



Region D Homeland Security Oversight Committee
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2011
9:00 A.M.
Monett Justice Center
1901 E Cleveland Ave, Monett, MO

Attendance:

RHSOC Members:	Guests/Visitors:
Archie Dunn, Sheriff	Steve Lisby, Branson Police
David Pennington, Fire	Roger Brock, Barry Co. Health Dept.
Chris Berndt, HSRRS	Phil Amtower, Christian Co. EMA
Larry Martin, Public Works	Udell Mentola, Christian Co 911
Ron Potter, Mayor (Adobe Connect)	Rance Duffy, Christian Co 911
Nathan Bower, Industry/LEPC	Bob Kitsmiller, Dade County EMD
Kavan Stull, Utilities	Dean Davis, Jasper County Sheriff
Bonnie Witt-Schulte, 911	Kelly Stephens, Jasper County Sheriff
Chris Harmon, Volunteer Groups	Matt Smith, Jasper County Sheriff
	Matt Stewart, Joplin Police
Ex-Officio:	Rick Lewis, Polk Co. EMA
Gary Clinton, MoDOT	Robert Dickson, Polk Co. EMA
Diane May, SMCOG	Andy Woody, Springfield FD
	Chad Eutsler, Springfield Police
Staff:	Melissa Duckworth, Taney County OEM
Holly Johnston, CERT Coordinator	Bill Sexton, Webster Co. EMD
Carly Crocker, Comm Planning & Exercise Specialist	John Rayfield, Rayfield Communications
Gloria Bottom, Harry S Truman Coordinating Council	Martha Love, United Way
Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren, SMCOG	Paul Fennewald, OHS
	Joni Botkins, OHS
	Merrel Breyer, Mo Dept of Agriculture

Open Meeting

Opening Comments/Pledge of Allegiance

Chris Berndt opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call/Introductions

Roll call was taken and self-introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda

Bonnie Witt-Schulte moved and Larry Martin seconded the motion to approve the agenda for the July 20, 2011 Region D RHSOC quarterly meeting. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of June 15, 2011 Meeting

Larry Martin moved and Bonnie Witt-Schulte seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2011 Region D RHSOC meeting. Motion carried.

Homeland Security Grants Update – Joni Botkins, OHS

Effective October 1, 2011, there will be a change in the travel reimbursement policy due to continuing budget shortfalls. Previously, individuals had to travel 50 miles to training or a meeting in order to be reimbursed for lodging and meals. Now the mileage is 75. Ms. Botkins indicated that this policy is not just for the Homeland Security program but for other programs as well.

The FY12 Homeland Security Regional Grant process is expected to start sometime between October and December, 2011. The Office of Homeland Security (OHS) is anticipating less funding than received in FY11. Application trainings will be offered again this year. The FY12 grant applications will include an equipment inventory list for all equipment purchased with Homeland Security funds. An inventory form will be provided with the application package.

NIMSCAST is open and ready for entries. Entries must be completed by September 30, 2011. For questions, contact Chuck May at the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) at 573-526-9112.

OHS has adopted a policy that the Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) and jurisdictions requesting reimbursement through the Electronic Grant Management System (EGMS) no longer have to provide cancelled checks to get reimbursement.

Ms. Botkins reminded the RHSOC that the FY08 reallocations must be completed by August 31, 2011. FY09 funds were extended through July, 2012, FY10 funds are to be completed by July, 2013, and FY11 funds are to be completed by September, 2014. OHS has not completed the technical review for FY11 yet, but she anticipates that it will start soon.

DHSS Update – John Bos, DHSS

Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren said that she received an email from John Bos stating that he could not attend today's meeting and that he had nothing to report anyway.

Agriculture Update - Merrel Breyer

The Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) is still trying to help out as much as possible in Joplin. The All-hazard Guides for Emergency Preparedness are available. They are intended primarily for rural areas. Please call MDA, and they will be sent out. SES, Inc. has again been awarded the contract to administer various agriculture initiatives and exercises.

DNR Update

Not here, nothing to report.

Mutual Aid/IST – Paul Fennewald

Mr. Fennewald reported that the program was heavily used in the Joplin disaster. SEMA is reviewing what worked and what didn't, but the bottom line is that both law enforcement and fire mutual aid worked well in the Joplin response. Sheriff Archie Dunn added that they actually had more volunteers than needed. Mr. Fennewald stated that the fire protection services have had the mutual aid system in place longer than anyone else, and they are evaluating a structure that will work for others.

Interoperable Communications – Paul Fennewald

They are continuing on Phase 2 of the state-wide network in the southwest Missouri area. The system is operational but they are trying to get additional capacity in southeast side of State. Process of getting

equipment is still in Phase 1 and on going. Phase 2 and Phase 3 will be based on the need of the agencies and departments, even if they don't have anything to offer up in terms of frequencies.

OHS Update – HSAC & Other Initiatives – Paul Fennewald

Mr. Fennewald discussed the status of the Homeland Security Grant Program., noting that “change” is descriptive. The State will probably get the FY 11 allocation by the end of September. Program funding was severely reduced. Additionally, Kansas City lost the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) designation and will now be allocated funding from the regional funding. Mr. Fennewald believes the regionalization work done is the backbone that has created the relationships within the region. Collaboration across jurisdictional and interdisciplinary lines is the hallmark. The level of FY12 funding will be even less, and St. Louis will probably lose UASI status. The focus should be on what is most important to maintain. Communications capabilities should be the top priority for FY12 funding. Decisions will have to be made. There is a question as to whether we will be able to keep the RHSOCs and there will possibly only be bare-minimum training. Mr. Fennewald recommended letting federal legislators know that the response to the Joplin disaster worked well because the region has been working together for a long time. Let the federal legislators know that the process is working. We must continue to nurture and maintain the capability that has already been built.

Mr. Fennewald admitted that the Missouri Emergency Resource Information System (MERIS) portal was a failure and OHS is doing a failure analysis. They now have a new generation collaborative portal using a different system that can be built locally. It comes from the free federal Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). Tactical operations plans from several disciplines are now up in HSIN, and they are putting up GIS information with overlays. OHS will provide a password for the user to get into the system and download information. Sign-up sheets are available and anyone can sign up to get their information. Adobe Connect is being used daily by OHS and HSIN gives access to it also for free. The federal version can have up to 1000 people in the Adobe Connect room. WebEOC might be enhanced as well by this system. There will have a webinar demonstration to show how use HSIN on July 25 or 26. Contact Mr. Fennewald if you want to sit in on the webinar.

The feds have been pushing exercise and training. OHS is trying to reinvent focus of exercise and training with representatives from each region to get together in a working group to discuss the focus of training. They would like to see committees at the regional level to decide how to spend exercise and training funding. A meeting will be coming up shortly to start this process. They are looking at keeping the exercises simple, using local people to help design and teach instead of using contractors to do this. Larry Martin asked if the level of training is staying the same. Mr. Fennewald said that requirements for levels of training and exercises have gone way up. The feds think that the number of exercises that people go to can be used as a measure of readiness to respond to disaster and can then be used to determine future funding.

This year's Annual Meetings, because of downsizing, will not have a meal. There will be an annual report, but only one from the State. Regions will send out information to OHS, and they will write up the annual report and print copies for everyone.

Old Business

Report on Missouri Safe Schools & Colleges Conference – Matt Smith

Corporal Matt Smith from the Jasper County Sheriff's Office attended the Missouri Safe Schools & Colleges Conference with the OHS-sponsored scholarship for Region D. He is a resource officer for three school districts and is a DARE instructor. They covered everything from how to use the direct approach to drugs

and alcohol with students to how to respond to threats. It was more geared to keep everyone active during the conference, rather than just sitting there. They kept everyone going as quickly as possible. He felt he brought back a lot of good information that he can use with his schools. For example, he learned how to deal with children with needs in a special environment and how it can be a safety issue. He thought it was very well worthwhile.

Discussion on Christian County MotoTurbo System for 911 - Rance Duffy

Chris Berndt said that the biggest question being asked is why is the RHSOC spending all this money to make Region D more interoperable and then Christian County goes and does its own thing. Christian County was asked to speak to the RHSOC due to their going to the MotoTurbo system and explain the system and how the County will still be interoperable with the rest of the region. Rance Duffy with the Christian County 911 said that they aren't on line yet. They have sent out all of the portable radios to the public safety agencies. It is a digital system, not a Project-25 system. The biggest reason the County went with the system is because it was going to cost \$3 million to go on the state system, and they couldn't afford it. Mr. Duffy said that it is interoperable because the radios work on both analog and digital mode. Christian County public safety personnel could still communicate with responders from other counties on the VHF analog channel on their radios. The Dispatch Center will also have both the digital and analog components for communication. The only drawback is that responders will not be able to monitor what is going on countywide unless they are using a MotoTurbo radio. Chief Berndt said that that is the issue. The region has purchased the communication vehicles, repeater trailers, etc. and none of them will work in Christian County. Mr. Duffy said that the national interop channels should work. They have also worked out a way to do a patch system with the 800 systems.

Udell Mentola said that the Christian County Fire Chiefs Association's communications policy states that they will use VTAC channels for support. Only the Incident Command will be on digital to dispatch. Phil Amtower added that this new system works better. Christian County will be completing the system for a little over \$1 million.

Larry Martin asked if they have experiences that are positive or negative. Mr. Duffy said that since they rolled out the portables, they have heard that areas have improved reception without switching to digital. John Rayfield of Rayfield Communications explained that P-25 has two types, conventional and trunking. P-25 conventional equipment is less costly, but the trunking required for the State system pushes the cost way up as compared to MotoTurbo. P-25 conventional and P-25 trunked radios also will not talk to one another without a bridge.

David Pennington asked if Christian County might hand out radios to the surrounding counties that respond. Mr. Duffy said that he would like to avoid that with the patch being developed with Springfield/Greene County. Mr. Martin said that he would like Christian County to come back after the system has been up for awhile to see how it is working and what challenges they may have had. Chief Berndt asked if there was a chance that Christian County could provide radios for the RHSOC communications vehicles. Mr. Duffy said possibly.

New Business

FY08 Reallocation, FY09 and FY10 Homeland Security Grant Program Procurement Update – Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

FY08 Reallocation - Everything has gone out for bid except the panel trailers and the listening devices. She still needs to get the specs for the panel trailers from Todd Schubert. There was also a question on the pricing for the listening devices. Chris Berndt said that he would get with David Hall on the listening

devices. Larry Martin said the specs should be easy for the panel trailers. Chief Berndt was concerned that we may lose the funds if this doesn't happen quickly. Since Mr. Schubert wasn't present, Mr. Martin tried to call him to check on the status of the specs.

FY09 Funds – There will be approximately \$138,000 available to reallocate. We have until June 30 of 2012 to spend it. Mrs. Sandgren also requested that \$600 be transferred from the remaining FY09 funds to pay for sustainment costs of the satellite system for the Region D Greene County Sheriff's Command Bus. It had inadvertently been left off the original budget. It is included in both the FY10 and FY11 budgets. Bonnie Witt-Schulte moved and Chris Harmon seconded the motion that \$600 from the remaining FY09 funding be used for sustainment for the Region D Command Bus. Roll call vote taken as recorded below and motion carried unanimously:

RHSOC Member	Vote	RHSOC Member	Vote
Archie Dunn	<u>Yes</u>	Nathan Bower	<u>Yes</u>
David Pennington	<u>Yes</u>	Kavan Stull	<u>Yes</u>
Chris Berndt	<u>Yes</u>	Bonnie Witt-Schulte	<u>Yes</u>
Larry Martin	<u>Yes</u>	Chris Harmon	<u>Yes</u>
Ron Potter (Adobe Conn)	<u>Yes</u>		

FY10 Funds – Spending for the FY10 funds has been a little delayed due to everyone's involvement in Joplin. The bids have gone out for the positions and spending at this time is at about \$152,000.

Larry Martin was not able to get to get a hold of Mr. Schubert. Chris Berndt was very concerned about this. He suggested to the RHSOC that if we don't have specs by the end of this week to go ahead and reallocate funds to the next proposal on the list, the Search & Rescue Project #3 equipment, so that the money is not lost. Bonnie Witt-Schulte moved and David Pennington seconded that the RHSOC does that. After some discussion, roll call vote taken as recorded below and motion carried unanimously:

RHSOC Member	Vote	RHSOC Member	Vote
Archie Dunn	<u>Yes</u>	Nathan Bower	<u>Yes</u>
David Pennington	<u>Yes</u>	Kavan Stull	<u>Yes</u>
Chris Berndt	<u>Yes</u>	Bonnie Witt-Schulte	<u>Yes</u>
Larry Martin	<u>Yes</u>	Chris Harmon	<u>Yes</u>
Ron Potter (Adobe Conn)	<u>Yes</u>		

Discussion of Reallocation of Remaining FY09 Funds – Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

Chief Berndt asked when SMCOG will know how much money can be reallocated. Mrs. Sandgren said that she should know by the end of this month. The subcommittees will need to have time to meet and then have the RHSOC meeting in September to vote on reallocations. The RHSOC agreed to meet on September 7. Larry Martin recommended that Mrs. Sandgren send out a reminder for alternates to attend as well, since this will be their last meeting before the RHSOC membership changes in October.

FY11 Grant Application Update – Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren

Joni Botkins from OHS already reported.

Region D Staff Reports

Amanda Marney, Agricultural Preparedness Specialist – Not present. She sent out her report which was also in the handouts.

Greg Gaines, Mass Care Coordinator – Not present. Written report in handouts. Chris Harmon also reported for Mr. Gaines that much of the equipment including the trailers and cots that has been purchased the previous years was utilized in the Joplin event. Red Cross was able to access the equipment quickly, and the Red Cross headquarters even commented on how they were able to do this so quickly and so well. Mr. Harmon told them that it was because of what we have done in this region to come together. The hygiene trailer is still being utilized.

Holly Johnston, CERT Coordinator - Written report in handouts. Ms. Johnston also remarked on how CERT did a wonderful job in Joplin. Stone County CERT was one of the first teams to arrive. Webster County CERT brought ham radio people with them that aided in communications since that was lacking. CERT came in from all over the region and state. It was the first region-wide CERT deployment call in the region. Response was great because the teams got to actually practice what they have learned all these years. Because of this response, she received a call from CERT in Irvine, California with an invitation to speak at their conference in October, 2011 about what was done at the Joplin response.

Carly Crocker, Regional Communications Planning & Exercise Specialist - Written report in handouts. Currently the surveys have gone out to collect information for the regional plan. Ms. Crocker said to call or contact her if you didn't get a survey or have any questions. Also will be taking pictures and GPS coordinates of the communication assets of each jurisdiction. One deficiency she noted during the Joplin event was the difficulty in trying to develop an incident action plan concerning the communications. Protocols were clearly needed and this gap needs to be fixed. Planned on the project to be completed by December 31 of this year, but are looking to extend this in order to thoroughly develop the plan and the resulting exercise.

State Committee Representatives Reports

SIEC, J. R. Webb/Kent Vanderpool – No one here to report.

Exercise, Carly Crocker – Ms. Crocker reported that A.J. Lehmen, State Exercise Officer with SEMA, proposed an idea at the previous week's Southwest Missouri Emergency Support Organization (SMESO) meeting to satisfy the new Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) requirements for exercising for the region. They will follow the HSEEP guidelines for the required full-scale exercise. Smaller exercises such as tabletops will be included at the mandatory planning meetings to help the locals meet their exercise requirements. Ms. Crocker is hoping that the exercise of the communications plan will also satisfy local exercise requirements.

Disciplinary Group Reports

HSRRS – They had a meeting yesterday and are working on their FY10 budget.

Public Works – Larry Martin reported that he had previously mentioned that they were working on a public works format for mutual aid. He was there a few hours after the tornado hit Joplin and no one could get anywhere from the debris on the streets. It was evident to everyone how important it was for public works to be included in mutual aid in order to be able to respond immediately. For example, search and rescue couldn't get started because the natural gas couldn't be shut off. As a resident of the Joplin area, Gloria Bottom said that public works did an awesome job and she strongly supports mutual aid agreements with public works. Mr. Martin has received calls asking to be included in mutual aid.

911 - They are preparing for a regional meeting in August. They will discuss the Joplin deployment.

Volunteers - The mobile canteen has come in and is at the Salvation Army in Springfield.

Sheriff - Sheriff Dunn thanked everyone that sent people and resources to the Joplin tornado response.

Utilities – One of the lessons learned from Joplin is the need for guys with bolt cutters and similar equipment. Rescue has not been part of the utilities response and having bolt cutters from utilities people would be helpful. Mr. Martin said that he agreed with that. When Ozark Public Works responded, they were the only ones to bring chop saws or bolt cutters. Everyone was coming to them to help get through downed fences or wires. The electric coops are meeting on August 17 and Kavan Stull plans on bringing that up.

Other Business/Open Discussion

Chris Berndt got call from Conne Burnham with the University of Missouri Fire & Rescue Training Institute about follow-up for the regional beef exercise. Many participants have been tied up with Joplin. She wanted to know if this could be done at an RHSOC meeting. Chief Berndt suggested they could meet immediately following the RHSOC meeting if it won't take too long. He thought they could perhaps add this to the September meeting or hold it after lunch.

Larry Martin wanted to reiterate that he appreciated how well the CERT members responded to Joplin. They knew how to dress, how to wait for command. The chain of command was excellent.

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting scheduled for September 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. to vote on FY09 reallocations. Site to be determined.

Adjourn

David Pennington moved and Bonnie Witt-Schulte seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Chris Berndt, Region D RHSOC Chair

Date Approved