

Tri-County Urban Area Security Initiative Working Group

Minutes

September 9, 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
Brad	Hilderbran	Urban Fire	x
Travis	Harlow	Rural Fire	x
Mark	Conrey	Communications	x
Mark	Desler	Urban Law Enforcement	x
Pitmon	Foxall	Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources	x
Paul	Johnson	Douglas County	x
Larry	Lavelle	Sarpy County	x
Whitney	Shippy	Emergency Management	x
Kevin	Pokorny	Rural Law Enforcement	x
Tom	Lamb	Washington County	
Steve	Oltmans	Omaha Mayor's Office (chair)	x

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

Larry Lavelle made motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Mark Desler seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Discussion Items

1. Tri-County UASI Working Group meeting frequency – Phil Ruhe, Omaha Mayor's Office

The Tri-County UASI bylaws do not specify any particular meeting frequency. The group decided that meetings will now be held every other month starting in November 2011. The chairman can call a meeting at any time so members can request additional meetings if a pressing issue arises as long as there is at least two weeks advance notice for the meeting. If a meeting is canceled an additional meeting may be added into the schedule to ensure the group does not go too long without meeting.

2. Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) planning updated – Carol Allensworth

Carol Allensworth provided a brief overview of what has been happening with the City's Readiness Initiative. A major focus for public health responsibilities has been the mass distribution of medication, which would be key during widespread biological threats and include a formal request process. There would be less than 48 hours to distribute a medication in that worst-case scenario so the CRI Planning group is reviewing plans and procedures for dealing with this type of event in the Omaha metropolitan area. If you have a partner agreement with Douglas County, you will receive a copy of the base regional plan and your agreement with CRI. Please review the parts of the plan pertaining to you and send your comments to the Douglas County Health Department (402-444-7213) as your response is required before the Center of Disease Control review.

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Updates and Reports

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

Thank you to everyone who attended Tuesday's FEMA DHA monitoring visit with Corey Whals. During the visit we spoke about the achievements of using the UASI funds and our future plans. Mr. Whals visited several departments to see equipment purchased with UASI funds and their impact at the local level. In the future we will need to continue working to create a dynamic strategy as to what our priorities are. Mr. Whal will take some of questions and concerns back to NEMA and we will wait to hear back with answers on those.

The US Senate committee voted on appropriations for Homeland Security, got \$430 million and UASI funding received \$40 million. Buffer Zones, Citizen Corps, and MMRS did not get funded so the Secretary will have to choose if she wants to allocate anything to them out of the \$430 million. The bill will now continue through the legislative process so the numbers are not final, but will likely be lower than 2011.

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

We are wrapping up 2008 funds. The City Council will have the final vote on Tuesday, September 13, for the 2010 funds, and then the Finance Department will send budgets out to everyone on based on the final decision. If your committee has authorized money, please spend it in a timely manner, and take good care of equipment to prolong its usage.

3. Standing committee report

a. **Emergency Management: Whitney Shipley, DCEMA**

There have been some questions about the August 1st cutoff date for flood spending. NEMA is reviewing the deadlines and asks that you continue you're your programs at this time and a more formal announcement will be forthcoming. Sarpy has been working with Americorps workers to inspect levees, the contract ended yesterday. The county will continue to monitor contaminated sand law enforcement, fire, and the National Guard will start inspecting the other size of the levees.

The FEMA Crisis Counseling program has been approved to run for 60 days, starting this week and ending Oct. 11. Crisis counselors are in training today and will begin working in the field on Monday. The state has indicated that they will apply for an extension. The counseling will be helpful as people start to realize the extent of the damage to their property and what will and will not be covered by insurance or disaster relief. There are 200 homes are still under water and in some areas they may never be able to rebuild.

There will be a training workshop in North Platte in November. Typically we send about six people to this event so please let Eric Plautz know if you are interested in attending the event November 2-3.

i. **PET Sub-Committee**

The sub-committee met last Monday. Activities between now and December will be minimal. The group plans to discuss plans for the third year and to revisit year 2 priorities. The North section of Washington County has partially reopened. The PET group took FEMA officials on a tour of the area so they could gain a more accurate picture of the current situation.

b. **Communications: Mark Conrey, Douglas County 911 Communications**

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We spent most of '09 funding. '10 funds haven't been spent yet, but will probably go towards GIS. Washington & Douglas County have completed their Goal 2 report. Sarpy is still completing their report, but the exercise is already done. The deadline is September 15-16.

c. Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources: Pitmon Foxall, ConAgra Foods

The group typically meets every other month but has not held meetings for the last couple of months. A meeting will be held in the near future to determine the future leadership for this group.

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

'08 funding is completed. There is a small amount left to spend for '09. We are waiting for '10, a large chunk of those funds are expected to go towards helicopter equipment.

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

South Metro Squad team and the Sarpy County Squad team negotiation teams are putting together some training for the next six months for a Sarpy County scale exercise.

f. Urban Fire: Brad Hildenbran, OFD

'08 spending has been completed. We are finishing up with '09 by spending the remaining funds on HAZMAT courses and a swift water rescue course. We are looking forward to utilizing '10 funds.

g. Rural Fire: Travis Harlow

'08 spending has been completed.

h. UASI COOP Subcommittee: Phil Ruhe

The city has completed its portion of the agreement. Now we are waiting on the vendor. There will eventually be one last meeting to bring everyone in and educate them.

4. Reports from other associated Homeland Security Federal Grant Programs

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

We are working to spend '09 funds. We've been looking at the hospitals and the possibility of doing an evacuation type exercise for scenarios like Joplin. We would like to do this in three phases: an orientation for top hospital people to go over the plans for evacuation, then a tabletop, then a functional exercise in 2012.

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

The Douglas County buffer zone was rewritten at the request of NEMA to include some additional items; additional changes have now been requested. We will continue to work with NEMA to get the appropriate changes submitted. Oct. 17 & 18 NCC meeting with MECA and something else, any suggestions, email Steve suggestions of what we've experienced in brief form.

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

Our next meeting will be held September 26th. The Werner Park event to kick off Disaster Preparedness Month was very well received. There was a sold-out crowd, and the Lt. Governor attended. Please encourage donations to the food banks as they have been low on supplies lately.

5. Public Policy Center Report, Denise Bulling

On Sept. 30 at 9:00 AM CST at the Center for People in Need (Lincoln, NE) the Lt. Governor will hold a joint meeting of the NWIN Council and NCOR to discuss the organization of these groups for Nebraska in the future. The Tri-County representative to these groups is Mark Conrey.

Action Items

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1. Tri-County UASI Working Group meeting frequency

Mark Conrey made a motion that the Tri-County UASI Working Group meet once every two months beginning in November 2011. Larry Lavelle seconded the motion; the motion passed by all present except one dissent by Paul Johnson.

2. Codespear funding-

Eric Plautz will get a quote from the vendor and then the Tri-County Region would use 2010 UASI funding to pay for it. Because '10 funds have already been budgeted and only UASI funds can be used to maintain Codespear we would need to reallocate some of these funds. Changes to the budget would have to be approved by the Lt. Governor. It would be possible to ask the license holders to pay their percentage of the maintenance fee, but we will need to see how receptive they are to this idea. Phil, Gail, and Eric Plautz will work on the revision of 2010 USAI work plan by moving some of the funds budgeted as PET money to the maintenance of the Codespear system and will bring that to NEMA.

Mark Conrey made a motion to submit the paperwork to NEMA for a waiver to reallocate 2010 funds. Brad Hilderbran seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Public Comment

Upcoming events & next meeting

The next meeting will be held November 4, 2011 at 9:00 am in the Jesse Lowe Conference Room