

**Region D RHSOC Meeting Minutes**  
**January 16, 2008**  
**9:00 A.M.**  
**University of Missouri Southwest Research Center**  
**14548 Highway H**  
**Mt. Vernon, MO**

**Attendance:**

**RHSOC Members/Alternates:**

Tom Martin, Emergency Management  
Jeff Merriman, Sheriff  
Andy Nimmo, Fire  
Angela Ford, County Health  
Greg Hickman, HSRT  
Lisa Cardone, Industry/LEPC  
Tim McCracken, Utilities  
Kevin Tweedy, EMS  
Kent Vanderpool, 911  
Rick Lewis, Volunteer Groups

**Ex-Officio:**

Larry Forgey, MDA  
Wendell Hall, MDNR  
Debby Black, DSS  
Candy Adams, SEMA  
Diane May, SMCOG

**RHSOC Alternates:**

Larry Beatty, EMS

**Guests/Visitors:**

Zada Farris, SEMA  
OJ Stone, DHS  
Gary Lewis, LEPC  
Jim McManiger, LEPC  
Paula Woodsmall, DHSS  
David Bagge, DHSS  
Bob Kittsmiller, Dade Co EMD  
William Sexton, Webster Co EMD  
Michael White, Redings Mill FPD  
Larry Woods, Greene County OEM  
Julie Frank, Lawrence County 922  
David Compton, Barry County OEM  
Randall Willoughby, MDNR  
Chris Berndt, Taney County EMD  
Udell Mentola, Highlandville Rural Fire Dept.  
David Hoover, Reg D Hosp Emer Planning  
Tom Ryan, Barton Co OEM  
Jaci McReynolds, Greene Co Health Dept.

**Staff:**

Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren, SMCOG  
Luann Becker, HSTCC  
Stephanie Campbell, HSTCC  
Greg Gaines, Mass Care/Volunteers  
Coordinator  
Holly Johnston, Mass Care/Volunteers  
Coordinator Assistant  
Amanda Marney, Agri Preparedness Spec.

**Open Meeting**

Tom Martin opened the meeting at 9:10 a.m. Self introductions were made.

**Approval of January 16, 2008 Meeting Agenda**

Rick Lewis motioned and Andy Nimmo seconded the motion to approve the agenda for the January 16, 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

## **Approval of November 28, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

Lisa Cardone motioned and Jeff Merriman seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2007 meeting. Motion carried.

## **Homeland Security Regionalization Overview**

O.J. Stone, Office of Homeland Security, gave an overview update of the regionalization program and the homeland security program. He discussed HSAC appointments and the RHSOC representation.

## **OHS Updates**

**Homeland Security Regional Response.** O.J. Stone noted that the state was involved in hazardous material response capacity but there wasn't consistency statewide. After the 9/11 terrorist attack, more funds were awarded, but still no statewide consistency. Over \$30M has been spent in Missouri on this program. In 2006, the federal government required Missouri to develop a coordinated program before it could spend more federal funds. Missouri started on developing an integrated, multi-hazard, regionally focused program. Funds are intended to sustain enhanced assets and the purpose is to make sure that teams in place can do their jobs effectively.

**CI/KR Working Group.** The Critical Infrastructure Group had one initial meeting. The current inventory identifies about 4,700 assets in Missouri. Presently working on the definition of critical infrastructure and determining which infrastructure assets are the most important or significant and which are less critical. There has been some concern that funding levels will be based on critical infrastructure within an area. This will affect funding in certain areas, but this tool will be used to ensure that critical infrastructure is maintained across the state.

**MERIS.** The MERIS program was tried out at the June 2007 earthquake exercise, but had problems and implementation has been delayed. All MERIS components were tested last month and all worked. Some of the components include a new version of E-Team, ERIP, St. Louis Star System, and integration with MoDOT's Cad system. The last round of training for master trainers will be completed in January. Training for local train-the-trainers will be a four-day class to be held in March or April and interested persons need to contact David Finch. Jeff Merriman, Mike White, Larry Woods, and Ryan Nicholls indicated they were interested in the training. The state EOC will probably implement MERIS in February. The SEMA conference is March 25<sup>th</sup> and the rollout of MERIS will be a conference highlight.

Michael White said the state will be using vendors that are giving the ICS NIMS classes to do local end user training. User training is a one-day training with online components so will need to have a training site(s) with computers.

**ERIP.** As of January, 278 school districts (53% of districts) are enrolled in the Emergency Response Information Plan (ERIP). This is a total of 1,723 schools (71%) and 683,963 students (75%). Schools are now starting to populate the system. The program training is online. There has been some criticism on the training so new online courses have been developed and are

waiting for user feedback. Training manuals have also been developed. This is a K-12 program; a program for higher education has also been set up and a few colleges are registered so far. A program for day care facilities is also being developed.

### **DHSS Updates**

Paula Woodsmall, Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism, DHSS, provided a DHSS update. They are close to finalizing the disaster response annex for special needs groups and will be sending out a template the RHSOCs for special needs sheltering. The Center is also working on medical supply caches, or go kits, that would include things such as adult diapers. These will be available for special needs shelters. She provided examples of some of the problems experienced in sheltering special needs populations, such as:

- Not asking special needs persons about their care givers and care givers not then available at the shelter sites.
- Personal care items needed not taken or available at the shelters.
- During power loss, nursing homes sent special needs clients to hospitals for sheltering and the hospitals could take these people in.
- Behavioral issues with many special needs shelterees and lack of understanding on how to deal with these individuals.

Ms. Woodsmall indicated that the Red Cross has agreed to co-mingle shelters so that resources can be shared. The Department of Mental Health should be contacted for information on how to deal with behavioral issues. She also noted that a dialysis ready-in-three insert is being sent out to the dialysis centers which would allow for shelter in place for a short time. Information is on the DHSS website. The pre-pandemic influenza vaccine is under production and will be out in 2008. The vaccine will go to local health agencies and security will be needed at the delivery sites.

Larry Woods asked if there was any statewide initiative for legislation to require care facilities to have backup generators, etc. The nursing home lobby has opposed this without having federal funds to pay for the expense. A question was also asked if there was any attempt to document how many facilities did not have backup. Private for profit nursing facilities cannot get state aid, but one facility designated itself as a special needs facility and obtained a state provided generator. Some RHSOCs are using their grant funds to purchase generators for these facilities. Discussion ensued on protocols for handling persons that are considered sexual predators or violent. If such a person is known, they can be removed from a shelter.

David Bagge, DHSS, provided additional information on influenza pandemic planning. There is a stockpile of anti-virals, 1.5 million doses used for treatment. The pre-pandemic vaccine should be ready immediately if a pandemic hits. This will be a generic that won't be a tailored vaccine to the specific virus. The avian flu virus is used as the model. About 20 million doses should be available by 2008. The hope is that the vaccine will provide some limited immunity and will probably go to first responders. Commercial carriers will be used to send the vaccine to over 3000 sites around the country, probably to health departments. Health departments will

ask for some security help. It will take about 4-5 months to produce a vaccine specific to the virus strain.

Kevin Tweedy said Tamiflu is now stockpiled in St. Louis, Kansas City and Hollister. A mobile hospital unit is being worked on with DHSS. It may be housed in Southwest Missouri. It will be an 80-100 bed facility with its own communications, X-ray, and other major equipment. Staffing would come from area hospitals but logistical support is still undecided.

### **PSIC Update**

O.J. Stone provided an update on the state's Communications Interoperability Plan and noted that the Plan is on the website. The RHSOCs have approved the state making application for the \$17 million grant for equipment and training for high band-low band across the state. This is the first phase of a larger project. In a couple of weeks, \$800,000 in leftover 2005 grant funds will be available for grant requests. The RHSOCs will review the requests, approve, rank and provide their recommendations to OHS.

### **Grant Updates**

Zada Farris, SEMA, reported that SEMA has not yet received federal grant guidance for the state grant. The 2007 grant applications are due to SEMA by February 29, 2008. The timeline approval process should be about the same as for the 2006 grant program.

### **HSAC January 9, 2008 Meeting Report**

The geospatial coordination groups of Missouri, Missouri's Geographic Information Officer (GIO), the Missouri Spatial Data Information Service (MSDIS) and the Missouri Geographic Information Systems Advisory Committee (MGISAC) are creating a new Strategic Plan for the development of Missouri's Spatial Data Infrastructure (MoSDI). Tim Haithcoat with the University of Missouri will be holding regional GIS strategic planning meetings across the state over the next several months. A letter of invitation was to be sent out by Zada to forward to the RHSOCs as he is interested in their needs, views, and priorities with regard to data development and priorities. Unfortunately, the meeting for our region was held the same day as the RHSOC meeting. Zada was asked what they are trying to accomplish with this. She said that they don't want to duplicate what has already been done. They want to map what hasn't been done. It will be used for the MERIS system.

Andy Nimmo said that he thought every topic at the HSAC meeting had the underlying theme that funding is decreasing and it's going to get difficult to fund future projects. The number of investment justifications will be reduced in order to have a more concentrated impact. Also, there is a question on how the Dept. of Agriculture is funded and perhaps this funding should be coming off the top. The regions should focus on projects that aren't multi year. The RHSOCs needs to start marketing what has been accomplished and what needs to be done in the future. We need to get ahead with marketing to our state and federal representatives. Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren noted that reports from the disciplinary groups should be made at the RHSOC meetings so that everyone knows what is going on with that group. Jeff Merriman said that

even though federal funds may be decreasing, we still need to band together to look at other opportunities and create greater recognition as a region.

### **RHSOC Bylaws Amendments**

Discussion ensued on the RHSOC bylaws changes approved by the HSAC at the January 9, 2008 meeting. Kevin Tweedy motioned and Greg Hickman seconded the motion to approve the amended bylaws for the Region D RHSOC. A roll call vote was taken. Any Nimmo was not present for the vote. Motion carried:

<u>RHSOC Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>RHSOC Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Tom Martin	Yes	Lisa Cardone	Yes
Jeff Merriman	Yes	Tim McCracken	Yes
Angela Ford	Yes	Kevin Tweedy	Yes
Kent Vanderpool	Yes	Rick Lewis	Yes
Greg Hickman	Yes		

### **2006 Homeland Security Grant Program Procurement Status Report**

Diane May distributed a status report on procurement activities for the 2006 grant program.

### **Regional Staff Reports**

Greg Gaines, Mass Care/Volunteer Coordinator, distributed a summary of activities.

Amanda Marney, Agricultural Preparedness Specialist, gave an activity report on agricultural preparedness. She indicated that disaster kits are being prepared and sessions were held for school children in Monett. She is currently working with LEPCs on biosecurity. David Hoover asked about the disaster kits. Ms. Marney indicated that they include supplies such as water, mittens, flashlights. These are parent-driven workshops and include 4H groups.

### **2006 Grant Funding Reallocation and 2007 Grant Requests**

The RHSOC discussed reallocation of anticipated remaining 2006 grant funds along with proposals from the subcommittees on allocations for the 2007 grant.

### **Interoperable Communications**

The only bid submitted for the mobile communications vehicles came in well over budget. There is insufficient time to complete the microwave link project before the end of the grant period and it is proposed that the engineering study for the microwave links be conducted now but that purchase of the microwave link equipment be moved to the 2007 grant year. This would free up 2006 funds for reallocation to the communication vehicle expenses. Jeff Merriman recommended that \$150,000 be reallocated for the communications vehicles. IST expenses have come in under budget. However, Michael White requested that the funding originally allocated for IST be retained for training that can now be conducted before the end of June 2008 as well as additional equipment items, with the total about the same as the original allocation for IST.

For the 2007 grant, the Interoperable Subcommittee is requesting \$340,000. Tom Martin asked that details on how the microwave links will work be explained at the next meeting. Angela Ford requested that information be provided on what this means for the region, and who will benefit.

**Medical Surge**

David Hoover and Kevin Tweedy reported that the RHSOC in another region is purchasing patient tracking equipment for EMS services. About \$180,000 in MHA funds are being spent for these systems in Region D. Quick response is needed in the area and 2007 grant funds are proposed for a medical surge response trailer and biomedical equipment. This would be an 18' trailer with generator tent, medical and logistical supplies, heater, etc. The budget is \$80,300 for the trailer and \$28,458 for biomedical equipment, for a total of \$108,750. The trailer would be housed at the Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) warehouse in Hollister and would be sent out as needed to various areas. It will be staffed by doctors and/or nurse practitioners. The personnel would come from the DMAT. This will function as a mobile medical triage with an advanced care strike team.

**Mass Care/Volunteers**

Rick Lewis presented the Mass Care/ Volunteers Subcommittee 2007 funding proposal. The proposal includes purchases of cots and trailers, 100 cots and a trailer for each county. These could be picked up and moved to wherever the shelter is needed. Funds are also requested for the Mass Care Coordinator, a full time assistant, and additional CERT expenditures.

**Agricultural Risk Mitigation**

Lisa Cordone discussed the Agricultural Risk Mitigation proposal for 2007 funds. The proposal includes continuation of the agricultural preparedness specialist position and volunteer vet training. The total proposed budget is \$135,000. She doesn't have the 2006 funds reallocation request yet, but will be requesting \$8000 for a portable corral that will be housed at the Southwest Center and then made available to EMDs in the event of a storm where livestock are wandering. The corral would hold about 30-40 head. Discussion followed on the practicality of a corral and other possible options.

Tom Martin stated that more information is needed on the 2006 grant funds available for reallocation and the details for the 2007 grant fund proposals. Tim McCracken motioned and Jeff Merriman seconded the motion to table requests for 2006 funds reallocation and 2007 budget proposals until the next meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Andy Nimmo was not present for the vote. Motion carried:

<u>RHSOC Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>RHSOC Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Tom Martin	Yes	Lisa Cardone	Yes
Jeff Merriman	Yes	Tim McCracken	Yes
Angela Ford	Yes	Kevin Tweedy	Yes
Kent Vanderpool	Yes	Rick Lewis	Yes
Greg Hickman	Yes		

**Other Business.**

Tom Martin mentioned the vacancy on the LEPC.

Michael White represents the RHSOC on the state training advisory group. They are trying to do an all hazards approach and are looking for broad based training. Contact Michael for further information on types of training.

David Hoover said that RHSOC needs to know that the DMACC stood up and operated well during the January 8<sup>th</sup> tornado event. Most feedback has been positive. The IST was deployed to Lamar during the tornado and also worked well. Candy Adams noted that Greg Gaines did a good job with shelters. Michael White stated that the region is getting a lot of attention from other areas of the state on how well things are going with deployment of the IST and DMACC.

**Next meeting.**

The RHSOC scheduled to next meet on February 13, 2008.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
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Thomas Martin, Region D RHSOC Chair

February 13, 2008  
Date Approved