

# Tri-County Urban Area Security Initiative Working Group

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## Minutes

August 12, 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
Phil	Brazelton	Communications	x
Mark	Desler	Urban Law Enforcement	x
Pete	Neddo	Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources	x
Paul	Johnson	Douglas County	absent
Larry	Lavelle	Sarpy County	x
Eric	Plautz	Emergency Management	x
Kevin	Pokorny	Rural Law Enforcement	x
Tom	Lamb	Washington County	absent
Steve	Oltmans	Omaha Mayor's Office (chair)	x

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

Phil Brazelton made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Eric Plautz seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

### Discussion Items

1. Tri-County UASI Working Group meeting frequency:

The group considered reducing the meeting frequency to bi-monthly. Phil Ruhe will review the bylaws to determine if it is possible to change the meeting frequency. The group also considered maintaining the same meeting schedule with the understanding that unless issues arise the group will only meet bi-monthly. The group will vote on the issue of meeting frequency at the next meeting.

### Updates and Reports

1. Codespear- Eric Plautz, Douglas County Emergency Management

After review the subcommittee came to the conclusion that the Codespear system is important and should continue to be supported by this group. After looking at the budget, the subcommittee recommends that Codespear be paid for by reallocating 2010 equipment funds. It will cost roughly \$27,000.

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

August 31<sup>st</sup> is the end of the performance period for the 2008 grant. He noted that it is time to get spending plans in order to ensure we meet the grant deadlines.

- a. 2011 National UASI Conference Report- Phil Ruhe

Six representatives from the Tri-County area attended the conference. Impressions of the conference program were shared by attendees. Key takeaways/highlights include:

- Funding cuts were discussed and are expected to continue.

# Tri-County Urban Area Security Initiative Working Group

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- Congress appears to be advocating for the creation of additional performance measures for UASIs. UASIs felt they document how funds were used and their success and that FEMA should be responsible for giving better guidance if they want to increase this type of reporting.
- Medical track themes were collaboration and partnerships - encouraging involvement of the private sector and churches.
- There were good sessions on cyber security.

Phil will work with the Public Policy Center to post the PowerPoint presentations from the conference on the Tri-County UASI website. Phil and Pete's conference reports will be emailed to the group.

b. FEMA monitoring site visit –Phil Ruhe

Corey Walz from FEMA Region 7 will conduct a site visit on September 6-7. The focus will be programmatic monitoring. He will likely ask about our processes to ensure we are in compliance. Phil will send out Corey's letter and contact him to determine what the focus of the visit will be, where he would like to visit, and who he would like to speak to.

c. Flood discussion – Steve Oltmans, Chief Shane Hunter

An overview of flood conditions and response was shared with the group. Steve Oltmans received a letter from the regional director of FEMA yesterday confirming that a disaster declaration is expected within the next 10 days. The city of Omaha will begin discussing how each department will organize their flood expenses for billing to prepare for the declaration and timely reimbursement. It will be important to explore what public costs might be covered by insurance. The mayor has offered office space to the FEMA workers if necessary.

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

The official notice that 2005 and 2006 UASIs are completely closed has arrived. The Finance Department will try to get the 2010 budget done in the next month. The budget is going around for signatures now and the group will be informed when it goes to the Omaha City Council for approval. The '07 budget is completed. The '08 and '09 budgets are still open and are on track. The MMRS part of the '08 budget has been given an extension until the end of the year, but the rest of the sections will keep the original deadline. As a reminder, equipment must be ordered by the budget deadline, but can be received up to 90 days after that date. The Finance Department is coordinating with Nikki Weber at NEMA for the '08 and '09 grants. Mardell Hergenrader will handle the '10 grant.

3. Standing committee reports

a. Emergency Management: Eric Plautz, Douglas County Emergency Management

The Planning Exercise and Training (PET) Sub-Committee has not met recently. The next meeting of the Emergency Managers and PET will be held Sept 6 to put together a training calendar. Eric reported that several hundred people participated in the recent exercise held at the Century Link Center and TD Ameritrade Park. The exercise reinforced the need for use of incident command and pointed out areas for improvement to increase the speed of the evacuation and improve communication.

b. Communications: Phil Brazelton, Washington County 911

# Tri-County Urban Area Security Initiative Working Group

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Washington, Douglas and Sarpy Counties are working together to coordinate their computer aided dispatch (CAD) systems. Larry Lavelle reported that there is only one department that still needs to install the modems needed for the CAD system. SmartEx equipment should be in Sarpy County by October and up and running by 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. SmartEx prevents delays by allowing us to send information to many people at once.

Phil Brazelton noted that the new system will increase geographical awareness during situations like police pursuits that go through multiple counties.

c. Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources: Pete Neddo, MUD

The group didn't meet in June and will likely be unable to meet next month as well. A new chair and co-chair are needed as Pete is looking at retirement and Pitmon Foxall has moved into a new job. The group is also looking for new agenda items so please let them know if you have any suggestions.

d. Urban Law Enforcement: Lt. Mark Desler, OPD

There is a new interim chief at Eppley Airport so law enforcement will work with him on current exercises and any other issues. There have been several incidents at the airport recently. The UASI equipment, funding, and cooperation were helpful during these events. Don Thorson is now at Metropolitan Community College which is an official police/enforcement organization now. Don is invited to continue attending UASI meetings. Funds dedicated to law enforcement in the '08 grant will be spent by end of August. The '09 budget just has PET money left.

e. Rural Law Enforcement: Captain Kevin Pokorny, LaVista PD

No report.

f. Urban & Rural Fire: Travis Harlow, Waterloo Fire

The TD Ameritrade Park exercise went well. All '08 grant funds have been spent.

g. UASI COOP Subcommittee: Phil Ruhe

Denise Bulling reported that COOP planning is nearly complete in Douglas and Sarpy Counties. FDI Consulting has sent drafts for review to participating agencies/departments.

4. Reports from other associated Homeland Security Federal Grant Programs

a. Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) – Phyllis Dutton

The MRRS portion of the grant has been given an extension until the end of year. We are working on the '09 grant now and should be on target to have that spent by end date. The '10 ASPER grant is complete and we are working on the '11 grant. Two trauma centers had limited involvement in the exercise at the Century Link Center. They learned that there are still some communications issues. MMRS will participate in the exercise at Offutt Air Force Base. The communications trailer was purchased but still doesn't have a license, but that is expected to be worked out soon.

b. Buffer Zone Protection Programs (BZPP) – Lt. Mark Desler

The buffer zones work is proceeding. We are moving ahead with purchases out of both grants as designed.

c. Citizen Corps Program – Jamie Moore, United Way of the Midlands

# Tri-County Urban Area Security Initiative Working Group

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The Tri-County Citizen Corps' Council met July 25<sup>th</sup> and all programs are active. CERT was very active in the sandbagging efforts. MRC was also active in the flood response. The Fire Corps is growing and working on recruitment. They are partnering with National Historical Society to renovate a fire department and will be moving their operations there. Neighborhood Watch was very involved with the local National Night Out and collected cleaning supplies for flood victims. The Corporation for National Community service published its Volunteering in America and Omaha is rated number four. Thanks to everyone for all the resources and time they volunteer to make that possible. The next meeting will be held September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Kick off for Disaster Preparedness Month is on September 1<sup>st</sup> at Werner Park. There will be many Emergency Management preparedness agencies involved with booths and tables from various groups, Emergency Management preparedness guide giveaways, and the Ready campaign. If your group is interested there is still time to get a spot to set up a table or trailer.

## 5. Public Policy Center Report, Denise Bulling

The Policy Center piece for the planning workshop is done and the narrated CDs have been delivered to Douglas and Sarpy County. It can be put online so that as people change jobs you can have new person take 5 minutes to review their role in the Local Emergency Operations Plan. It will be up to each EM department on how best to use this orientation tool. Other highlighted areas included:

- The inter-local agreement for the Tri-County communications groups is being used as a model for the rest of the state by the Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR).
- The Lt. Governor will hold a joint meeting with the Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network Council (NWIN) and NCOR Sept 30.
- The deadline to narrowband is December 31<sup>st</sup>. Although the FCC has sent notices to FCC license holders, some still aren't narrowbanding. There is an online tool through the Federal Office of Emergency Communications that allows policy makers to see the license holders that need to narrowband. Grant funds cannot be used for narrowbanding. Phil Ruhe will follow up and get the online address to the appropriate people for review.

## Action Items

## Public Comment

## Upcoming events & next meeting

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