



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting

Minutes

December 9, 2021

1:00pm

Burlington Town Hall

29 Center Street, Burlington, MA 01803

Remote Participation Option:

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 947 5866 0306

Passcode: 949681

Dial In: 646 876 9923

Call to Order

- Chair Chief J. Gilliland called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

Chair Chief J. Gilliland and members of the Full Council thanked retired Council Members Chief R. Picariello and J. Costanzo for their years of service to the region. A plaque was presented to Chief R. Picariello who attended the meeting in person.

Approval of Minutes from the November 18, 2021 Meeting.

MOTION put forth by Chief B. Moriarty.

- Approve the November 18, 2021 meeting minutes.
- Seconded by M. Foster.
 - In Favor: J. Brickett, Chief J. Fisher, M. Foster, Chief T. Judge, Chief J. LeLacheur, Chief B. Moriarty, C. Ryan, D. Spinosa, Chief N. Hovey, A. Alpert.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: C. Malone, N. Berger.
- The motion passed.

Firefighting Foam Remediation- State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey

- State Fire Marshal P. Ostroskey shared information with the Council on ongoing efforts within the Commonwealth, with the assistance of the Baker Administration and legislators, to address the PFAS issue.
 - DFS is working closely with the MA DEP on this topic. Marshal P. Ostroskey highlighted the MA DEP program that assists communities with the immediate disposal of long chain (legacy) foam. Many communities currently possess short chain foam, which is also hazardous. This foam should not be used unless absolutely necessary for immediate life-saving purposes. If it is used (in any amount), municipalities should immediately contact MA DEP.
 - There are now fluorine-free foams available. These foams could be an effective tool,

and many departments are already switching to fluorine free foam.

- It was discussed whether existing equipment could be cleaned after it has been contaminated by PFAS.
 - To date, there are no proven methods of remediating equipment that has been contaminated with PFAS.
- NERAC has purchased two foam trailers that are impacted by this issue, each containing short chain foam. One is located in Hudson (on behalf of Fire District 14) and the other in Ayer. Given that there is not enough information regarding the appropriate way to remediate these trailers, it was the consensus of the Council to allow for these assets to remain available in the region for life saving purposes, allowing the host sites to use their best judgement on when these assets should be deployed.

EOPSS/MAPC Updates

- EOPSS Update – B. Podsiadlo provided an update on behalf of EOPSS. He thanked Marshal P. Ostroskey for his presentation and leadership on this issue. He also noted that \$10 billion was included in the recent Federal infrastructure bill for PFAS cleanup in the U.S. and that the state would be monitoring this funding source, in an effort to assist municipalities in addressing this problem. He also thanked the Council for completing the 2021 Stakeholder Preparedness Review.
- MAPC Update – A. Reilly provided an update on behalf of MAPC. MAPC compiled the State Impact Report for 2021 based on information received from each of the 4 Homeland Security Council’s program managers. This report was a recap of recent accomplishments and initiatives in progress relative to Council funded projects in 2021 and the final draft was submitted to EOPSS for review.

Council Membership

- Open Cybersecurity Seats
 - MAPC contacted the MA Cyber Center, EOPSS, all mayors and managers in the NERAC region, and the Central Region Homeland Security Advisory Council’s Cybersecurity representative for recommendations to fill NERAC’s Cybersecurity seats.
 - We have received resumes from 5 candidates, which are included in the meeting packet for the Council’s review.
- All 5 candidates are well qualified cybersecurity professionals.

MOTION put forth by Chief J. Fisher.

- Appoint Edward Chao and Colby Cousens to the Council’s two open cybersecurity seats. They bring a balance of significant cybersecurity experience and government experience.
- Seconded by Chief J. LeLacheur.
 - In Favor: Chief J. Fisher, M. Foster, Chief T. Judge, Chief J. LeLacheur, Chief B. Moriarty, D. Spinosa, Chief N. Hovey, A. Alpert, C. Malone, N. Berger, B. Klag.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.
- Massachusetts State Police Liaison
 - EOPSS has informed MAPC that there will be no official specific MSP liaison at this time, but EOPSS will encourage MSP to send a representative if topics arise that warrant their presence at a NERAC meeting.

FFY19/FFY20 Budget Updates

- Council members were provided with copies of the FFY19 and FFY20 budgets in the meeting packet.
- The request to extend FFY19 funding to June 30, 2022 has been approved by EOPSS and MAPC is in the process of signing the contract.
- In the FFY19 budget, Line Item L: Regional Cache Sustainment is overallocated by \$4,863.49.
- The Training and Exercise Committee also requests an additional \$3,023.22 to fund the Committee's Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS) course that came in over budget.

MOTION put forth by Chief J. Fisher.

- Move FFY19 project Trailer for 30KW Generator (L.10 \$2,467.01) to FFY20 and transfer \$2,396.48 of the unallocated FFY19 H.01 NEMLEC Armored Vehicle funding to the FFY19 Regional Cache Sustainment line.
- Transfer \$594.46 from unallocated FFY19 K.01 Public Health Projects & Initiatives and \$2,428.76 of the unallocated FFY19 H.01 NEMLEC Armored Vehicle to fund the Training and Exercise Committee's (FFY19 O.12) FFY20 A.02 Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS) Course.
- Seconded by B. Klag.
 - In Favor: Chief J. Fisher, M. Foster, Chief T. Judge, Chief J. LeLacheur, Chief B. Moriarty, D. Spinosa, Chief N. Hovey, A. Alpert, C. Malone, N. Berger.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

Project Updates

- NERAC PPE Cache Distribution Events
 - The next round of Distribution Events will be held on January 20 and 21, 2022 at the Beverly Cache Site.
- Statewide CISO Project
 - POs have been issued for the consultant to begin work. A kickoff meeting will take place on December 15, 2021.

Disposing of NERAC Equipment

- Beverly Cache Site Surveillance Cameras
 - EOPSS approved the disposal request, so the cameras are now possessions of the City of Beverly to use or dispose of as they see fit.

EOPSS/OGR 2021 Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR)

- The 2021 SPR has been submitted to EOPSS. Thank you to everyone who helped provide data for various sections and met with MAPC to work on this document.

Committee/Working Group Updates

- Training & Exercise – Chief Fisher
 - The Committee met today and discussed the status of current exercises and trainings. Funding was moved to support programs, such as the ADLS course. There was a technical rescue presentation for two After Action Reports and two Exercise Review Requests, which were all approved by the Committee.
- Interoperability/Info Sharing – D. Spinosa
 - There is an upcoming Interoperability meeting this Tuesday.

- Regional Equipment Cache – M. Foster
 - An Invitation for Bids is out for a 500 kw generator.
 - The Committee is very concerned by the lack of movement on the cache fee program discussion. The Council is still supporting the cache sites, but this will not be a sustainable option.
- Evacuation/Sheltering – N. Berger
 - Work has been done to reinvigorate this Committee. The following is a list of individuals that are interested in joining the Committee.
 - Lauren Sardella: MEMA Region 1
 - Heather Tecce: MEMA Region 1
 - McKinley Theobald: Emergency Management Coordinator at MassDOT / MBTA Security & Emergency Management
 - Mark Monroe: Manager, Emergency Planning at MassDOT / MBTA Security & Emergency Management
 - Joanne Weinstock: Branch Chief, Region I Grants Division at FEMA
 - Beth Roberts: Emergency Preparedness Manager/ HMCC Program Manager
 - Dave Ouellette*: Dracut Public Health Agent
 - George Anastas: Lowell RTA General Manager

MOTION put forth by N. Berger.

- Appoint the list of interested candidates to the Sheltering Committee.
- Seconded by Chief J. Fisher.
 - In Favor: Chief J. Fisher, M. Foster, Chief T. Judge, Chief J. LeLacheur, Chief B. Moriarty, D. Spinosa, Chief N. Hovey, A. Alpert, C. Malone, N. Berger.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

Discipline & State Agency Liaison Updates

- This is a new agenda item created to provide a dedicated time for discipline and liaison updates that don't necessarily fall under a committee. We will have this on the agenda for all future meetings and the floor will be open to anyone who would like to provide updates from the subject area they represent.
- Discipline Updates:
 - Hospital update given by B. Klag.
 - Across the state, there are insufficient numbers of ICU beds to meet the demand. There has been some innovation to find better mechanisms to network to address this problem.
 - There has been an increase of COVID-19 cases in our region. This includes a reasonable number of vaccine breakthrough cases.
 - NERAC ventilators have not been deployed at this point. There has been an increase in awareness and other treatments have been identified, so ventilator usage has decreased.
- State Agency Liaison Updates
 - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency- J. Mannion
 - MEMA is happy to help the Council by providing connections to EMDs and participating in NERAC's committees.
 - Sam Phillips has resigned as the Director and the current Assistant Director of Planning is now the Director in the interim. MEMA is currently in the process of finding an Acting Operations Assistant Director. MEMA will also

be looking for a new Local Coordinator in January 2022.

MOTION put forth by Chief T. Judge.

- Motion to appoint Heather Tecce as NERAC's MEMA liaison.
- Seconded by Chief J. Fisher.
 - In Favor: Chief J. Fisher, M. Foster, Chief T. Judge, Chief J. LeLacheur, Chief B. Moriarty, D. Spinosa, Chief N. Hovey, A. Alpert, C. Malone, N. Berger.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

- The NERAC bylaws state that the Council shall name liaisons from several other state agencies, but those positions are currently not filled. Would the Council like to appoint liaisons for each of these agencies, or modify the bylaws?
 - "Bylaws Section 4 – The Council shall name liaisons from the following state agencies to provide technical assistance on matters pertaining to their respective disciplines: Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Massachusetts State Police, Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, Massachusetts National Guard, Massachusetts Department of Correction, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. The state agency liaisons shall be non-voting advisory members of the Council."
 - Chief J. Fisher suggested the Council keep members and liaisons at a manageable level. It may be best at this time for the Council to not move forward appointing every liaison named in the bylaws.

New Business Unforeseen by the Chair

- Included in the meeting packet is the NERAC PPE and Medical Supply Cache documents and forms drafted by MAPC and reviewed by J. Brickett. These documents and forms are being discussed as new business unforeseen because they were only recently finalized, less than 48 hours before this meeting. This was unanticipated at the time the agenda was drafted and the meeting was posted in compliance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law requirements.
 - The language regarding the requirement for municipalities to be properly bonded and insured was recommended by MAPC's legal department.

MOTION put forth by Chief J. LeLacheur.

- Approve the NERAC PPE and Medical Supply Cache Resource Request Policy Form, the Subscription Agreement, the NERAC PPE & Medical Supply Resource Request Form, and the Resource Request Confirmation Form.
- Adjourn meeting.
- Seconded by Chief T. Judge.
 - In Favor: Chief J. Fisher, M. Foster, Chief T. Judge, Chief J. LeLacheur, Chief B. Moriarty, D. Spinosa, Chief N. Hovey, A. Alpert, C. Malone, N. Berger.
 - Opposed: None.
 - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

**** Next Meeting: January 13, 2022****

ATTENDEES - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chief Jason Gilliland, Chair: Marblehead Fire Department
John Brickett: Executive Director, Northeast EMS
Chief John Fisher: Carlisle Police Department
Mark Foster: Director, Beverly Emergency Management
Dave Spinosa: Communications Director, Essex County Sheriff's Department
Paul Cohen: Town Manager, Town of Chelmsford
Bill Klag: Emergency Preparedness Director, North Shore Medical Center
Christopher Ryan: Deputy Director, North Shore Regional 911 Center
Chief Neal Hovey: Topsfield Police Department
Chief Tom Judge: Concord Fire Department
John Sanchez: Director, Burlington Public Works Department
Allan Alpert: Director of Emergency Management for the City of Melrose.
Chief Brian Moriarty: Lawrence Fire Department
Chief John LeLacheur: Beverly Police Department
Noah Berger: Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority
Dave Ouellette: Dracut Public Health Agent
Christopher Malone: Superintendent, Tewksbury Public Schools

ABSENT- COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sheriff Kevin Coppinger: Essex County Sheriff
John Sanchez: Director, Burlington Public Works Department
Paul Cohen: Town Manager, Town of Chelmsford

ATTENDEES – OTHER

Peter Ostroskey: MA State Fire Marshal
Theophilos Kuliopulos: North Reading Emergency Management
Mark Monroe: Manager of Emergency Planning for MassDOT
McKinley Theobald: MassDOT Emergency Management Coordinator
Jim McLoughlin: MEMA Training Coordinator
Lauren Sardella: MEMA Region 1
James Mannion: MEMA Regional Manager
David DiGregorio: DFS Director of Hazmat Response
Derek Sencabaugh: Lexington Fire Chief
Bryan Johannes: Hudson Fire Chief
Dave Frizzell: Executive Director, MetroFire
Jeremy Januszkiewicz: Ayer Deputy Fire Chief
Glenn Carrano: CISA Protective Security Advisor, Region I
Augustin Serino: Principal Industrial Hunter/Consultant
Colby Cousens: Danvers Director of Information Technology
Benjamin Podsiadlo: EOPSS
Vicky Mboka-Moyer: EOPSS
Amy Reilly: MAPC
Lauren Sacks: MAPC
Rosemary Volinski: MAPC

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- December 9, 2021 Meeting Agenda
- November 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- FFY19 FFY20, and FFY21 Budget Updates

- December 2021 Project Status Updates
- Cover Letters/Resumes of Cybersecurity Candidates
- 2021 Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR)
- NERAC PPE and Medical Supply Cache documents and forms