



# NORTHEAST HOMELAND SECURITY REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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## Full Council Meeting

### Minutes

*April 9, 2026*

*1:00pm*

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

- **Call to Order**
  - Chair J. Gilliland called the meeting to order.
  
- **Approval of Minutes**
  - March 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes

MOTION put forth by P. Cohen.

- Approve the March 12, 2026 meeting minutes.
- Seconded by D. Evans.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
  
- **EOPSS/OGR Updates**
  - EOPSS/OGR provided the following updates via email:
    - FY2025 HSGP contract end dates will be 12/31/2027.
    - Regions should start considering projects for FY2026 HSGP, using last year's NOFO/AGF as the framework.
    - The areas of the FY2025 HSGP requirements that were overturned in court proceedings will also not apply to FY2026.
  
- **MAPC Updates**
  - The FFY25 contracts are being signed by MAPC/EOPSS so the funding is expected to be available soon.
  - MAPC held a meeting for program managers across the state to discuss support and connecting on cross-regional projects.
  
- **Council Membership Updates**
  - MAPC delayed outreach for the open Law Enforcement and Public Schools seats pending additional EOPSS guidance regarding applicants and members representing multiple municipalities (ex: regional school districts)
  - EOPSS clarified that new members must represent a municipality not already represented on the Council
    - Municipalities represented by existing multi-community Council members are considered represented for eligibility purposes.



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- Applicants representing multiple municipalities remain eligible if at least one represented municipality does not already have Council representation.
- MAPC will resume outreach for open seats pending J. Gilliland's call with K. Stanton.
- MAPC also plans to advertise the upcoming Local Government Administration vacancy following Paul Cohen's departure from the NERAC region on May 26, 2026.
- **Budget Updates**
  - FFY23 – Grant End Date: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026
  - FFY24 – Grant End Date: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027
  - FFY25 – MAPC has the contract and is finalizing details with EOPSS.
  - To aid with budget management ahead of FFY23 closeout, the Council considered a motion like past years to allow MAPC to budget transfers to consolidate, split projects, and move projects ready to be paid into FFY23.

## MOTION put forth by P. Parisi.

- Allow MAPC to evenly swap allocated funding for approved projects between grant years as needed to assist with grant close-out.
- Seconded by D. Evans.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
  - Ventilator Refund
    - MAPC was previously notified that one of the ventilators procured in 2020 for Salem Hospital was affected by a recall and required disposal.
    - MAPC recently received confirmation from TransMed USA that Medtronic provided a \$2,000 credit for the recalled ventilator.
    - EOPSS recommended utilizing the credit toward a replacement ventilator. MAPC is awaiting updated pricing information from B. Klag regarding current portable ventilator costs.

## MOTION put forth by S. Morrison.

- Table this discussion until pricing information is received.
- Seconded by J. LeLacheur.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.

## • **Disposal Request**

- NEMLEC Motor Unit Tool Chest



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- NEMLEC SWAT is requesting disposal of a Motor Unit Tool Chest that was procured in 2015 with NERAC funds for \$1,467.96. It has reached the end of its useful life and the drawers no longer open and close properly.

MOTION put forth by P. Cohen.

- Approve disposal of the NEMLEC SWAT Motor Unit Tool Chest.
- Seconded by C. Ryan.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
  
- **FFY26 Planning Discussion**
  - FFY26 project request forms were distributed to stakeholders, with applications due April 30, 2026. All projects must be submitted through this process to be considered.
  - MAPC will review submissions, follow up regarding eligibility or clarification questions as needed, and compile project summaries for Council and Committee review prior to the May meetings.
  - Applicants will be encouraged to attend the applicable May meetings to provide a brief project overview and answer questions if needed.
  - The Interoperability and Training & Exercise Committees will review applicable projects first and provide funding recommendations to the Full Council.
  - The Full Council will review Committee recommendations, along with additional projects outside those disciplines.
  - Unless additional guidance is received from EOPSS, planning assumptions will include level funding and minimum spend requirements similar to prior years.
  
- **Project Updates**
  - *Nahant Harbormaster Vessel Upgrades*
    - The vendor who had previously committed to upfitting the boat is no longer responsive.
    - The Harbormaster contacted another vendor in the area; MAPC will continue to follow up.
  - *NEMLEC IMT Command Vehicle*
    - Laptops and Networking Equipment
      - RFQ was conducted, contracts awarded to PC Nation and GovConnection for a total of \$24,711.49.
      - Most items have been delivered, obtaining invoices and RDs to process payment.
      - Laptops ETA is a couple of weeks.
    - Van Upfitting:
      - Invitation for Bids, due 3/25.
      - PO has been issued to Comms Mobile Solutions for \$45,821.25.



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- Scope of Work has June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for completed vehicle, in time for World Cup events.
    - MegaFi Mobile HPUE
      - NEMLEC purchased for \$1,398 and will be reimbursed by NERAC.
  - *NEMLEC SWAT Equipment/Transport Van*
    - The van build is complete and it was recently delivered. MAPC is processing payment.
    - This project is now complete.
  - *NEMLEC SWAT Night Vision*
    - \$100,000.00 allocated in FFY24 to procure as many night vision devices as possible for NEMLEC SWAT.
    - MAPC is awaiting PJ approval from EOPSS and has begun developing specifications for procurement.
- **Committee/Working Group Updates**
  - *Training & Exercise*
    - The Committee discussed the impact of BF/OT rate changes and plans for evaluating FFY26 project requests.
    - SSAVEIM training is scheduled for May 28–29.
    - The ASHER TTX was on March 23 with approximately 70 participants from local, regional, and state partners; the AAR-IP will be presented in May.
    - Cape Ann ALICE/WAVR-21 training coordination meetings were held, and procurement planning is underway.
    - MetroWest communities met with MAPC to review the anticipated timeline for the ASHER/MCI exercise series, including a tabletop exercise in early 2027 and a full-scale exercise by June 2027.
    - Technical Rescue ERRs and AARs were approved, but EHP approval delays continue to impact Technical Rescue activities.
  - *Interoperability/Info Sharing*
    - NSR911 Electrical Redundancy project is moving forward.
    - Several projects are held up waiting on EHP approval from FEMA.
    - Middleton-Topsfield installation is pending internal review.
    - Pow Wow Hill Fiber is moving forward under budget.
    - NSR911 Combiner was a new project approved in February and is moving forward.
    - Topsfield Radio Feasibility Study scope draft is in progress.
    - Beverly/Rockport VHF Console will require a stakeholder meeting to confirm specs/scope.
    - Andover will be coming off of CoMIRS. NERAC previously funded \$250-\$350k to get Andover to be the FD-5/15 Control Point, so will need to determine plans.
    - SWIC released an RFI for CMED plans.
  - *Regional Equipment Cache*
    - The ATV Firefighting Skids have arrived.



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- Framingham has signed the Cache Host MOU, and Beverly is working on obtaining the signature.
- Updating Cache Radios
  - There is need for a phased replacement of 90 radios (60 Beverly Cache, 30 Framingham Cache) as funding becomes available.
  - At the March meetings, the Interoperability Committee supported the radio specifications and the Full Council approved reallocating \$100,000 from FFY23 Cache Maintenance funds.
  - PJ/ICIP were submitted for April review and have been approved.
  - The \$100,000 currently allocated is enough for 16 radios/accessories.
  - MAPC reviewed historical cache maintenance spending trends and available FFY23/FFY24 funding balances. The Committee discussed the potential benefit of reallocating additional funding toward radio replacements to support phased completion of the project and assist with FFY23 closeout if delivery timelines allow.

MOTION put forth by M. Collins.

- Reallocate \$100,000 from FFY24 Cache Maintenance to support Cache Radio Replacements.
- Seconded by S. Morrison.
  - In Favor: All
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstain: None
- The motion passed.
  - *Evacuation/Sheltering*
    - MAPC is working with both Beverly and Framingham Cache sites to request disposal approval of the correct trailers since each site is keeping 1 trailer.
    - MAPC has begun the process of reaching out to survey responders to confirm interest and will match trailers/equipment with best suited recipients.
- **Discipline & State Agency Liaison Updates**
  - *Discipline Updates:*
    - Law Enforcement – members noted a high number of large upcoming events.
    - Fire Services and Local Government Administration – discussion regarding a recent incident of injury at the Fire Academy. Members discussed concerns related to workers compensation coverage and potential impacts on participation in academy activities.
    - Cybersecurity – members discussed increased cybersecurity concerns related to critical infrastructure and municipal systems, including threats involving nation-state actors targeting utilities and local governments.



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Discussion included risks associated with remotely managed systems and recent cyber incidents affecting regional communications and emergency response agencies.

- Public Safety Communications – Hamilton/Wenham radio channel renaming updates were distributed through ECFCA, and members requested assistance sharing information with law enforcement partners. Beverly will assume the GBPC control point responsibilities from Hamilton and will also take over Boxford responsibilities.
- *State/Regional Agency Updates:*
  - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency – MEMA released the FFY25 EMPG application on April 1, 2026, with applications due June 1, 2026. Webinar briefings are scheduled for April 10, 15, and 16. MEMA is also preparing for Boston Marathon operations.

- **New Business Unforeseen by the Chair**
  - None.

MOTION put forth by J. LeLacheur.

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

**\*\*Next Meeting: May 14, 2026\*\***  
FFY2026 Planning Meeting

## ATTENDEES – COUNCIL MEMBERS

Anthony Chui: Melrose/Stoneham/Wakefield Health & Human Services

Paul Cohen: Town of Chelmsford

Mike Collins: Beverly Public Services & Engineering

Colby Cousens: Town of Danvers Information Technology

David Evans: Newbury Fire Department

Jason Gilliland, Chair: Marblehead Fire Department

Patrick Keefe: Andover Police Department

Ryan Knowles: City of Gloucester Information Services

John LeLacheur: Beverly Police Department

Scott Morrison: Tri Town School Union

Paul Parisi: Ipswich Fire Department

Christopher Ryan: North Shore Regional 911 Center

Derek Sencabaugh: Lexington Fire Department

Dave Spinosa: (Proxy) Essex County Sheriff's Department

Heather Tecce: Lowell Emergency Management

## ABSENT – COUNCIL MEMBERS



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Kevin Coppinger: Essex County Sheriff's Department  
Dorinda Goodman: Town of Lexington Information Technology  
Neal Hovey: Topsfield Police Department  
Bill Klag: Emergency North Shore Medical Center

## ATTENDEES – OTHER

Karla Kahale: MAPC  
Matt Kolhonen: MEMA  
Richard Menard: Malden Fire Department  
Amy Reilly: MAPC  
Lauren Sacks: MAPC

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

- February 12, 2026 Meeting Agenda
- April 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- Law Enforcement Candidate Resume and Interview Questions
- FFY23-24 Budget Updates
- FFY25 Preliminary Budget
- FFY26 NERAC Project Request Form