

Region D RHSOC Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2007
9:00 A.M.
University of Missouri Southwest Research Center
14548 Highway H, Mt. Vernon, MO

Attendance:

RHSOC Members/Alternates:

Chris Berndt, Emergency Mgmt
Tom Martin, Emergency Mgmt
Andy Nimmo, Fire
Angela Ford, County Health
Kathleen King, County Health
Greg Hickman, HSRT
David Brock, Public Works
Larry Martin, Public Works
Jim Honey, County Commissioner
Dave Edwards, Industry/LEPC
Bill Deal, Utilities
Tim McCracken, Utilities
David Hoover, EMS
Debi Meeds, Volunteers
Rick Lewis, Volunteers
Douglas Domer, Schools
Kevin Tweedy, EMS

Ex-Officio:

Wendell Hall, DNR
Larry Forgey, MDA
Kurt Kysar, MCD
Gary Clinton, MoDOT 7
Lt. Colonel David Boyle, 7th CST (WMD)
Candy Adams, SEMA
Diane May, SMCOG

Guests/Visitors:

Dave Compton, Barry Co EMD
Bob Kittsmiller, Dade Co EMD
Larry Woods, Greene Co EMD
Rebecca Ray, Spfd-Greene Co Health
Jaci McReynolds, Spfd-Greene Co Health
Keith Stammer, Jasper Co EMD
Mike Rowe, Lawrence Co EMD
Julie Frank, Lawrence Co 911
Michael White, Redings Mill FPD
William Sexton, Webster Co EMD
Jackie Sexton, Webster Co LTRC
Holly Johnston, Mass Care/Volunteer Asst
Paul Fennewald, MO Dept Public Safety
Jim Lundsted, MO Dept Public Safety
Zada Farris, SEMA
Matt Nutt, SEMA
Paula Woodsmall, DHSS

Staff:

Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren, SMCOG
Stephanie Leibach, SMCOG
Joe Kelley, HSTCC

Open Meeting:

Chris Berndt called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Self introductions were made. Mr. Berndt stated that there would be a conference call with the National Weather Service at 11:00 a.m. on severe weather conditions and that the meeting would recess at that time for the call.

Approval of Agenda:

Tim McCracken motioned and Jim Honey seconded the motion to approve the agenda for the October 17, 2007 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of July 18, 2007 meeting were distributed with correction listing Greg Gaines as Mass Care Coordinator under Attendance. Dave Hoover motioned and Dave Edwards seconded the motion to approve the corrected minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

RHSOC Membership Changes and Introduction of New Members:

New RHSOC primary representatives in attendance took their seats. Chris Berndt noted resignations from the RHSOC, including Jimmy Sebree, Don Lasater and Ron Elkins. Jimmy Sebree was to take over as Chair of the RHSOC, but with his resignation, the RHSOC will need to elect a new chair as well as vice-chair.

Election of Officers:

Chris Berndt called for nominations for Chair. Angela Ford nominated Tom Martin and Rick Lewis nominated Angela Ford. Ms. Ford declined the nomination. Doug Domer motioned and Greg Hickman seconded the motion that nominations cease. Tom Martin took over the meeting as Chair.

Tom Martin called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Jim Honey nominated Andy Nimmo and Doug Domer seconded the nomination. Tim McCracken motioned and Rick Lewis seconded the motion that nominations cease. Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Revised Bylaws:

Diane May stated that SEMA requested that the RHSOC table action on the bylaws. The Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) will be considering other possible changes to the bylaws at its meeting in November. Doug Domer motioned and Kevin Tweedy seconded the motion to table the bylaws. Motion carried unanimously.

FY2006 Homeland Security Grant Program Spending Update:

Diane May reviewed the 2006 Grant Procurement Status 10/17/07 handouts with the RHSOC members. She said that all the items on the list had at least been ordered and the total expended or encumbered thus far was \$1,131,475.49. Items marked as processing were somewhere in the process of being filled. Procurement is completed for items listed as delivered. She noted that the communication vehicles were the last big items entered into the procurement system and that a pre-bid conference would be scheduled. Most of the IST equipment had been delivered and the IST team had participated in one training activity. All staff positions have been filled and staff was working on getting the final phase of the DMAACC into the procurement system.

The Elliott Data Systems have been ordered and delivery is expected by about mid-November. Training for the systems will be set up and the county emergency management directors will be contacted to set up a training schedule. David Hoover asked where the systems were to be delivered; Ms. May responded that they will be delivered at the training sessions. She thought that if someone can't meet at any of the training dates, then perhaps the Elliott people would deliver and train at their home location.

The Microwave Links and the CERT items have not yet been entered into the procurement system. Staff is also waiting on the University of Missouri to decide on any purchase agreement modifications that MU may require for the agriculture truck and trailer. So far, equipment purchases have come in under budget except for the IST trailer, which was about \$40 over budget.

Office of Homeland Security Updates:

Paul Fennewald provided a brief update on the homeland security regionalization process, including Governor Blunt's decision to establish the homeland security advisory council and then the regional homeland security oversight committees. He thanked Chris Berndt for his leadership and the Region D RHSOC for taking the lead in the state. Mr. Fennewald also noted

that the funding allocated to the state for this year is only slightly more than half of the \$17M allocated to Missouri last year. However, the state thinks it is important to provide as much money as possible to the regions.

Missouri Resource Information Plan. This will provide a web-based software program that identifies and manages resource assets. Business executives are involved in the development of a resource database including private resource information. The MERIS tool is to be rolled out in November. Homeland security funding is also used to develop a resource plan for schools. The plan, including diagrams and evacuation plans for schools, will only be accessible to response personnel. There will be an alert network for all K12 schools that can be contacted with emergency information by phone, email, and secure website access. The information can be disseminated to public and private schools, counties and the region.

Critical Infrastructure Working Groups. The HSAC is providing money to put kits together for each region to identify and inventory critical infrastructure. The kits will include GPS, digital camera, and laptop. Designees will be receiving a letter within the next two weeks.

Chief Interoperability Officer. Mr. Fennewald introduced Jim Lundsted, Chief Interoperability Officer. Mr. Lundsted stated that interoperability is agreeing that we need to be able to talk together if and when and as needed. State and local government have spent nearly \$30M in the last four years to address interoperability but still do not have a cohesive system. Many systems in the state are very antiquated. The Department of Public Safety has hired a consultant to look at what everyone has and what can be leveraged to make the system work. The U.S. Department of Commerce will provide about \$17.5M to develop a strategy for investment to tie all the systems together in the state. About 90 percent of agencies around the state are on the VHF system. The strategy is to look at assets the state already owns and get buy in on sharing and establishing a cohesive system for state agencies. Other issues to address include how to get DOT access to the national law enforcement emergency channel and where to get all the high band frequencies. Mr. Lundsted will be coming back to regions with a statewide interoperability plan that will have a high degree of VHF.

Dave Hoover asked about crossband repeaters. He noted that at the state level in the past, different entities have not talked to one another. Is this something that the interoperability plan will look at? Mr. Lundsted's response was "absolutely." He noted that there are some systems that have lots of unused capacity but no one is talking. The Taum Sauk reservoir collapse is good example of lack of communication.

SEMA Update:

Zada Farris provided an update on the FY2007 regional homeland security grant program. Funding allocations to the regions were determined by the same formula as last year. Region D's allocation for this year is \$895,559.29 (3% already deducted). Five investment justifications can be funded including agriculture risk mitigation, medical surge focusing on patient tracking, interoperability, mass care shelter/volunteer, and strengthening interoperability. The application for this year has been streamlined. SEMA will perform technical review of applications. The grant application and budget is due on February 29, 2008. The current FY06 grant program and the FY07 program will overlap by a couple of months. The deadline for expenditure of the FY06 funds in June 30, 2008. Paul Fennewald noted that SEMA is looking for outside sources of funding for certain programs so that they can continue to allocate as much funds to regions as possible.

DHSS Update:

Paula Woodsmall, DHSS, indicated that DHSS is working with SEMA to update special needs operations annex for the state plan. Currently they are meeting with public and private partners that are reviewing the annex. A template will be available at the January meeting for locals to use in planning for sheltering special needs populations. They are also working with the Missouri Kidney Foundation on a plan for kidney dialysis services in the event of earthquake. Special Needs Population steering committee will have plans in place for helping the special needs population help themselves. DHSS is also working on a multi-agency plan for resource centers with consumables that people can go to after a disaster.

Discussion ensued about the roles and responsibilities of the state and local entities. Ms. Woodsmall stated that at the state level, DHSS is lead agency for mass care and shelters and the Division of Social Services is the lead entity. John Giles and Marcus Monroe are the contacts at Social Services. Dave Compton indicated that Barry County's Social Services office said they will participate in the process but have no intent to take over the process. Paul Fennewald said that the state needs to be careful in the semantics it uses on what is a "lead agency," as the term used at the state level is different. Dave Hoover felt there is a need to determine what authority the state has.

Proposed RHSOC Policy on 2006 Grant Funds Reallocation:

Diane May explained any monies left over from the 2006 grant due to items being less than originally anticipated should go through an approval process by the RHSOC and SEMA for reallocation instead of being made through individual decisions. This process would be similar to the original funding requests by the different subcommittees. The RHSOC would again decide how to reallocate the remaining funds and this would be forwarded to SEMA for approval.

RHSOC action was requested for official approval of this policy. After much discussion, Angela Ford motioned and Tim McCracken seconded the motion that the RHSOC would reallocate remaining funds once the total amount available is known. Motion carried unanimously.

Larry Woods, Greene County OEM, suggested that the subcommittees should start looking at how to spend the rest of the funds at their next meetings. Zada Farris, SEMA, remarked that SEMA was looking at January as the appropriate time to reallocate the funds.

Subcommittee Reorganization and Reports:

Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren spoke about reorganization of the subcommittees to develop funding proposals in the five investment justification areas. Mass Care and Volunteers are combined together this year. Zada Farris recommended separate subcommittees for Medical Surge and 911 Interoperability. Ms. Sandgren encouraged the RHSOC members and other interested persons if they wanted to serve on any of the subcommittees. The subcommittees should meet before the next RHSOC meeting to start discussion on proposed activities and funding for the 2007 grant application.

Mass Care/Volunteer Coordinator Report. Dave Hoover reported for Greg Gaines. Mr. Gaines has completed several online classes in order to better network with entities active in a disaster, attended SMESO, RHSOC, LEPC subcommittee meetings, and attending as many training exercises in Region D as possible. He is working with Perry Elkins, ARC Volunteer Director, on ways to cross train volunteer organizations and ways to increase the number of trained volunteer shelter staff. Mr. Gaines noted that over half of the Region D EMDs are now part of the NSS database. He also met with Prime, Inc. representatives to discuss using Prime's trucks

and drivers in time of disasters. Angela Ford said a contact person at DHSS has a MOU with trucking companies for medical surge cache that is about the size of a trailer. Dave Compton asked about Mr. Gaines' responsibilities for NIMS. Mr. Gaines doesn't have responsibilities for this other than just spreading the word about NIMS.

Agricultural Preparedness Specialist Report. Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren reported for Amanda Marney. Ms. Marney's time has been spent on employee orientation, office setup and attending various meetings and participating in events, including the Southwest Center field day and an Agricultural Risk subcommittee meeting. She completed two IS training courses and met with the emergency management directors in Stone and McDonald counties on emergency plans.

Region D RHSOC Logo:

Diane May presented the proposed Region D RHSOC logo created by Greg Gaines. If acceptable to the RHSOC, the logo would be used on RHSOC communications and could be used on clothing. Paul Fennewald indicated he would check with Department of Public Safety to get the okay for the RHSOC to use the logo.

Next Meeting:

The Region D RHSOC will next meet on Wednesday, November 28, 2007.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Tom Martin, Region D RHSOC Chair

Date Approved