Public Health Trailer AED has been on order for over a year. Every month they tell Raine it is coming next month. Raine might work with MAPC to run procurement again. Jon Davine will send her the name of the vendor they use.

CBRNE/IED: Jon Davine brought forward a motion that he asked Raine to explain. In February, the CBRNE committee approved sending four members of the Tech Rescue Team to Michigan for trench rescue shoring training. Raine was working with the team to gather the details, and the cost will be \$10,780. This will come from funds that had been set aside for WMTRT for a regional based exercise, which they are not going to be able to do this year.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to approve \$10,780 for the trench rescue shoring training. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, John Paciorek, Brian Rust, Jonathan Miller, Kristen Smidy, Jon Davine, Carolyn Ness, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine Brown reported. EOPSS and MAPC are working on extensions. FFY20 will likely be extended to the end of December, and FFY21 to the end of June, 2024. This will help a lot with projects that have been experiencing delays. The outstanding project in FFY20 is the HMCC Conex Box project for PPE storage, for which we are putting in a gravel pad, electrical, and HVAC to create a controlled environment. The project has struggled with bids and not receiving appropriate responses. It is out again for bid, with bids due late next week. If that moves forward, the project would wrap up by the end of September. With the extension in FFY21, we should see all projects moving forward well. Not much has happened yet with the FFY22 funds. All Hazards subcommittee projects continue to encounter challenges; yesterday we learned that the continuation of the long-standing First Responder Mental Health project was denied, leaving the committee with more money spend. There is new guidance from EOPSS regarding limited English proficiency language access that we need to take into consideration for future projects.

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

Brad Downey had no updates from MAPC to report.

Old Business:

Fire Representative – The following candidates were considered for the open seat:

- BJ Calvi, Fire Commissioner Springfield, WMFCA recommendation
- John Ingram, Chief, Belchertown
- Robert McCaffrey, District Chief of Training, Springfield
- Dennis Nazzaro, Chief, Pelham
- Philip Wonkka, Chief, Erving

Raine reported that resumes and cover letters are in today's meeting packet. The Western Mass Fire Chiefs Association recommends BJ Calvi from Springfield. Raine presented several options for conducting a vote. John Paciorek noted that he was impressed with all of the candidates but feels that we should support the recommendation of WMFCA.

Motion: John Paciorek moved to accept the recommendation of WMFCA to nominate BJ Calvi to the Council. Dave Desrosiers seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, John Paciorek, Brian Rust, Jonathan Miller, Kristen Smidy, Jon Davine, Jeanne Galloway, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. Ben St. Amand abstained. The motion was approved.

New Business: None.

Business Unforeseen by Chair:

Tom reported that the Town of Dalton had to evacuate an elementary school due to smoke. The evacuation, relocation, and reunification went well, thanks in part to templates and trainings from WRHSAC that helped them develop their plans. Tom has been doing numerous ASHER trainings for EMS, and he is getting a lot of questions about how to get equipment and how to participate as part of a rescue task force. He is also getting emails from people wanting to request funds from the Council. He is encouraging them to develop regional proposals where possible. Fairview Hospital has funding to do two full scale ASHER exercises.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to adjourn. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, John Paciorek, Brian Rust, Jonathan Miller, Kristen Smidey, Jon Davine, Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Ness, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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The meeting adjourned at 10:53 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for May 16, 2023
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from April 18, 2023 (draft)
- Training Review Request for Active Trench Rescue Shoring Symposium
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 5/16/23
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 5/16/23
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 5/12/23
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 5/12/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 5/12/23
- Letter of Interest and Resume of Bernard J. Calvi
- Resume of John Steven Ingram
- Letter of Interest and Resume of Robert McCaffrey
- Letter of Interest and Resume of Dennis Eric Nazzaro
- Resume of Philip Wonkka

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

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Council members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College; alternate for Tom Kettle), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Sarah Cook (OGR/EOPSS), Nick Demetron (Agawam Fire/Regional Dive Team), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Sarah Malloy (EOPSS/OGR), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Tricia McGuirk (EOPSS/OGR), Brian Nichols (EOPSS/OGR)

Council members absent: Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA)

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 16, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Larry Holmberg moved to approve the May 16, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. Jon Davine seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, Susan Rathbun, Steve Gaughan, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Kristen Smidy, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. Dave Desrosiers abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported. Undersecretary Benincasa has left her position, and Tom has not been officially notified of a replacement. They will have another meeting of Council Chairs and the ASHER group; they have agreed to touch base every other month to continue to see where we are in terms of ASHER training throughout the Commonwealth and to look at statewide exercises.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Jon Davine reported that over Memorial Day weekend a jet skier hit a boat on the Connecticut River and the Regional Dive Team went out for their first mission. They worked successfully with EPOs, State Police and others.

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- POLICE: Susan Rathbun reported that police departments are busy with end of year business, and the Bridge paperwork and recert that has to be in for POST. Because of the lack of reserves there has been extra pressure on smaller departments. They need more police in Berkshire County.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. Agencies are moving forward with Nero's Law training and they are appreciative of the Council support. They continue to deal with funding issues and a lack of support of the EMS system at the State level. Deb Clapp has ten more days with WMEMS. J. Dominic Singh has been transitioning into the position. Steve will try to get him here in the next month or two.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg had no updates to report.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. It is summer time, which means ticks and mosquitos. There are potential changes coming to Mosquito Control District funding. Agencies are getting ready for the flu season.
- TRANSPORTATION: No one was present to provide an update.
- DPW: Dave Desrosiers reported. MMA reached out about the green lights test and getting those accepted for emergency trucks as an alternative to the yellow that everyone uses. This has been in place out west for a while and has been effective and more visible. There was a town approved to do a pilot test in eastern Mass. The legislature is looking at it now.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady had no updates to report.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. With the new fiscal year comes new training for dispatchers and PSAPs. If you have continuing ed opportunities for dispatchers it would be great to share them. Dispatchers often re-take the same classes and want something new.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Covid numbers are stable and minimal. Mental health numbers remain high.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported. Most towns are winding up the fiscal year. The Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) has been extended. With regard to unused Covid funds, the feds are not clawing back municipal money. Budget conferencing is continuing; there will probably not be a new one before July 1 as there are a lot of differences between Senate and House versions.
- K-12 EDUCATION: Kristen Smidy reported. This is the end of the school year, and schools are jumping into summer programing.
- HIGHER ED: Tom Kettle reported. This is a busy time as summer camps begin. The higher ed group is meeting on Thursday. HCC will show their new enhanced camera system.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.

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- MEMA: No one was present to give an update.
- EOPSS: Tricia McGuirk introduced Brian Nichols, the new program coordinator for the west. Tricia will work with him over next few months. He is a graduate of Westfield State. EOPSS had a successful FEMA site visit. The FFY20 and FFY21 extensions are in progress. Sarah Cook and Sarah Malloy have also joined EOPSS/OGR. The new staff introduced themselves.
- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update. Tom Grady noted that he has been talking with John Warren a lot recently and connected him with Berkshire Community College. DHS will do an audit and safety evaluation of the campus with an eye towards ASHER training.

Updates from Subcommittees

All Hazards Planning and Equipment: Raine Brown reported. The subcommittee met the first week of June with a focus on new projects. All Hazards has been challenged by larger projects being canceled by EOPSS, and they recently encountered another, namely the equity in emergency management project which was started last year. The Council approved up to \$65,000 for several tasks that build on the project; however, EOPSS will only approve up to \$10,000, so the subcommittee is looking at what they can do with that limitation.

In today's packet are two projects to consider. The first is an ASHER toolkit for schools focusing on k-5 at first. The project is to develop a toolkit for teachers and school administrators to speak to students about ASHER drills before and after they happen, as well as resources to use if there is news about ASH events elsewhere. It also includes information for parents. The \$100,000 requested was part of the investment plan for FFY21.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve \$100,000 for the ASHER toolkit project. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, Susan Rathbun, Steve Gaughan, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Kristen Smidy, Nina Barszcz, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second project is for the purchase of shower trailers with 2-3 shower units. Berkshire County Sheriffs and Northampton are willing to host these. The idea came out of the first round of the equity project. The two trailers would cost up to \$250,000 from a combination of FFY21 and FFY22 funds. There will be at least one ADA compliant shower unit in each trailer.

Motion: Larry Holmberg moved to approve up to \$250,000 for two shower trailers. Kristen Smidy seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, Susan Rathbun, Steve Gaughan, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Kristen Smidy, Nina Barszcz, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The subcommittee is taking July off for Independence Day, but will meet first week of August.

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Interoperability/Information Sharing: Raine Brown reported. There were two projects approved by the subcommittee for consideration. The first is for updates to the Field Comm FC40 unit, managed by NWMIMT. The Project Justification is in today's packet. It will update a lot of end-of-life pieces of equipment. Tom Grady pointed out that the Field Comm unit is a Tri-State unit, and he has asked where the buy-in is from the other communities outside the Commonwealth. Moving forward we need to have sustainability built into these things.

Motion: Monica Wynne moved to approve \$56,000 for the FC40 updates. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, Susan Rathbun, Steve Gaughan, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Kristen Smidy, Nina Barszcz, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second project is for 800 MHz radios for the Pelham Police Dept. Several years ago the Council supported 13 communities in the Hampshire Hills to update to 800 radios. At that time the coverage in Pelham was very limited, but it has since been built out. This would bring Pelham up to the level of the other departments with mobile radios, DVRs, and portable radios.

Motion: Larry Holmberg moved to approve \$87,000 for the Pelham PD radios. Dave Desrosiers seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, Susan Rathbun, Steve Gaughan, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Kristen Smidy, Nina Barszcz, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Training and Exercises: Tom Grady reported. There are no motions to bring forward. The first four Nero's Law practical training sessions will be held at BCC tomorrow. This is the second half of the required training and uses the caches of equipment purchased by the Council.

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

CBRNE/IED: Jon Davine, on behalf of John Dearborn, had no updates to report.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine Brown reported. FFY20 is nearly wrapped up but for a couple of equipment projects. FFY21 and FFY22 are moving along and we are hoping to see movement with the projects approved today. We will be receiving extensions for FFY20 and FY21.

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

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

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Business Unforeseen by Chair: Tom Grady wished Dominic the best of luck and expressed his appreciation for Deb for her support in the western region and statewide. With regard to the Regional Dive Team, Tom invited the team to Berkshire County a few weeks ago and they had discussions about joint trainings and how to support each other. Chief Garriepy, who has been active in the WMRIC subcommittee, was in a serious motorcycle accident. He is in recovery but it will be a long road. Tom is sending our best wishes and thoughts on behalf of the Council.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to adjourn. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, Susan Rathbun, Steve Gaughan, Jon Davine, Monica Wynne, Kristen Smidy, Nina Barszcz, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for June 20, 2023
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from May 16, 2023 (draft)
- Project Justification for school ASHER toolkit
- Project Justification for shower trailers
- Project Justification for FieldComm40 communications upgrades
- Project Justification for Pelham Police 800 radios
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 6/20/23
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 6/20/23
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 6/16/23
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 6/16/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 6/16/23

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 18, 2023, 10:00 am

Council members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), Jon Davine (Northampton Fire/WMFCA), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), 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), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Sarah Cook (OGR/EOPSS), Tyrone Denson (Springfield Fire/EMD), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Christopher Norris (Easthampton Fire), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Avery Serra (MAPC), Eric Stratton (Western Regional Dive Team), John Warren (DHS/CISA), Mike Westcott (Southwick PD)

Council members absent: Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College; alternate for Tom Kettle), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

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 20, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Carolyn Ness moved to approve the June 20, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. BJ Calvi seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. BJ Calvi, Nina Barszcz, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Jon Davine, Carolyn Ness, Larry Holmberg, Brian Rust, John Dearborn, and Tom Kettle voted in favor. Jeanne Galloway and Marty O'Shea abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady had no updates to report but welcomed Commissioner Calvi to the Council. Jon Davine announced that this is his last meeting, as he was selected to be the next State Fire Marshal. Tom thanked him on behalf of the Council for the initiatives he brought forth and the time and expertise he brought to the Council.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that the Tech Rescue team was busy with flood response and used Council funded equipment. The dive team has also had a few missions. BJ Calvi added

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that they are still waiting to see how the river goes. Jon Davine reported that they lost the ability to draw fuel into the flood control engines and were close to losing the sludge plant, but MEMA was able to get them a portable fuel tank within three hours.

- POLICE: No one was present to give a report.
- EMS: Chris Norris reported that Dominic Singh took over officially on July 1. Steve Gaughan reported that they are still working to comply with ASHER and Nero's Law and are appreciative of Council support. There is a new Deputy Director at OEMS, Z Smith, who is from our region. There has been recent guidance from DPH regarding first responders, which is a new development, but the impact is not yet clear.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported that this is a busy week for local EMDs with flooding and damage assessment with MEMA. The bad news is that it doesn't look like the damage will meet the threshold for a federally declared disaster, though they are waiting to see what comes out of Berkshire and Franklin Counties. Rural communities were hit hard and are hoping for help at the legislative level.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Public health is being drawn into the flooding response as well. There was damage to food sources. There have been two cases of West Nile Virus in the State. There has been a request from the State for testing for flu because of concerns about an errant strain. Flu vaccines should be delivered soon.
- TRANSPORTATION: No one was present to provide an update.
- DPW: Dave Desrosiers reported. Storms have been more of an aggravation than anything else, with lots of little washouts but no significant damage. Kudos to Todd Zukowski from MEMA, who has been great at reaching out. Massachusetts fared better than Vermont.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported that they are continuing to revamp the academy curriculum. Updated PowerPoints and focused presentations were approved and lesson plans are currently under review.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. The State is looking to switch out all PSAPs' current digital recorders, but you do not have to take one now if you already have an in-house recording system that you pay for. At some point they will be switching it out. Nina thanked the regional dive team and DFS for their support in responding to a drowned boater in Hampden Pond. She also thanked DFS for the use of their HVAC trailer.
- HOSPITALS: Brian Rust reported that hospitals are in status quo, with high census, high acuity, and staff shortages. It is a problem that is not going away.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported. Up and down the valley there are concerns about flooding. The CT River was involved for the first time in a while. There was over \$14 million in crop damage, but they also expect to see a lot of disease. Farmers might lose a year or two. The legislative delegation, Governor, Lt. Gov., and Ag Commissioner all have been

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excellent. The Governor has good appointees trying to think out of the box and come up with more impactful long term solutions.

- **K-12 EDUCATION:** Marty O’Shea reported. This is a quiet time of year for schools. The statewide conference for superintendents carved out time for the Mass Chiefs of Police Association that went through their best practices guide.
- **HIGHER ED:** Tom Kettle reported. The western region group will be meeting for a tabletop with John Warren/CISA focusing on shared resources.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** No one was present to give an update.
- **MEMA:** No one was present to give an update.
- **EOPSS:** Ben Podsiadlo reported that most of the EOPSS team is in a training today. He recognized that the work that the Council has done in preparedness, including the Tech Rescue Team and assets, has been useful in responding to the flooding. He also commended the consolidation of the dive teams into one team as best practice. Ben will be talking to the Chairs regarding the THIRA-SPR. The National Homeland Security Conference is next week; the Mass JHIRT program is being highlighted as an innovative best practice by FEMA. A second round of funding for non-profits is coming up, funded by ARPA, focusing on vulnerabilities to terrorism and hate crimes. Expect it to be well funded. There is a municipal grant through the JPD division, the BURN grant, which allows for tactical vests to replace or upgrade body armor. LECs can’t apply for that, but LEC members can apply through home towns. The grant can help offset expenditures in this program. Ben thanked the local school districts and law enforcement agencies who have been involved in the STOP grants to develop crisis intervention teams and threat assessments. Dawn Brantley has been made permanent MEMA director.
- **DHS/CISA:** John Warren reported. Next week he will be at Westfield State working on a structure visualization platform with Tom Kettle. They started security assessment work at BCC. The Five College Consortium tabletop will commence in August. They are pushing Big E for consideration for tabletop exercises. When CISA picks up the exercise, they will do the exercise writing and help facilitate, taking a heavy lift off the stakeholder. They are also working on security cameras at the Big E. There was a security incident in the emergency dept. at Haywood hospital. They did a security assessment. For K-12, the White House just announced a heavy push on school safety. John will soon send an email on behalf of CISA with a no-cost suite of tools, physical and cyber.

Updates from Subcommittees

All Hazards Planning and Equipment: Jeanne Galloway reported. The subcommittee did not meet in July but will meet August 1.

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

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Training and Exercises: Tom Grady reported. The subcommittee met prior to this meeting and has two requests for the Council to consider. The first is for Regional Dive Team training to bring some members up to an advanced level.

Motion: Larry Holmberg moved to approve \$4,200 for the Regional Dive Team Advanced Diver Certification training. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Dave Desrosiers, Jon Davine, Carolyn Ness, Larry Holmberg, Brian Rust, Marty O'Shea, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, and Tom Kettle voted in favor. BJ Calvi and Tom Grady abstained. The motion was approved.

The second request was for a class for EMS pediatric care proposed by Berkshire Medical Center. The subcommittee decided to fund two sessions.

Motion: Jon Davine moved to approve up to \$15,000 for two sessions of EMS pediatric care training. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. BJ Calvi, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Dave Desrosiers, Jon Davine, Carolyn Ness, Larry Holmberg, Brian Rust, Marty O'Shea, John Dearborn, Steve Gaughan, Tom Kettle, and Tom Grady voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Equipment /PPE: Raine Brown reported that we finally have contractors in place for the gravel pads and mini splits for the HMCC Conex box project at GCC.

CBRNE/IED: John Dearborn had no updates to report.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine Brown reported. FFY20 received an extension through the end of December. We are waiting on a few projects in FFY20 to wrap up, but we are on track to wrap up by the end of September. FFY21 projects are moving along. We are waiting to hear from EOPSS regarding the shower trailers and the school ASHER toolkit. For FFY22, those projects will likely have some bleed over, but the All Hazards subcommittee still has a fair amount of money that they are trying to re-allocate to different projects as some were not approved.

Avery Serra reported that MAPC has been working on grant reporting and updating inventory.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Business Unforeseen by Chair: Tom Grady reported that DMH awarded the crisis intervention training grant to the South Hadley PD. The contract switched July first. Chief Gunderson and Officer Cindy Doyle will reach out to the counties to get the trainings going again. A performing arts venue in Saratoga County had a bomb threat and evacuated a large concert. Tom reached out to them; it was not a credible threat but served as a reminder that with large summer events it's a good idea to take a look at existing plans for all hazards and try to include bomb squad teams in

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discussions. Tom has been invited to be on the Columbia County Sheriff's Office team for terrorism and threat prevention.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

As per tradition, the Council will not meet in August. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: BJ Calvi moved to adjourn. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. BJ Calvi, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Marty O'Shea, John Dearborn, Larry Holmberg, Jon Davine, Steve Gaughan, Carolyn Ness, Brian Rust, and Tom Kettle voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for July 18, 2023
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from June 20, 2023 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 7/18/23
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 7/18/23
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 7/14/23
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 7/14/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 7/14/23

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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Council members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Monica Wynne (Baystate), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Nick Demetron (Agawam Fire), Bob Flaherty (Hatfield Fire), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), John Ingram (Belchertown Fire), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Christopher Norris (Easthampton Fire), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Alexander J. Rock (ASWIC/EOPSS), Avery Serra (MAPC), Xander Sylvain (FRCOG/HMCC), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

Council members absent: Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College; alternate for Tom Kettle), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police), Brian Rust (CDH; alternate for Monica Wynne), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional; alternate for Marty O'Shea)

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 July 18, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Steve Gaughan moved to approve the July 18, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. Dave Desrosiers seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosier, Marty O'Shea, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, BJ Calvi, Nina Barszcz, Ben St. Amand, voted in favor. Monica Wynne abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported that he attended a meet-and-greet with Dawn Brantley, the new director of MEMA. Tom asked if we would be able to have someone from MEMA sit in on Council meetings when available, and she committed to that. A rep from MEMA was at the T&E meeting today. Pat Carnevale is still deputy director.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that this week is rail safety week; everyone should share the Operation Lifesaver information. The migrant housing situation is creating challenges for all

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public safety. Yesterday the Fire Marshal published fire safety steps in multiple languages. BJ Calvi reported that he has been working with a vendor on decontaminating the foam trailers. He will report when he has more information.

- POLICE: None of the police representatives were present to give an update. Tom Grady reported that this is year 3 of the Bridge Program through MPTC, so if you have reserve officers in your community this is the last section of the alphabet. Barring changes, as of July 1, 2024, there will no longer be reserve status officers in the Commonwealth, and new officers will have to attend the full time academy.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. EMS is still short on paramedics. Agencies are hiring more EMTs and training them. Chief Norris and others have done some regional grants for funding. Operationally, one hospital has shifted back to masks which puts an operational change on providers, who need to start assessing their stockpile of PPE. Administratively, J. Dominic Singh is trying to streamline things. They are running the office on a perceived \$100,000 shortfall. They are working on Nero and ASHER, and trying to see how new legislation affects EMS. Steve has talked to stakeholders across the state. There has not been a lot of opportunity for stakeholders to provide input. Keep an eye on it because it will have an impact on everyone who works with EMS.
- EMD: No one was present to give an update.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Covid, West Nile, and EEE are on the rise. The Big E is underway. There have been a lot of changes in Public Health in Western Mass and they continue to face staffing issues. The migrant crisis is also affecting Public Health.
- TRANSPORTATION: Ben St. Amand reported. Having UMass back in session has made an impact. They are doing rider outreach to see what people want. They are always looking for more drivers. They are now running their own licensing training instead of going through one of the tractor trailer training schools; this has helped bring on a number of drivers. The Big E impacts service, but they have some mitigation strategies and are hopeful it won't be too bad this year. They have postponed the tabletop exercise to winter. There are police and fire components. If anyone here is interested in assisting with that, please contact Ben.
- DPW: Dave Desrosiers reported. Tomorrow the Mass Highway Assoc is putting on the New England Public Works Expo, which includes trainings. There was not too much damage from the recent storms and hurricane, but there were some requests for mutual aid several days later. The mutual aid program is not meant to help with rebuilding; it is for immediate or emergency response. After that, everyone should be using contractors. The ARC GIS app is nearing completion but still needs some input from MEMA and other stakeholders.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. Corrections faces staffing challenges statewide. They are actively recruiting, but there is a lot of competition with other agencies. The Worcester County Sheriff's Office is doing a pilot program for CDL licensing for eligible inmates. It is being discussed as a possible statewide program at all Sheriff's offices.

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- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. The State is still pushing for 911 MLTS compliance. All PSAPs need to be reaching out to schools and others who have multiline systems. They will be testing with schools first.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported that masking is now mandatory again in patient care areas. Covid numbers are increasing. They are very busy overall.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: No one was present to give an update.
- K-12 EDUCATION: Marty O'Shea reported. With the Covid uptick they are trying to sort out reporting requirements for families. The migrant housing issue is challenging a lot of schools across the State. Youth mental health first aid trainings are being used more and more in school communities, with good feedback. Staffing issues remain, but not as acute as last year.
- HIGHER ED: Tom Kettle reported. They are getting their heads back above water now that everyone is back on campus. The Western Mass group will meet this month. Tom received the fire extinguisher training equipment. He already has done a few demos and already had someone borrow it. He thanked the Council for this resource.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: No one was present to give an update.
- EOPSS: Brian Nichols reported that the FFY23 HSGP applications were approved by FEMA. OGR is hosting a SWIFT members meeting this Thursday in Braintree. The next SIEC meeting is Oct 4. There are two new funding opportunities: the SFY24 Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Grant Program and SFY24 Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Personnel Grant Program. See EOPSS/OGR website for details. They are getting ready to make announcements on FFY23 recipients of NPSG. Ben Podsiadlo had nothing to add.
- DHS/CISA: John Warren reported. They are busy with the Big E, closely working with MSP. They got the FAA to approve a drone flight restriction while the fair is underway. They will focus on vehicular patterns around the fair on Sept 28 to add to the imagery previously collected. They are meeting with the Director of Safety for Westfield public schools, following up with similar work that did at Gateway and West Springfield. The Five College consortium hosted a weather emergency tabletop, facilitated by CISA. The AAR is out for comment right now, and they are working on training initiatives with them. They are also working with Springfield and West Springfield on cyber assessments of wastewater facilities.

Updates from Subcommittees

All Hazards Planning and Equipment: Raine Brown reported. The \$250,000 shower trailer project was denied. This subcommittee is challenged with surplus funds and finding projects to meet the needs of the region and the requirements of the grant. There is now over \$600,000 that is not currently attached to a project. Hopefully one of today's projects will utilize about half of

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that. There are also a few other project possibilities, but the subcommittee might decide next month to return some money for other subcommittees to use.

The revised Equity in Emergency Management proposal is in the packet. EOPSS denied the project as initially written, but indicated they would reconsider if the project was \$10,000 or less and had detailed scope of work. The proposal to consider today is for \$9,950. It builds on the work done in the first phase of the project, making a list for each town so they are aware of data related to equity in their region and what to take into consideration in emergency planning.

Motion: Jeanne Galloway moved to approve \$9,950 for the Equity in Emergency Management project. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Marty O’Shea, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Steve Gaughan, Tom Grady, BJ Calvi, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second request was for a region-wide exercise series related to ASHER or WMD. We would seek a consultant to help develop the scenario and objectives and to facilitate the series. The goal would be to run everything from a tabletop to a full scale exercise, possibly identifying supporting trainings or activities so that everyone is up to date. Details are in the meeting packet. The total cost would be \$300,000. A motion was made and seconded so that discussion could begin. Discussion focused on the cost and whether or not this was a good use of WRHSAC funds, especially since CISA and FEMA also can provide exercises. There are different needs among different disciplines: fire chiefs may not identify this as a pressing need, but public health would definitely be interested in this kind of training. John Dearborn will discuss needs with the fire chiefs and report back with recommendations.

Motion: Nina Barszcz moved to approve the exercise series proposal. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. Tom Kettle, Marty O’Shea, Monica Wynne, Steve Gaughan, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, BJ Calvi, and Nina Barszcz voted against. Ben St. Amand and Dave Desrosiers abstained. The motion failed.

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

Training and Exercises: Tom Grady reported. There are several trainings coming up in October.

The subcommittee met prior to this meeting and has three requests for the Council to consider. The first is for funding to send eight PHEP personnel to the Preparedness Summit in Cleveland.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to approve \$11,328 for the PHEP Preparedness Summit. Marty O’Shea seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Ben St. Amand, Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Marty O’Shea, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Steve Gaughan, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, BJ Calvi, and Nina Barszcz voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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The second request was for three advanced K-9 manikins for Nero's Law training. Steve Gaughan explained that they have found that the manikins previously purchased, while good, were not meeting all of the training needs. These will allow greater tourniquet training, and also can be used for more advanced skills that may be required in the future.

Motion: Monica Wynne moved to approve \$6,100 for three advanced K-9 manikins. BJ Calvi seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Ben St. Amand, Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Marty O'Shea, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Steve Gaughan, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, BJ Calvi, and Nina Barszcz voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The third request was for a conference with Peter Langman, a subject matter expert on identifying active threat individuals. Several members of the subcommittee watched a webinar he delivered and liked what they saw. This would build on conferences we have done in the past. The request is for \$22,000 for a conference to accommodate up to 400 participants. There was a question about whether we would be able to record the event and distribute it; Raine will ask.

Motion: Dave Desrosiers moved to approve \$22,000 for the conference. John Dearborn seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Dave Desrosiers, Marty O'Shea, Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Steve Gaughan, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, BJ Calvi, and Nina Barszcz voted in favor. Ben St. Amand voted against. Tom Kettle abstained. The motion was approved.

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

CBRNE/IED: John Dearborn had no updates to report.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine Brown reported. We have a few outstanding projects in FFY20, which runs through the end of December. Most of this is due to equipment delays, but there is also a question about the amount of money dedicated to Nero's law. Vets themselves are working from a different grant, so the costs we anticipated spending on them are not being spent that way. Raine will look at that budget to see if there is money left over. We might need to spend down FFY20 with FFY21 projects.

In FFY21 there are a lot of active projects; all are going well other than the equipment shelter at the Hampden County Sheriff's Office, which has experienced significant delays. MAPC is finalizing the bid package and it should go out next week. We have started a couple of FFY22 projects. Of major concern is the over \$600,000 in the All Hazards subcommittee with no projects associated with it. Those who spoke today about having other ideas regarding those funds, please work actively on the ideas soon and get them to Raine. \$240,000 of that is in FFY21, which has an end date of June 2024 and which has already been extended. The rest is in FFY22, which currently runs through July 2024. We will likely need an extension on FFY22.

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We need to get the message out that there is money available. The regional dive team and tech rescue team have lists of equipment that they want. But we have no big projects related to ASHER, WMD, or soft targets in crowded places. Raine will send the parameters to everyone.

Cyber Resilient Working Group – Raine had no updates.

MAPC – Avery Serra reported that MAPC has been continuing to work on the inventory update to submit to EOPSS on September 29th.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Open fire seat – Tom Grady reported that with the appointment of Chief Davine to Fire Marshal, we need another fire rep. John Dearborn brought this to the WMFCA. Raine shared that three chiefs expressed interest, from Erving, Pittsfield, and Agawam.

WRHSAC generators – Tom Grady reported. He recently learned that one of the custodians of the WRHSAC generators did not want to loan out the generator when requested because of a fear of an upcoming weather event. Tom reminded everyone that this is not how it works. The generators are a regional asset to be used as needed. Also during the process, he learned that Holyoke Fire might not want to host a generator anymore. They could host it in Berkshire County, but Tom is concerned that then the generators would not be strategically placed throughout the region. Tom Kettle suggested that Westfield State could host it. He has already spoken with the facilities manager. Raine will reach out to the Holyoke chief to find out if they still want to keep it. Tom Grady brought up the need to remind people that we have a resource guide available on our website with instructions on how to request items. We need to be conscious of stripping assets from a community if we have resources available.

FFY23 Soft Targets and Crowded Places – Raine reported that several members from EOPSS and one from FEMA attended this month's All Hazards meeting. Following the meeting, Raine has received multiple directives from EOPSS and FEMA about needing to do a project focusing on soft targets and crowded places. Please consider how we might do this.

Flooding response equipment – Tom Grady initiated a discussion about regional assets for flooding response. Severe weather is not a one-time issue, and will continue to affect us. We need to start thinking about needs and how to blend this into the Homeland Security mission. In terms of high water vehicles, most agencies reach out to the DPW for bigger trucks. Several years back, there was a discussion about purchasing a BearCat rescue vehicle. They also have high water rescue vehicles. John Dearborn noted that high water vehicles have come up as a concern because of limited availability. He will circle back with the fire chiefs. DPW trucks are good for certain levels, but other trucks are sometimes needed. Developing a resource list may be warranted.

Business Unforeseen by Chair: None.

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Next Steps/Future Meetings

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

Motion: BJ Calvi moved to adjourn. Jeanne Galloway seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Monica Wynne, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Tom Grady, BJ Calvi, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Marty O'Shea, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for September 19, 2023
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from July 18, 2023 (draft)
- Project Justification for Equity in Emergency Management, Continued
- Project Justification for ASHER/WMD Regional Exercise Series
- Discussion considerations for WRHSAC generators
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 9/19/23
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 9/19/23
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 9/13/23
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 9/13/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 9/13/23

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

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Council members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), BJ Calvi (Springfield 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), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Monica Wynne (Baystate),

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Matthew Bryan (Berkshire County Boards of Health), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Erin Hastings (WESTCOMM), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Jeff McDonald (MEMA), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Christopher Norris (Easthampton Fire), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Alexander J. Rock (ASWIC/EOPSS), Avery Serra (MAPC)

Council members absent: Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College; alternate for Tom Kettle), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional; alternate for Marty O'Shea), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA)

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 18, 2023 meeting.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to approve the September 18, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. Nina Barszcz proposed an amendment to fix an incorrect acronym. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Carolyn Ness, BJ Calvi, and Marty O'Shea voted in favor of the amended minutes. Larry Holmberg abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported. He reached out to contacts at MEMA to talk about soft targets and see if anyone had any exercises in planning stages at larger venues. He will continue to reach out to see if anyone is looking for this. We want to do something similar to what we did at Six Flags several years ago, with a multi-disciplinary response. Please check in your communities.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported. October is Fire Prevention month, a big month for getting the message out about fire safety. There is heightened awareness around events overseas. In

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February there will be a symposium on hospital fires. Lithium batteries are becoming a bigger issue; they will be pushing out more trainings on that topic. They are also working on county-based youth fire programs and mental health. BJ Calvi added that Springfield is having a lot of the same issues as Longmeadow with regard to heightened awareness of softer targets in area, including the large JCC as well as other synagogues and mosques. Yesterday there was a fatal fire with 2 critical injuries in Springfield. Fire chiefs in the metro area began speaking about a multi-agency communications plan to upgrade all metro area departments to 800, along with WESTCOMM. They will likely bring a proposal to the Council. Tom Grady suggested that they join the interops meeting this month or next.

- POLICE: No one was present to give an update.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. Nero's Law trainings are in progress. They are still facing a personnel shortage. Chris Norris added that they posted for the medical director's position for the Regional Council. Discussion at the regional meeting included continuing the momentum with the WM Critical Incident Stress team. They are updating the team manual to align it with the statewide manual and are also looking at future trainings.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported that additional trainings will be offered next year by MEMA, which EMDs have been calling for. He requested that discussions about interop and interdisciplinary exercises consider including emergency management and the IMT, an underutilized resource that brings expertise on incident support. Larry is working with the VA for Operation Distant Storm, a Westover exercise last done in 2018. They are looking at a tabletop in November and full scale exercise in May that will involve flying in patients from to test emergency response in terms of military and local coordination. All hospitals and other response disciplines in the Springfield area are involved. On Nov 1 there will be a reunification exercise in Springfield. Scott Flebotte added more details about the exercise.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Mosquito testing has concluded for the year, though mosquito season has not. Flu and Covid are on the rise, though not at extraordinary rates. Vaccines are available for both; everyone should get them. RSV vaccines are also recommended for those who qualify. The State put out a new set of performance standards for public health. Emergency sheltering of new arrivals is an ongoing issue of concern.
- TRANSPORTATION: No one was present to give an update.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady had no new updates to report. Staffing is a continual issue.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reminded Council members that the TERT program is live, consisting of volunteers to help telecommunications centers that are understaffed due to things like critical incident debriefings, not just for regular staffing challenges.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Covid numbers are going up. They have masking in place for anyone patient facing. Flu and RSV remain low. Emergency Departments are busy.

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- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported. The Governor released her new Hazardous Mitigation Climate Adaptation Plan for the State. Local municipalities are trying to sort out how it will impact them. There is a lot of interest in this statewide.
- K-12 EDUCATION: Marty O'Shea reported. School superintendents received notice from the Secretary of Education announcing a Fusion Center training on swatting on Oct 24. The DoE released an updated bomb threat response guide. International events shook a lot of school districts and heightened attention to school safety and security. They are grateful to local police and emergency response for reassurance.
- HIGHER ED: Tom Kettle reported. Campuses are monitoring what is going on in the Middle East. Some have had issues.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Jeff McDonald had nothing to add to the updates discussed earlier [see EMD, above]. Scott Flebotte noted that MEMA will be hosting a lot of new trainings. He will send the schedule to Raine.
- EOPSS: Brian Nichols reported that a lot of local organizations have been impacted by overseas activity. EOPSS is always looking to support projects directed at soft targets and crowded places. They are closing out the Non-profit Security Grant Program, with contracts out to 32 organizations across the State. Deadlines for the 2024 Commonwealth NSGP and Non-profit Personnel Security Grant Program have been extended through Oct. 20 in light of overseas events. The next SIEC meeting will be held Nov 1st. Agenda items are due by Oct. 25th.

Ben Podsiadlo added that if any Council members are aware of nonprofits at high risk, make sure they are aware of the grant programs and connect them with Brian. The cap on the NPSG program is \$75,000, and the Personnel program is a dollar for dollar match for up to \$40,000. There will be another round of ARPA funding before end of year. They are expecting to get over \$10 million to non-profits in the Commonwealth this year.

Threats to soft targets are a top line concern. Regarding the migrants issue: the Governor appointed General Rice to oversee that initiative from an ICS perspective, recognizing that we are at or near capacity for dealing with that issue.

Regarding school safety, the Mass Partnership for Youth is holding two free conferences for members and Law Enforcement in November, both at Minuteman Tech in Lexington, around school safety issues.

Lithium ion batteries are another important emergent issue as they can be easily weaponized. Councils should be aware of this and consider how to assist the fire service in mitigating that threat, as well as the threat of hospital fires.

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Statewide, EOPSS is tracking project in the southeast that should be of interest to EMS and force protection in the hospitals. It is still awaiting DPH approval, but the project is for a regional pre-hospital blood transfusion to deliver blood in the field via paramedics. This is being done in other states, including CT, and makes a lifesaving difference for severe blood loss. They are hoping to see it approved and move forward in a regional model.

The Southeast just received their FireCat, which is an armored BearCat that can be used for firefighting, tactical medical support, CBRNE, high water, severe weather, etc. It is a good spend-down that crosses disciplines. There has also been a lot of talk about boats and interop expansion.

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

Updates from Subcommittees

All Hazards Planning and Equipment: Larry Holmberg reported. The subcommittee voted to return \$482,449 of unallocated funds to the Council, as many of the proposed projects were denied. The projects that are underway are moving forward. The subcommittee asked Brian Nichols for clarification on one of the denied projects, which he agreed to look into.

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

Training and Exercises: Tom Grady reported. There are several trainings coming up, including two rounds of the Nero's Law practical training and the Train-the-Trainer component of the AAIR training. There are two motions to bring before the Council, one to send members of the NWMIMT to a conference in March, and the other for WMFCA leadership training.

Motion: Carolyn Ness moved to approve up to \$15,000 for the AHIMTA conference. John Dearborn seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Marty O'Shea, Nina Barszcz, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor of the motion. BJ Calvi voted against the motion. Larry Holmberg abstained. The motion was approved.

Motion: Carolyn Ness moved to approve \$10,750 for WMFCA leadership training. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Larry Holmberg, Marty O'Shea, BJ Calvi, Nina Barszcz, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Equipment /PPE: Raine Brown reported on the equipment shelter at the Hampden County Sheriff's Office. We knew that the \$200,000 allocated was not going to be enough, but the extent of the shortfall was a surprise: the estimate for building as designed, a metal Morton structure, is \$725,000. The Sheriff's Office was prepared to cover some of the cost, but not that much. They have asked about changing the design and doing the building in-house, and using the WRHSAC

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funds for materials only. Raine has communicated with EOPSS; they said we should submit a new PJ for materials only. Raine is working with the Sheriff's Office on that. We had planned to build a shelter in each county for the supplies stored there, so once we get this squared away we can start on next one, probably in Franklin County.

CBRNE/IED: John Dearborn reported that there has been discussion about high water rescue vehicles. He has asked the Tech Rescue team to do some research on that. These are big ticket items, but the way the weather has been, it may be justified. Ben Podsiadlo noted that EOPSS will be supportive of big ticket items like that if it is supporting the mission.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine Brown reported. The funds coming back from the All Hazards subcommittee are not committed to any projects yet. There have been equipment delays in a couple of FFY20 projects. Raine will push the vendors because the funds need to be spent by the end of December. Other projects that are on the books are moving well.

Cyber Resilient Working Group – Raine remains involved and attended the municipal cybersecurity summit in Worcester.

MAPC – Avery Serra had no updates to report.

Old Business:

Open Fire Seat – Raine received a recommendation from WMFCA to appoint Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire Chief) to the vacant seat, with Thomas Sammons (Pittsfield Fire Chief) as the alternate. John Dearborn expressed his concern about county representation, as all three fire seats on the Council would then be held by Hampden County. He expressed his support of Chief Sammons. BJ Calvi added that he would abstain from the vote for the same reason. Discussion ensued. A motion to support Thomas Sammons as the primary representative and Philip Wonkka as backup was made but then withdrawn following additional discussion. There was agreement to ask the fire chiefs to reconsider based on geography, and a request to Raine to distribute the resumes of all three candidates to everyone on the Council.

WRHSAC Generators – Raine has not heard from anyone about this. She will reach out to Holyoke to see if they are still interested in hosting the generator.

Flooding response equipment – Discussed above.

New Business:

Funds from All Hazards subcommittee – Raine reported that the amounts being returned to the Council for use by other committees includes \$242,488.65 in FFY21 and \$239,960.21 in FFY22. FFY21 runs through June 2024, and we should consider that a hard end date. FFY22 currently runs through July 2024, but we will likely need an extension, as will other Councils. Raine has received several projects ideas, but they will need to go to the relevant subcommittees. She suggested that the Council decide on a deadline for when those requests need to be received, noting that it takes well over a month for project approval, and additional time for procurement and supply chain delays. Vehicles may take 2-3 years. She also reminded the Council that soft

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targets and crowded places are a high priority for DHS and FEMA, and gave a basic overview of the projects proposals she has received. Tom Grady suggested that anyone wanting to submit a proposal should check with suppliers about timing first. Jeff McDonald noted that if any department in Hampden County is doing a lock down exercise or security enhancement, there are 20 metal detectors in storage at Big E that can be moved quickly.

Business Unforeseen by Chair: None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: BJ Calvi moved to adjourn. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jeanne Galloway, Monica Wynne, Tom Grady, Tom Kettle, John Dearborn, Larry Holmberg, Marty O’Shea, BJ Calvi, Carolyn Ness, and Nina Barszcz voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for October 17, 2023
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from September 19, 2023 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 10/17/23
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 10/17/23
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 10/13/23
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 10/13/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 10/13/23
- Email from Ryan Pease / WMFCA, dated 10/13/23, re Open Fire Seat
- Email from Raine Brown, dated 10/3/23, re All Hazards funds

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

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Council members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional; alternate for Marty O'Shea)

Non-members present: C.J. Bartone (West Springfield Fire/Hazmat), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Matthew Bryan (Berkshire County Boards of Health), Brian Clapprood (MSP), Aaron Budine (Bernardston Fire), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriff's Office), William Millin (Northampton Fire / Western Mass Regional Dive Team), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Randy Quarles (Westfield Fire/D4 Hazmat), Alexander J. Rock (ASWIC/EOPSS), Avery Serra (MAPC), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire), Bob Strahan (Greenfield Fire), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

Council members absent: Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Jonathan Miller (Springfield Tech Community College; alternate for Tom Kettle), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

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

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

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the October 17, 2023 meeting.

<p>Motion: Larry Holmberg moved to approve the October 17, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Dave Desrosiers, Marty O'Shea, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, Ben St. Amand, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. Steve Kozloski abstained. The motion was approved.</p>

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reminded the Council that we are still looking for a soft target to work with for training and exercising. He has been reaching out to contacts and asked that others do the same. If you have suggestions, please give them to him or Raine.

Updates from Disciplines

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

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- **POLICE:** Steve Kozloski reported that Mass Chiefs of Police are closely watching the ongoing gun legislation debate. They are taking a unanimous stance against the legislation.
- **EMS:** Steve Gaughan reported. Some legislative changes were enacted around things like vaccines, and they can no longer have a first responder and paramedic using ALS care, which was used heavily in this region without error. Some changes were made without stakeholder input. The changes added more administrative work to all agencies. Tom Grady added that Adams Ambulance Service is closing at the end of the year and the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance squad is facing financial difficulties, raising challenges for Berkshire County. There is a lack of proactive ability to train people in Nero's Law: there is no ongoing practical training, so there is no mechanism for new EMTs to get compliance. It is not clear how this will affect licensure or the ability for new EMTs to work on a rig. Steve added that there are a lot of providers that still need the practical training but are having trouble getting it. If they follow the hard line of the legislation, they will have to take providers off. Raine noted that a major challenge in scheduling the practical training is vet availability. Dominic Singh and Dave Schwartz from the statewide animal team are working on arranging two more trainings, one in Franklin County on January 13 that will accommodate up to 300 people, and hopefully another in Berkshire County. But that does not address the need of new EMTs to have the training before can work.
- **EMD:** Larry Holmberg reported. The Incident Management Team has a member on deployment in Hawaii through EMAC, Butch Garrity.
- **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Jeanne Galloway reported. Covid cases and flu cases are up a bit but not outrageous. RSV is also out there, and there is a lack of vaccine. They are looking to see how the new professional standards and department standards shake out.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Ben St. Amand had no updates to report.
- **DPW:** Dave Desrosiers reported that everyone is getting ready for winter and many DPWs are still struggling with staffing. Mass DOT is trying to hire snow plows and stealing from cities and towns. The mutual aid program has been put into use. The software is just about ready for dispatching using ArcGIS.
- **CORRECTIONS:** Tom Grady reported. Sheriffs are continuing to finalize their proposal to revert to Chapter 37 Powers of the Sheriff for providing training for what used to be called reserve intermittent police officers. Sheriff Offices have specific needs for part time officers and need to be able to train them appropriately.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Nina Barszcz reported. PSAPs are keeping an eye out for any movement from DTC on the decrease on the E911 surcharge. They have until Nov 30 to issue an order to decrease it to a dollar. If they do not, it will stay at \$1.50, which is important for regional PSAPS to get grant funding. Development Grant guidelines are being voted on; applications will open in December with a due date in March.
- **HOSPITALS:** No one was present to give an update.

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- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: No one was present to give an update.
- K-12 EDUCATION: Marty O’Shea had no updates to report. Kristen Smidy noted that superintendents across the State got a message that there have been individual cases of people trying to get into buildings, and a reminder to work with local law enforcement.
- HIGHER ED: No one was present to give an update.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): Brian Clapprood reported that things are good and that the Search and Rescue group has been busy.
- MEMA: No one was present to give an update.
- EOPSS: Ben Podsiadlo reported. There are concerns about the situation in the Middle East and its effects here, as there has been a significant rise in islamophobic and antisemitic hate activity. There is a new unit at MSP, the HART unit, to focus on that. Ben noted that he has heard comments about Nero’s Law across the State. The topic of lithium batteries and how they can be weaponized for catastrophic harm is an emerging threat that everyone needs to be aware of, including fire, law enforcement, EMS, and hospitals. The SPR survey should be out for federal reporting. A lot of non-profit grants are out, many of which involve local law enforcement. The new cyber grant should be forthcoming in next month or two, for local communities to apply to develop specific programs such as migrating to .gov, develop multi-factor verification, and other aspects of cyber hygiene and preparedness.
- DHS/CISA: John Warren reported that they had applied for and were approved for a headquarters-sponsored Big E tabletop exercise for next year. Two high definition 360 degree photo demonstration and deliveries are coming up, as is Gateway’s family reunification pilot product. They are doing work with the Westfield public school district and training with the Holyoke Police Academy. There will be a new round of bombing prevention classes. They are talking to TEEEX about community cybersecurity trainings along the lines of sport and special event enhanced risk management. This goes along with some of the soft targets/mass gatherings at locations such as Tanglewood, Six Flags, Big E, etc. There will be a joint assessment with a religious house of worship in Northampton tomorrow.

Updates from Subcommittees

All Hazards Planning and Equipment: Larry Holmberg reported. The subcommittee had asked Brian Nichols to provide an explanation for why an ASHER based project was denied; his response was that no further update could be provided. The subcommittee is trying to work on election security but they have been stymied by lack of response. This is a priority for town clerks in Western Mass, but we need the Elections Division to be on board. In terms of soft targets and crowded places, the group noted that although large venues have been receiving attention, smaller venues such county fairs are often left out. Larry reached out to Mike Nelson regarding the Franklin County Fair and Chief Perkins regarding the Cummington Fair to see if

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there may be interest in working with the Council on developing templates for an active threat response; both replied enthusiastically.

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

Training and Exercises: Tom Grady reported. The Active Attack Integrated Response training was held this month, with more than 40 new instructors trained. A couple of dispatchers also attended; though not able to be certified as trainers, their input was important.

Equipment /PPE: Raine Brown reported. She has been in touch with Norm at the Hampden County Sheriff's Office about the shelter. Since last month, they learned about a Versa Tube structure used in Plymouth County, which would likely save money and allow us to build the shelter within the contracted amount. He will get information to Raine to send to EOPSS.

CBRNE/IED:

BJ Calvi reported. The subcommittee met last week to take up new proposals. All but one were voted in the affirmative. The total of all projects approved is \$485,363.93. There are funds available for all of them. BJ presented each proposal to the Council.

Greenfield Regional Prime Mover – This is a pickup truck to move WRHSAC equipment.

Motion: BJ Calvi moved to approve \$129,390 for the Greenfield Regional Prime Mover. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Dave Desroasiere, Nina Barszcz, Marty O'Shea, BJ Calvi, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Larry Holmberg, Steve Kozloski, Ben St. Amand, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Pittsfield Rapid Rescue Boat – This is a boat to support Pittsfield Fire and the Berkshire Dive Team. They are asking the Council for approximately 50% of the funding.

Motion: BJ Calvi moved to approve \$46,332.95 for the Pittsfield Rapid Rescue Boat. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Dave Desroasiere, Nina Barszcz, Marty O'Shea, BJ Calvi, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Larry Holmberg, Steve Kozloski, Ben St. Amand, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Western Mass Regional Dive Team Equipment – BJ had questions about the overall leadership of the team, SOGs, and governance. He noted that this is the second influx of funds. Nina Barszcz asked how much have we spent so far. Raine replied that the Council has spent \$50,000 so far. The list of items to be purchased this time is in packet. We have already purchased tanks, rescue bags, hand held metal detectors, and other items. When they presented requests back in May, the CBRNE committee also approved additional funds for FFY23, for a total of \$71,457. At that meeting it was understood that this would be a several year process to help the team get up to where they need to be, similar to the support the Council has provided to the WMTRT. William Millin added that with regards to SOGs, Eric Stratton and Nick Demitron finalized those earlier

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in the year, but he was not sure if those were submitted to the Council. The leadership question was established from the beginning. BJ withdraw his motion to approve funding and made a new motion to table the proposal.

Motion: BJ Calvi moved to table to table the proposal for Regional Dive Team Phase I Priority II equipment, pending additional information from the team. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Dave Desrosiers, Nina Barszcz, Marty O’Shea, BJ Calvi, Steve Gaughan, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, and Jeanne Galloway voted against the motion. The motion was approved.

[Note: this was later voted on again; see “New Business”]

School Safety Metal Detectors and Trailer – This request for four metal detectors and one trailer was submitted by Mass State Police School Safety Task Force. Raine, BJ, and Tom answered questions about what they are replacing, how they will be maintained, and how they are deployed. This will provide two new metal detectors for two locations, and a trailer for the Hampshire Sheriff’s Office, the only one that does not currently have the ability to move them. This project could meet the soft target requirement for FFY23, and we are likely to see this project continue next year with the purchase of units for the other two locations.

Motion: BJ Calvi moved to approve \$85,790.18 for a total of four metal detectors and one trailer. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Dave Desrosiers, Nina Barszcz, Marty O’Shea, BJ Calvi, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Larry Holmberg, Steve Kozloski, Ben St. Amand, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

JHIRT Response Vehicle – The vehicle is proposed to be housed at Westfield Fire, but would support the State team. There was discussion on whether this was a State asset or a regional asset. There were also concerns about all of the add-ons in the quote and whether they were all necessary. Randy Quarles agreed that there were items in the quote that could be taken off.

Motion: Jeanne Galloway moved to table the JHIRT Response Vehicle proposal pending a new quote with unnecessary line items removed. BJ Calvi seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Dave Desrosiers, Marty O’Shea, BJ Calvi, Larry Holmberg, Steve Kozloski, Ben St. Amand, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. Nina Barszcz, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan voted against the motion. The motion was approved.

WMTRT Trench Rescue Equipment – Raine and Alan Sirois answered questions related to the request. Alan confirmed that some team members went to additional trench training and the bulk of this request came from that. There was additional discussion about whether the funding for this should come from the amount returned to the Council from All Hazards, versus from funds already set aside for the Tech Rescue Team large scale exercise. The team now anticipates participating in a State MOBEX, which will not require as much financial support. Some funding of this equipment was already set to come from surplus funds allocated to the team. The initial

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motion was therefore amended to reflect the total cost of the equipment, \$9,677, rather than only the amount that was intended to come from the All Hazards funds.

Motion: BJ Calvi moved to approve \$9,677 for the WMTRT Trench Rescue Equipment, to be taken from surplus funds already assigned to the team. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Dave Desrosiers, Nina Barszcz, Marty O’Shea, BJ Calvi, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Larry Holmberg, Steve Kozloski, Ben St. Amand, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

WMTRT Water Rescue Equipment – Funding for this equipment will also come from the surplus TRT funds.

Motion: BJ Calvi moved to approve \$10,231 for the WMTRT Water Rescue Equipment, to be taken from surplus funds already assigned to the team. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Dave Desrosiers, Nina Barszcz, Marty O’Shea, BJ Calvi, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Larry Holmberg, Steve Kozloski, Ben St. Amand, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine Brown reported. FFY20 is in good shape, but there is an issue with some of the over shirts for the TRT. Some of the sizes they wanted were tall, but the company is no longer making that size and has no substitute. This will have to go back out to bid, so Raine might have to flip those funds into FFY21. She will work with MAPC on that. In FFY21, the Hampden County shelter project may pose challenges to complete by the end of June, 2024. In FFY22, some projects are starting to move. FFY23 funds should be coming online in early 2024. Ben Podsiadlo added that it would be reasonable to anticipate a later than usual NOFO for FFY24.

Cyber Resilient Working Group – Raine reported. The group will be meeting again in December.

MAPC – Avery Serra had no updates to report.

Old Business:

Open Fire Seat – Tom Grady reported that Chief Sirois is the WMFCA’s proposed candidate.

Motion: Steve Kozloski moved to approve the nomination of Alan Sirois as Fire Representative to the Council. BJ Calvi seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Dave Desrosiers, Nina Barszcz, Marty O’Shea, BJ Calvi, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Larry Holmberg, Steve Kozloski, Ben St. Amand, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

WRHSAC Generators – Raine reported that she checked with Holyoke Fire and they do still want to host the generator. The lack of use is not related to where it is hosted.

Flooding response equipment – Tom reported that the possibility of purchasing a high water rescue vehicle was discussed but deferred at the CBRNE meeting. The Tech Rescue Team is

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looking at the criteria to be a Type 2 team. Alan Sirois explained that in order to be a “typed” team for FEMA they require certain training and equipment. This is more of a statewide project being taken on by all of the teams in the State; all are working at typing at various levels.

New Business:

Raine asked for clarification regarding a soft targets project and whether Tom is specifically looking for an exercise. Tom responded that we are looking to address gaps and deficiencies in the region, so it does not have to be an exercise. Raine noted that the plan submitted to EOPSS for FFY23 had \$22,000 for continuing projects in the All Hazards subcommittee, but none of the projects were approved, so EOPSS asked us to use that for a soft target project. Those funds could be used to purchase more of the metal detectors. This would continue to fulfil the project that CBRNE approved, and would meet the soft targets project requested by EOPSS before the end of the year, while giving us time to continue to identify an additional soft target project.

Motion: BJ Calvi moved to re-allocate the \$22,000 from FFY23 All Hazards projects to the purchase of additional metal detectors. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Dave Desrosiers, Nina Barszcz, Marty O’Shea, BJ Calvi, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Larry Holmberg, Steve Kozloski, Ben St. Amand, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Jeff McDonald reported that of the three message boards in the Hampden County WRHSAC cache, one is out of service and the other two are not reliably functioning. They purchased new battery banks and the Sheriff paid for some repairs, but they failed again. Therefore when partner agencies are looking for message boards, they need to look elsewhere. Many jurisdictions have their own. But the Council should decide what to do with them. Jeff can bring them to United Rental for an assessment, but they want a labor charge even to look at them. They are older generation boards, and parts availability is a problem. Tom asked that he make a recommendation to the CBRNE committee to get the conversation going.

Raine asked for clarification regarding the projects that were tabled, and whether they need to go back to CBRNE first or if they can come directly back to the Council. BJ and Jeanne replied that for the JHIRT vehicle, they just need to bring back to the Council an accurate quote for the vehicle they want.

Eric Stratton joined the meeting and answered questions about the tabled dive team request. SOGs, policies, and governance details were submitted to the Council before. SOGs were sent up the Chain of Command and have been in place since they started. They are the same as the Berkshire team’s. Raine confirmed that these were submitted back in January and were presented when CBRNE approved funding the team.

Motion: Jeanne Galloway moved to approve \$116,727 for the Regional Dive Team Phase I Priority II equipment. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Dave Desrosiers, Nina Barszcz, BJ Calvi, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Larry Holmberg, Steve Kozloski, Ben St. Amand, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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Raine noted that there will still be money left to re-allocate, but the exact amount will depend on the revised cost of the JHIRT vehicle.

Business Unforeseen by Chair: None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: BJ Calvi moved to adjourn. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Tom Grady, Dave Desrosiers, Nina Barszcz, Larry Holmberg, BJ Calvi, Ben St. Amand, Steve Kozloski, Steve Gaughan, and Jeanne Galloway 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 November 21, 2023
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from October 17, 2023 (draft)
- Proposal from Greenfield Fire for Regional Prime Mover
- Proposal from Pittsfield Fire for rescue/dive boat
- Western Mass Regional Dive Team equipment requests
- Proposal from Western Mass School Safety Taskforce for metal detectors
- Proposal from JHIRT-West Team for response vehicle
- Proposal from WMTRT for trench rescue equipment
- Proposal from WMTRT for water rescue equipment
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 11/21/23
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 11/21/23
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 11/17/23
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 11/17/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 11/17/23
- Email from Ryan Pease / WMFCA dated 11/9/23 re WRHSAC fire representative
- Cover letter and resume from Alan Sirois
- Cover letter and resume from Philip Wonkka
- Cover letter and resume from Thomas Sammons

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, December 19, 2023, 10:00 am

Council members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire), Monica Wynne (Baystate);

Non-members present: Sandra Baker (MAPC), C.J. Bartone (West Springfield Fire/Hazmat), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriff's Office), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Christopher Norris (Easthampton FD), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Randy Quarles (Westfield Fire/D4 Hazmat), Alexander Rock (ASWIC/EOPSS), Avery Serra (MAPC)

Council members absent: Paul Burns (PVTa; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTa), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional; alternate for Marty O'Shea)

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

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

Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the November 21, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Tom Kettle moved to approve the November 21, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Monica Wynne, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Carolyn Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, and Alan Sirois voted in favor. Tom Kettle and John Dearborn abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported that they still seeing a lot of protests and anti-Semitism throughout the Commonwealth. He urged Council members to remain aware and to work with public safety partners and faith based groups.

Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported. We are coming into fire season. Candle safety and space heaters are hot topics. Alan Sirois had no additional updates.
- POLICE: No one was present to give an update.

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- EMS: No one was present to give an update.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported. The IMT had a successful deployment to Hawaii. Yesterday was a busy day for Emergency Managers, with rains and flooding.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Flu, Covid, and RSV are on the rise. There is a shortage of RSV vaccines. There has been movement on the standards and upgrades that all public health departments will have to go through. We will see some changes in the near future.
- TRANSPORTATION: Ben St. Amand was not present but sent an update by email. Wilbraham now has fixed route service 7 days a week. PVRTA is forming an agency-wide security committee which will meet quarterly. Staffing shortages are an ongoing challenge. They are actively recruiting and offering free in-house CDL training.
- DPW: Dave Desrosiers reported. They had a busy day yesterday, but the region fared well. Eight bridges closed in the region, but mostly due to potential scour problems with the high water. The eastern part of the State got hit harder with higher winds.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are seeing an increase in the spread of Covid and RSV, more now than during the pandemic due to measures that are no longer in place. The academy curriculum update is complete. All Sheriff's Offices will use the new curriculum and new approval process for consistency across the Commonwealth.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported that DTC has ruled to maintain surcharge of \$1.50, which is a big win for 911. Tom Grady added that TERT had a deployment to Waltham to allow people to attend the funeral of the officer killed in the line of duty.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. RSV is up, higher in adults than in kids. Covid numbers are in the 30s. There are also a few cases of flu. There are long wait times.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported. The Governor signed a supplemental budget. Twelve towns in the region will get some reimbursement for July storms. Some towns got hit again yesterday with even worse flooding than in July.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Tom Kettle reported. Winter break provides opportunities for internal trainings. Protests have not been too bad, but they are monitoring the situation. With regard to Council membership, Tom noted that there is no longer an alternate higher ed rep now that Jonathan Miller has moved on. He recommends Jay Hastings for the role [see "New Business" below].
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.

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- MEMA: Scott Flebotte reported. They are still trying to recover from yesterday's damage. EMPG grants are due on Dec. 29th. They are trying to solidify the training schedule for 2024. He will send it to Raine to disseminate.
- EOPSS: Brian Nichols reported that FFY21 HSGP extension was approved. The cybersecurity grant has been approved for \$6.4 million. The draft AGF NOFO is being worked on for the NPSG Program. This is an important source of funding for non-profits and faith based organizations; EOPSS would appreciate Council members' help in getting the word out about them. The FFY23 HSGP is in the works. The application process has wrapped up for the SFY24 Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Grant Program and Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Personnel Program. They are waiting for approval from the Governor's office to send out contracts. They are getting ready to close out the SFY23 CNSGP. The next SIEC meeting is Jan 10. Ben Podsiadlo added that they anticipate the next federal grant coming late spring. Statewide, they are looking at mass decon with the Fire Marshal to develop a cohesive strategy. Likewise with drones, they are looking for input on coordination. In light of the flooding in Western Mass, Ben asked if there has been more discussion on high water vehicles or boats for specialty teams.
- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update.

Updates from Subcommittees

All Hazards Planning and Equipment: Larry Holmberg reported. The HMCC Conex box project is coming to an end, and the cybersecurity project is still moving forward. Two projects are being planned. One relates to election security, but the Elections Division is not responding, so we cannot move forward. They did successfully hold a training session for town clerks in Western Mass, which was well received. The other project in the planning phase relates to small regional fairs. The subcommittee will hold a mutual discussion session with representatives from the Cummington Fair, Tri-County Fair, and Franklin County Fair at next monthly meeting.

Interoperability/Information Sharing: Anthony Gentile reported. There is one motion brought forward from the subcommittee, for a Berkshire mobile command center satellite phone. In response to a question about the subscription fee, Raine explained that the Sheriff's Office will cover the cost after the first year.

<p>Motion: Anthony Gentile moved to approve \$5,577 for the Berkshire mobile command center satellite phone. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Carolyn Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, and Alan Sirois voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>

Training and Exercises: Tom Grady reported. There will be two more sessions of the Nero's Law training, on Jan 3 and 13 in Berkshire and Franklin counties respectively. WMEMS has received the advanced K-9 manikins. There are four motions to bring before the Council. The

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first is for an additional day of lodging for the PHEP summit in March. This will allow participants to arrive the night before the conference so that they can be on time for the start.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve an additional \$2,352 for the PHEP conference. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Tom Kettle, Monica Wynne, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Carolyn Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, and Alan Sirois voted in favor. The motion was approved.

There were two requests from Hazmat, one for a homemade explosives training and the other for a rail cargo training. The funding will come from money already allocated to Hazmat trainings.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve \$28,270 for the Hazmat homemade explosives training. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Carolyn Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, and Alan Sirois voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve \$11,990 for the Hazmat Over the Rail Cargo training. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Carolyn Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, and Alan Sirois voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The final request was for funding to provide backfill/overtime to the newly certified AAIR instructors to conduct trainings.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve \$36,000 for AAIR instructor pay. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Carolyn Ness, Jeanne Galloway, and Nina Barszcz voted in favor. Alan Sirois abstained. The motion was approved.

Equipment /PPE: Raine Brown reported. We are still waiting on new quotes for the equipment shelter in Hampden County.

CBRNE/IED: John Dearborn reported. At the last meeting, the Council entertained a proposal from JHIRT and requested some fine tuning of the quote. The original proposal was for \$89,644.80; the new one is for \$81,866.80.

Motion: John Dearborn moved to approve \$81,867 for the JHIRT response vehicle. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Carolyn Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, and Alan Sirois voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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Additional discussion followed in response to Ben Podsiadlo's previous question about flooding response, noting that CBRNE had discussed a proposal for a high water vehicle but found it to be too expensive. However, there were two boats purchased for the tech rescue team two years ago that have been mobilized, making the team a water asset for the State. The Council is also splitting the cost of a boat for Pittsfield, and a small raft for WMTRT was also recently approved.

Fiduciary Report:

Raine Brown reported. All projects approved by the Council last month were approved by EOPSS. They are working to get those moving. With the JHIRT vehicle approved, just over \$13,000 remains that is still not allocated. Raine will work with MAPC to split an invoice so we can close out FFY20 by the end of the month, as the tech rescue team has now indicated that they do not need the shirts that were proving difficult to obtain.

Cyber Resilient Working Group – Raine had no updates to report.

MAPC – Avery Serra had no updates to report.

Old Business: Ben Podsiadlo commented on the ongoing efforts around active shooter trainings. One of the goals statewide is coordination. DFS and MPTC each have an ASHER coordinator, John Mozza and Scott Cluet, who work closely together. If EOPSS can assist Councils in coordinating on this topic, please reach out. Tom Grady noted that he was indeed planning to request an opportunity to talk about that.

New Business: Tom Kettle's earlier suggestion to nominate an alternate higher education representative to the Council was revisited.

Motion: Monica Wynne nominated Jay Hastings to the role of alternate higher education representative for WRHSAC. Carolyn Ness seconded the nomination. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Carolyn Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, and Alan Sirois voted in favor. The nomination was approved.

Business Unforeseen by Chair: None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2023 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Larry Holmberg moved to adjourn. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Monica Wynne, Tom Kettle, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Carolyn Ness, Nina Barszcz, Alan Sirois, and Jeanne Galloway voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 am.

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List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for December 19, 2023
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from November 21, 2023 (draft)
- Project Justification for Berkshire Mobile Command Satellite Phone
- Revised estimate from Randy Quarles for JHIRT vehicle
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 12/19/23
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 12/19/23
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 12/15/23
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 12/15/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 12/15/23

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