

**Region D RHSOC Meeting Minutes**  
**October 19, 2006**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**University of Missouri Southwest Research Center**  
**14548 Highway H, Mt. Vernon, MO**

**Attendance:**

<b>RHSOC Members:</b>	<b>RHSOC Alternates:</b>
Chris Berndt, Emergency Management	Tom Martin, Emergency Management
Mike Seibert, Police Alternate	Jonathan Gano, Public Works
Archie Dunn, Sheriff	Tim McCracken, Utilities
Jimmy Sebree, Fire	Rick Lewis, Volunteer Groups
Angela Ford, County Health	
Mitch Randles, HSRT	<b>Guests/Visitors:</b>
David Brock, Public Works	Zada Farris, SEMA
Frank Washburn, County Commissioner	Alan Garrison, Office Homeland Security
David Edwards, Industry	Ray Wadley, MDA
Bill Deal, Utilities	Amy Luecke, MDA
David Hoover, EMS	Larry Woods, Greene Co OEM
J.R. Webb, 911	David Compton, Barry OEM
Debi Meeds, Volunteer Groups	Mike Rowe, Lawrence Co OEM
Douglas Domer, Public Schools	Bob Kittsmiller, Dade Co EM
	Phil Amtower, Christian Co EMA
<b>Ex-Officio:</b>	Keith Stammer, Jasper EMA
Kevin Notz, DFS	Greg Hickman, Neosho HSRT
Diane Smith, DHSS	James Vroman, Cox Monett Hospital
David Pratt, DNR	Jeff Merriman, Jasper Co Sheriff
Debbie Black, DSS	Tony Moehr, Jasper Co Health Dept
Capt. Randy Beydler, MSHP	Wayne Turner, Webster Co Road Dept
Larry Forgey, MDA	
Kurt Kysar, MDC	Staff:
Candy Adams, SEMA	Dorothy Wittorff-Sandgren, SMCOG
Paul Flamm, USACE, Kansas City District	Joe Kelley, HSTCC
Charlie Tobin, USACE, Little Rock District	BJ Straw, Kaysinger Basin RPC
Diane May, SMCOG	

**Open Meeting:**

Chris Berndt (Emergency Management) opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

**Approval of Agenda:**

J.R. Webb (911) motioned and Mitch Randles (HSRT) seconded to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Chris Berndt stated that corrections may be needed to the attendance list for the September 27, 2006 meeting minutes as not everyone signed in on the attendance roster. The following corrections were noted: Capt Prine was not in attendance; Gary Clinton, MoDOT, and Stan Jones, USACE, were in attendance.

Jimmy Sebree (Fire) motioned and David Hoover (EMS) seconded to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2006 meeting as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

**SEMA/Homeland Security Regionalization Program Activities Update:**

Alan Garrison, Office of Homeland Security, spoke on behalf of Paul Fennewald. He indicated that local involvement in determining solutions to homeland security issues is the way to do business. The Office of Homeland Security wants to hear from the locals on what needs to be done better. The power of the synergy behind a group working as a team is the benefit that the State will receive from this process.

Mr. Garrison noted that the safe schools webcast will be recorded and made available from the Missouri School Board Association. The webcast includes Dr. Simpson's (Joplin Schools Superintendent) interview and focuses on the need for partnership, rehearsal and drill.

Zada Farris, SEMA, stated that there will be a separate \$2.8 million terrorism prevention grant program for law enforcement. This is a competitive grant program and funds can be used for radios.

Ms. Farris indicated that the State will start working on its 2007 homeland security funding grant application on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The regions will be contacted for input on this process.

The State's draft Interoperability Plan was presented to the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The plan will be distributed to the regions when completed, which is anticipated to be within a week or so.

In response to a request made at the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting for obtaining information on grants funded in the prior year, Ms. Farris stated that a written request signed by the RHSOC Chair should be submitted to SEMA. She also indicated that the State is currently conducting a survey on what is needed for 911, so funds cannot be expended for 911 needs under the current homeland security grant program.

**Missouri Dept. of Agriculture Presentation:**

Ray Wadley, Dept of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health, Security & Operations Officer presented on agro terrorism needs. Up until now the Department has operated agro terrorism programs with funds provided by SEMA. Mr. Wadley reviewed some of the programs that have been carried out or are currently underway. At the state level, a plan for animal emergency has been developed and currently working on a plan for crops. The Department is also working with DHSS and USDA on food safety. Some training has been conducted and equipment purchases include emergency trailers for use by veterinarians if there is an outbreak (self sufficient for quarantine needs). County level agro terrorism training is about 50 percent complete. A concept program for a voluntary veterinary corps is also being developed with the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association in cooperation with USDA. Mr. Wadley noted the following activities that could be carried out to mitigate agricultural risk:

1. Continue and expand training to producer groups on a regional basis.
2. Develop veterinary medical assistance teams (VMATS) in each region, with equipment that can be multiple purpose use.
3. Develop an equipment package for each region that is useable for more than just agriculture events.

4. Conduct regional exercises to test plans, people and equipment due to broad range of agricultural production in state.
5. PPE Equipment for multiple uses.
6. Establish a resource pool data base in each region for agriculture specific needs.
7. Develop plans for housing, feeding and watering animals in-transit during a stop movement order (locations).
8. Develop carcass disposal plans (locations and equipment).
9. Initiate an extensive bio-security awareness program for the agriculture community.

Mr. Wadley indicated that approximately \$400,000 has been spent over two years for the programs already initiated statewide. He provided some general cost estimates of implementing the proposed programs, including:

Completing county level training statewide - \$200,000

Producer training - \$170,000

Volunteer Vet Corps - \$72,000 for initial investment, plus \$25,000/year for maintenance

Regional exercises - \$25,000 per region

David Compton asked when a program for producers could be started. It was noted that this program could have a big impact for the large producer organizations, such as MFA. Mr. Wadley stated that this could be done with current contract changes, hopefully within three months.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

#### ***Agricultural Risk Mitigation Subcommittee.***

Dave Edwards, Subcommittee Chair, distributed and explained an outline of needs and investment considerations for an agricultural risk mitigation program for Region D:

#### Preparedness

1. Increase training and public information outreach programs relative to biohazards and other threats to agriculture and animal health.
  - A. Training Programs
    - State and local response teams
  - B. Public Information Outreach Programs
    - Increase public awareness of potential hazards
    - Communicate the public's role in prevention
  
2. Improve coordination of agencies to increase recognition of potential hazard areas which are currently not identified within existing systems.
  - A. Region Coordinator
    - Identification of small producers and inclusion of these entities in overall planning, prevention and response efforts

#### Response

1. Improve the effectiveness of response and recovery by improving the coordination of federal, state and local response plans.
  - A. Implement Agriculture Risk Mitigation exercises in designated areas of the region sufficient to provide practical application opportunities for all the counties, and to provide gap analysis across multi-disciplinary response agencies.

## Equipment

1. Continue needs assessment to identify equipment which will improve preparedness and response tactics.
  - A. Radio communications (interoperable)
  - B. Vet kits (volunteers and donations)
  - C. Display Trailer (training and outreach)

Dr. Forgey talked about the vet kits listed under the equipment need category. He noted the need for communications equipment and a display trailer for public information and training.

### ***Interoperable Communications Capabilities Subcommittee.***

Mitch Randles, Subcommittee Chair, stated that the subcommittee came to consensus on the following priority needs:

1. Interoperability of radio communications is the highest priority. A regional communications vehicle on each side of the region is recommended, with one hour response time to get to a location within the region.
2. Second focus is startup to get a radio system that will enable everyone within the region to talk to each other. A microwave setup linking communications between Springfield and Joplin on 800 radio is recommended. How to get VHF and UHF users onto the system?
3. Incident management. State is setting up three incident management teams, focused on the I-70 corridor. The subcommittee wants an incident management team in the region that can respond within an hour or two. This would include training and equipment.

Alan Garrison said the state fire marshal and the public safety director would support this type of expenditure.

4. Also recommended is a skills and equipment clearinghouse that can be offered throughout the region as needed. Dave Hoover said an IMT team needs to have a place to go for larger regional events and communication is needed throughout all the levels. This could be accomplished by creating a regional DMACC multi-agency coordination center for the region. At the county level, Greene County is already doing this. Communications needs would include voice over ip, radio and video over ip. St. John's trailer in Joplin already has this on it and as backup can connect 800 and UHF, VHF, analog and digital. Satellite transmission would enable communications to get to the internet and allow for asset and resource tracking. The facility would be open for anyone to come to or use. Mr. Hoover estimated that this could be accomplished for about \$150,000-\$200,000. Greene County will provide 24/7 human coverage for the DMAC. He will email a more detailed proposal to the RHSOC.

### ***Mass Care and Citizen Protection Subcommittee.***

Dave Hoover, Subcommittee Chair, noted that there are a lot of Red Cross shelter plans in the region, but there are limitations including special needs and acute care centers. Need to include all groups involved in mass sheltering. The subcommittee recommends hiring a Mass Care Coordinator that can pull all of this together and determine where shelter facilities are needed. Having one person to do this would benefit the region and perhaps the position could be shared with another job or position.

Other recommendations include a regional IMT, support for CERTs . He noted that pet care is also needed.

Question on the relationship between MACC and IMT. Would IMTs be a mobile extension of the MACC? Mr. Hoover said it would be dependent on the needs of the region.

Dave Compton asked if radios can be purchased with the regionalization grant funds. Regionalization funds can be used for regional radios, not individual radios. Question was raised about mobile units. It was stated that the idea was to have one fixed facility and two mobiles. Phil Amtower (Christian Co EMA) noted that the FEMA regional director was looking at having a self contained unit that can be sent anywhere. Debbie Black (DSS) noted that the Department of Social Services is given responsibility for mass care and likes the idea of mass care coordinator support through the MACC. In response to a question about regional training for the IMTs, Mitch Randles answered that would be part of this grant process.

#### ***Volunteer and Donations Subcommittee.***

Debi Meeds, Subcommittee Chair, provided a handout of the minutes of the Volunteer and Donations Subcommittee. There is not enough paid staff in Missouri to take care of a large disaster. Advanced training and registration of volunteers is needed, as well as a system that can take of new volunteers. Need a regional database for volunteer and resources. Need a system for identifying and credentialing the volunteers and a system that can catalog resources. Also recommend a regional coordinator that could work hand in hand with a mass care coordinator.

Phil Amtower provided a demonstration of the Elliott ID/computer system program for volunteer records. The system uses an ID Scanner with barcode that creates ID and scans in information about each volunteer. Can generate report at the end of a disaster because it provides data in format that state and federal agencies want. ID cards are canned and the system keeps track of hours, where everyone is located, and can notify when someone is in a hot zone and needs to come out. The system has resource management and resource inventory capabilities. Can print barcodes for resources and can track medications with bar codes. Barcodes could be put on vehicles so can clock in and out of emergency vehicles which could then generate records for reimbursement requests to the federal government during federally declared emergency. Data could be uploaded to the MAC.

It is proposed to buy the system for each county at estimated cost of \$20,000 per unit, plus \$500 per year per unit for system support maintenance. With the addition of handhelds it would cost about \$390,000 for the region. This is the same system as proposed by the state. It is on the state's authorized equipment list.

Alan Garrison asked about the handheld and suggested that the region could have more handhelds and fewer systems. Diane Smith (DHSS) talked about internet down time and how to track in such situations. She noted that if there was a smallpox event requiring vaccinations, volunteers would need an ID card stating have been vaccinated for small pox. One small pox event is considered a terrorist event.

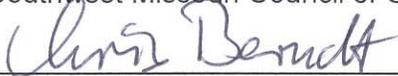
Phil Amtower noted that the Elliot ID System could facilitate all of these systems.

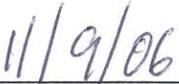
There being no further business, Mitch Randles motioned and J.R. Webb seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Next RHSOC meeting is scheduled for Thursday Nov 9<sup>th</sup>. Meeting location will be confirmed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane May, Executive Director  
Southwest Missouri Council of Governments

  
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Chris Berndt, Chair  
Region D RHSOC Chair

  
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Date Approved