

Tri-County Urban Area Security Initiative Working Group

Minutes

May 13, 2011, 0900 CST

1819 Farnam Street,

3rd Floor, Jesse Lowe Conference Room, Omaha, NE

Meeting comes to order

1. Introduction of voting members present

First Name	Last Name	Agency	Attendance
Scott	Baughman	Urban Fire	absent
Travis	Harlow	Rural Fire	x
Mark	Conrey	Communications	x
Mark	Desler	Urban Law Enforcement	x
Pitmon	Foxall	Critical Infrastructure / Key Resources	x
Steve	Oltmans	Omaha Mayor's Office	x
Paul	Johnson	Douglas County	x
Lynn	Marshall	Sarpy County	x
Eric	Plautz	Emergency Management	x
Kevin	Pokorny	Rural Law Enforcement	x
Bill	Pook	Washington County	x

2. Review & approval of meeting notes from the previous meeting

Mark Conrey made a motion to approve the minutes with the adjustment of the Rural Fire representative name to Travis Harlow rather than Bill Bowes. Scott Baughman seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Discussion Items

1. The workplan submitted by Tri-County for the 2010 UASI grant has not been approved by Nebraska Emergency Management (NEMA). The hold up on approval is related to "Project 5," which includes funding for equipment and training to create the capacity for Tri-County emergency managers to operate in the field in support of mandatory activities (such as damage assessment) that must be rapidly implemented and coordinated by emergency management. Tri-County representatives met with NEMA to discuss the project and changes they are requesting prior to giving their approval. The Tri-County representatives were asked to take the project back to the working group and ask that it be re-affirmed as a priority project. NEMA also suggested an increase the allocation of funds to training and decreasing them for equipment within the workplan for this project. The Emergency Management group originally submitted this project for approval to the working group after the 2010 Investment Justification workshop. It was unanimously approved at that time by the working group. The investment justification was subsequently approved for funding by FEMA. Tri-County UASI is unable to access 2010 funding until all workplans have been approved by NEMA regardless of prior approval of all priorities by the working group. Working group discussion included questions about the nature of equipment requested in this project and the NEMA recommendations for changing funding allocations.

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Updates and Reports

1. Tri-County/UASI management & Administration update – Steve Oltmans & Phil Ruhe

- Phil Ruhe extended a thank you to everyone who helped ensure that all equipment purchased with homeland security funding was tagged and accounted for. Phil also informed the group that the Federal Government passed a continuing budget resolution, so the 2011 Homeland Security Grant Program guidance should be available soon. When the guidance arrives it will likely require quick submission of grant application materials. An email will be sent to entire working group once the guidance is available. The Federal House of Representatives is now working on the 2012 budget and there will be a significant cuts proposed in several areas impacting the Tri-County area.

2. Financial update & report – Scott Crites, City of Omaha Finance Department

- Audit- The NEMA representative (Clint) has been conducting an audit of Homeland Security funds which includes verification of all the purchases made by the Tri-County region. The auditor wanted to see the hard copies of all the information submitted.
- Expenditures are almost complete for the Citizen Corps grant. There is \$94,000 left in the Homeland Security funding for '08 that must be expended by 08/31/2011. Remaining funds include: Tri-county incident dispatch project \$32,000; \$19,000 in training; \$13,000 in equipment; Tri-County tool kit \$11,000; OPD bomb response robot \$36,000; specialized rescue equipment, \$18,000. Scott Crites will send this information out again, two files for each project for '08 and '09: one for the overall budget and another on what has actually been spent.

3. Standing committee reports

a) Emergency Management: Eric Plautz & Bill Pook

The EM group continues to meet on the 1st Monday each month to discuss common issues. Sarpy County recently held a successful full-scale exercise at Werner Park. Washington County is also holding several exercises. The Planning, Exercise and Training (PET) committee plans to update their calendar at the next meeting so that they can present the updated version at the next UASI meeting. Several individuals attended the Nebraska Infrastructure Protection Conference.

b) Communications: Mark Conrey

A homeland security assessment for cyber security resilience will occur Tuesday-Thursday next week. The following Saturday there will be a river rescue exercise to meet the requirement of Goal 2 by proving that we can set up interoperable communications within one hour of an event. There is a possibility this exercise could be canceled due to river conditions, but with the coming holiday weekend it is important to be ready for this type of event. Once this exercise is completed it will be submitted to NEMA. Next year a larger exercise will be required. Communications equipment was audited successfully by NEMA. The 2009 grant project for communications will be complete by June.

c) Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources: Pitmon Foxall

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At the April 19th meeting the group attended a webinar presentation by Target's mobile management team discussing how a private company deals with crises. They provided examples with how they dealt with local, and across globe incidents and how they are able to monitor in real time what is happening with a disaster and mitigate as much damage as possible. A representative of SES (a contractor for Department of Agriculture) also presented information on the services that are available to plan for agricultural emergencies. The next CIKR meeting is June 21st.

Denise Bulling (Public Policy Center) reported that CIKR priorities will be integrated with Homeland Security grant investment justifications in case UASI is not funded in 2011.

- d) Urban Law Enforcement: Lt. Mark Desler
Urban law enforcement participated in the recent NEMA audit. The Omaha Police Department also participated in Sarpy county exercise and plans to participate in an upcoming exercise with the Qwest center. Committee expenditures are on track for the 2008 and 2009 grants. The department is actively engaged in preparations for the College World Series.
 - e) Rural Law Enforcement: Captain Kevin Pokorny
Rural law enforcement has been going through their audit as well, hopefully will be completed sometime next week and have received compliments on their records so far. Several members of rural law enforcement also participated in Werner Park exercise.
 - f) Urban Fire:
No representative from Urban Fire was present; no report was given.
 - g) Rural Fire: Travis Harlow
Several members of rural fire departments participated in the Werner Park exercise.
 - h) UASI COOP Subcommittee: Steve Oltmans
(See item Number 5)
4. Reports from other associated Homeland Security Federal Grant Programs
- a. Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) – Phyllis Dutton
OMMRS was involved with the table top exercise at Eppley Airfield and will participate in an upcoming National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) exercise soon. The media training involving the DART Center went well with a Journalism school indicating they will incorporate what they learned in this training into curriculum. Ten hospitals will participate in an exercise next week, coordinating with the City Readiness Initiative (CRI) and two trauma centers will participate in the upcoming Qwest Center exercise. MRRS funds allocated in 2008 will be expended soon so spending will begin with 2009 funds. Workplans for expending 2010 funds were reviewed by NEMA and changes suggested. The changes have been made and the workplan resubmitted to NEMA. The 2010 workplan includes purchase of radios for the new Bellevue hospital. Phyllis

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reported that OMMRS purchases have been used to support relief/rescue work performed by Offutt personnel. Denise Bulling reported that OMMRS purchases were also used to support the 2011 TERREX exercise recently.

- b. Buffer Zone Protection Programs (BZPP): Lt. Mark Desler
Work continues on current buffer zone projects. Funding for this program was not included in the 2011 Homeland Security Program budget which translates to a loss of funding for three sites in the Tri-County Region.
- c. Citizen Corps Program: Jamie Moore, OPD
The Tri-County Citizen Corps group met in March and will meet bimonthly with the next meeting in June, Douglas and Sarpy county are working on getting their grant money spent. They have started planning for an activity at Werner park promoting safety. CERT and MRS also plans a presence at the upcoming Air Show.
- d. Update on Planning Project: Public Policy Center, Denise Bulling
FDI consultants are moving ahead with Continuity of Operations planning (COOP) in Sarpy and Douglas Counties but was asked not to move forward with COOP planning in Washington County by Bill Pook and his County leadership. The Public Policy Center held workshops in Sarpy and Douglas Counties. They were instructed by NEMA not to hold the workshops in Washington County until that county completed a satisfactory COOP plan.

Denise noted that the rough drafts of state investment justifications (IJs) are posted at <http://www.homelandplanning.nebraska.edu> and feedback is actively being solicited on their content via a web survey. Once federal guidance is received on the 2011 Homeland Security Grant, the documents will be updated and reposted. Final documents will be available after NEMA and the Lt. Governor review and edit. Lynn Marshall told the group it is critical to read the IJs to ensure Tri-County priorities are included in these documents.

Action Items

1. Approval to MOU \$253,650 to NEMA to provide staff for contract over-site & administration of 2007 PSIC funds supporting IJ #2 "Regional PSAP Interoperability" for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant# 2007-GS-H7-0050, Grant Award Period: 9/30/2007.

Bill Pook made a motion to approve the MOU \$253,650 to NEMA to provide staff for contract over-site & administration of 2007 PSIC funds supporting IJ #2 "Regional PSAP Interoperability" for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant# 2007-GS-H7-0050, Grant Award Period: 9/30/2007. Eric Plautz seconded the motion; the motion was approved by consensus.

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2. Emergency Item: The Tri-County working group unanimously reaffirms Project 5 as a priority for the 2010 UASI funds with the caveat that changes in allocation be made as recommended by NEMA to decrease equipment expenditures and increase training expenditures.

Bill Pook made a motion to approve the reaffirmation of Project 5 as a priority for the 2010 UASI Funds, recommending that equipment expenditures decrease and training expenditures increase. Eric Plautz seconded the motion; the motion was approved by consensus.

Public Comment

The Code Spear system will not be getting upcoming upgrades, would like to get an opinion from this group about whether they should maintain this system or switch to another vendor. The EM subcommittee will create a users' group for the large players and talk about need for these systems. Once a recommendation can be made it will be brought back to the Tri-County UASI in June or July.

The LEPC Conference is July 28-30 in LaVista. Conference organizers are interested in receiving donations for a planned barbecue at the SAC museum for conference attendees.

Sarpy County thanked the participants in the exercise at Werner Park.

Upcoming events & next meeting

The next meeting will be held June 10, 2011 at 9:00 am in the Jesse Lowe Conference Room.