

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 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), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD; alternate for Tom Kettle), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Sandra Baker (MAPC), Kevin Benson (Easthampton Fire), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Matthew Bryan (Berkshire County Boards of Health), Aaron Budine (Bernardston Fire), Brian Clappood (MSP), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (Hampden County Sheriff's Office), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Kurt Seaman (South Deerfield Fire), Avery Serra (MAPC), John Warren (DHS/CISA),

**Council members absent:** Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), 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 December 19, 2023 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Larry Holmberg moved to approve the December 19, 2023 meeting minutes as submitted. John Paciorek seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. John Paciorek, Monica Wynne, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Kettle, John Dearborn, Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Ness, Alan Sirois, Susan Rathbun, Ben St. Amand, Nina Barszcz, and Dave Desrosiers voted in favor. Steve Gaughan abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady had no updates to report.

### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that the SAFE grant applications have come out. Public Education and DFS have come out with a class on xylene. Alan Sirois reported that in speaking with the Fire Marshal's office, the 9C cuts did not have significant impacts on the fire services.

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- POLICE: John Paciorek reported that the biggest challenges across the State are recruitment and retention. With regard to the gun bill, they are waiting for the Senate to roll out their version. There will be a high pressure debate in Boston. The Senate is likely to be more conservative than the House in their approach, and this will likely end up in conference committee. Susan Rathbun reported that we are coming to the end of the Bridge, ending with Z in June. Berkshire County is scrambling with regard to staffing.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. They also have recruitment and retention challenges. They have lost some very experienced people, and although they are getting some new staff, there is a big learning curve. EMS is thankful to WRHSAC for the Nero's trainings that served roughly 1,100 people, as well as the manikins, which are being used. There are a few department level trainings left, but regional trainings are done for now. There is a new regional medical director, Ken Knowles at Baystate. The annual regional meeting will be held April 11 in Easthampton. OEMS has started to move again with meetings and subcommittee meetings. They are trying to reinvigorate the regional MCI committee and would like interdisciplinary participation. A remote meeting is tentatively scheduled for Feb 15. Steve will get a link out through Raine.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported. EMDs are dealing with EMPG grants from MEMA. Applications were due at the end of the year, but there was a quick turnaround and contracts are now coming in to be signed. There is a new DER grant opportunity for culvert replacement. Legislation has been filed for a State Disaster Relief Fund for "gap" disasters that do not qualify for federal aid. Jo Comerford and Natalie Blais are sponsors. The initial run is for \$250 million, coming from the rainy day fund. This should be a game changer. We saw what happened to Deerfield and Conway with the rain; this would have helped them.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Things are on the rise with respect to respiratory illnesses. The new standards for Public Health are still being worked on.
- TRANSPORTATION: Ben St. Amand reported. Winter weather makes things challenging. Today is not too bad, but some days they need to reduce service to essential only. They try to post notices on the website as soon as possible. Despite raising starting wages and offering free in-house training for CDLs, staffing remains a challenge. This is a nationwide issue. Assaults are a major problem across the country. They are trying to take a multi-pronged approach to the problem. There are now pods for drivers that were installed for Covid but those also help mitigate assaults. They are also doing de-escalation trainings for employees. They have bumped up consequences for both verbal and physical assaults, including lifetime suspensions. Police are helpful in removing passengers and serving notices.
- DPW: Dave Desrosiers reported. Retention and recruitment is a problem for DPW as well, industry wide. Everyone is shorthanded, including Mass DoT. They are all running on bare minimums, so it is challenging when there is a breakdown. Inventories of spare parts are low and supply chains are often backed up.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. The newly established academy trainings became standard policy on Jan 1. Sheriffs are operating under Chapter 37 to keep part time staff.

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Staffing is also an issue. They are re-examining their Continuity of Operations Planning. Some of the planning does not work without the additional staff they are used to having. They are also looking at Succession Planning, as there are many retirements as well.

- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Nina Barszcz reported. The TERT program is now accepting new applications. The open enrollment period runs through this month.
- **HOSPITALS:** Monica Wynne reported. Covid numbers are in double digits, with some RSV and flu cases as well. They are in the Red Tier, meaning everyone in the hospital is required to wear masks. The ED is very busy, with long wait times. There are many vacancies.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Ness reported. After 6 months, state collections are falling short, leading to the 9C cuts mentioned earlier, though most of the cuts are in the eastern part of the State. There is \$25 million available through the Community Compact for IT grants in the new IT bond bill. Hopefully local communities will take advantage of that for cybersecurity. Carolyn also reiterated Larry's message about the need to support proposed gap funding for storms that don't qualify for FEMA aid. There is another initiative from Natalie Blais and Jo Comerford for Sustainable Futures for Rural Schools, SB2388 and HB3567. Getting extra money for schools would be very impactful for regional schools. Please reach out to legislators to support this.
- **K-12 EDUCATION:** No one was present to give an update.
- **HIGHER ED:** Tom Kettle reported. Students are back for the spring semester. This is Tom's last meeting, as he is moving away. Jay Hastings will serve temporarily until the higher ed seat is formerly filled.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** Brian Clapprood reported. The academy class graduating this month in Springfield is the smallest in years. A larger one will begin in April with a couple hundred candidates. Blarney Blowout and Holyoke Race and parade are coming up.
- **MEMA:** Jeff McDonald reported. They have a robust training calendar coming up; check the MEMA TRS training site.
- **EOPSS:** Brian Nichols reported that they are in the middle of a reporting phase. The FFY20 amended contract was finalized, extending the deadline by another year. FEMA asked for, and received, additional info regarding the drone request for Greenfield. They are trying to figure out the Orange tower disposition transfer in-house. Brian sent information on Friday to the All Hazards subcommittee regarding election security resources and suggestions for projects. Ben Podsiadlo reported that the State and Local Cybersecurity program is getting feedback from the planning group and heading towards an AGF/ NOFO. The intent of the grant is to support rural communities with cybersecurity. They hope to have applications open around March 1. EOPSS anticipates the [HSGP] NOFO for FFY24 to be similar to FFY23. The new Fire Marshal has been very supportive with Homeland Security issues that affect fire service, one being mass decontamination. They have been having conversations with DPH and hope to have statewide guidance with an approach that reflects current standards. Mass Casualty is another important

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Homeland Security topic that transcends EMS and hospitals, such as incorporating traffic management into planning to get ambulances in and out. Ben has had a few conversations with MSP and MEMA about it. Regarding election security, he has spoken with the Secretary of State on behalf of Western Mass, and also with John Warren. They are also looking at how to have coordinated statewide strategies around drones.

- DHS/CISA: John Warren reported that the Office of Bombing Prevention is conducting the surveillance detection course again. They are also hosting Texas A&M with their Critical Infrastructure Training Certificate, with five courses kicking off in late February. The focus of effort now is on faith based organizations, especially the Jewish community. They have conducted several security assessments on faith based organizations in Central and Western Mass. K-12 schools also remain a high priority for DHS. They just held the first-of-its-kind Cyber Performance Goal Regional Workshop, a training and tabletop exercise for K-12 IT directors, who walked away with the bones of an incident response plan. Regarding election security, they have been working with EOPSS/OGR and the Secretary of State's office to conduct election security infrastructure assessments, focusing on town clerks offices and polling stations. John also had a conversation with Raine about how it applies to WRHSAC grant funding. DHS sees some of the same vulnerabilities across locations, so there may be opportunities to look at common vulnerabilities. Following a conversation with Raine, he just kicked off planning assessments for Franklin County and Cummington Fairgrounds to get to a baseline security posture with emergency response plans.

**Updates from Subcommittees**

***All Hazards Planning and Equipment:*** Larry Holmberg reported. The subcommittee had a productive meeting with representatives from the Franklin County Fair and Cummington Fair regarding a small/medium fair project. After consideration, the subcommittee suggested bringing in CISA/DHS. As reported above, John Warren has already had contact with the fairs regarding assessments. All Hazards will then take those assessments and turn them into templates for other small and med size fairs in the region. John Warren will come to the next subcommittee meeting to discuss elections security projects.

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

***Training and Exercises:*** Tom Grady reported. The new round of grant funding coming out requires a regional large scale exercise. The subcommittee is looking for ideas; please talk to people in your community and bring ideas to the subcommittee. There is one motion to bring forward, from Chief Norris for two sessions of Pre Hospital Trauma Life Support trainings.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady moved to approve up to \$25,000 for the PHTLS trainings. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Nina Barszcz, John Paciorek, Tom Kettle, John Dearborn, Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Ness, Susan Rathbun, Monica Wynne, Steve Gaughan, Alan Sirois, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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Regarding the Nero's Law trainings that wrapped up, Tom acknowledged that planning the trainings takes a lot of effort, but everything went incredibly smoothly and we are getting positive feedback. He encouraged everyone to watch the video about the trainings.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported. The shelter project is still biggest challenge. If we can get things worked out at Hampden County, hopefully it will be much easier at the other locations. The other long term project has been the HMCC Conex Box project, which is finally wrapping up this month. Franklin County PPE will now be stored in Franklin County, with HVAC to keep it as it should be. Raine is working on finalizing specifications for the Greenfield and JHIRT trucks, and they may try to run those together. Procurements are in process for the dive team and tech rescue team equipment. Raine is finalizing specs for the metal detectors.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported that there is a motion to consider for additional funding for the JHIRT truck. Raine explained that the request came through without a radio for the truck. The team indicated that the department would provide a radio. However, EOPSS wanted to guarantee that it would meet SIEC requirements, and asked that the radio be included in the project. They decided it would be best to get the same kind of multi-band radio that we are getting for the Greenfield truck. This will be an additional \$10,225.25. The purchase already received tentative approval from Tom to put the project justification through. There was still over \$13,000 remaining from the All Hazards funds that were returned to the Council. Jeanne asked about the price. Several Council members who work with radios explained why radios are so expensive now. These radios will be interoperable with everything, including the CoMIRS system.

**Motion:** Carolyn Ness moved to approve \$10,225.25 for the JHIRT radio. Ben St. Amand seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Nina Barszcz, John Paciorek, Tom Kettle, John Dearborn, Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Jeanne Galloway, Carolyn Ness, Susan Rathbun, Monica Wynne, Steve Gaughan, Alan Sirois, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

John Dearborn asked if there was any update about a high water vehicle request. Alan Sirois responded that after the request was tabled in CBRNE, it was kicked up to EOPSS to see if there are any other funding streams available. They kicked the request to DFS, then back to us, and told us that Tech Rescue should continue to ask for it as a high priority item. John Paciorek noted that the military surplus program has old military trucks that are pretty good with high water. Alan noted that the maintenance on those might be more than a host agency is willing to bear. There is more interest in a new vehicle with warrantee, and it would also serve as a prime hauler for Tech Rescue Team for equipment.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. We received an extension on FFY20 because of backordered items for the TRT. Raine is working to get FFY21 spent down, but the shelter in Hampden County remains a challenge. They just completed the quarterly reports. EOPSS rolled out a new form, which worked pretty well overall.

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*Cyber Resilient Working Group* – Raine had no updates to report. There is a meeting next week.

*MAPC* – Amy Reilly reported. Saundra Baker is new at MAPC, coming from procurement in Boston. She will be working on grant management with the rest of the team.

**Old Business:** Alan Sirois reported that the AAIR trainings are coming up. There is heavy interest from fire and EMS and dispatchers, but they still have openings for Law Enforcement. There will be two additional courses in March and April. Everyone is struggling with staff shortages, and he understands that it is difficult for agencies to free up officers to attend trainings, but this is a valuable training. John Paciorek agreed that training is a challenge, noting that they have 40 hours of mandatory in-house training, plus a lot of others. They average 80-100 hours of training a year. 20-30 years ago they were begging for training, but now there's so much. Chiefs are trying to decide what to send people to. Tom Grady noted that both MPTC and DFS have ASHER coordinators; this is a statewide initiative.

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** None.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for January 16, 2024
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from December 19, 2023 (draft)
- Project Justification for Multi-Band Radio for JHIRT vehicle
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20, dated 1/16/24
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21, dated 1/16/24
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 1/12/24
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 1/12/24
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 1/12/24

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason  
WRHSAC Program Assistant  
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council

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Franklin Regional Council of Governments

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**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Sandra Baker (MAPC), C.J. Bartone (West Springfield FD), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Matthew Bryan (BCBoH), Aaron Budine (Bernardston Fire), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Mike Nelson (Franklin County Fairgrounds), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Christopher Norris (Easthampton FD), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Alex Rock (EOPSS), Avery Serra (MAPC), Xander Sylvain (FRCOG/HMCC), John Warren (DHS/CISA)

**Council members absent:** Paul Burns (PVRTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), Marty O'Shea (Longmeadow Superintendent), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police), Benjamin St. Amand (PVRTA), 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 January 16, 2024 meeting.

**Motion:** Nina Barszcz moved to approve the January 16, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Jay Hastings, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Jeanne Galloway, Alan Sirois, and Carolyn Ness voted in favor. Steve Kozloski abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady encouraged everyone to read the Uvalde school shooting AAR that was sent out, as there are a lot of lessons to be learned from that.

### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that the fire grant program applications period is open. This is the sunset year for that program if it is not re-funded. Alan Sirois had no additional updates.
- POLICE: Steve Kozloski had no updates to report.

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- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. The regional office had its funding cut by 50%. They need support for funding in the legislature. The office is moving back to Cooley Dickinson; please have some patience during the transition. The new protocols are out on the OEMS website. They go into effect on April 22. Check them out and educate yourselves. The annual regional meeting will be held April 11. Steve will send notice through Raine. Along with pushing the State to reinvigorate the MCI committee, they are rejuvenating the regional committee with a meeting on Thursday, March 21, online. They would like cross-discipline participation because everyone needs to work together in MCIs. Christopher Norris added that they are currently looking for peer members to join the Critical Incident Stress Management team.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg had no updates to report.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Flu, Covid, and other respiratory diseases are circulating. They are starting to implement new Public Health standards across the State.
- TRANSPORTATION: No one was present to give an update.
- DPW: Dave Desrosiers reported. Things have been pretty quiet, other than a recent fire.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They have started using the new academy curriculum and have gotten good feedback.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz had no updates to report.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Covid numbers are stable.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported. Everyone is working on budgets. Revenues are down, but there is \$7.3 million available in cybersecurity grants, due March 8. This is a good opportunity for local towns to increase their security level.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Jay Hastings had no updates to report.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Scott Flebotte reported. The training academy will be offering more courses. They are looking at what has been cut from other places. They are getting ready for St. Patrick's Day and the Boston marathon.
- EOPSS: Brian Nichols reported. There are two cybersecurity grants out now; info is available on the OGR website. Non-profit security grant program applications are due in the next few days. They are closing out the SFY23 CNSGP grant program. There is a new EOPSS hire starting next week who will come to the next WRHSAC meeting. Ben Podsiadlo encouraged Council members to direct vulnerable communities and non-profits in their communities to the municipal cybersecurity and non-profit security grant program. There is an option for

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communities to partner together and file a joint application. Ben echoed Tom's encouragement to look at the DoJ report on Uvalde. There are opportunities to identify what to incorporate into our trainings. For FFY24, they have been in touch with other SAAs throughout the country with regard to national priority areas, hoping to get more flexibility to put funds where we'd like them to be. We tentatively expect some direction from DFS and FCAM on mass decon and how to replace legacy equipment. We need an approach that reflects the current standards.

- DHS/CISA: John Warren reported. The primary focus at CISA has been on election security. They have conducted about three dozen site visits at town halls in the Commonwealth, primarily focusing on smaller municipalities, including about 15 sites in Western and Central Mass. They are surfacing similar issues in many places and doing gap analyses to help facilities consider improvements. John completed a security assessment at the Franklin County Fairground and is in discussion with Cummington to set a visit date.

### Updates from Subcommittees

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment:** Larry Holmberg reported. The subcommittee met with John Warren regarding the fairground security project and election security. The plan is to take John's reports on the two fairgrounds and help the fairs develop security response plans. That can hopefully be turned into a template for other fairs around the region. With respect to election security, the discussion was extremely helpful. John passed along a self-assessment tool and videos for training election personnel. Subcommittee members will check with their town clerks to see what they have been receiving from the elections division and if they have they read it. The cybersecurity pilot project is moving along. The HMCC Conex box project is finally done.

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

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. AAIR trainings are coming up, among others. There are several motions to bring forward. The first is for an additional \$5,000 for the Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support training.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve an additional \$5,000 for the PHTLS training. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, and Jay Hastings voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second request is to support crisis negotiators from regional special response teams to attend the annual crisis negotiators conference. We have supported this in the past.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$12,910 for the annual crisis negotiators conference. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, and Jay Hastings voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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The third request is to support an advanced hostage negotiation class, again for crisis negotiator members of special response teams. Raine added that this training does not happen often and the team just learned about it. However, the timing is tight because the conference begins March 4, and they will need to get EOPSS approval first.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$4,835 for advanced hostage negotiation training. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, and Jay Hastings voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The fourth request is to support a Hazmat team sampling training. C.J. Bartone explained that they previously sought approval from the Council for a homemade explosives class, but the logistical challenges were not worth it, so they pivoted. The same company offers a sampling class including identification of an unknown substance, classification, and chain of custody. The price tag is close to that of the canceled training.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve up to \$29,000 for the Hazmat sampling training. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, and Jay Hastings voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The final request was for rescue diver training for members of the eastern branch of the Western Regional Dive Team, to bring them up to the same level as the Berkshire County members.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$6,000 for the rescue diver training. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, and Jay Hastings voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported. We have been trying to get the equipment shelter project off the ground for two years, but very little progress has been made at the Hampden County Sheriff's Office, where the first shelter was to be built. Raine has had a number of conversations with procurement officers and others to brainstorm alternate approaches to getting the project done. One suggestion was to move forward with an Owners Project Manager, who would work with whoever is designing the building, make sure they stay on target, get all site approvals, permits, etc. However, the current OPM for a FRCOG project reviewed the proposal and said that the cost for an OPM would likely be about \$150,000 for the entire length of the project, plus about \$50,000 per site for a civil engineer, for a total of about \$350,000 not including any building costs. We had allocated up to \$200,000 for each building. It will be tricky to stay within this budget no matter what approach is used. An alternative approach would be for

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each individual Sheriff's Office to hire their own project manager and civil engineer, and then come to us with a complete package. Discussion of various options ensued. Ultimately there was consensus to pull the plug on the entire project, but tell the Sheriffs' Offices that if they want to provide a shovel-ready project at some point in the future, the Council is willing to consider it.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to withdraw all funding from the equipment shelter project in FFY21, FFY22, and FFY23. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, and Jay Hastings voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported. The metal detectors came in \$3,730.21 over what was allocated. Raine noted that there is just under \$4,000 remaining in the money that had been returned to the Council from which this project was funded.

**Motion:** John Dearborn moved to approve an additional \$3,730.21 for the metal detector project. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, and Jay Hastings voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. With the cancellation of the equipment shelter project, we now have extra funds on the table. Raine will draft a letter to the Sheriffs' Offices. FFY20 is nearly closed out, just waiting for a few last invoices from the Tech Rescue Team over-shirts and pants. FFY21 and FFY22 are likely to be extended. FFY23 is active and has an end date of July, 2025. We should expect to start making plans for FFY24 funds soon.

*Cyber Resilient Working Group* – Raine reported. The meetings are next week.

*MAPC* – No one was present to provide updates.

**Old Business:**

**Higher ed representative** – Raine explained that because Jay Hastings was the alternate when Tom Kettle was on the Council, he can serve as the temporary representative. However, the position still must be advertised. Raine put out a call in the last newsletter, so at next month's meeting we will have resumes and letters of interest to review for the seat.

**New Business:**

**Franklin County Fair letter of support request** – Michael Nelson explained that the Commonwealth Nonprofit Security Grant program application is due soon. An assessment with John Warren identified a large part of perimeter fence that is inadequate. He asked if WRHSAC would be willing to write a letter of support to include with the application.

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**Motion:** Carolyn Ness moved to approve a letter of support from the Council for the Franklin County Fair CNSGP application. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Steve Gaughan, Nina Barszcz, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Steve Kozloski, Jeanne Galloway, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, and Jay Hastings voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** None.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Ness moved to adjourn. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Jay Hastings, Dave Desrosier, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Kozloski, Carolyn Ness, Larry Holmberg, and Alan Sirois voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for February 20, 2024
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2024 (draft)
- Summary of OPM proposal for the equipment shelter project
- School Safety Task Force Portable Metal Detectors Cost Adjustment
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 2/16/24
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 2/16/24
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 2/16/24
- WRHSAC FFY23 Budget Report through 2/16/24
- Request from Michael Nelson / Franklin County Fairgrounds

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, March 19, 2024, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTa), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire)

**Non-members present:** C.J. Bartone (West Springfield FD), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Matthew Bryan (BCBoH), Aaron Budine (Bernardston Fire), Joshua Gaucher-Torres (EOPSS), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Christopher Norris (Easthampton FD), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Alex Rock (EOPSS), Thomas Sammons (Pittsfield Fire), Kurt Seaman (South Deerfield Fire), Avery Serra (MAPC), Xander Sylvain (FRCOG/HMCC)

**Council members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Paul Burns (PVTa; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), 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), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional; alternate for Marty O'Shea), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

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

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

This was postponed until later in the meeting, as the meeting began without a quorum present.

#### **Introductions**

A round of introductions followed.

#### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady shared the news that Bob Barry from MEMA passed away over the weekend. He was a steadfast member of the WRHSAC T&E subcommittee and worked tirelessly on behalf of the region. We are still looking for a large-scale exercise. We are talking with some of the fair operators but would welcome other ideas. Following Steve Gaughan's update last month on mass casualty planning, this is a topic we need to keep our eyes on. We need a solid statewide plan. We are seeing more requests for pre-hospital trauma classes and others related to mass casualties.

#### **Updates from EOPSS**

Brian Nichols introduced Joshua Gaucher-Torres, a new program coordinator at EOPSS. They just completed the application process for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, with 179 applicants vying for the approximately \$4.75 million in available funding. For the Cybersecurity Grant Programs, there were 120 Municipal applications and 6 State applications. They have \$6.4 million to commit for that. Ben Podsiadlo noted that this Friday is the deadline for Congress to vote on the budget. DHS has been contentious in their discussions, but Ben expects the statewide NOFO to look similar to last year's. The draft risk profile for the State remains the same this year.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
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In other regions, NERAC is advancing with a high water vehicle for the Plum Island/Ipswich community. Central Region is focused on getting additional swift water training done.

**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported. WMFCA rolled out the announcement about the Eschelon training. Chiefs had conversations about local, regional, and state MCI plans. Getting those plans re-established is an identified need. BJ Calvi had no additional updates. Alan Sirois added that brush fire season has begun; they are already seeing small brush fires popping up.
- POLICE: Steve Kozloski had no updates to report.
- EMS: No one was present to give an update.
- EMD: No one was present to give an update.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. Flu season is waning. Covid is still out there. They are seeing a lot of people with co-morbidities. We are moving into mosquito season soon and expecting some West Nile and EEE this year. Eliminate standing water if you can. This will be a bad tick season, as winter did not kill them.
- TRANSPORTATION: Ben St. Amand reported. Service updates are effective next week. If municipalities are looking to do things like K-9 training in real world scenarios, they are happy to have their vehicles used. They want people to feel safe. They are looking for contacts for having police forces to promote security in the area.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady had no updates to report.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Anthony Gentile reported that State 911 development grant applications were due. Support and incentive grant applications are open. You can apply through the end of the year.
- HOSPITALS: No one was present to give an update.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported. The Western Mass Selectmen Four Counties meeting will be held April 27<sup>th</sup>. They will discuss budgets. That is main focus no, along with getting ready for town meetings.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Jay Hastings reported. Westfield had spring break last week; others have it this week. They are gearing up for end of year and commencement events.
- 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.
- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update.

**Approval of Minutes**

A quorum now present, the Council considered the minutes from the February 20, 2024 meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Ness moved to approve the February 20, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted. John Dearborn seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Carolyn Ness, Jay Hastings, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Ben St. Amand, Jeanne Galloway, BJ Calvi, Alan Sirois, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Updates from Subcommittees**

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment:** Raine Brown reported. The subcommittee continues to have conversations with the fairgrounds. DHS/CISA completed an assessment and report for the Franklin County Fairgrounds. Election security discussion continues. It is challenging because \$34,000 is a small pot of money and we are not a regional authority in any way.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Anthony Gentile reported. At the last meeting, the subcommittee heard from Aaron Budine that the Harris radios they have in Franklin County cannot be upgraded for TDMA. There is a proposal to replace them with the Motorola radios that we have in other caches, and also to replace the three aged laptops.

**Motion:** Anthony Gentile moved to approve \$84,500 for the Franklin County Multiband Cache and COML Laptops. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Carolyn Ness, Jay Hastings, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, BJ Calvi, Alan Sirois, Anthony Gentile, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. Another session of AAIR training is coming up in April in Holyoke. Two motions were approved today. The first is to send members of the Hazmat teams to the annual training seminar.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$13,000 for the Hazmat training seminar. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Carolyn Ness, Jay Hastings, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, BJ Calvi, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. Alan Sirois abstained. The motion was approved.

The second proposal is for four sessions of C.A.T.C.H. training, which is a form of Behavioral Observation and Suspicious Activity Reporting. We have been looking for an opportunity to bring this sort of training to people who are not in law enforcement, such as poll workers, constables, inspections officers, and others. The proposal is for one training in each county.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 10:00 am**

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$12,000 for four C.A.T.C.H. trainings. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Carolyn Ness, Jay Hastings, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, BJ Calvi, Alan Sirois, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported. We have \$600,000 on the table now. Raine asked if we should push out another call for proposals, or if we have enough to consider with the high water vehicle request and MCI planning. Tom Grady suggested that we give it one more shot, so we have the opportunity to consider multiple proposals.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported that the bid for the Pittsfield boat came in higher than expected, but Pittsfield will be able to cover the additional cost. There is a new proposal for a high water vehicle for CBRNE to consider.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. Funds from the equipment shelter project are on the table. Raine will split the next FFY21 invoice with FFY20 to close out the FFY20 grant. MAPC is seeking extensions of FFY21 and FFY22 through June 30, 2025.

*Cyber Resilient Working Group* – Raine reported. The group continues to meet every month. The Municipal Cybersecurity Summit is coming up in early May.

**Old Business:**

**Higher Ed Representative** – Tom Grady reported that the cover letter and resume from Jay Hastings are in the meeting packet.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve the nomination of Jay Hastings as higher ed representative on the Council. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Carolyn Ness, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, BJ Calvi, Alan Sirois, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. Jay Hastings abstained. The motion was approved.

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** Tom Grady announced that we are hosting a conference on May 13 at UMass with Peter Langman, titled “Minds, Lives, and Motivations of Mass Attackers.” There was a request at the T&E subcommittee to see if we could simulcast it; Raine will check. Tom has been hearing anecdotally that there are challenges getting people to in-person trainings. If anyone has suggestions about how to get people to trainings, please share them. Some trainings do fill up and have waitlists, like PHTLS.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 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. Carolyn Ness, Jay Hastings, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Jeanne Galloway, BJ

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Calvi, Alan Sirois, Anthony Gentile, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for March 19, 2024
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2024 (draft)
- Project Justification for Franklin County Radio Cache Update and COML/T Laptops
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20 Homeland Security Grant, changes since 2/20/24
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21 Homeland Security Grant, changes since 2/20/24
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY22 Homeland Security Grant, changes since 2/20/24
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 3/15/24
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 3/15/24
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 3/15/24
- WRHSAC FFY23 Budget Report through 2/16/24
- Letter from Tom Grady / WRHSAC to Sheriff's Offices re Equipment Shelters
- Cover Letter and Resume from Jay Hastings

Respectfully submitted by:

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

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Tom Grady (BCSO), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Susan Rathbun (Hinsdale Police), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** C.J. Bartone (West Springfield FD), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Matthew Bryan (BCBoH), Rich Fiske (SWIC), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Glenn Johnson-Mussad (Hampden County Health Coalition), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Jeff McDonald (HCSO), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Hugh O'Callaghan (Baystate), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Amy Reilly (MAPC), Alex Rock (EOPSS), Jason Saunders (WMTRT), Avery Serra (MAPC), Daryl Springman (WMTRT)

**Council members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA)

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

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

### Approval of Minutes

The Council considered the minutes from the March 19, 2024 meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Ness moved to approve the March 19, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Dave Desrosiers, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Ness, Jay Hastings, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, Kristen Smidy, Susan Rathbun, Jeanne Galloway, and Paul Burns voted in favor. The motion was approved.

### Introductions

A round of introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady reported that there was a Chairs meeting last week. He was unable to attend but spoke with Ben Podsiadlo prior to the meeting about MCIs, as well as looking at sustainability of purchases and projects, and learning about how DFS is decommissioning foam trailers.

### Updates from EOPSS

Ben Podsiadlo reported. Regarding Mass Casualties, it is an expanding topic in the context of ASHER. He applauds the Council's efforts to focus on that. There is a need to reassess where we are in 2024. He has reached out again to DPH; they are scaling down from the marathon and will be wanting to convene with EOPSS in the next month or so to enhance coordination. There has

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
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been a lot of thought from fire service, hospitals, and others about what we need now that is not what we expected 20 years ago. What would mass casualty look like in hospitals in a post-Covid era? The Southeast region has lost a couple hospitals. Health care systems are fragile. Does communications infrastructure support our needs? How do we better integrate mass casualties into public safety responses? This is a big topic for conversation.

Looking towards funding for next year, they expect the FFY24 NOFO any day now. Looking ahead, there are concerns about what is going on in the Middle East and the trial of the former President starting, among other things happening both domestically and internationally. Ben applauded the Council's efforts to address threats in Western Mass, including the proposal for a high water truck. NERAC is also pursuing something similar. We might need to tighten belts a bit with funding and focus in on key topics like MCIs.

Brian Nichols added that the HSGP NOFO is in review. Key dates are pending, but tentatively set for having an initial draft of projects in by April 29, and the approved final project plan by May 13. He updated the Council about several other grant programs, including the non-profit security grant program NOFO that will be released today.

**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported. There has been discussion among chiefs about the next steps for the decon units. Most were fire based in conjunction with hospitals. Local assets were involved with the Boston marathon, including WRHSAC equipment. Brush fire season has begun. Alan Sirois added that with the weather warming up, boating season is approaching. There have already been a few incidents on the CT River.
- POLICE: Susan Rathbun reported that they are finishing the last letters for the Bridge, keeping some chiefs busy getting all the paperwork in.
- EMS: Tom Grady reported that last week's annual meeting was well attended. One of the biggest concerns is funding for the regional offices, which is at \$100,000 again this year, a 50% cut from prior years. Reach out to elected officials to help get funding restored.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported that ten members of NWMIMT attended the national conference a few weeks ago. There were over 400 participants from across the country, and a lot of good info. They also met up with some old colleagues and made new contacts.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported that mosquito season may be rough this year. Public health emergency prep grant funding is taking a massive shift in the next five years. What you see public health doing in the future will be very different. Flu, Covid, and RSV are still out there. Ticks are also out.
- TRANSPORTATION: Paul Burns reported. They are looking at expanding service across the system. They received increased funding from the State but are still struggling with staffing. If funding continues over the next couple years, the goal is to expand frequency across the system, including nights and weekends. There is a micro transit pilot project underway in Northampton. If it works there, they will roll it out across the system over the next few years.

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 10:00 am

- DPW: Dave Desrosiers reported that things are starting to get busy for DPWs. The governor gave extra money this year for rural road funding. Small communities almost doubled their paving and Chapter 90 budgets. They have a lot of work to do and a lot of details to work out. Staffing will be tight.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported that there is a regional academy going on in Franklin County. They hope to retain some staff, but the State Police are also starting a new academy and some staff are transitioning there. Recruitment and retention are still major issues.
- COMMUNICATIONS: No one was present to give an update.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported that Covid numbers are flat and the hospitals are still busy. She introduced Hugh O'Callaghan, the new director of Emergency Preparedness for Baystate Health.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported. The House Budget Committee filed a bill for \$57.9 billion for FY25. Aid per student is going up in the Governor's budget, but rural aid is being cut. Hopefully the Senate bill will restore some of that, as the schools need it. The Senate transportation bond bill has given municipalities extra funding for Chapter 90 funds, as well as funding for bridges. The extra \$150 million for small communities is very helpful.
- K-12 EDUCATION: Kristen Smidy reported. The decrease in rural school funding is devastating. People need to advocate. The Mass Juvenile Police Officer Association School Safety Conference will be held May 7-8. There have been some unwelcome visitors at sporting events; they are working with law enforcement. At the next Superintendent Roundtable they will do a training on the metal detectors that WRHSAC supported.
- HIGHER ED: Jay Hastings reported. Plans for the end of the school year are wrapping up.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Scott Flebotte reported. They are recovering from the marathon, which went well. They are also looking at budget issues. There will be a 5% cut in EMPG, but the director does not want to pass that cut on to the communities, so it will come out of the MEMA budget. They are looking at training and other assets, and doing assessments on what they have and where.
- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update.

### Updates from Subcommittees

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment:** Larry Holmberg reported. The small projects are moving along. The biggest new project is fairground security planning with the Franklin County and Cummington fairgrounds. The subcommittee spoke with Mike Nelson of the Franklin County Fair this month and developed priorities. Hopefully Cummington will have their assessment completed by next meeting. This will be a multi-year project, beginning with planning for

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 10:00 am**

specific venues, then developing templates for others, and then exercise the plans up to full scale. The project will involve multiple subcommittees.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** No one was present to give a subcommittee update. Rich Fiske reported that SIEC met last month and approved some projects. He also emphasized that if a project comes before the SIEC but no rep from the region is at that meeting to present the project, it will be deferred. He also reported on a cyberattack on a comms radio system in another part of the country that took it down for over a week. The vendor had assured them there was no way a hacker could take their system down, but that was not true. If your system is connected to a network, make sure it's cybersecure. Alex Rock added that there is a ComEx coming up on May 1 at the MEMA facility in Franklin.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The conference with Dr. Langman is coming up at UMass on May 13. Raine will push it out soon. This is our first major event since Covid and we are hoping for as much in-person attendance as possible. Please share the info widely and get people signed up. There is one motion to bring before the subcommittee; the cost of the previously approved rescue dive training has increased due to additions to the course.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve an additional \$3,000 for rescue dive training. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Dave Desrosiers, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Ness, Jay Hastings, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, Kristen Smidy, Susan Rathbun, Jeanne Galloway, and Paul Burns voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn reported. The subcommittee had a marathon meeting last week and got a lot of work done. Most will be discussed under investment planning [below], but there were two requests to bring forward concerning current funds. One was to reallocate Tech Rescue Team funds from an exercise that is not going forward, to instead support swift water rescue.

**Motion:** John Dearborn moved to approve the reallocation of \$9,500 for Tech Rescue swift water rescue training. Monica Wynne seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Dave Desrosiers, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Ness, Jay Hastings, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, Kristen Smidy, Susan Rathbun, Jeanne Galloway, and Paul Burns voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second request was another reallocation for the TRT, for miscellaneous equipment.

**Motion:** John Dearborn moved to approve the reallocation of \$2,104 for tech rescue equipment. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Dave Desrosiers, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Ness, Jay Hastings, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, Kristen Smidy, Susan Rathbun, Jeanne Galloway, and Paul Burns voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 10:00 am**

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. Things are moving along well. They are hoping to find a project this week to use up the last little bit in FFY20. Extensions for FFY21 and FFY22 were submitted.

*Cyber Resilient Working Group* – Raine reported. The working group is switching more to a quarterly meeting. Raine went to an in-person meeting last month at which they did prep work for the upcoming cybersecurity summit on May 8 in Worcester. A card game to support tabletop exercises for cyber incidents will be rolled out at the summit. Attendance is encouraged.

MAPC – Amy Reilly reported. They are working on the extensions.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

***K-12 Representative*** – Raine reported that notice just went out, with a deadline of end of the month. Right now Kristen Smidy is still the proxy. No one else has expressed interest yet.

***FFY24 Investment Planning*** – Raine explained that we still do not have the FFY24 NOFO, so we are not sure of the exact dollar amount. However, EOPSS asked us to consider level funding for planning purposes. The document in today’s packet uses estimates of a \$1,146,000 award. There is also close to \$600,000 left over from the equipment shelters to consider today.

Each subcommittee presented their request for the new investment plan. For the All Hazards subcommittee, Larry relayed a request for \$100,000 to continue the fairgrounds project, plus another \$34,400 for elections security. For WMRIC, Raine explained that the subcommittee is requesting the same amount as last year, \$150,000. Tom presented a \$280,000 request from T&E, the same as last year. For Equipment & PPE, Raine noted that we do not have a specific committee, but the idea for replacing worn message boards has been floated. However, it was introduced late, so although it is of concern for WRHSAC, it was not calculated into the budget.

John explained that the CBRNE subcommittee met and considered 11 proposals, which are ranked by priority in the investment planning document. He summarized each proposed project, and noted that the sign boards are an issue we do need to take up at some point. Tom noted that he would like to get a survey out to all of the Sheriffs’ offices to learn more about the condition of each sign board. The sign boards can be added as a “b” project in the investment plan.

**Motion:** Carolyn Ness moved to accept the FFY24 budget plan as proposed. Paul Burns seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Dave Desrosiers, Monica Wynne, Larry Holmberg, Carolyn Ness, Jay Hastings, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, Kristen Smidy, Susan Rathbun, Jeanne Galloway, and Paul Burns voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** None.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
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**Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 10:00 am**

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Larry Holmberg moved to adjourn. Susan Rathburn seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, Jay Hastings, John Dearborn, Monica Wynne, Alan Sirois, Dave Desrosiers, Kristen Smidy, Jeanne Galloway, and Susan Rathbun, voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for April 16, 2024
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2024 (draft)
- Request from WMTRT for surface water rescue training
- Request from WMTRT for miscellaneous equipment
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY20 Homeland Security Grant, changes since 3/19/24
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21 Homeland Security Grant, changes since 3/19/24
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 4/12/24
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 4/12/24
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 4/12/24
- WRHSAC FFY23 Budget Report through 4/12/24
- WRHSAC available funds / FFY24 investment planning worksheet
- Meeting Appendix 1 – Requests for consideration:
  - ASHER Equipment
  - Berkshire Dive Team Comms Equipment
  - EMTRT High Water Rescue Vehicle
  - Western Mass Region Dive Team Enclosed Equipment Trailer
  - Ludlow Police Barriers
  - WMTRT Prime Hauler
  - Ludlow Police Drone
  - Hampden MERT Equipment
  - Western Mass Search and Rescue Team Equipment
  - Message Boards

Respectfully submitted by:

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

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 10:00 am

**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), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Glenn Johnson-Mussad (Hampden County Health Coalition), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Jeff McDonald (HCSO), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Christopher Norris (Easthampton Fire), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Jason Saunders (WMTRT), Avery Serra (MAPC), Daryl Springman (WMTRT), Xander Sylvain (FRCOG/HMCC)

**Council members absent:** Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), 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 considered the minutes from the April 16, 2024 meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Ness moved to approve the April 16, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted. John Paciorek seconded the motion. John Paciorek, Jay Hastings, BJ Calvi, Carolyn Ness, Alan Sirois, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Tom Grady, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Kristen Smidy, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. Steve Kozloski abstained. The motion was approved.

#### **Introductions**

A round of introductions followed.

#### **Special Presentation: Western Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team Update**

Daryl Springman presented a report from the WMTRT. The team currently has a staff of 62, with a goal of 80. They train in multiple disciplines and with multiple training partners. Regarding the sustainability of the team, there is a lot going on at the State level for tech rescue to be taken over by a State agency. They are waiting on legislation to go through that will allow DFS to take over, similar to how Hazmat is run. Even after approval, it will still likely take a few years to build up to a full budget. In the meantime, WMFCA is still the fiduciary and funding operational needs.

#### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady reported. Ben Podsiadlo coordinated a meeting with the elections division. They had a good conversation. Raine and Tom attended the Statewide T&E meeting, led by MEMA. They will meet again in the fall. It was similar to the MYTEP process that the Council used to do.

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 10:00 am

#### Updates from EOPSS

Brian Nichols reported that division manager Sonya Schey left EOPSS/OGR last week. FFY24 fiscal plans are due May 31. They received the draft WRHSAC plan and have no concerns so far. It is grant application season; the non-profit security grant and other grants are open. Ben Podsiadlo added that they are working closely with the Councils and monitoring election security. He is grateful to John Warren for the security assessments. They are now using a new grant application system, FEMA GO, which was rolled out nationwide. They are still looking closely at ASHER and want to track trainings. MYTEP is now called IPP (Integrated Preparedness Plan) and includes looking at who has been through the most recent active shooter trainings.

#### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that Chief Nelson from Amherst is retiring at the end of June. He has been an active member of CBRNE and a team leader of Hazmat. John Dearborn will also be retiring, in November. Alan Sirois reported that he had the opportunity to head to D.C. with the Fire Chiefs Association to attend the Congressional Fire Institute. They discussed grant funding and other legislation. They met with Richie Neal for 45 minutes. The main topic of discussion was the sunset of the Fire Act legislation, which funds all the Fire Act grants throughout the country, at the end of the year. They lobbied Neal to support renewing the legislation. If it dissolves, it will have a major impact on fire services' ability to acquire equipment. Carolyn asked for an update on OSHA standards. Alan explained that OSHA is updating fire brigade standards, which includes municipal services. The new standards are currently in review and accepting comments. There are extensive changes that will be expensive to implement. They are still trying to flush out how it will be phased in and enforced. It will be a double whammy on budgets if we also lose the Fire Act Grant. The Fire Chiefs are submitting comments. BJ Calvi echoed the budgetary concerns.
- POLICE: John Paciorek reported that the biggest issue is POST recertification. Next year they are starting over from the beginning of the alphabet. Agencies are working through trainings for possible civil unrest this fall. Steve Kozloski had no additional updates.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported that the biggest concern for EMS statewide is the collapse of the Steward Health Care system. They filed Chapter 11 and staff are vacating. We do not have any of those hospitals in our region, but it is an example of what could happen. Ambulances out East are seeing waits of an hour or more at hospitals to see patients. Chris Norris added that they met with leadership on Beacon Hill regarding regional Council funding. The proposed funding is \$100,000 per region, which is half of what has typically been allocated. Region 5 (Cape and the islands) had to shut down their office; the director is working part time from home.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported. Earlier this month there was a successful full scale exercise at Westover with 33 live patients, 4-5 ambulance services, military, NWMIMT, and others. This should be done every few years, but there had not been one since 2018.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. It's spring: mosquitos are coming, and they are expecting EEE this season. Some of the public health improvement processes are coming

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out now. We will see more uniformity across the Commonwealth. Covid and flu are still around, but less than before. Heat-related issues are also of concern. Bird flu is being tracked at the Federal and State level. Monitoring of the human food chain is being done. There are no concerns at this time.

- **TRANSPORTATION:** Ben St. Amand reported. They have garages at several locations available for trainings. They are continuing to work through expanded service and fare-free weekends subsidized by the State. The World's Largest Pancake Breakfast shut down some streets in Springfield and they had to reroute a few routes, but there were no major issues.
- **DPW:** No one was present to give an update.
- **CORRECTIONS:** Tom Grady had no updates to report.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Nina Barszcz reported that PSAP grants are out. It is compliance time: PSAPs need to be handing in Certification of Compliance forms by July 31. Also review your coops, which are due before the end of the fiscal year by email to the director. Starting next year there will be a requirement for 2 hrs of continuing ed in behavioral health.
- **HOSPITALS:** No one was present to give an update.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Carolyn Ness reported. The Senate started debating the budget yesterday, including student aid and rural aid, which are key to our small communities. Reach out to your senators to advocate.
- **K-12 EDUCATION:** Kristen Smidy reported. In addition to planning for budgets, they are gearing up for prom and graduation season, partnering with emergency response partners to keep people safe.
- **HIGHER ED:** Jay Hastings reported. Commencements and protests happening, minor at Westfield but bigger at UMass.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** No one was present to give an update.
- **MEMA:** No one was present to give an update.
- **DHS/CISA:** No one was present to give an update.

### **Updates from Subcommittees**

***All Hazards Planning and Equipment:*** Larry Holmberg reported. Small projects are moving along. The small/medium fair project is waiting for Cummington Fair to get their assessment report from John Warren. The subcommittee is still looking for something to do with the funds set aside for election security.

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

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**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The conference at UMass on the 13<sup>th</sup> with Peter Langman was excellent. There was a meeting at Tolland State Forest with the dive teams. They have a large-scale training/drill scheduled there for June 12 for all of the regional teams plus the State Police, Environmental Police, and DFS. DCR will close the beach that day to allow full access for the exercises. Observers are welcome. The money put into training and resources will be put to good use. They want to make this a bi-annual operation.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported that a lot of projects are moving forward. Avery Serra reported that they received a quote or two on the trucks and are awaiting approval from the State for State contract pricing. Raine reported that MAPC is finalizing specs for the high water rescue vehicle. The first two sets of metal detectors should be coming in and they are working on the others. They are setting up a training with the vendor, likely in July. The Dive Team and TRT equipment projects are moving along.

**CBRNE/IED:** John Dearborn had no additional updates to report. Raine reported that the ASHER equipment working group needs volunteers. Alan Sirois will be on to represent Fire. Requests will be limited to certain equipment and certain eligibility criteria. The working group will hash out the final details. Please let Raine know if you or a colleague wants to participate.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. They completed the FFY20 spend down. Extensions for FFY21 and FFY22 are in process and will go through June, 2025. FFY23 runs through July 2025.

*Cyber Resilient Working Group* – Raine reported. The muni cybersecurity summit was held on May 8. A lot of projects are coming to fruition. The summit was very informative and featured a lot of tangible tools including a tabletop game. Participants played it and were sent home with a pack of cards and instructions.

**Old Business:**

**K-12 Representative** – Raine reported that no one expressed interest other than Kristen Smidy.

**Motion:** Carolyn Ness moved to approve Kristen Smidy’s nomination as the K-12 representative to the Council. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. John Paciorek, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Larry Holmberg, Kristen Smidy, Nina Barszcz, Carolyn Ness, Jay Hastings, Steve Gaughan, Alan Sirois, Steve Kozloski, BJ Calvi, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**FFY24 Investment Planning** – Raine reported that the actual FFY24 award is lower than last year’s award, at \$1,031,973.85. The national Homeland Security priorities changed slightly as well. To fit the actual award amount, Raine reduced the WMRIC allotment from the \$150,000 approved last month to \$130,960, and reduced T&E from \$280,000 to \$229,898.01. All of the national priorities minimum requirements are met by the projects previously discussed.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

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**Motion:** Carolyn Ness moved to approve the FFY24 investment plan as presented. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. John Paciorek, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Larry Holmberg, Kristen Smidy, Nina Barszcz, Carolyn Ness, Jay Hastings, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, BJ Calvi, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**New Business:**

**Local Government Representative** – Carolyn Ness reported that she is no longer an elected official and will need to step down as local representative to WRHSAC. Raine noted that Carolyn can still serve on subcommittees. Raine will announce the WRHSAC vacancy in the next newsletter.

**Fire Representative** – Tom Grady reported that Susan Rathbun is retiring at the end of this month. He asked Steve Kozloski and John Paciorek to bring the topic to the Western Mass Chiefs for a recommendation. Raine noted that we will also have to announce this vacancy.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** None.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to adjourn. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. John Paciorek, Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Larry Holmberg, Kristen Smidy, Nina Barszcz, Carolyn Ness, Jay Hastings, Steve Gaughan, Steve Kozloski, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for May 21, 2024
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2024 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21 Homeland Security Grant, changes since 4/16/24
- WRHSAC FFY2024 Guidance / FFY2024 Investment Plan Considerations
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 5/17/24
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 5/17/24
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 5/17/24
- WRHSAC FFY23 Budget Report through 5/17/24

Respectfully submitted by:

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

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Matthew Bryan (BCBH), Jason Haskins (Franklin County Crisis Negotiations Team), David Johnson (Franklin County Crisis Negotiations Team), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Alex Rock (EOPSS), Avery Serra (MAPC), Don Willard (Chesterfield Selectboard)

**Council members absent:** Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway)

*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 considered the minutes from the May 21, 2024 meeting.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve the May 21, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. Jeanne Galloway, Tom Grady, Monica Wynne, Jay Hastings, John Paciorek, Steve Gaughan, Carolyn Ness, Alan Sirois, Kristen Smidy, Nina Barszcz, and Larry Holmberg voted in favor. The motion was approved.

#### **Introductions**

A round of introductions followed.

#### **Special Presentation: Regional Crisis Negotiators**

Jason Haskins and David Johnson shared a report about the Crisis Negotiations Team. They thanked the Council for the generous support over the years. They explained when crisis negotiation is activated and shared the makeup and evolution of the Franklin County team. They currently have eight members, with one mental health professional. Their goal is to have two teams of five members with one mental health professional on each team. They also shared the team's objectives, history of deployments, level of training, and intentions for the future. John Paciorek expressed his support and his conviction that this is a program worth putting funds into.

#### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady reported. None.

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 10:00 am

#### Updates from EOPSS

Ben Podsiadlo commended Western Mass for its efforts around regionalization, including the crisis negotiators team and the recent dive training. EOPSS is close to having the [FFY24] application in. He thanked Brian Nichols for his hard work on this. There was a 10% cut for everyone across the country, but the plans look good. Brian added that it is grant application week for HSGP and NPSG. The FFY21 amendment contract is back at EOPSS to be signed. EOPSS would appreciate receiving notices on trainings involving WRHSAC-backed teams and assets.

#### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: Alan Sirois reported. It's going to be warm this week. Tech Rescue Team members engaged with MSP a couple weeks ago in Northampton for a field force extrication activity, which went well. The Council funded a Hazmat trip to the International Association of Fire Chiefs' conference in Baltimore, which he attended; it was invaluable for the personnel who went. He thanked the Council for funding it.
- POLICE: John Paciorek reported. They are focused on recertifications with POST or the municipal committee. There is a minimum 40 hours of in-service training, with some needing up to 80. There are a lot of events looking for details, and not enough personnel. In Mass General Law there is no such position as Traffic Control Officer. They have been cautioned about this by attorneys. They cannot find enough cops to cover shifts, let alone details.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. EMS is in the same situation with regard to staffing. They are grateful for the PHTLS and AAIR trainings but cannot get people off the line and into trainings. The regional office is now in the McCallan building, with the same phone number. They are looking to arrange two large-scale Nero's Law practical sessions for credentialing new people. On the State level, there has been a lot more discussion about pre-hospital blood products. We should be looking at a regional effort. There are programs out there that are starting to introduce it. We have both potential and need in Western Mass. Ben Podsiadlo offered to connect Steve to the Canton Fire Dept., which is piloting a regional response. They are also developing programs in the Lawrence area and in Worcester. It is also important to remember that pre-hospital blood transfusions is good force protection for front line teams.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported. A number of grants are concluding at the end of this month and everyone is busy trying to get paperwork in. It's going to be hot; cooling centers are starting to open. Let MEMA know if you are opening one.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. We are in a heat wave, and a lot of municipal buildings will be closed for the Juneteenth holiday. Indicators are still present for a EEE season. DPH started testing mosquitos this week. Avian flu is still on the radar but is not a big issue in Massachusetts at present. Nationwide, the concern is on cow populations and the possibility of transfer to humans. There are concerns about rising Covid infections with new strains. Summer is not usually a big time for communicable diseases, but it could happen.
- TRANSPORTATION: Ben St. Amand reported that PVTA is fare-free for all of June. The money comes from the State. They are performing threat and vulnerability assessments on all

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of their locations and assets. This will be an annual occurrence. They have fairly stable staffing levels at the moment, with no huge deficiencies.

- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported that in one venue in Berkshire County in the summer, they are looking for in excess of 30 detail officers, which is very challenging. As of June 30, all of the reserve officers no longer exist. The situation needs legislative relief. Staffing and recruitment continue to be a challenge. They are seeing a boomerang effect on staff from people being forced to cover extra shifts. They need creative ways to find relief for the staff.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. Dispatch centers are also dealing with staffing issues. New regionalization projects help with this. Belchertown is now being dispatched by Wilbraham.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Flu and Covid numbers are flat. Hospitals have the same problems with recruitment and staffing, but there are fewer vacancies than a few months ago.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported. The Senate passed a budget with \$110/student, \$125 million for roads and bridges, \$15 million extra for culverts, \$311 million for an increase in Chapter 70, \$75 million out of the supplemental budget for special ed, and \$17.5 million for rural aid. 84% of regional transportation has been funded. The next step is to appoint a conference committee to rectify the differences between the Senate budget and the House budget. A Chapter 70 working group will be looking at the school budget formula.
- K-12 EDUCATION: Kristen Smidy reported. Schools have been closing for the end of the school year. A lot of summer programs are being kicked off, mostly in July. Kristen is putting together safety conferences, working with John Warren. Schools are updating safety plans.
- HIGHER ED: Jay Hastings reported. Things pick up again next week. They are hoping to have an EMD at Westfield soon.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: No one was present to give an update.
- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update.

### **Updates from Subcommittees**

***All Hazards Planning and Equipment:*** Larry Holmberg reported. The small projects are moving forward; the small/medium-sized fair project is on hold while we wait to hear back from Cummington. The subcommittee is still looking for an election security project.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

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**Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 10:00 am**

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Tom Grady brought forward a motion for a Toughbook tablet for the Franklin County SRT team for on-site incidents.

**Motion:** John Paciorek moved to approve \$4,300 for the Franklin County SRT Toughbook tablet. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Monica Wynne, Jay Hastings, John Paciorek, Kristen Smidy, Carolyn Ness, Jeanne Galloway, Larry Holmberg, Alan Sirois, Steve Gaughan, and Nina Barszcz voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported. The regional dive training had tremendous turnout, with 8 boats and representation from all four counties, as well as DCR, MSP, DFS, and others. They utilized a lot of assets and training that the Council has funded.

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

**CBRNE/IED:** Raine reported that the biggest challenges are with the trucks for Greenfield, JHIRT, and TRT, which are experiencing supply chain related issues. The vendor is working on specs for the TRT truck, which has a significant utility body that will take at least 60 weeks to arrive. There was a successful bid for the high water rescue vehicle and the purchase order has been issued. It came in a little more than the estimate because of decal'ing. We will need to add a couple thousand more, but there are other projects coming in under budget so it should be ok.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. They had a good conversation with the EMDs from San Antonio, TX, who found our family reunification template plan online and are looking to use it for the men's final four next year. Our efforts and templates and plans do get used. With regard to budgets, we are moving along well with FFY21, FFY22, and FFY23. The challenge will be with the vehicles.

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

*MAPC* – Avery Serra had no updates to report.

**Old Business:**

**Law Enforcement Representative** – Raine reported that the Berkshire Law Enforcement Council has recommended the Police Chief from Peru as a replacement for Chief Rathbun. Raine asked him to send his resume and letter of interest. Notice also went out in the newsletter.

**New Business:**

John Paciorek reported that Ford is discontinuing the hybrid cruisers, which will hurt fuel efficiency for the agencies that are using them.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** Tom asked everyone to let their staff know that we appreciate the work they do every day.

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Carolyn Ness moved to adjourn. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Monica Wynne, Jay Hastings, John Paciorek, Kristen Smidy, Carolyn Ness, Larry Holmberg, Steve Gaughan, Alan Sirois, Jeanne Galloway, and Nina Barszcz voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for June 18, 2024
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2024 (draft)
- Project Justification for FCSRT rugged tablet
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21 Homeland Security Grant dated 6/18/2024
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 6/14/24
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 6/14/24
- WRHSAC FFY23 Budget Report through 6/14/24

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 16, 2024, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

**Non-members present:** C.J. Bartone (West Springfield Fire/Hazmat), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Matthew Bryan (BCBH), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Jeff McDonald (HCSO), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Avery Serra (MAPC), Donald Willard (Chesterfield Selectboard)

**Council members absent:** Paul Burns (PVRTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Benjamin St. Amand (PVRTA), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional)

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

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Absent a quorum, no motion was taken on the June meeting minutes.

#### **Introductions**

A round of introductions followed.

#### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady noted that the events of the last few days [the assassination attempt on former President Trump] should serve as reminder that the work we do in preparing for large scale and small scale events matters. Take another look at plans and take time to coordinate with all partners to keep everyone safe.

#### **Updates from EOPSS**

Ben Podsiadlo commended the Western Region for the efforts around dive team consolidation and trainings; he would love to see other regions follow suit. Regarding the assassination attempt over the weekend, it highlights the critical need for operational coordination, and looking at how we interface with the community in real time. As we find gaps, we need to leverage funding to focus on them. Brian Nichols added that they are reviewing quarterly reports and working on getting NSGP out the door.

#### **Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that with regard to heat concerns, there are resources available from DFS for events, including rehab vehicles with A/C, water, and light snacks. B.J. Calvi reported that they are still looking into retrofitting the foam trailer and hoping to have more

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on that as the summer progresses. Springfield also has a cooling tent that can deploy for large events. Alan Sirois had no additional updates.

- POLICE: No one was present to give an update.
- EMS: Tom Grady reported that there was a CISM team meeting last night. There is a lawsuit in Boston getting some traction, counterproductive to confidentiality laws, regarding debriefing. They are saying that CISM members are protected, but participants are not. There is a bill pending in legislation to fix that.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported. If towns are opening up cooling stations, please put that on WebEOC. We are entering hurricane season; stay vigilant. We are not immune up here.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Raine Brown read an update submitted by Jeanne Galloway. EEE has been found in Eastern Mass. Stay diligent outdoors at all times. Covid is still around. Avian influenza is still a concern and is being studied. August is national immunization month; check your vaccination status. This season's flu vaccine should be available in September.
- TRANSPORTATION: No one was present to give an update.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. The laws are starting to shift again on the age of incarceration for specific crimes, moving slowly to increase ages. This is a good restorative justice project, but it affects demographics. There are not enough juvenile facilities in the Commonwealth.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. During the 911 outage last month, they got the alert out on people's cell phones. She suggests that each agency or dispatch center have a Reverse 911 call set up to push out local emergency numbers to call. Anthony Gentile added that development grants have been awarded. Discussion then returned to the 911 outage, as several Council members asked questions or contributed additional insight.
- HOSPITALS: Monica Wynne reported. Moving people through the ED is high priority. Covid cases are going up among employees.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Carolyn Ness reported. The Senate passed a \$2.8 billion economic development bond bill, which includes \$400 million for public works and \$100 million for the Rural Development Fund, among other allocations.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: No one was present to give an update.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.

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

**Updates from Subcommittees**

***All Hazards Planning and Equipment:*** Raine Brown expressed concern about the lack of a quorum, as there are two time-sensitive proposals that cannot wait for the next meeting in September. Discussion ensued about possible ways to handle this, resulting in the decision to call a Special Meeting next week. Larry Holmberg added details about the two projects that the subcommittee is bringing forward. The first was proposed by the Berkshire County Clerks Association for election polling security for communities in Berkshire County, with leftover funds being available to municipalities in other WRHSAC counties. The second is a fairground security project, which involves hiring a consultant to write security plans for the Cummington and Franklin County fairgrounds, then developing templates that can be used by other venues.

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

***Training and Exercises:*** Tom Grady reported. There is one motion to consider when a quorum is present, related to additional costs for the high water rescue vehicle and Greenfield prime mover. The behavioral observation trainings were held successfully last month.

***Equipment /PPE:*** Raine Brown reported that the Greenfield regional prime mover came in significantly over budget and the high water vehicle came in a little over budget, but the JHIRT vehicle and a few other CBRNE projects came in under budget. Raine will use the leftover funds first, but still needs motion to re-allocate additional funds for the remaining over budget costs.

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

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. Things are looking for FFY21, FFY22, and FFY23 staying on track for their current end dates. They have not heard anything regarding the FFY24 plan. Brian Nichols added that the plan was submitted to FEMA and they are waiting to hear back.

**Old Business:**

***Local Government Representative*** – Raine reported that Donald Willard sent an email of interest on Friday. Don introduced himself; he is on the Chesterfield Selectboard and has also been in other capacities in the town.

***Law Enforcement Representative*** – The Berkshire Chiefs recommend Chief Bruce Cullet of Peru to replace Chief Rathbun. There has not been any word from the WMass Chiefs Assoc.

**New Business:**

***Hospital Representative*** – Monica Wynne's role at Baystate has changed. The hospital system has hired a Director of Emergency Management, Hugh O'Callaghan. Monica will submit a letter

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of resignation and ask Hugh to submit a resume. Tom thanked Monica for her contributions to the Council.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:** None.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

Raine Brown will attempt to arrange a Special Meeting within the next 1-2 weeks. Following tradition, WRHSAC will not meet in August. The next regular Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for July 16, 2024
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2024 (draft)
- Project Justification for Polling Security Project
- Project Justification for Fairground Security Plan Development
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21 Homeland Security Grant dated 7/16/2024
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY22 Homeland Security Grant dated 7/16/2024
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY23 Homeland Security Grant dated 7/16/2024
- WRHSAC FFY20 Budget Report through 7/12/24
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 7/12/24
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 7/12/24
- WRHSAC FFY23 Budget Report through 7/12/24
- Resume of Bruce Cullet, Peru Chief of Police

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**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 22, 2024, 2:00 pm**

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Tom Grady (BCSO), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Carolyn Shores Ness (Deerfield BOS/BOH), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Hussain Hamdan (Hawley BOS/BOH), Jeff McDonald (HCSO), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Chris Norris (Easthampton Fire), Hugh O'Callaghan (Baystate), Don Willard (Chesterfield Selectboard)

**Council members absent:** Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Monica Wynne (Baystate)

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

**Introductions**

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. A round of introductions followed.

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment Committee**

Larry Holmberg brought forth two motions from the subcommittee. The first addressed a request from the Berkshire County Clerks Association for assistance with election security. The project would provide funds for security personnel at polling places throughout the county.

**Motion:** Larry Holmberg moved to approve \$34,400 for Berkshire County polling security. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, BJ Calvi, Kristen Smidy, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Ben St. Amand, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second proposal is for development of security plans for the Franklin County Fairgrounds and Cummington Fairgrounds. The project will also include development of a security plan template that other small and medium sized venues can use. This will be the first phase of a multi-year project; the next phase would involve exercising the plans. Following a motion, discussion included questions about the financial health of these organizations, the involvement / buy-in of the fairgrounds, and the security of the security plans that will be developed.

**Motion:** Larry Holmberg moved to approve \$110,000 for the fairgrounds security plan project. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, BJ Calvi, Kristen Smidy, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Ben St. Amand, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 22, 2024, 2:00 pm**

**Western Mass Regional Interoperability Committee**

Nina Barszcz brought forth a motion for four patch panels for Franklin County, to help ensure interoperability between counties that have different frequencies. She explained that the initial request also included radios, but the subcommittee decided to proceed with the panels only.

**Motion:** Nina Barszcz moved to approve \$34,000 for the Franklin County patch panels. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, BJ Calvi, Kristen Smidy, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Ben St. Amand, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Training & Exercise Committee**

Tom Grady explained that the quotes for the Greenfield Regional Prime Mover and the high water vehicle came in at a total of \$20,687.50 higher than expected. Raine is using existing CBRNE funds to cover most of the excess, but there is still a shortfall of \$3,492.68. The T&E subcommittee had the extra funds and approved re-allocating them for this use.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve the re-allocation of \$3,492.68 from the T&E budget to cover the extra costs for the vehicles. Alan Sirois seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, BJ Calvi, Kristen Smidy, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Ben St. Amand, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Old Business:**

**Municipal Rep** – Two candidates were present and introduced themselves: Don Willard of Chesterfield and Hussain Hamdan of Hawley. A third, Peter Kane of South Hadley, submitted a resume and letter of interest but was not present at the meeting. Raine set up a Zoom poll for anonymous voting. Don Willard received six of 11 votes.

**Motion:** BJ Calvi moved to nominate Don Willard to the position of municipal representative on the Council. Carolyn Ness seconded the nomination. Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, BJ Calvi, Kristen Smidy, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Ben St. Amand, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The nomination was approved.

**Law Enforcement Representative** – Tom Grady reported that the Berkshire Law Enforcement Council has recommended Police Chief Bruce Cullett of Peru as a replacement for Chief Rathbun. The Western Mass Police Chiefs have not provided any other recommendation.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to nominate Bruce Cullett to the open position of law enforcement representative on the Council. Larry Holmberg seconded the nomination. Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, BJ Calvi, Kristen Smidy, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. Ben St. Amand abstained. The nomination was approved.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 22, 2024, 2:00 pm**

**Hospital Representative** – Tom Grady reported that Monica Wynne will be stepping down from the position, as Baystate has hired an emergency director, Hugh O’Callaghan.

**Motion:** BJ Calvi moved to nominate Hugh O’Callaghan to the position of hospital representative on the Council. Larry Holmberg seconded the nomination. Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, BJ Calvi, Kristen Smidy, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Ben St. Amand, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The nomination was approved.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** BJ Calvi moved to adjourn. Carolyn Ness seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Nina Barszcz, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, BJ Calvi, Kristen Smidy, Alan Sirois, Carolyn Ness, John Dearborn, Ben St. Amand, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Special Meeting Agenda for July 22, 2024
- Project Justification for Polling Security Project (draft)
- Project Justification for Fairground Security Plan Development (draft)
- Project Justification for Franklin County Patch Panels (draft)
- Letter of interest and resume from Donald Willard, Chesterfield
- Letter of interest and resume from Bruce Cullet, Peru
- Letter of interest and resume from Peter Kane, South Hadley

Respectfully submitted by:

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

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 10:00 am

**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), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTa), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional), Don Willard (Chesterfield Selectboard)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), **Matt Hartmann**, John Ingram (Belchertown Fire), Sam Lemanski (Westfield State EMD), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Nina Miscioscia (MAPC), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Dan Nietzsche (FRCOG/HMCC), Chris Norris (Easthampton D), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Alex Rock (EOPSS), Avery Serra (MAPC), Eric Stratton (HCSO), Xander Sylvain (FRCOG/HMCC)

**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), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway)

*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 considered the minutes from the June 18, July 16, and July 22, 2024 meetings.

**Motion:** Larry Holmberg moved to approve the minutes from June 18, July 16, and July 22, 2024, as submitted. Kristen Smidy seconded the motion. Don Willard, Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, John Dearborn, Kristen Smidy, Jeanne Galloway, Alan Sirois, Nina Barszcz, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. Steve Gaughan and Jay Hastings abstained. The motion was approved.

### Introductions

A round of introductions followed.

### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady asked Alan Sirois to report on an active incident in Agawam involving the Tech Rescue Team. A pickup struck a single family home, collapsing a foundation. The team was trying to stabilize the foundation while removing the wedged truck.

Tom asked Steve Gaughan and Chris Norris to report on the status of Western Mass EMS. Chris explained that Executive Director Dominic Singh announced his resignation, effective mid-November. The position has been posted and a search committee will choose two finalists to bring to the executive committee. Chris and Steve then laid out the reasons for Dominic's departure and the dire financial situation of the EMS regional councils, both related to decisions made by DPH that suggest a disregard for the councils and EMS more broadly. Tom encouraged WRHSAC members to advocate for greater funding for EMS, noting as well that the regional offices are responsible for overseeing all unaffiliated EMTs. There are implications for substantial

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 10:00 am**

long-term cascading effect if the regional offices are not supported. BJ Calvi and Alan Sirois echoed these concerns and emphasized that this is not a new challenge; the State's treatment of the EMS councils has been deteriorating for the last decade. This hampers the growth of EMS in the Commonwealth and is a hindrance to trauma systems in hospitals. DPH seems to be forcing the councils out of existence, despite the fact that they are baked into Mass General Law.

**Updates from EOPSS**

Ben Podsiadlo thanked Council members for the feedback regarding EMS in Western Mass and the whole state. The enterprise falls under a different secretariat, but EOPSS can communicate the concerns as EMS is integral to public safety. The Western Mass Tech Rescue Team performed brilliantly at the Fenway Park Tech Rescue Challenge, a nice event that showcased interoperability and coordination between teams. It is going up the leadership chain at FEMA. Election security is being watched more closely, especially given recent serious events. The pre-hospital blood transfusion project in the Southeast has gotten a lot of notoriety as a successful endeavor. The doctors gave a presentation to UASI. Ben could put them in touch with this group. There are two grants for non-profits open until October 10.

Brian Nichols provided more details on the nonprofit grants, CNSPGP and CNSGP, to fund security enhancements and personnel. HSGP awards are expected soon, with contracts likely coming by the end of October. An EOPSS/OGR team of the four regional coordinators and division manager will be conducting a site visit at MAPC on Sept. 24 for the FFY19 programs.

**Updates from Disciplines**

- FIRE: John Dearborn reported that JHIRT held tryouts with 18 applicants and selected five new members. The team is now at full strength, as are both regional Hazmat teams. BJ Calvi reminded the Council that at some point we have to do something about the foam trailers. He has two of them that have been steam cleaned, but we need a long-term solution for those and for supplying AFFF [foam] to the 91 corridor. He and John Dearborn have been looking at options such as cutting the tanks out and making them tote haulers for foam. Alan Sirois echoed the concern that the lack of AR-AFFF in the region is a substantial response gap. He also reported that he has already received two updates this morning from the Marshall's Office and the Fusion Center about white powder incidents around the country, including one in Massachusetts, regarding threats to elections officials. The regional Hazmat teams are ready to respond to incidents and assist as necessary.
- POLICE: No one was present to give an update, but Tom Grady noted that there have been two school-related threats in Berkshire County in the last week and a half. Multiple juveniles have been arrested and also face school discipline. In the Albany area, they closed two schools last week due to threats and suspended all athletic activities. There are a lot of heated feelings in the country with the national election coming. We all need to be aware of what's going on around us.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported. The biggest issues, concerning funding and the executive director, were discussed earlier. The Canton blood project is popular, and they came to the medical services committee the other day.

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 10:00 am

- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported. The AAR for the VA Westover Distant Storm is out. The Incident Management Team, which this Council has supported over the years, was highly praised. DPH was highly criticized for not participating in the 2024 exercise or the 2016 exercise as the hospital coordinator.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported. This is mosquito season. There have been 11 human cases of West Nile in the Commonwealth, with Hampden County the most affected part of Western Mass. EEE will probably be a bigger issue next year, but there have been a few cases this year. Encephalitis is coming up as a more serious issue with both of them; even if you survive, you can have permanent neurological damage. Take precautions to avoid peak mosquito times until we reach hard frost. We are also entering flu season. Vaccines are available, though some communities are waiting to October to offer vaccine clinics for elderly and others. Some did force protection already. The vaccine is effective for roughly six months; peak flu season usually Feb-March.
- TRANSPORTATION: Ben St. Amand reported. The Big E is causing delays for para-transit clients and routes through West Springfield, but they are mitigating this with detours. There was potential for a strike last month due to labor negotiations with the contractor and the SATCo employees union. They worked things out, so there was no effect on service. UMass started again, meaning more work, but they now have students training to be drivers.
- DPW: No one was present to give an update.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. They are seeing an uptick in Covid in the facility among staff and inmates. A regional academy began in Franklin County.
- COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Barszcz reported. There was an important message from the director of the State 911 Department regarding the outage in June. In the event of a future 911 failure, a “fail over” mechanism will route calls to a Viiz Call Center, at which APCO-certified 911 call takers would transfer calls to a PSAP’s business line. The Department is working with Comtech and Viiz to develop appropriate 911 protocols.
- HOSPITALS: No one was present to give an update.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Don Willard had no updates, but asked for the contact info for the outgoing local government rep. Raine Brown provided this.
- K-12 EDUCATION: Kristen Smidy reported. There has been an uptick in threats across the Commonwealth, and an uptick in student behavioral challenges as well. They are struggling with mental health supports. Attendance has been tricky. Covid and other respiratory illnesses are going up. There have been concerns about the upcoming election, with some schools considering canceling school on election day.
- HIGHER ED: Jay Hastings reported. Schools are back in session. He introduced Sam Lemanski, the new EMD at Westfield. There have not been any incidents at Westfield yet, but there have been some demonstrations at other schools.

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- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: No one was present to give an update.
- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update.

**Updates from Subcommittees**

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment:** Larry Holmberg reported. Two projects are underway. The election security project is waiting for additional information from the Berkshire town clerks to determine how much of the available funding they will use; the remainder will then be offered to the other three counties. On the fairgrounds security planning project, we received three proposals. A working group will be meeting on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> to review them and hopefully make a recommendation to the full subcommittee in October.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Nina Barszcz reported that at the last WMRIC meeting, Matt Barstow reported that MSP has been doing a lot of work on CoMIRS sites and they are reaching out to stakeholders regarding radio programming. FCAM is hosting an interop summit/training session in Westborough tomorrow.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported that the subcommittee has three motions to bring forward to the Council. The first is for a series of de-escalation trainings, one in each county, 3 hours each.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$12,000 for the de-escalation series. BJ Calvi seconded the motion. Alan Sirois, BJ Calvi, Larry Holmberg, Don Willard, Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, John Dearborn, Kristen Smidy, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Ben St. Amand, and Nina Barszcz voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The second motion is for a training proposed by Orange Fire in the wake of an industrial accident. The focus will be on impalements, crushing, and entrapment, all of which can also occur as a result of a terror event. The training will be open to 50 people from all four counties.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$9,000 for the impalement and entrapment training. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. Alan Sirois, BJ Calvi, Larry Holmberg, Don Willard, Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, John Dearborn, Kristen Smidy, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Ben St. Amand, and Nina Barszcz voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Alan Sirois presented the third proposal, to sponsor eight personnel from the region to attend the International Association of Fire Chiefs Technology Summit in December. The purpose is to introduce stakeholders to nascent technologies.

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**Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 10:00 am**

**Motion:** Alan Sirois moved to approve \$11,000 to send eight personnel to the IAFC Technology Summit. BJ Calvi seconded the motion. BJ Calvi, Larry Holmberg, Don Willard, Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, John Dearborn, Kristen Smidy, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Ben St. Amand, and Nina Barszcz voted in favor. Alan Sirois abstained. The motion was approved.

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

**CBRNE/IED:** Raine Brown reported that there has been another challenge with the Greenfield Prime Mover. In July we put through a purchase order, but we just learned that the factory has cut off production of the 2024 gas engine chassis. The vendor has provided two options. We could resubmit the order as a diesel truck and production will begin ASAP, but this will cost an additional \$9,250.46. Or we could resubmit it as a 2025 order, and they will honor the current price. In this case production would begin in January and would be delivered to the vendor at the end of Q1, 2025. The vendor indicated that this would lead to “an arrival to Greenfield in approx. 10 months.” It was unclear if that meant 10 months from now, 10 months from when production begins in January, or 10 months from the end of Q1. MAPC is reaching out to the vendor for clarification on this point. Discussion ensued. The question about the timing would have an impact on the decision, as 10 months from the end of Q1 would reach into 2026. FFY22 currently runs through June, 2025, though another extension may be possible as this is a demonstrable supply chain issue. The merits and drawbacks of diesel versus gas were also discussed. Jeanne Galloway made a motion to let Tom and Raine move forward with a decision once they hear back from the vendor about the timing. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. However, following additional discussion, Jeanne and Larry withdrew the motion, as there was general agreement that the decision could wait until next month’s meeting.

John Dearborn reported that the high water vehicle is moving along, with delivery expected before the end of the year. Raine noted that the same is true of the JHIRT vehicle.

Alan Sirois asked about the status of the body armor project. Raine replied that we are getting pricing now, after which notice will go out to region.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. Things are moving along well, other than the issue discussed above.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:**

Jay Hastings noted that since the departure of Tom Kettle, he has been the only representative for higher ed. He proposed naming Sam Lemanski (introduced earlier) as his proxy.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**

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**Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 10:00 am**

**Motion:** Jay Hastings moved to nominate Sam Lemanski as the alternate representative for higher education. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. Alan Sirois, BJ Calvi, Larry Holmberg, Don Willard, Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, John Dearborn, Kristen Smidy, Jeanne Galloway, Steve Gaughan, Ben St. Amand, and Nina Barszcz voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Tom Grady reported that law enforcement groups in Berkshire County started putting together a regional civil response team about a year and a half ago. They have been training regularly and doing a lot around election law and election security. It has been a good regional effort.

Tom also noted that many WRHSAC assets have been deployed recently, including at the Big E, at the Josh Billings, and with the Tech Rescue Team. He asked that people send a note to him or Raine when they have used WRHSAC equipment.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** BJ Calvi moved to adjourn. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. Don Willard, Jay Hastings, Tom Grady, Kristen Smidy, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Steve Gaughan, Larry Holmberg, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, Ben St. Amand, and BJ Calvi voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for September 17, 2024
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2024 (draft)
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2024 (draft)
- WRHSAC Council Special Meeting Minutes from July 22, 2024 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21 Homeland Security Grant, 9/17/2024
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY22 Homeland Security Grant, 9/17/2024
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY23 Homeland Security Grant, 9/17/2024
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 9/9/24
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 9/9/24
- WRHSAC FFY23 Budget Report through 9/9/24

Respectfully submitted by:

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

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), Bruce Cullett (Peru PD), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Tom Grady (BCSO), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Sam Lemanski (Westfield State EMD; alternate for Jay Hastings), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTa), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire), Don Willard (Chesterfield Selectboard)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Matthew Bryan (BRPC), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (HCSO), Nina Miscioscia (MAPC), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Dan Nietsche (FRCOG/HMCC), Ben Podsiadlo (EOPSS), Alex Rock (EOPSS), Kurt Seaman (Deerfield FD), Avery Serra (MAPC), Xander Sylvain (FRCOG/HMCC), Joshua Towse (Baystate),

**Council members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Paul Burns (PVTa; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional)

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

Chair Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 10:05 am without a quorum. A quorum was met within ten minutes of meeting start.

#### Approval of Minutes

The Council considered the minutes from the September 17, 2024 meetings.

**Motion:** Larry Holmberg moved to approve the minutes from September 17, 2024 as submitted. Alan Sirois seconded the motion. Sam Lemanski, Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, Don Willard, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. Bruce Cullett and Dave Desrosiers abstained. The motion was approved.

#### Introductions

A round of introductions followed.

#### Updates from the Chair

Tom Grady noted that as we are only days away from the election, it is important to be prepared. There has been a lot of discussion about election security. MPTC has released their annual training schedule, which includes the topics of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

#### Updates from EOPSS

Brian Nichols reported that the FFY24 HSGP contracts went out on Friday. He sent out award announcements to recipients of the FFY24 NSGP, which totaled \$8.5 million. FEMA is expected to release additional funds shortly. OGR conducted a site visit with MAPC on Sept 24 to review FFY19 projects. For WRHSAC, they reviewed the multi-capabilities equipment project. The review went well. Ben Podsiadlo reiterated the importance of election security. A survey

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 10:00 am

regarding the SPR will come out soon. They are looking for feedback about capability gaps or other areas for improvement. The non-profit grant program has expanded over the years, especially for security enhancements for faith based organizations and others. Please encourage non-profits in your area to apply. Regarding the foam issue, they have been looking closely at that and have met with the Fire Marshal. He thanked John Dearborn for his expert input on that topic.

#### Updates from Disciplines

- FIRE: John Dearborn added more details about the foam project. Subgroups through DFS and FCAM are meeting again today to move the project forward. Alan Sirois reported that DFS is looking carefully at election related threats. The regional hazmat team is prepared to respond to incidents. Polling places are sensitive sites. The goal is to get them up and running again as quickly as possible if there are any incidents.
- POLICE: Bruce Cullett had no updates to report.
- EMS: Tom Grady reported that the WMEMS regional council meeting was held last week. As discussed last month, Dominic Singh and one other regional director are stepping down. Assistant Director Lisa Herringshaw was accepted by the executive board and will take over as director upon Dom's departure. The lack of supportive funding is discouraging. At the current level of spending and funding, they predict that the office will only remain viable for another seven years.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg had no updates to report.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway was not present but sent an update ahead of the meeting. Mosquito season continues. More cases of West Nile and EEE have been diagnosed since the last meeting. Flu and Covid vaccines are available and advised. The hurricanes in the south have adversely impacted the supply of IV fluids. Refer to DPH for more info.
- TRANSPORTATION: Ben St. Amand reported. Fare free will be starting November 1. The "premium service" route from Amherst to Worcester is excluded.
- DPW: Dave Desrosiers reported that new regulations for diesel trucks are going into effect in January. A meeting about this will be held in November. They received notification from some vendors that it might be difficult to get diesel trucks after January. Expect high demand. There will be requirements for the number of electric vehicles sold for every diesel.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. The regional civil response team has been training to prep for elections and other incidents.
- COMMUNICATIONS: No one was present to give an update.
- HOSPITALS: Josh Towse reported that Baystate is treading water with the IV shortage and working to conserve supplies.

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 10:00 am

- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Don Willard reported that the potential threat of swatting calls is becoming more of a concern for municipalities as these are becoming more common. Many small towns have limited hours for police and depend on state police for additional coverage.
- K-12 EDUCATION: No one was present to give an update.
- HIGHER ED: Sam Lemanski reported that they are preparing for protests around the election.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Scott Flebotte reported that there have been requests for more virtual ICS 300 courses. A new one is scheduled for February 14. They are also debating opening regional offices for the elections in response to requests from municipalities. The EMPG close-out date is now Oct 30.
- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update.

#### Updates from Subcommittees

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment:** Larry Holmberg and Raine Brown reported that the election security project encountered a hitch. Generally, when we reimburse PDs we only do backfill or overtime, or else it is seen as supplanting. When we started the project, we asked if we could pay for local details regardless of whether or not it was BF/OT, and they said yes. However, Raine double checked to get that in writing and was returned back to previous guidance that could only be BF/OT. This restriction has now been clarified with town clerks. When the project was opened to the rest of the region, some police departments applied for it. There is still more money available. Each town can receive up to \$1,000. There is a form on the website to fill out.

Larry also reported on the fairground security project. The subcommittee received three proposals. One was rejected for being non-responsive, but the other two looked good. However, when the price proposals were opened, one proposal was rejected for being too far out of our budget, at over \$500,000. The other seemed too low, included components we did not ask for, and left out components that should have been there. When MAPC contacted the vendor, it became clear that they did not fully understand the project. The RFP will go out again with more explicit detail about what we are looking for in this phase of the project.

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

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady brought forward two motions. First, the entrapment and implement class came in higher than anticipated because of the equipment needs.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve an additional \$4,750 to support the training. Larry Holmberg seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, Don Willard, Bruce Cullett, Dave Desrosiers, John Dearborn, BJ Calvi, Sam Lemanski, and Alan Sirois voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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The second motion concerns the regional exercise series.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve up to \$20,000 to hire a consultant to develop an exercise series. BJ Calvi seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, Don Willard, Bruce Cullett, Dave Desrosiers, John Dearborn, BJ Calvi, Sam Lemanski, and Alan Sirois voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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

**CBRNE/IED:** Raine Brown reported on the issue with the Greenfield Prime Mover that was discussed last month. According to the vendor, if we go with diesel we would probably have the truck by the end of Q1, 2025. If we go with gas, it will probably be the end of calendar year 2025. Diesel would be approximately \$10,000 more, and the project already came in more than what was allocated. Raine asked EOPSS about the possibility of another extension of FFY22, which we would need if we go with the gas vehicle. Brian Nichols and Ben Podsiadlo responded that they have not had a chance to discuss it internally yet, but they will get back to Raine soon. Following additional discussion about the benefits of gas over diesel, there was agreement to proceed with the gas motor if the grant end date could be extended. Rather than wait until next month's meeting to move the project forward, Alan Sirois suggested the following alternative.

**Motion:** Alan Sirois moved to allow Tom Grady and Raine Brown to make the decision about gas v. diesel when they hear back from EOPSS about the possibility of an extension. BJ Calvi seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, Don Willard, Bruce Cullett, Dave Desrosiers, John Dearborn, BJ Calvi, Sam Lemanski, and Alan Sirois voted in favor. Ben St. Amand abstained. The motion was approved.

Regarding ASHER equipment, Raine put out application forms for towns. We have about 14 applications now; it will stay open through November 22. A working group will start reviewing applications next week, with another round of reviews at the end of November. Raine will then put together procurement based on requests. Money from FFY23 is already on the books for this project, and we will have more in FFY24. The application also asks towns what else they need; Raine is seeing a lot of requests for shields.

John Dearborn reported that the high water vehicle is on track. Discussions about where to house it are ongoing; originally, the plan was to house it in Longmeadow, but there is now discussion about keeping it in Williamsburg as a more central location. They are waiting to hear back from the Williamsburg selectboard.

Scott Flebotte asked about the status of the meridian vehicle barricades. Raine explained that those are in FFY24, which will likely come online in January.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. Things are moving along well, other than the Greenfield prime mover and the Tech Rescue Team prime hauler. Although the TRT received quotes from a Ford vendor,

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they have not responded to MAPC's official request. The truck is funded through FFY23, which will likely get an extension. The portable metal detectors have come in and are at each Sheriff's Department. A training was held on how to use them. Last week, Raine saw the TRT do swiftwater rescue training at Zoar Gap, including night training. The team said it was the best training they had ever been through, and they learned a lot.

*MAPC* – Avery Serra reported that the vendor for the prime hauler said they are waiting for the outfitter before they can provide a quote.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:**

Tom Grady reported that there was an incident at the Sheriff's Office in which someone who received a scam notice tried to turn himself in for supposedly not paying a fine. He was still on the phone when he went into the lobby. An officer spoke on phone and the guy said there was a bomb in parking lot. It was not a credible threat but tied up a lot of resources. Tom echoes Don's point that we need to make community leadership more aware of these types of incidents.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Larry Holmberg moved to adjourn. BJ Calvi seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, Bruce Cullett, Dave Desrosiers, John Dearborn, BJ Calvi, Sam Lemanski, Don Willard, Alan Sirois, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for October 15, 2024
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from September 17, 2024 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21 Homeland Security Grant, 10/15/2024
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY22 Homeland Security Grant, 10/15/2024
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY23 Homeland Security Grant, 10/15/2024
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 10/10/24
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 10/10/24
- WRHSAC FFY23 Budget Report through 10/10/24

Respectfully submitted by:

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

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), John Dearborn (Longmeadow Fire), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), Tom Grady (BCSO), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Sam Lemanski (Westfield State EMD; alternate for Jay Hastings), Benjamin St. Amand (PVTA), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional), Don Willard (Chesterfield Selectboard)

**Non-members present:** C.J. Bartone (Hazmat/West Springfield Fire), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Matthew Bryan (BRPC), Sandra Martin (BRPC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (HCSO), Nina Miscioscia (MAPC), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Avery Serra (MAPC), Jan Thornton (Search and Rescue), Joshua Towse (Baystate), John Warren (DHS/CISA), Paul Wentworth (Mercy Medical Center)

**Council members absent:** Paul Burns (PVTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), Bruce Cullett (Peru PD), Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway)

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

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

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The Council considered the minutes from the October 15, 2024 meetings. Jeanne Galloway noted that the date on the minutes was incorrect.

**Motion:** Jeanne Galloway moved to approve the minutes from October 15, 2024 with date corrected. John Dearborn seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Don Willard, Kristen Smidy, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, Ben St. Amand, and BJ Calvi voted in favor. The motion was approved.

#### **Introductions**

A round of introductions followed.

#### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady reported that the Regional Dive Team responded to a call out over the weekend in Easthampton, along with MSP, and made a successful recovery. Support from the Council continues to pay off.

#### **Updates from EOPSS**

Brian Nichols reported. They are rolling out contracts for the NSGP program. FEMA is also getting ready to roll out a national security supplement of \$200 million. The application process should be announced in the next couple of weeks.

#### **Updates from Disciplines**

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- **FIRE:** John Dearborn reported that brush fire season is big this year. In the western part of the state, Great Barrington is fighting a significant fire on Butternut. BJ Calvi congratulated Chief Dearborn on his impending retirement and noted that brush fires are straining resources across the region and across the state. They are working on getting foam back into the area. Alan Sirois added that the temporary relief coming with rain in next few days will not be enough to mitigate the brush fire risks, and echoed the congratulations to Chief Dearborn. The Tech Rescue Team has been steady. There will be a meeting in December with all of the fire chiefs who are hosting members of the team to discuss responses to flooding events.
- **POLICE:** No one was present to give an update.
- **EMS:** No one was present to give an update.
- **EMD:** No one was present, but Larry Holmberg had informed Raine that there were no updates to report.
- **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Jeanne Galloway reported that flu season is here. She encouraged everyone to get flu and Covid shots, as well as RSV if you are older. All are circulating. The flu rate in New England is still low, but rising everywhere across the country. We are still hearing a lot about the bird flu out west, including spread to humans. Mosquito season is nearly over. Improvements in Public Health standards are still in the works.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Ben St. Amand reported. Thanks to a grant from the State, they are offering fare free service through June for all paratransit vehicles and fixed route buses except premium service. There is now fixed route service from Amherst to Greenfield. They held a food drive and are still waiting to see how much came in to donate to the food bank.
- **DPW:** No one was present to give an update.
- **CORRECTIONS:** Tom Grady reported. The Mass Sheriff's Association is doing its annual statewide awards in Boston, with Berkshire County's "Second Street Second Chances" program being honored. Fire Service also had awards yesterday.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** Nina Barszcz reported. The TERT team was activated to Cambridge for three days and to Malden for a line of duty death. Development grant guidelines will be voted on at the next State 911 meeting in December.
- **HOSPITALS:** Josh Towse reported that they are planning for an AMR strike on Sunday. Raine added that Hugh O'Callaghan provided an update indicating that they are anticipating the strikes to be at all of the Baystate locations, and he may be reaching out to people in the coming days if they need more resources.
- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Don Willard had no updates to report, but asked the fire reps for advice about vehicles. BJ Calvi replied that the 650 is much bigger than 550, more of a B class cabin chassis. It can carry more weight but is more difficult to maneuver.

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- **K-12 EDUCATION:** Kristen Smidy reported that Gateway is hosting a pilot safety training, the CRASE Training. They are the first school, but other superintendents are coming to observe. They are looking for feedback. She also thanked Sam Lemanski and Westfield State for hosting the Gateway team as the reunification site. Schools across the region have budgetary concerns for FY26, as not only are health insurance costs and other costs rising, but rural school aid is also at risk.
- **HIGHER ED:** Jay Hastings reported that they made it through the election and are gearing up for the Girls on the Run 5k this weekend. They are working with Westfield PD on that.
- **Massachusetts State Police (MSP):** No one was present to give an update.
- **MEMA:** No one was present to give an update.
- **DHS/CISA:** No one was present to give an update.

**Updates from Subcommittees**

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment:** Raine Brown reported. The subcommittee had a successful review of proposals for the Fairground Security project and contracted with Sentinel out of NJ. Sentinel will be attending the All Hazards meeting on Dec 3, and Raine put them in contact with the fairgrounds so they can start arranging site visits. For the election security project, we are starting to receive some reimbursement requests, but we will not have the total for what we spent on that until the January meeting. That is one of our required spendings, so if it comes to less than \$34,400, we will have to find another election security project.

**Interoperability/Information Sharing:** Anthony Gentile reported that the new MIFOG is going to come out soon.

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady brought forward five requests from the subcommittee. The first two were for swift water rescue training and boat operator training for the Tech Rescue Team. They need a certain level of training to be deployable as a Type 2 team.

**Motion:** Nina Barszcz moved to approve \$10,000 for WMTRT swift water rescue training. John Dearborn seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Don Willard, Kristen Smidy, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, and BJ Calvi voted in favor. Ben St. Amand abstained. The motion was approved.

**Motion:** Nina Barszcz moved to approve \$9,000 for WMTRT boat operator training. John Dearborn seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Don Willard, Kristen Smidy, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, BJ Calvi, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The next request was for compressed gas cylinder trainings for the D4 and D5 Hazmat teams.

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**Motion:** Nina Barszcz moved to approve \$13,000 for compressed gas cylinder training. John Dearborn seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Don Willard, Kristen Smidy, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, BJ Calvi, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The development of a regional exercise card game was approved last month with a budget of \$20,000. However, BRPC determined that additional hours will be needed to complete the project according to the Scope of Work, so they are requesting an additional \$4,500.

**Motion:** Nina Barszcz moved to approve an additional \$4,500 for the regional exercise project. John Dearborn seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Don Willard, Kristen Smidy, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, BJ Calvi, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The final motion concerned a reallocation of funds. Raine explained that we were required to spend 7.5% of the FFY21 budget, or \$89,292.62, on cybersecurity. We had a project that we had hoped would spend all of that, but different challenges arose and the project only utilized \$42,191.62. Most of the remaining funds have since been reallocated to other projects, but EOPSS is insisting that we comply with the original 7.5% requirement for cybersecurity. To put some of those funds back into the FFY21 budget, Raine moved two FFY21 T&E projects to FFY23. We need a motion to use the freed up \$29,695.45 in T&E funds for cybersecurity.

**Motion:** Jeanne Galloway moved to approve the reallocation as described. Kristen Smidy seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Don Willard, Kristen Smidy, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, BJ Calvi, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Equipment /PPE:** Raine Brown reported that the ASHER PPE applications are in review. There are 33 applications in so far. The application period ends Friday.

**CBRNE/IED:** Alan Sirois reiterated Raine's update about the ASHER project. Raine added that we are anticipating the high water vehicle arrival in December or January, as well as the response vehicle for JHIRT. Regarding the Greenfield truck, the model we wanted came back online. We are still trying to get a quote for the Tech Rescue Team Prime Hauler. The challenge is the utility body on the truck.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Raine Brown reported. As discussed above, we need to reallocate funds to the cybersecurity line in FFY21. The T&E funds voted on earlier take care of some of that. To make up most of the remaining gap, there is \$17,228.67 unallocated in FFY21 that can be moved to cybersecurity.

**Motion:** Nina Barszcz moved to approve the reallocation of \$17,228.67 as described. Alan Sirois seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Don Willard, Kristen Smidy, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, BJ Calvi, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

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This leaves a gap of \$177 to reach the required 7.5% of the FFY21 budget. Raine suggested moving that amount from the FFY21 WMRIC budget to cybersecurity.

**Motion:** Alan Sirois moved to approve the reallocation of \$177 from the FFY21 WMRIC budget as described. John Dearborn seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Don Willard, Kristen Smidy, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, BJ Calvi, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Regarding how to spend these funds, Raine has been searching for cybersecurity projects and putting out calls for equipment or software. The project needs to be completed by the end of June 2025, which does not leave much time for a planning project. Raine reached out to BRPC to see if any of the towns that participated in the earlier cybersecurity project had additional needs that could be met with these funds, and received a quote from the City of Pittsfield to review access network controls. They have a vendor who is doing one part of the project, but they still need \$19,584 for the startup. Raine has inquired about whether this is something we can fund. Even if it is, there is still a gap because we have to spend over \$47,000. Alan Sirois, Jeanne Galloway, and Kristen Smidy each had suggestions for projects in their towns or district. Raine asked anyone with ideas to send them info about the projects, whether the quotes are estimates or whether they ran procurement, etc. The proposals will go to the All Hazards subcommittee, which meets on Dec 3.

The FFY22 and FFY23 budgets are looking ok, but Raine is keeping an eye whether we will need to request another extension for FFY22. FFY24 should be available soon, usually by January. Brian Nichols added that they do not have a date for that yet.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:**

Raine reported that they will be away in December and early January. Rachel Mason and Bob Dean will be stepping in during this time.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Jeanne Galloway moved to adjourn. BJ Calvi seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Jeanne Galloway, Nina Barszcz, Don Willard, Kristen Smidy, John Dearborn, Alan Sirois, BJ Calvi, and Ben St. Amand voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
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- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for November 19, 2024
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from October 15, 2024 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21 Homeland Security Grant, 11/19/2024
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY22 Homeland Security Grant, 11/19/2024
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY23 Homeland Security Grant, 11/19/2024
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 11/15/24
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 11/15/24
- WRHSAC FFY23 Budget Report through 11/15/24

Respectfully submitted by:

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

DRAFT

## Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 10:00 am

**Council members present:** Dave Desrosiers (Granby DPW), Jeanne Galloway (West Springfield Public Health), Stephen Gaughan (EMS/Amherst Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Larry Holmberg (HREPC), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Sam Lemanski (Westfield State EMD; alternate for Jay Hastings), Hugh O'Callaghan (Baystate), Alan Sirois (Agawam Fire), Kristen Smidy (Gateway Regional)

**Non-members present:** C.J. Bartone (Hazmat/West Springfield Fire), Bob Dean (FRCOG), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Jeff McDonald (HCSO), Nina Miscioscia (MAPC), Brian Nichols (EOPSS), Chris Norris (Easthampton Fire), Alex Rock (EOPSS), Avery Serra (MAPC), Kevin Zawistowski (Pittsfield)

**Council members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Paul Burns (PVRTA; alternate for Benjamin St. Amand), BJ Calvi (Springfield Fire), Bruce Cullett (Peru PD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch; alternate for Nina Barszcz), John Paciorek (Deerfield Police/Western Mass Police Chiefs), Norene Pease (Shutesbury BOH/MAPHCO; alternate for Jeanne Galloway), Benjamin St. Amand (PVRTA), Don Willard (Chesterfield Selectboard)

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

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

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The Council considered the minutes from the November 19, 2024 meetings.

**Motion:** Jeanne Galloway moved to approve the minutes from November 19, 2024 as submitted. Alan Sirois seconded the motion. Jeanne Galloway, Larry Holmberg, Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Alan Sirois, and Kristen Smidy voted in favor. Dave Desrosiers, Steve Gaughan, and Steve Kozloski abstained. The motion was approved.

#### **Introductions**

A round of introductions followed.

#### **Updates from the Chair**

Tom Grady reported. Ben Podsiadlo has moved on from EOPSS. The Council provides a lot of regional assets that are put to good use, including in the response to the recent Great Barrington wildfire.

#### **Updates from EOPSS**

Brian Nichols reported. EOPSS has decided not to fill Ben's position, but instead to divide responsibilities differently. Kathryn Latimer will continue as division manager, and they will hire two additional program coordinators at the same level as Brian. They are still waiting for FFY24 funding to hit. NSGP is putting out contracts. FEMA announced a supplemental program with \$200 million. Applications are due today.

#### **Updates from Disciplines**

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- FIRE: Alan Sirois reported no significant updates. Fire departments have been glad to see more rain. We are now moving into colder weather, which brings the seasonal problem of space heaters and “creative” heating sources.
- POLICE: Steve Kozloski had no updates to report.
- EMS: Steve Gaughan reported that the region is in full swing with Lisa Herringshaw, who is new in the role of director but has many years of experience. OEMS met the other day. We will see greater requirements in pediatric training coming, which is something for the Council to keep in mind as we see opportunities to meet the needs. February is the target for the new protocols, which will include some expansions such as a new Hazmat section. Chris Norris added that they also changed the organizational structure and added part-time support staff and a technical advisor.
- EMD: Larry Holmberg reported that with the snow and rain in the last few weeks, it is time to dust off the plans for warming centers. Some have already opened as needed.
- PUBLIC HEALTH: Jeanne Galloway reported that it is the time of year to keep an eye on unhoused folks. Flu is on the rise, but not quickly. It is not too late to get the vaccine. Covid and RSV are also out there. Public Health improvements are coming along. SAPHE 2.0 was adopted, which will help Western Mass.
- TRANSPORTATION: No one was present to give an update.
- DPW: Dave Desrosiers reported that he missed last month’s meeting because he was attending a meeting on the new car regulations. He foresees a big problem with those, even though there is a one year exemption for emergency vehicles. The Peterbilt dealer and sales rep said that engines are unavailable for the trucks. This is all the dealers though. No electric vehicles are powerful enough to meet DPW needs. It is also becoming more and more of a problem getting drivers. There was talk about insourcing more snow plow drivers because of the challenges of finding enough contractors, but if you don’t have trucks, it doesn’t matter if you have drivers. Dicky John is moving more to the farm business. Wait times for parts are up to a year. Dave inventoried the parts that normally break, but there are real issues for DPWs between car regulations and supply chain.
- CORRECTIONS: Tom Grady reported. Mass Sheriffs Association is continuing to work with MPTC to blend academy level trainings on the Acadis platform. They are hoping to get the project through sometime in 2025.
- COMMUNICATIONS: No one was present to give an update.
- HOSPITALS: Hugh O’Callaghan reported that IV supply fluids is still the biggest issue. The vendor is slowly getting back up to output after the hurricane and should be back to normal by the end of the year.
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT: No one was present to give an update.

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- K-12 EDUCATION: Kristen Smidy reported. Many schools in the region have been waiting for rural school aid, which was finally issued in early December. There was another school shooting yesterday in Wisconsin; superintendents are talking about a response to that. The CRASE training was great and teachers felt empowered.
- HIGHER ED: Jay Hastings reported no updates.
- Massachusetts State Police (MSP): No one was present to give an update.
- MEMA: Scott Flebotte reported that they added some ICS courses and will be adding more.
- DHS/CISA: No one was present to give an update.

**Updates from Subcommittees**

**All Hazards Planning and Equipment:** Rachel Mason reported that reimbursement requests are slowly trickling in for the election security project. So far we have complete reimbursement requests from 12 of the 38 towns that applied, and another 6 have submitted incomplete paperwork. Linda Gross is in contact with those towns. The rest have until the end of the month to submit their requests. The 12 processed so far have totaled just under \$8,500. We need to spend \$34,400 on election security, so we will likely need another project.

Larry Holmberg reported that the Fairgrounds project is now underway, following a successful kickoff meeting with the vendor. They seem to understand what we are looking for. They did site visits at both sites. Larry joined them for the Cummington visit. They are trying to speed up their deliverables, with a goal of getting a preliminary draft for review a month earlier than what we requested.

There is a project justification in today's meeting packet for a cybersecurity project. We've been having trouble meeting the mandatory spending. This project consists of two smaller projects that together will use the remaining \$47,101: one in Pittsfield to change the network ports to secure ports, and the second for multifactor keys for Gateway and Hampshire Regional schools. The quantity of keys will depend on the per unit cost and the exact cost of the network ports.

**Motion:** Larry Holmberg moved to approve \$47,101 for the cybersecurity project as described. Dave Desrosiers seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Alan Sirois, Steve Gaughan, Hugh O'Callaghan, Jeanne Galloway, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. Kristen Smidy abstained. The motion was approved.

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

**Training and Exercises:** Tom Grady reported that the subcommittee is requesting \$14,000 for another round of the crush/impale/entrapment training. Steve Gaughan reported that he attended last month's session in Orange and it was a great training that gives people a relatively

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cost-effective means to approach different situations. Tom added that if you have vocational schools in your communities, encourage people to attend.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$14,000 for the crush/impalement/entrapment training. Steve Gaughan seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Alan Sirois, Kristen Smidy, Steve Gaughan, Hugh O'Callaghan, Jeanne Galloway, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Equipment /PPE:** Rachel Mason had no updates to report.

**CBRNE/IED:** Alan Sirois reported on the ASHER equipment project. 35 agencies submitted requests, and after whittling down some of the excessive requests we are looking at a total of 277 sets of body armor. Rachel Mason added that she will send the specs to MAPC this week, but we will wait until January to run procurement.

Rachel provided updates on several other projects. The high water vehicle is expected to be delivered to Williamsburg in January, but there will be a number of steps after delivery before it's in service, including arrangement of equipment on the truck, policy and SOG review with the team, and two days of in-person training on the vehicle with someone from the company. They hope to have it in service by early spring. The response vehicle for JHIRT is just waiting for the decals, which the vendor says should happen in the next day or two. Regarding the Greenfield regional prime hauler, the utility body portion of the truck is being built. We don't expect delivery before spring. There is still no update on the Tech Rescue Team prime hauler. It has been a challenge to get a quote for this project because of the utility body.

**Fiduciary Report:**

Rachel reported that the FFY22 and FFY23 budgets are looking ok, but there is still a chance that we will need to request another extension for FFY22. Brian Nichols reported that the FFY24 funds should be available soon. The fiscal dept is working on it.

*MAPC* – Avery Serra reported no updates.

*Informational Letter* – Bob Dean read a letter from Raine Brown regarding their current leave of absence.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Tom Grady reported on the three seats left open by John Dearborn's retirement:

**New Fire Representative** – WMFCA has unanimously voted to support the nomination of Pittsfield Fire Chief Thomas Sammons for the seat vacated by John Dearborn's retirement. We will vote on this next month, because the WRHSAC newsletter gave interested candidates until the end of December to submit their names.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 10:00 am**

**WRHSAC Co-Chair Selection** – Two people have expressed interest in this position. We will let it go until end of December and vote in January.

**CBRNE Chair Selection** – Alan Sirois has expressed interest in the position. Tom noted that he has been involved with the subcommittee for a long time, has a long history of service in Western Mass, and understands the needs of the CBRNE subcommittee very well.

**Motion:** Tom Grady nominated Alan Sirois to the position of CBRNE Chair. Steve Gaughan seconded the nomination. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Kristen Smidy, Steve Gaughan, Jeanne Galloway, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. Alan Sirois abstained. The nomination was approved.

**Business Unforeseen by Chair:**

Tom reminded everyone that we're going through a presidential transition next month, and we all need to be paying attention to the priorities for the new administration and how it might affect the work of the Council.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 10:00 am, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Dave Desrosiers moved to adjourn. Kristen Smidy seconded the motion. Larry Holmberg, Dave Desrosiers, Tom Grady, Jay Hastings, Alan Sirois, Steve Gaughan, Kristen Smidy, Jeanne Galloway, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 am.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WRHSAC Council Meeting Agenda for December 17, 2024
- WRHSAC Council Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2024 (draft)
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY21 Homeland Security Grant, 12/17/2024
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY22 Homeland Security Grant, 12/17/2024
- WRHSAC Fiduciary Report for FFY23 Homeland Security Grant, 12/17/2024
- WRHSAC FFY21 Budget Report through 12/12/24
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 12/12/24
- WRHSAC FFY23 Budget Report through 12/12/24
- Project Justification for Cybersecurity System Access Equipment
- Cover letter and resume from Alan Sirois

Respectfully submitted by:

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