

## **SE Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council Minutes November 16, 2010**

**Call to Order** The SE Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council was called to order by Vice Chairman Keith Jeffers at the South KDOT Building in Chanute at 10:15 am on Tuesday, November 16, 2010.

**Roll Call:** Members in attendance included: Vice Chair Keith Jeffers; Dan Bath; Pam Beasley; Byron Shultz; Byrdee Miller-Marcic; Ed Garner; Jim Wilson; Jim Miller; Andy Moffitt; James Grimmert; Chris Way; Larry Steeby. Proxy for Paul Ballou: Dave Bruner. Guests: Jackie Miller; Ron Seyl; Jamie Hale; Kevin Jones; Don Sauer. Cassie Edson served as secretary.

There was some discussion about whether there were enough members to constitute a quorum. It was determined that a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Larry Steeby made a motion to approve the October minutes. Any Moffitt seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Fiscal Agent Report:** Ron Seyl distributed the Fiscal Agent report and presented highlights:

**FY 08:** Request for Qualifications for grant has been sent to 7 prospective vendors. (90.97% has been spent, \$8,904.21 uncommitted);

**FY 09:** No concerns. (51.38% has been spent, \$284,524.39 remains uncommitted.)

Chris Way stated that his records for Search and Rescue show a negative balance (-\$8.91) for FY 08, whereas the report shows a balance of \$152.99. Ron will check with John Cyr for clarification.

Pam Beasley made a motion to accept the fiscal report. Chris Way seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Search & Rescue: Chris Way:** The committee met this morning. FY 08 projects have been completed; working on FY09. Projects include internal communications improvement and a quarterly training plan for the year ahead. Several members attended the state technical rescue conference in Salina. More specific training will be set up within the state.

**IMT, Jackie Miller:** Computers have been ordered. Pam Beasley noted they have been received except for 2 tough books on back order. (She has received 6, and all the cases.) The extra memory that was ordered is not compatible because of operating system conflicts. Pam mentioned that an IMT meeting hasn't been held in a long time,

and she feels it is time to have another meeting. The committee needs to decide on a spokesperson to deal with vendors to avoid duplication and confusion. Everyone on the committee needs to be in the loop. Pam asked what she should do with the equipment that has been delivered. Jackie Miller stated that she should give any purchase receipt to Ron Seyl to pass along to John Cyr, the fiscal agent, with a copy to Ed Garner.

**Law Enforcement, Dan Bath:** There have been no recent joint terrorism task force meetings; there may be one held in November. 800 MHz radios have been distributed; agencies are still waiting on some other equipment. No information is available on the law enforcement credentialing committee at this time.

Pam Beasley asked about the location of equipment, and questioned if a list was supposed to have been made after a request at the last meeting. The October minutes reflected that the request was made for a list of Law Enforcement committee members rather than a list of equipment. Jackie Miller stated that we had also discussed that Robin Reitmeyer of the Highway Patrol would personally be doing an equipment inventory, but that it will take a while before it is complete.

More discussion was held regarding “who” is on “which” committee. Jackie stated that there is no comprehensive list of committee members because of the natural fluctuation as members come and go. She suggests contacting members by phone to verify which committee they are on, because e-mail may not be effective for eliciting a response. Pam stated that she would be willing to take this on. Keith Jeffers expressed his opinion that committee chairs should be responsible for keeping a list of their own committee members. Byrdee Miller-Marcic suggested that a poll be taken of members present to find out their committee affiliation.

Poll results:

- **Search & Rescue:** Chairman Chris Way, Paul Ballou, Jay Hawks, Kevin Jones, Larry Steeby, Joey Adams.
- **IMT:** Kevin Jones, James Grimmett, Ed Garner, Pam Beasley, Keith Jeffers, Kevin Jones.
- **Law Enforcement:** Dan Bath, Ken Parker, Don Sauer
- **Planning:** Chairman Keith Jeffers, Jamie Hale, Jim Miller, Ed Garner, Scott Gordon
- **ID/Accountability:** Chairman Byrdee Miller-Marcic, Pam Beasley, Keith Jeffers
- **Haz Mat:** James Grimmett, Andy Moffitt, Paul Ballou, Larry Steeby
- **Communications (no longer active):** Ed Garner, Pam Beasley, Byron Schultz, Scott Goforth, John Gagliardo, Nancy Lamb, Eldon Bedene.

- **Regional Hospital:** Jim Wilson

It was noted that the project manager may not be the committee chairperson. Pam asked for opinions on what the ideal committee size should be. The discussion reflected a consensus that 5-6 is ideal; more becomes dysfunctional, while fewer does not allow enough diversity. Keith and Pam agreed to work together to create a list. Jackie stated that it could be published on the website, but someone would need to keep it updated.

**Planning/GIS: Keith Jeffers:** All cameras and software have been delivered. Jessica Frye is establishing statewide GIS teams of 6-8 people. GIS camera webinar training hopefully will be within next two weeks. Request for qualifications has been sent out to 7 vendors. Some other vendors, including Envisage should be added to the list. Our planning process is expected to be a model for other regions

**ID/Accountability, Byrdee Miller-Marcic:** There is no activity at this time since the most recent project phase has been completed.

**Communications:** Pam Beasley stated that the region needs more 800 MHz radios. Jackie Miller stated that if people won't use what is already available, we don't need more, and that in her opinion, attitudes have been more a hindrance than lack of equipment. Pam suggested a monthly test in the region.

Dan Bath stated that he did not feel that the 800 MHz radio system is needed in his jurisdiction, and that use of the 800 MHz radio system puts too much reliance on the state. He suggested that an alternative would be to provide everyone in the area with a dual band UHF/VHF radio with scramble capability. It was noted that these radios are as expensive as 800 MHz radios. Bath noted that when Wilson County Emergency Manager Rick Brown was out of town during a recent weather incident, it was helpful to be able to communicate with him using the base station at the county EOC.

Pam stated that in Allen County responders use the 800 MHz system regularly, and find it helpful because of all the Highway patrol troopers in their area.

Dan stated that to his knowledge, the 5 mobile units in Wilson County have not been used, although the base unit at the EOC has been very successfully used. He also stated that all the Highway Patrol troopers in Wilson County have UHF radios, so 800 MHz interoperability has not been an issue in Wilson County

Chris Way and Larry Steeby discussed that Labette County has been trying to use their 800 MHz system more, especially with narrow banding restrictions coming. They are trying to determine if switching over to exclusively using 800 MHz radios might be more cost effective than a piecemeal approach of reprogramming some existing radios and purchasing replacements for those which are too obsolete to be reprogrammed. They are considering cost proposals for both alternatives. Chris Way stated that a problem

with the 800 MHz system is that they lose service in some parts of Labette County. At this point he feels that upgrades would need to be made in the regional infrastructure in order to support exclusive 800 MHz radio use. He suggested that the SE Regional Council should give this serious consideration before agreeing to send any more funds to be used in Western KS for communications.

Dan asked council members from Labette County for their opinion about having a regionalized Dispatch agency. Labette County has a central dispatch that includes everyone in the county but the Parson Police Department. Chris Way and Larry Steeby said that they feel it has worked out well and has been the most equitable solution for their county. They stated that it was difficult to get everyone to agree on it, but that now it is in operation, no one has expressed any desire to return to the previous system.

Jim Miller expressed his opinion that the 800 MHz system is not intended to be used as a primary system in the counties, and that all use must be coordinated through KDOT.

It was agreed by consensus that more discussion is need. Pam Beasley suggested that a communications committee needs to be activated in light of all the upcoming communications issues with narrow banding and 800 MHz radio use. She volunteered to organize the committee and serve as chairperson.

**KDEM Report, Jackie Miller:** Jackie stated that she would report under “new business”

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Jackie reported about information learned at the state leadership council summit about a new statewide accountability and credentialing system. Most areas in the state now have ID equipment, but this does not address the need for standardized credentialing. The state is working with Salamander to create an enhanced id/accountability system that would build on existing equipment and software and be managed centrally (outside the region). Ideas include the possibility of linking personnel and KS MAP. FEMA cost codes could be auto tracked, which would be helpful during any emergency incident. The system would also be made compatible with reading neighboring state’s credentials. Credentialing would most likely be on a tier system, with, for example, most responders having basic level cards. IMT members would have medium security, and security levels would increase to full security.

This is a very expensive project still in a conceptual stage. It most likely will require financial support from all regions to be implemented. The state is negotiating lower pricing from the vendor by allowing vendor licensing of the system to other state jurisdictions.

Eventually each region will need to appoint representation to a state planning committee, but the project is not yet to that stage. She also cautioned that most likely the committee meetings will be Topeka-based, and will require participants to have technical knowledge of equipment as well as the ability to travel for meetings.

## **Report on State leadership Summit, Byrdee Miller-Marcic and Keith Jeffers:**

Byrdee Miller-Marcic mentioned some of the areas discussed at the summit, including resource typing and FAD plans. Some other issues include the fact that several counties do not have a full time emergency manager, and most counties do not have an active LEPC. NIMS reporting failures will result in a loss of Federal funding. Each taxing entity is responsible for NIMS requirements.

Keith Jeffers added that the main point is that not that every individual involved has to be 100% NIMS compliant, but that all jurisdictions must be actively moving forward with NIMS compliant training. The state is working towards a 5 year plan to be sure everyone becomes compliant. Paula will work with representatives from all the regional councils to brainstorm on strategies to accomplish this.

Keith suggested that it would be helpful for all regions to post their minutes, training opportunities, etc. He also mentioned that the upcoming capabilities assessment will be easier and faster than last time because it will not be starting from scratch.

Some of the state goals include work towards interoperable communications, resource typing, accountability, public/private collaboration, IMT sustainability, FAD, intelligence sharing, and GAP analysis for counties, regions, and state.

Another topic at the summit included discussion as to whether educational institutions and private business should be represented on Regional Homeland Security councils. Making the issue more complex is that attendance is already an issue at regional councils statewide. Chris Way expressed his opinion that we already struggle with a quorum, and adding additional members would compound the problem. Keith went on to add that Kansas overall is far ahead of most regional councils nationwide in terms of activity.

Keith mentioned that Crisis City is adding a number of new training venues. Chris Way expressed his opinion that this is not useful for the southeast region, because the "free" training becomes too expensive because of associated travel and overtime expenses. He stated that we should work to create more local training opportunities.

**Announcements:** HAZ Mat IQ training in Coffeyville Dec 8, 2010 still has some openings. Accountability system training will be held in Salina by the vendor as part of the contract. Bringing it to the SE region would probably involve additional expense. Jackie Miller suggested that perhaps someone from the NE region with more experience in using the system would be willing to provide some local training.

**Comments from guests:** Don Sauer stated that he would be interested in helping to revamp the by-laws if he becomes an official member of the council.

Jackie Miller mentioned that there is anticipated to be some upper level turnover at the National Guard because of impending retirements.

Andy Moffat reported that he and others had met with Governor-Elect Brownback, who expressed an intention to consolidate response efforts at the state level with the Highway Patrol, EMS, Fire Marshall, deputy directors, etc. Council members noted that this type of consolidation has been attempted before.

**Adjourn:** Chris Way made a motion was made to adjourn; seconded by Ed Garner. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

# REGIONAL COUNCIL SIGN-IN SHEET

KDOT

CHANUTE

11-16-2010

Name	Agency	Email	Phone	Member	Guest
Jackie Miller	KDEM	jacquelyn.s.miller@us.army.mil			X
Jim Miller	MG Co	j.miller@mgcountyky.org	626-330-1760	X	
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Andy Moffitt	Chanute Fire	Amoffitt@chanute.org	620-431-5236	X	
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Chris Way	Lakette Co EMS	cway@lcmc.com	620-421-2401	X	
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Don Sauer	Labette Co.	lbcoem@labettecounty.com	(620) 421-1400	<del>X</del>	X
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