

Regional Council Coordinating Committee Meeting

April 24, 2014

Attendees: Don Button (SW), Vaughn Lorenson (SW), Cathy Hernandez (SW), Butch Post (NW), Kathleen Fabrizius (NW), Toby Prine (NW), Pam Kemp (NC), Sue Cooper (NC), Dennis Colsdon (NC), Randy Duncan (SC), Greg Klein, (SC), Jim Leftwich (SC), Nancy Lamb (NE), Chuck Magaha (KC Metro), Erin Lynch (KC Metro Fiscal), Kevin Jones (SE), Angela Murphy (SE), Bryan Murphy (SE), Jackie Miller (SE), Angee Morgan (KDEM), Eric Pippin (KHP), John Cyr (Fiscal), Sherry Angell (Fiscal), Lisa Peters (Fiscal), Debra Ohlde (Fiscal), Bryan Murdie (KDEM), Terri Ploger (KDEM), Jason Bryant (TAG), Natalie Glenn (Midwest Cards)

Welcome

The Chair (Magaha) opened the meeting with introductions from everyone present. The group reviewed the Jan 23, 2014 minutes, a motion to approve was made (K Jones, seconded by V Lorenson) and all members voted in favor. The Chair asked for any additional agenda items; the NC Region Chair (Kemp) wanted to give an update on the Kansas County Commissioner's Association meeting coming up in May and agreed to share that information during the regional briefs.

Regional Council Highlights

Southwest

The SW Incident Management Team (IMT) is getting involved in various exercises and getting more invitations to make presentations on capabilities and the various resources available. The IMT was given the opportunity to present in front of the KS Association of Code Enforcement where the emphasis was placed on the partnerships being built amongst local, regional and state entities, as well as the current information on regional council initiatives and the purpose of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). Promoted the value of this group's expertise and how IMTs could benefit from a partnership with them. The region is being invited to more and more LEPC meetings in the region to discuss the regional council initiatives and the resources and support the IMT concept can bring to communities all across the state; these efforts support the RCCC strategic plan objectives. The region has been working with KDOT to identify primary and secondary contacts for the radio system.

The regional council meets next week to define the FY2014 projects. The region plans to focus mainly on sustainment initiatives but will probably look at new project(s) for law enforcement. The region was able to use the two light generators and the mobile cattle corrals during an actual cattle incident rollover.

There was no update to share on the brochure the region wants to develop. J. Cyr reported on a website www.hs.ncrpc.org that was created and allows each region to post minutes and/or pictures from actual incidents where HLS purchased equipment was used; the site allows text to describe the use and benefits, and any news articles describing the incident. These photos could then be vetted / used for brochures and PowerPoint presentations. The site could be password protected if needed, as a whole or by region. This was developed to create a central location to document available resources and record benefits gained.

Northwest

Several members of the NW IMT team participated in the March 2014 IMT Seminar and support the idea to continue offering this type of training/exercise in the future. The region has had 14 of the 18 thermal imaging units delivered and last Saturday training was completed in Colby. Have placed the light generators in WaKeeney and Colby, and had the gator delivered to Hays. The notebook project is complete; there was some confusion on what each entity involved was going to do. The region still plans to continue supporting IMTs in FY2014; so far there are 18 projects being presented for FY2014 projects. The NW region has developed a strategic plan for the region and works mostly from that plan, partially in conjunction with the RCCC strategic plan.

South Central

The regional council held its FY2014 project meeting on April 10 and everything has been submitted. No regional update on the RCCC strategic plan activities.

North Central

The region's FY2014 project meeting was held on Tuesday, April 22 and the process went smoothly. Most projects are dedicated to sustainment initiatives but looking at investing in mini LARC (Local Area Resource Cache) trailers for mass casualty incidents; purchasing sheltering equipment (cots, etc) for use in all counties. The region is wrapping up the FY2011 and FY2012 projects that have included help from Dr Smith and S Johnson in filling equipment shortfalls in FAD trailers. The region put the next phase of the tablet project on hold, which was developing damage assessment software for appraisers to use; the vendor Orion took the idea and is building that software; because of the risk of not having that ready and tested, the region decided to table that investment until FY2015. Members within the region participated in the IMT Seminar, the Public Health exercise in early April, and planning efforts for Vigilant Guard exercise. The NC Regional Planning Commission puts out a newsletter and there are always articles outlining HLS projects and what preparedness efforts are going on in counties; would be willing to capture activities and highlights in other regions too.

At regional council meetings, membership is being asked to continue reviewing RCCC strategic plan and documenting accomplishments. At a recent council meeting the idea came up to get information in front of the upcoming KS County Commissioners meeting; within 48 hours the region was placed on the agenda for two separate session times. Having a representative from each region would help in promoting the statewide council efforts. The meeting is scheduled for May 7th in Manhattan.

Southeast

The region used the return monies from the MOU tower project and developed a SE regional strategic plan using the basis of the RCCC strategic plan; the process involved taking the objectives down to regional implementation steps. In conjunction with the SE regional planning process, the region developed a regional Training and Exercise Plan. As future investments are made, the region always refers back to these plans. The region is willing to share that with other regions.

The region held its FY2014 project workshop meeting on Monday (April 21). The region developed a law enforcement project for Cell Bright, a resource used to download data from cell phones; made some changes on some projects to purchase additional radios and cameras. The region agreed to continue efforts to enhance SAR capabilities – partnering with the NE region to provide structural collapse training, purchasing equipment and an additional trailer. Organized and completed some SAR drills the first part of April and will allocate funds next year to continue that. Have a project to develop US grid maps for every county in the region for use by the IMTs and the Task Force. The region did not reserve any FY2014 money for accountability project because there are still monies in the FY2013 grant to work on building a Rapid Accountability Team (RAT). Developed project to provide new suits for regional hazmat team; working on developing a joint law enforcement / hazmat exercise. The region will continue to support attendance at position specific trainings and the IMT conference. Last fall the region updated their regional council by-laws and added clear language that stated each county and first class city has a representative on the council, on top of whatever disciplines are represented; this effort was focused on increasing interest in attending council meetings. On July 19, there is an exercise being conducted with the old ammunitions plant that will have a hazmat component, with SAR and IMT involvement; funding is coming from the HMEP grant (registration is on KS-TRAIN). The region is working with KHP on reworking the Tech Rescue Conference and putting some money towards that.

Northeast

The regional council met yesterday (April 23) and approved all sustainment projects. They had a unique situation by moving the Linn Co stop movement trailer up to Marshal Co. and

purchased a smaller trailer for Linn Co. The region has now finished the light tower project so 18 of the 23 counties have one. There is an electronic message board project; and an equipment project for SWAT teams in Riley Co, Topeka, and Lawrence. Supporting communications with more Harris Tri-band radios, and will continue to support IMTs and accountability capabilities for RAT teams. Looking at emergency notification system since the IRIS contract will be up this year. Regional council reps continue to make presentations for counties, explaining what an IMT can bring to a community and what the IMT expects from the community. They provide a scenario and help the community fill out Form 201 so that when IMT shows up, things are ready to unfold. Members of the NE region participated in the March IMT Summit and the FAD: Quarantine Management TTX on March 26, 2014; on April 11th there was a regional public health exercise.

KC Metro

Following the Jan 2014 RCCC meeting, the emergency managers from the (3) counties met with the SAA and MARC to discuss the fiscal agent issues and decided to have MARC become the Metro region's fiscal agent, as a lot of the projects and initiatives fold into much of the MARC region's directions. The KS metro counties still meet quarterly and define priorities for Kansas, and remain deliberate and pro-active in stepping in sync with the larger Metro council in leveraging both funding streams. Even with the UASI dollars coming back to Kansas City (Missouri), there was a 43% funding loss of ASPR dollars to the region. Until fiscal matters are fully defined, the KC Metro region has put the RCCC strategic plan on the back burner. The region remains focused on critical sustainment priorities, such as regional specialty teams, critical equipment, and sustainment training and other critical resources. Community resilience, CERT, and public education remain priorities in the region, as well as having monies to provide critical training and reproducing publications. Initiatives from Kansas metro include projects around safe schools and building skills and capabilities in that arena. Also, the region is working on a bi-state surveillance system and continued MRC funding; currently there are 143 volunteers and efforts are being made to partner with a non-profit organization to embrace this capability. For law enforcement, MARC is finding ways to sustain local fusion center with federal funds and monies donated by local departments; between both sources ways are being identified to keep going for another 12 months. The regional FY2014 project meeting is scheduled for May 5th.

The unfortunate shooting events in the metro area continue to validate the importance of sharing resources across the region, as many responder agencies were involved. At the May 23 MARC regional meeting there will be a presentation on the Overland Park Jewish Center shooting; this is an opportunity to provide a forum for lessons learned.

This weekend the MARC region is sponsoring an integrated regional specialty team training with EOD, Hazmat, Technical Rescue, and Enhanced Tactical team partners; going to run 9 different training lanes to demonstrate operations and expose the different teams to specific protocols and expectations.

The (3) Kansas counties have secured HMEP funds to conduct a 4-5 hour hazmat tabletop exercise on May 13; Union Pacific will be involved as well as an elementary school in the area.

Maintenance Agreements - Recommendations

At the last RCCC meeting, the CRMCS working group was asked to study the accountability system maintenance agreements and make recommendation(s) to the group. What the maintenance agreements provide is all system updates (note...those updates are currently the responsibility of the owner), the InterTRAX exchange, and 24 hour support. The working group focused on a cost benefit analysis, in light of the growing concerns of decreased funding. The group looked at the surrounding state costs and the importance to keep everything integrated and systems current. In summary, the working group felt the costs were starting to outweigh the benefits and were willing to make recommendations to stop purchasing new equipment, stop sustainment on mobile units (PDAs), identify all equipment being used across the state, and stop sustaining equipment not being used. The HOPEFUL solution is to work with Midwest Cards (MCID) and Salamander to identify a CAP amount that would sustain everything. The working group also recommended regions to consider building a RAT team focus and keep local members trained on the system, and to serve as a deployable asset. Midwest Cards is working with Salamander to do automatic updates on the system which will ease some of the technical support needs and, most importantly, keep the systems current and in working order. Currently, the numbers presented by MCID show greater than 90% of the system has not received the latest update.

There has been a great statewide investment in this accountability project over the years and it is important that this capability remains present and the equipment interoperable within the state, as well as with our neighboring states. If the CAP amount can be reasonably negotiated, the State would like to propose paying the software maintenance agreement annually to ensure interoperability statewide, and with other states. This would free the regions to do other project enhancements, create their own RAT teams, and/or provide on-going training opportunities on the system. The maintenance agreement would need to cover all political subdivisions and any new purchases (will not include any private companies). A proposed source of funding would be the 20% state share of the HLS dollars. This source could have limitations as the grant funds could drastically decrease in coming years. This is a statewide priority, just like Resource Manager Web, WebEOC, Bold Solutions planning system, etc of which the state pays the annual maintenance on those systems. We aren't using the system

now to the level it can be used; regions can then focus on continuing the growth of the system and incorporate into more daily operations.

Currently the price is being negotiated between MCID and KDEM and we should know something in the next week or so. MCID guaranteed that this cap solution will become a reality for the State of Kansas; details will be worked out in the coming days.

A motion was made (R Duncan) to receive and file the report as presented, seconded (V Lorenson); membership approved.

Resource Collection and Capabilities Gap Assessment

As the Northeast region decided on project investments, they agreed they needed something to base investment decision upon. So the region began developing a resource and capabilities assessment tool.

Phase I is the Resource Collection phase to identify what resources were out there, not limited to any purchasing parameters. In this phase, it was critical to get the assets documented into the CRMCS system, and coded whether the asset was deployable or not. Early in the process there was confusion on what was deployable; it was defined as a resource that could be sent out of the region – doesn't mean it is always available. Anything funded with HLS dollars, outside of local budgets, should be deployable.

To date, 19 out of 23 counties have entered over 800 resources into the CRMCS system; the other 4 counties anticipate completion by the first of May. Spreadsheet was provided to the counties to document the resources; the yellow columns were required in order to feed information into KSMAP.

Phase II is the assessment survey and identifies the gaps based on the capability targets identified in the state THIRA. This phase looks at county level capabilities and identifies true gaps; may identify gaps we aren't even aware of. When counties are doing the number needs, they can look at their largest city in the county, or 50% of the county population; and based on the scenario used, encourage counties to choose the one that would be most devastating to them. Plan to release the assessment survey to the counties by May 5, 2014.

Important to note...no HLS dollars were allocated for either phase of this project. Once all county data is secured, a regional report can be formed to identify mutual aid options.

If other regions would like to do this, we encourage you to start as soon as possible; Phase II cannot be done without doing Phase I first. (it is critical to get resources into CRMCS) In the analysis phase we will have to meld the objective (have) data with the subjective (need) data, and have to throw out the high and low numbers. It is a huge value to do this at the county

level; while pulling this together into a regional assessment may not give an accurate picture, it is an effective first step. It will help regional councils start focusing on investments collectively; this is a first step in moving that direction.

IMT Seminar/TTX – After Action Report

The AAR was produced by the contractor and is still currently in draft format; will not be finalized until the IMT working group approves it. Last December the IMT working group came up with the concept to host a training/exercise conference; wanted all regional IMT members to come together and fulfill shortcomings in training and to showcase equipment we have in the state. All regions were invited to attend the IMT Seminar/TTX March 11-13, 2014 at the Webster Conference Center in Salina; the TTX was conducted on March 12th. On March 11, there were 115 attendees; March 12 there were 99 attendees registered, and on March 13 there were 87 attendees registered. The Bill Brubaker family was presented with the #1 IMT coin.

The exercise focused on (3) core capabilities: 1) Intelligence and Information Sharing, 2) Operational Coordination, and 3) Operational Communications. The scenario focused on an earthquake on the fault line at Tuttle Creek Dam. The players were organized by staff functions. The hotwash comments were positive, mostly about the event itself (they want to make this an annual event). Attendees suggested inviting more disciplines to add to the realism for interacting with external partners; there are a lot of external experience levels and knowledge that can be shared with IMT members. The Dragon Fly training was well attended (system that helps create an incident action plan); the speakers from other state incidents were very good. A suggestion came in to expand to a Region VII conference. Since the interest is there and there is support from the regional councils, they have tentatively booked the conference center for the last week of Feb 2015.

Emergency Communications

J Bryant briefed the committee that KDOT is developing a contact list for the K6 system, as this is vital to communicate system upgrades and maintenance requirements as well as any procedural guidance updates. When things happen with the system, the Office of Communications and KDOT get a lot of calls, as many aren't aware of what is going on; would like to keep everyone informed. The State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) was finalized and a thank you went out to all that participated in accomplishing that rewrite. As the Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN) First Net comes into play, we need to ensure we collectively identify what works best for Kansas. J Bryant wants to create a pool of communications experts in each of the regions to provide this input so that we don't get forced

into anything that does not fit Kansas' needs. He has names for most of the regions but needs a metro rep from Wichita and Kansas City.

J Bryant also briefed there are opportunities to participate in a bi-state communications exercise; this is a chance for ComL and ComT reps to get their task books signed. Kansas also has the opportunity to have an interstate communications exercise; through HLS they get to make 5 technical assistance requests per year, usually getting only 3. He would like to build something similar to the IMT conference briefed today. He also solicited any interest in serving on the Regional Executive Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG) for Region VII. This group's purpose is to work thru interoperability issues across borders. They are also working with Colorado because of the hospital needs across state lines. If interested, travel expenses are paid; usually meetings are scheduled in two 4-hour blocks (afternoon of one day, morning of next). While it would be great, not going to ask that each region participate; would like a couple of people with a passion in communications and correcting border issues in communication.

Another topic briefed was the Safecom Grants to address interoperability issues. At the national level the #1 problem with interoperability is costs, so these are federal relief funds and access is nationwide; there was 1.1 – 1.4 million dollars released about a month ago and is being offered on a first come, first serve basis. Agencies can apply on their own but have to work with meeting the State SCIP (thus, it was important to get the SCIP updated). The website www.safecomprogram.gov lays out how you complete an application.

Homeland Security Grant Update

The performance period for the FY11 and FY12 grants is coming at the end of May. Need to ensure that FY13 projects are underway. For the FY2014 grant application, four (4) regional workshops are done with 4 more workshops to be done by May 5th. The SAA with work with contractor to get the state's application submitted by May 23rd deadline. Sometime in June we will know if application was approved. There are a lot of sustainment projects but this year there is a huge emphasis on the project management piece. The SAA shop has developed a process to monitor projects on a regular basis. Capt Pippin provided the CEPR agenda for the May 21, 2014 where reps from each of the regions will brief the Commission on their projects and answer any questions.

Announcements

The NC Region hosted an ESF 8 workshop as a precursor to the Vigilant Guard exercise. Participants worked through ESF 8 authorities and on how county plans were activated. There were 110 attendees and included volunteer agencies as well as public health and medical

partners. It convinced participants that it is important that people communicate when an emergency occurs. Only downside was the room was noisy.

Meeting take aways:

- Thank you to the NC Region for bringing their Mobile Express unit to register participants for today's meeting. Appreciation goes to the NW region for hosting that at the next meeting.
- Need to identify persons that would like to serve on the Regional Executive Communications Coordination Working Group (FEMA R7). Contact Jason Bryant if interested.
- Need to identify contacts to offer input on the First Net initiatives for the Public Safety Broadband Network.
- Need to ensure participation in planning for next year's IMT conference; need to start planning for that now.
- Remind everyone that a website was created to collect pictures and information on how HLS resources have been used in real incidents or exercises. Questions can be directed to John Cyr; the website is at www.hs.ncrpc.org
- Encourage regions to start building RAT team capabilities; having at least one in each region would be helpful.
- The capability assessment that the NE region is conducting warrants high praises; would encourage regions to consider adopting this process to incorporate it statewide. For any questions, contact Nancy Lamb or Bryan Murdie at KDEM.
- The proposal from the state to pay for a cap amount on the software maintenance agreement is on the table; if the cap amount is negotiated to a reasonable expectation, the question was raised if the RCCC supports the state executing a contract with Midwest Cards. The state is not committing to paying the software maintenance agreement until the cap amount is determined. If the quote is not reasonable, we may be back to looking at options. The source of funding will be dependent on the cap amount. A motion was made (K Jones) to allow the state to sign a contract with Midwest Cards to cover a software maintenance agreement if the cap amount comes in at an acceptable expectation and was seconded (D Button). The committee voted and all were in favor, except one vote opposed (R Duncan).

Next meeting date: August 21, 2014 at KHP Training Academy, Room 37.