



# NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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## Full Council Meeting

### Minutes

*September 8, 2022*

*1:00pm*

*Wilmington Police/Fire Department  
1 Adelaide Street, Wilmington, MA 01887*

### **Call to Order**

- Chair Chief J. Gilliland called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

### **Council Membership**

- B. Podsiadlo confirmed that the Mike Collins, Kathleen Lambert, Dr. John Buckey, and Dr. Scott Morrison have been approved by EOPSS to serve on the NERAC Council.
  - EOPSS is reviewing the process for approval of Council appointments to streamline the process.
- M. Collins (Public Works) and K. Lambert (Regional Transit Authority) were voted in at the May NERAC meeting, pending EOPSS approval, and are now official members.
- At the August NERAC meeting, the Council amended the bylaws to have two Public School seats, but a vote was not yet taken to fill the positions.

### MOTION put forth by Chief N. Hovey.

- Appoint Dr. John Buckey and Dr. Scott Morrison (pre-approved by EOPSS) to serve as NERAC's two Public Schools representatives.
- Seconded by J. Brickett.
  - In Favor: All.
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

### **Approval of Minutes from the August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Meeting.**

### MOTION put forth by Chief B. Moriarty.

- Approve the June 9, 2022 meeting minutes.
- Seconded by Chief N. Hovey.
  - In Favor: J. Brickett, P. Cohen, Chief J. Fisher, M. Foster, Chief T. Judge, Chief J. LeLacheur, Chief B. Moriarty, C. Cousens, E. Chao, Chief N. Hovey, A. Alpert.
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

### **EOPSS/MAPC Updates**

- EOPSS Update –
  - V. Mboka-Boyer provided an update. V. Mboka-Boyer and A. Marcus will alternate

working with NERAC depending on their schedules. EOPSS will soon begin the process of contracting for FFY22.

- B. Podsiadlo commended NERAC for their work on active shooter trainings. The DOJ STOP Grant related to school threat assessments will be posted soon. The issue of funding unmanned aerial systems with federal funding is still being reviewed. DHS/FEMA allow the acquisition, but other federal agencies (DOD) are reviewing the issue of drones being manufactured by foreign adversaries. There is no PFAS guidance update yet. Nero's Law created an unfunded mandate for all EMTs to be trained by February 2023, and EOPSS is confirming with FEMA whether HLS funds can be used for Nero's Law training support. The Cyber Grant NOFO should be released by the end of the month. The Governor is looking into additional funding for school safety, which may or may not apply to ASHER. MPTC is working on standardizing ASHER lesson plans, but EOPSS supports Councils moving forward with projects that comply with NFPA 3000 and Law Enforcement standards.
- MAPC Update – MAPC is working on inventory updates for the region and will be conducting site visits to review and tag equipment.

### **Project Updates**

- *Statewide CISO Project*
  - MAPC has reached out to EOPSS to discuss scheduling a meeting with the regional program managers and involved cyber contacts to discuss potential next steps. EOPSS is currently reviewing the report.
- NEMLEC SWAT Radios
  - Motorola had provided a tentative ship date of August 25<sup>th</sup>, but some components are still held up.
  - Some equipment arrived, and D. Spinosa is reviewing what was received.
- Merrimack Valley Camera System Expansion
  - The EHP and questions are with Chief Vasque of Lawrence PD to review the locations of the 24 poles and other details.
  - Chief Vasque has sent us updated letters of support from the police chiefs of each community, and will obtain letters of permission from the Chief Municipal Officers.

### **Budget Updates**

- Committee members were provided with copies of the FFY19, FFY20, and FFY21 budgets in the meeting packet.
- FFY19 Grant End Date: Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022
  - Line L. Regional Cache Sustainment is over-encumbered by \$2,018.49.

### MOTION put forth by C. Ryan.

- Reallocate \$2,018.49 from Tech Rescue to Cache in FY19, and reallocate the same amount from the H.02 Cache line to Tech Rescue in FY20, for an even swap, to balance the FFY19 Regional Cache Sustainment line.
- Seconded by J. Brickett.
  - In Favor: All.
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.
  
- FFY20 Grant End Date: June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- FFY21 Grant End Date: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

### **NERAC Ambubus**

- Pro EMS is no longer interested in the NERAC Ambubus.
- MAPC and members of the Council met with Cataldo Ambulance on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Cataldo confirmed their interest in housing, maintaining, and supplying drivers for the bus if NERAC obtains disaster plates and reimburses annual insurance costs.
- J. Brickett is in contact with the insurance company to receive an estimate.

### **Committee/Working Group Updates**

- *Training & Exercise* – Chief J. Gilliland
  - We expect 8 more Regional Stop-the-Bleed trainings to resume this fall.
  - There is available ASHER funding that the Committee is determining how to allocate.
  - The Committee voted for a Nero’s Law project to purchase equipment and reimburse BF/OT for K9 handlers at the trainings.
- *Interoperability/Info Sharing* – C. Ryan
  - The Committee last met in June, and meetings will resume next week.
  - The first activation of the ECFCA all-band radios was deployment to the Saugus wildfire.
  - ECCOPA radios are in and will be deployed for the Topsfield Fair.
  - There are courses coming up for Incident Tactical Dispatcher, COML, COMT.
- *Regional Equipment Cache* – M. Collins
  - The Committee is discussing funding equipment maintenance, including for light towers which will be popular as it gets darker earlier and for events like the Topsfield Fair and Haunted Happenings.
  - Some items are no longer useable and will need to be disposed.
  - Lawyers are reviewing the Cache Site MOU.
- *Evacuation/Sheltering* – Chief J. Gilliland
  - This Committee does not currently have a Chair since N. Berger stepped down from the Council. This position is open to interested Council members
  - Chief A. Dionne from Salem FD discussed the MDU program and the status/condition of available resources in the region.
  - The Council discussed the future needs of the program, and how it can be scaled and scoped more efficiently. There was general consensus that a smaller program with simpler, standardized equipment would be most beneficial.
  - B. Podsiadlo indicated that EOPSS is looking into this issue and will consider workgroups and a statewide discussion.

### MOTION put forth by Chief B. Moriarty.

- Appoint J. Brickett as Chair of the Sheltering Committee.
- Seconded by Chief N. Hovey.
  - In Favor: All.
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

### **Discipline & State Agency Liaison Updates**

- Discipline Updates:
  - Cybersecurity – C. Cousens attended a meeting and networking event at MIT with national cybersecurity leadership from the White House.
  - Hospitals – B. Klag provided the update that preparations are being made for another COVID wave, though Monkeypox is not as much of a threat as anticipated.
  - Public Safety Communications – C. Ryan provided the update that a TERT team is

forming statewide. Policy and procedure governance has been established for COMU program, and more are being credentialed. The PSAP survey had a large number of responses, and there have been many team member applications including 8 in the NERAC region, but more applications are welcome. Deployments will be fully reimbursable via state 911. More info at [mass.gov/tert](http://mass.gov/tert).

- Regional Transportation – K. Lambert provided the update that MVRTA has hired enough drivers to run fixed routes at 30min intervals. MVRTA buses are free and run frequently to help the community suffering from inflation.
- State Agency Liaison Updates
  - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency – H. Tecce provided the update that MDOT trainings for emergency management directors and EMPG are being released. MEMA helped support the brushfires in Ashby, Saugus, and Rockport, using NERAC assets.

### **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**

- M. Foster will be retiring on April 1, 2023.

MOTION put forth by J. Brickett.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by J. Buckey.
  - In Favor: All.
  - Opposed: None.
  - Abstain: None.
- The motion passed.

**\*\* Next Meeting: October 13, 2022\*\***

### ATTENDEES - COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chief Jason Gilliland, Chair: Marblehead Fire Department  
Chief John Fisher, Vice Chair: Carlisle Police Department  
Allan Alpert: City of Melrose Emergency Management  
John Brickett: Northeast EMS  
Dr. John Buckey: Marblehead Schools  
Mike Collins: Beverly DPW  
Colby Cousens: Town of Danvers Information Technology  
Mark Foster: Beverly Emergency Management  
Chief Neal Hovey: Topsfield Police Department  
Chief Tom Judge: Concord Fire Department  
Bill Klag: North Shore Medical Center Emergency Preparedness  
Kathleen Lambert: MVRTA  
Chief John LeLacheur: Beverly Police Department  
Chief Brian Moriarty: Lawrence Fire Department  
Dr. Scott Morrison: Tri Town School Union  
Christopher Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center  
Dave Spinosa: Essex County Sheriff's Department

### ABSENT- COUNCIL MEMBERS

Edward Chao: Harvard Kennedy School  
Paul Cohen: Town of Chelmsford  
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger: Essex County Sheriff  
Dave Ouellette: Dracut Public Health

ATTENDEES – OTHER

Chief Alan Dionne: Salem Fire Department

Matt Kolhonen: MEMA

Vicky Mboka-Boyer: EOPSS

Ben Podsiadlo: EOPSS

Lauren Sacks: MAPC

Heather Tecce: MEMA

**The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:**

- September 2022 Meeting Agenda
- August 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- FFY19 FFY20, and FFY21 Budget Updates
- September 2022 Project Status Updates