METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council

Wednesday September 10, 2014

2:00 p.m. – Arrival/Networking

2:30 p.m. – Convene Meeting

4:30 p.m. – Adjourn Meeting

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Board Room, Lobby Level

600 5th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

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Meeting Notes

1. **Welcome, Announcements, Introductions and Approval of Minutes**

Announcements and Reports

* Vice Chair Andrews welcomed the EPC members and reviewed the Agenda.
* Vice Chair Andrews requested and received a motion to approve the May 14, 2014 Meeting Notes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved.
* Daivamani Sivasailam, COG RESF 1 Transportation provided a very positive report on the UASI backup power project for traffic signals. He noted that there will be a new survey regarding backup power for traffic signals coming in the fall for feedback from Maryland, Virginia, and DC. The committee was pleased to see the recommendations made earlier by the Steering Committee being addressed. Vice Chair Andrews requested a written summary of the developments be provided regarding backup power for traffic signals to the EPC at its next meeting.
* Steve Bieber, COG CIP RPWG shared updates on the Cyber Security Framework via a WebEx conference call. Mr. Bieber reported that the group had completed the development of a Draft Cyber Security Annex to the Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP) and a related implementation guide for use by local governments. Next, the group plans to validate the Annex during the conduct of three workshops. Mr. Bieber noted the importance of states and local jurisdictions supporting one another in case of major cyber-events.
* Brian Baker, DC HSEMA gave a quick synopsis of Increased Personal Preparedness through Workplace Based Initiatives. He noted that this initiative was included in the EPC Work Focus for 2014 and the region has addressed the goals in several ways to include training exercises. For example, WMATA hosted their exercise on personal preparedness and evacuations last week. RESF 1 hosted an Emergency Evacuation Transportation Seminar on August 21 at COG that focused on the entire region. Mr. Baker noted that these and other initiatives have contributed to Increased Personal Preparedness. He reported that the next step will be to obtain the services of a contractor to look at other options that would result in Increased Personal Preparedness for the region.
* Jamie Quarrelles, DC HSEMA provided an update on planning for the 2014 EPC Senior Leader Seminar. She provided a quick overview of our past topics for our seminars to include Cyber Security in 2013. Ms. Quarrelles reported that the Planning Team for the EPC SLS 2014 was going through the process of obtaining the services of a contractor to develop and conduct the SLS for the region. She noted that on Friday a committee will be meeting with two contractors to see which one meshes best with the planned approach for this year. She anticipates that the SLS will be held in early November 2014. She noted that a Save-the-Date and more details will be coming out soon. When the contractor for the SLS is selected, the Planning Team will begin regular meetings with that firm to insure another successful SLS. Vice Chair Andrews recommended that the SLS be delayed until after the elections.
* Kim Kadesch, Director, Office of National Capital Region Coordination (ONCRC) provided a report on significant progress and milestones that were reached by his office. He reported that the proposed transformation findings were submitted to Congress with the endorsement of DHS and the COG Board of Directors. As a result, Congress gave ONCRC authorization to move forward with the proposal and begin providing information through appropriate oversight committees. ONCRC has officially moved from the FEMA Preparedness Directorate to the Office of the Administrator and as of August Kim Kadesch accepted the official role as the Director. ONCRC has hired five new employees and plans to convert to a 24/7 days a week operation by October 15. A fiscal year 2015 budget and full staffing is expected by the end of the calendar year. Vice Chair Andrews congratulated Kim Kadesch.

**2. UASI GRANT UPDATE**

2.1 Charles Madden, Chief, Grants Management Division, DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency updated the committee on the status of grants. He noted that FY2011 and FY2012 UASI grants are closed. The UASI award amount was $59,392,477 for FY2011 and for FY2012 the UASI award amount was $51,839,027. The SAA is providing final payment/liquidation and it estimated that both grants will closeout at near 100% expended. The NCR is one year into FY2013 UASI grant and it is approximately 13.6% expended, with 7.8% fully reimbursed to sub-grantees. SAA will issue most of the FY2014 awards in mid-September with a period of performance from 9/1/2016 to 5/31/2017.

The small Nonprofit Security Grant had 12 successful applicants out of 39 submitted and a total

of $875,200 will be awarded in September 2014. Further, the NCR was successful in competing for the Securing the Cities Grant in the amount of $6,000,000 for radiological/nuclear detection and DC HSEMA will be working the with NCR Preventive Radiological/Nuclear Detection (PRND) working group to implement.

**3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE (PMO) UPDATE**

3.1 Mary Anne McKown, MWCOG Managing Director of the NCR Program Management Office (PMO) provided a background of the PMO. She noted that it began with a five month study sponsored by the SPG and CAOs that identified a need for a PMO. “A national search went out for a Managing Director and I was selected. I’ve been here about five months as I assumed the position on April 14, 2014. I’m housed at COG and report directly to the COG Deputy Executive Director.

3.2 My role is to evaluate the performance of projects, and provide decision makers with the tools needed to make sound financial and programmatic decisions - leveraging subject matter expertise, fulfilling the NCR Strategic Plan, making recommendations to senior leaders, and implementing improvements to the NCR UASI grant process, tools, and organizing structure.

3.3 The PMO Work Plan has three main focus areas - improve the project submission process; assess project performance; and strategic planning/capabilities assessment.

3.4 FY14 UASI Kickoff Meetings are being conducted with a goal of assessing how well sub- grantees are prepared to execute the grants and identify any potential challenges or decision points for leadership. Grants are to be awarded by mid-September. In leveraging existing meetings, when possible we’re attempting to consolidate at the jurisdiction/program level. Our focus areas have been broken up into the strategic approach, requirements and capabilities; spend plan, implementation, risk, and performance measurements. The next steps consist of completing the Kickoff Meetings, updating SPG-CAO HSEC on findings, identifying outstanding issues, and instituting formal in-progress review requirements.

3.5 Challenges with Current UASI Process are that the projects have become influenced by the annual grant cycle more so than regional homeland security priorities and strategic needs. Unfortunately this has resulted in unclear mapping, truncated processes, insufficient time, and shorter timelines for reprogramming. Ideally the plan is to implement a strategic vision that isn’t predicated on timeline of annual grant, but focusing on multi- year planning, ongoing identification and prioritization of regional capabilities, no restraint on capabilities, and a process that focuses on requirements before applying funding.

3.6 A Two-Phased Approach would include a more detailed process of project approval and project funding. In taking these matters into consideration we would be providing ample time to inform leaders, reviews of current requirements, program schedule impacts, positioning of THIRA to help drive regional requirements and capabilities.

3.7 As this process changes with short and long term leadership decisions, the PMO, SAA, State Program Managers, and regional planners will be conducting coordination calls. The policy needs to be specific enough to drive discussion and decisions, yet flexible enough to account for emerging threats. Lifecycle costs need to be factored into the decision-making process and we need an understanding of long-term sustainment requirements. The SPG-CAO HSEC is reviewing the draft policy and will provide comments by September 12, 2014.”

**4. NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 AND COMMUNICATIONS**

4.1 Wanda Gibson, Director Department of Information Technology, Fairfax County, provided an overview of the region. She noted that we already have a foundation here in the region to implement Next Generation 9-1-1. The network path is already in place to provide a region wide, physical interoperable network infrastructure.

Other COG committees have been involved in identifying and developing capabilities to meet/address their needs/expectations. Visual data has also become more important based on requests received from various groups. We are pleased that our technology survived The Derecho and The Earthquake.

Pre-First Net: In 2005, wireless broadband was initiated to secure communication infrastructure for data and video between the 9-1-1 center and field unites.

Post –First Net: On July 29, 2014 MD became the first state to begin the First Net Consultation process and stakeholder Education, Outreach and Data Collection.

9-1-1 Technology Support will include voice radio systems, Geospatial Information Systems (GIS), Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software solution, Common Carrier 9-1-1 distribution, and secure locality controlled environments. The opportunities that have developed out of this advancement are enhanced mobile experience, use of social media, and optimizing local and regional cost and investments.

9-1-1 Operations have revamped local and regional challenges to meet the technological advancements of our day. There is a limited market availability of next gen platform providers. We have a rapid use of wireless by the public with less accurate location information. Uniform response protocols need to be decided. System preferences will need to be relinquished locally.

4.2 Steve Souder, Director Fairfax County 9-1-1 shared a different perspective into the 9-1-1 system.

He noted that thirteen years ago there was a scheduled briefing to discuss the status of the thirty year old 9-1-1 system. Approximately one hour before the scheduled briefing the first American Airline crashed into the tower in New York City. “We were unable to deliver the report card on the system that day. Now we stand here with the system being forty years old and it’s time to revamp the system. During those years many communications and information technology systems have been upgraded and some several times. Unfortunately 9-1-1 systems have remained the same throughout the region and most of the country. This new generation 9-1-1 has the ability to revamp the system and allow many of the downfalls we’ve had in the current 9-1-1 system to be eliminated. Next Generation 9-1-1 systems have been developed that will move us forward as a region and this concept needs to be embraced.

4.3 David Simpson, Chief FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

“Text- to-911 has been our staple as we move forward with the internet technology. This is totally different from Next Generation 9-1-1. This system allows text messages to be received. The FCC looks forward to providing all types of emergency alerts through text messages.

In researching this technology we have found that most of the current systems are antiquated and in need of some major upgrades and adjustment of staff. The FCC has embraced the challenges and foresee these systems being integrated seamlessly. Many of these protocols have already been given the go ahead and the framework has been laid.

Our commitment to this technological advancement process has been phenomenal in this region and we are excited about the state of Maryland initiative to move forward. Most of the ground work has been done so a system like the one being used in Texas will greatly enhance our efforts. It appears that the region is moving forward to provide better service to communities.”

4.4 Christy Williams, 9-1-1 Program Manager, North Central Texas and President of National Emergency Numbers Association (NENA), shared how this system impacted her area. On the premise of this idea we were excited to get the ball rolling. Unfortunately we were not aware of all of the systems we needed to discuss. GIS and IT were entities that we really needed to develop full relationships with. Those infrastructures were needed to fully immerse the system into an atmosphere in which all could readily use the system.

Call centers were there to protect the integrity of the system but we had not made arrangements to secure our network as a whole. We learned we needed to work together to create a digital map to route the calls to the proper jurisdictions. It’s encouraging that the NCR is ahead of us at this stage of the project.

Text to 9-1-1 provides a safe way to reach emergency help for the deaf community, domestic violence, and equal access for all who need it. TTY and video relay are great. All of our citizens would have access but it’s limited at the moment. We are working to perfect the system. Our fears regarding personnel issues, predictive text, and overload of messages have not come to fruition. We are pleased that the technology we have worked long and hard for has been put to use. Most people see it as a tool at the moment. It is not being used community wide but the foundation has been laid for the future.”

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 Vice Chair (MD) Andrews there is no new business

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

6.1 Vice Chair (MD) Andrews requested that everyone please give a hand to all of the panelists and he adjourned the meeting