



NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Full Council Meeting

Minutes

February 12, 2026

1:00pm

*MPTC Lynnfield Police Academy
425 Walnut St, Lynnfield, MA 01940*

- **Call to Order**
 - Chair J. Gilliland called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - December 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by P. Cohen.

- Approve the December 11, 2025 meeting minutes.
- Seconded by J. LeLacheur.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
- **EOPSS/OGR Updates**
 - EOPSS shared the following updates via email prior to the meeting:
 - Just last week FEMA implemented court-ordered updates to our FY2025 HSGP award. This revised our award amounts to match what was initially put forth in the NOFO as well as updated the period of performance. FEMA has now given us to the end of February to review and accept their revised offer.
 - Start to consider potential projects for FY2026.
 - We expect regional caches to be highly utilized for the World Cup. EOPSS is reviewing cache inventory lists ahead of this summer's activities.
- **MAPC Updates**
 - None.
- **Council Membership Updates**
 - Voting to Fill Vacant Seats
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - J. Gilliland opened the floor for nominations.
 - M. Collins nominated Chief David Evans of the Newbury Fire Department.

MOTION put forth by P. Cohen.

- Appoint Chief D. Evans to the vacant Emergency Medical Services council seat.



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- Seconded by M. Collins.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
 - Fire Services
 - J. Gilliland opened the floor for nominations.
 - M. Collins nominated the four applicants for consideration:
 - Chief Brian Young - Lincoln Fire Department
 - Chief Paul Parisi - Ipswich Fire Department
 - Deputy Chief Terence Gardner - Groton Fire Department
 - Deputy Chief Rick Menard - Malden Fire Department

MOTION put forth by J. LeLacheur.

- Conduct a roll call vote among all nominees.
- Seconded by H. Tecce.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None
- Roll Call:
 - P. Cohen: Gardner
 - A. Chui: Gardner
 - H. Tecce: Young
 - D. Goodman: Parisi
 - C. Cousens: Parisi
 - D. Spinosa: Parisi
 - D. Sencabaugh: Parisi
 - P. Keefe: Parisi
 - J. LeLacheur: Parisi
 - M. Collins: Parisi
- Chief P. Parisi was appointed to the vacant Fire Services council seat.
 - **Status of Vacant Law Enforcement Seat**
 - MAPC advertised the open Law Enforcement seat vacated by Chief Fisher to the region.
 - NERAC received interest from 3 applicants.
 - Their information has been submitted to EOPSS for approval as candidates, after which their resumes and interview questions will be shared with the Council for consideration and voting.
 - Vice Chair Vacancy Discussion
 - Since Chief Fisher's retirement, the position of Vice Chair is open.
 - Nominations will be requested and a vote will be conducted at the next meeting.
 - Attendance and Committee Participation
 - As we begin a new year, a reminder that active participation - including regular attendance at monthly meetings - is required to retain Council membership.
 - Some attendance records were a bit low over the past year, so please ensure you are able to attend the majority of meetings moving forward.



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- Council members are also strongly encouraged to participate on a NERAC Committee.

- **Budget Updates**
 - BF/OT Policy Update
 - MAPC have asked EOPSS for clarification on some details and official guidance.
 - We have been advised that:
 - Full reimbursement of BF/OT rates is now required.
 - Applies to projects that already have approved allocations as well.
 - Waiting to hear details such as:
 - Can we pay additional for instructor planning/set-up/break-down?
 - Can we pay BF for the full covered shift, or just the event hours?
 - Expect BF/OT spending to ~2x, could be a bit less depending on guidance or more if reimbursing full rates leads to more departments submitting.
 - The T&E Committee is reviewing budgets and making accommodations.
 - We will keep the Council informed of any relevant updates.
 - FY23 and FY24 budgets were provided in the meeting packet.
 - Grant end dates are July 31, 2026 and July 31, 2027, respectively.
 - FFY25 – no updates, waiting on word from EOPSS.
 - FFY26 Planning Timeline
 - NERAC has not yet received any guidance for FFY26.
 - Given the tight timeline we were given for FFY25 planning it would be helpful to start collecting project requests soon.
 - MAPC can send the form out to the region soon to give stakeholders ample time to consider and submit for projects.

- **Project Updates**
 - Nahant Harbormaster Vessel Upgrades
 - In December, MAPC was told by the project contact that one of the vendors previously contacted has agreed to install the equipment in the first quarter of 2026, but could not provide a quote that meets MAPC's requirements to issue a Purchase Order.
 - Town of Nahant is willing to pay the invoice and provide proof of payment to MAPC in order to receive reimbursement up to the amount left allocated for the installation in the project (\$1,826.90).
 - MAPC reached out to the project contact to request an update on if a date was been provided by the vendor to conduct the installation of the equipment, and we are still waiting to hear back.
 - NEMLEC IMT Command Vehicle
 - The Vehicle and Radios have been procured.
 - The remaining items:
 - Laptops and Networking Equipment: the RFQ is out and quotes are due on Tuesday.



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- MegaFi Mobile HPUE: To avoid some logistical complications with FirstNet account eligibility and dividing costs, NEMLEC is going to purchase the equipment and service plan, and NERAC will reimburse for equipment.
- Van Upfitting: D. Spinosa provided a quote and scope outline, MAPC is looking into procurement options.
- NEMLEC SWAT Equipment/Transport Van
 - This project was awarded and PO was issued at the end of December. We initially had issues receiving a response from the vendor to schedule a time for the upfitting of the van, however further outreach was made at the end of January and they were responsive.
 - The van was brought to the vendor for upfitting on February 10th and it is scheduled to be finished by the end of the month or early March at the latest.
- Committee/Working Group Updates (1:50pm)
 - Training & Exercise
 - The Committee met just prior to the NERAC meeting.
 - There was discussion of the new backfill/overtime reimbursement requirements, and transfers were made to accommodate.
 - The ASIM Train-the-Trainer occurred in January.
 - The SSAVEIM training is being planned for May.
 - The ASHER Tabletop Exercise planning is underway.
 - The Cape Ann ALICE and WAVR-21 trainings are being planned.
 - The Committee approved ERRs and AARs for the Technical Rescue Teams.
 - Interoperability/Info Sharing
 - The Interoperability Committee met on February 10th.
 - The Committee is working on a variety of projects.
 - The Mini CRD and Mobile Broadband Kit project for the ECFCFA was cancelled and the funding was reallocated to other projects.
 - The Committee reviewed the Radio Communications Checklist for the ASHER Tabletop Exercise, and D. Spinosa will be providing support.
 - Regional Equipment Cache
 - The Cache Committee met on January 30th.
 - Each cache site will keep one stocked sheltering trailer on site.
 - The ATV skids could not be awarded as no quotes met requirements as written, MAPC will re-do procurement.
 - The Cache Host MOUs are being signed by the Mayors.
 - The Cache Committee and Interop Committee have been discussing replacing the cache radios in increments.
 - Evacuation/Sheltering
 - Sheltering Trailers and Equipment Disposal
 - The Sheltering Committee met on January 29th.
 - Both Cache sites previously indicated they were willing to keep 1 stocked trailer.



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- The Sheltering Committee determined those would be sufficient for NERAC regional assets, and plan to keep those (stocked with cots and blankets only) and surplus all other trailers and items (there are 20 surplus trailers in total).
- Trailers will need Council and EOPSS approval for disposal, and other items such as the equipment within the trailers will just need Council approval.
- MAPC will send a survey to the region to give municipalities the opportunity to take a trailer and supplies.
 - The Sheltering Committee also discussed having a day at each cache site this spring for municipalities to pick up their trailers and take other surplus sheltering items if they want.

MOTION put forth by A. Chui.

- Approve the disposal of the surplus trailers and equipment.
- Seconded by H. Tecce.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None

The motion passed.

- **Discipline & State Agency Liaison Updates**
 - Discipline Updates:
 - Law Enforcement – departments are preparing for upcoming events such as the Boston Marathon, World Cup, Tall Ships, and 4th of July using NERAC funded equipment.
 - Emergency Management – UMass Lowell is holding an AAIR course on March 12th – 13th with open seats.
 - State/Regional Agency Updates:
 - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
 - The EMPG NOFO is expected to be released on April 1st, contingent on nothing changing with FEMA/federal level.
 - There will be a Basic Sheltering Operations Training in Concord on March 24th from 9am-12pm.
 - Region 3 Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (HMCC)
 - The Region 3 hospitals are hosting an 8-hour Disaster Surge Management Training on March 19, 2026 in Haverhill, MA.
 - The interactive workshop focuses on managing complex surge events, including capacity strategies, EMS coordination, regional collaboration, emergency discharging, and recovery planning.
 - Participants will complete a guided gap analysis of local/regional plans and receive a certificate of attendance and post-training summary report.
 - Pre-registration is required, we can share the flyer/link if anyone is interested.



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- New Business Unforeseen by the Chair
 - None.

MOTION put forth by J. LeLacheur.

- Adjourn the meeting.
- Seconded by M. Collins.
 - In Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstain: None

The motion passed.

****Next Meeting: March 12, 2026****

ATTENDEES – COUNCIL MEMBERS

Anthony Chui: Melrose, Stoneham, Wakefield Health and Human Services
Paul Cohen: Town of Chelmsford
Mike Collins: Beverly DPW
Colby Cousens: Town of Danvers Information Technology
Jason Gilliland, Chair: Marblehead Fire Department
Dorinda Goodman: Town of Lexington Information Technology
Neal Hovey: Topsfield Police Department
Patrick Keefe: Andover Police Department
John LeLacheur: Beverly Police Department
Derek Sencabaugh: Lexington Fire Department
Dave Spinosa: (Proxy) Essex County Sheriff's Department
Heather Tecce: Lowell Emergency Management

ABSENT – COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kevin Coppinger: Essex County Sheriff's Department
Bill Klag: Emergency North Shore Medical Center
Ryan Knowles: City of Gloucester Information Services
Scott Morrison: Tri Town School Union
Christopher Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center
Stephen Zrike: Salem Public Schools

ATTENDEES – OTHER

Jen Collins-Brown: ECFCA
David Evans: Newbury Fire Department
Karla Kahale: MAPC
Matt Kolhonen: MEMA
Paul Parisi: Ipswich Fire Department
Amy Reilly: MAPC
Lauren Sacks: MAPC

The following documents were used/referenced during the meeting:

- February 12, 2026 Meeting Agenda



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- December 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- EMS and Fire Services Candidate Resumes and Interview Questions
- FFY23-24 Budget Updates
- Sheltering Trailers and Equipment Disposal List