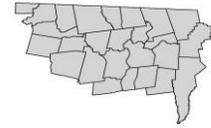


**FRANKLIN COUNTY**  
**REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
 WORKING TOGETHER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY



Meeting Minutes: Franklin Regional Emergency Planning Committee			
<b>Date</b>	October 3, 2017	<b>Location</b>	John W. Olver Transportation Building 12 Olive Street, Greenfield
<b>Time</b>	4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	<b>Duration</b>	1.0 Hours
		<b>Facilitator</b>	Robert Strahan, Vice Chair
		<b>Meeting Cancellation Notice</b>	413-774-3167 x153

Agenda Items	Motions/Action Taken
1. Welcoming remarks/ agenda/introductions	<b>Robert Strahan opened the meeting at 4:05 p.m.</b> Attendees Include: Robert Barry, Gene Beaubien, Doug Field, Tim Lively, Chris Myers, Carolyn Ness, Dan Nietzsche, Robert Strahan, John Taylor, Michael Walsh, Charles Washer, Matthew Wolkenbreit, Philip Wonkka
2. Review/approval of July 11, 2017 Minutes	Carolyn Shores Ness made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 11, 2017 meeting as presented. Chris Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
3. Roundtable Updates a. MEMA b. NWMIMT c. MACC/MOOG d. FCECS	<p>a. Bob Barry, MEMA, reported there will be an EMD Quarterly meeting on October 26, 2017. There will be two sessions held with the first one being from 09:00 to 11:00 and the second from 18:00 to 20:00. There will be an ICS 402 class for executives on November 6 from 13:00 to 16:00. There will be an ICS 400 sometime in November so please check the MEMA website for more details. Deerfield is hosting a public assistance recovery meeting on Nov 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 until 10:30.</p> <p>b. The NWMIMT is in the process of potentially being deployed to Puerto Rico. The prior activation to Florida was cancelled as the team was making their way down to the staging area in Florida.</p> <p>Due to multiple incidents the Hard Knox exercise scheduled for October has been cancelled. The USAR team has been deployed to Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico and there are just not enough assets to run the exercise.</p> <p>c. FRCOG is currently working on a MOU with Greenfield Community College in an effort to give the MACC a consistent place to work from in the event of an incident.</p> <p>d. Radio System Update</p> <p>Dan Nietzsche reported on the following topics concerning the FCECS.</p> <p>SYSTEM AGE: Radio system experts tell us the life expectancy for the components in our system is</p>

	<p>7 to 10 years. The average age for our system’s components is 12 years old.</p> <p><b>REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE:</b>  Currently, the FCECS Oversight Committee is getting one to two trouble tickets a week from users. These issues can take anywhere from one hour of our Radio System Manager’s time up to multi-day events that can cost into the thousands to repair.</p> <p><b>SYSTEM DESIGN:</b>  The Committee has been told by multiple engineers the design of our system is at fault for many of our current reception issues. Even if the parts and pieces were new there would still be issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The antennas are not correct in terms of type, bearing, and power</li> <li>• The tower locations are too close to each other, causing interference</li> </ul> <p><b>PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE REPORT:</b>  Beltronics, our system maintenance contractor, provided the Committee with a detailed list of items that need immediate attention. These issues include antenna components that are failing, battery backup units that are not holding a charge, and faulty wiring. All of these faults are being repaired</p> <p><b>Harris MASTR III Repeater: Critical Link</b></p> <p><b>THE MAIN PROBLEM:</b>  The Harris Corporation has issued an end of life notice for the MASTR III units the FCECS uses as repeaters at most tower locations. In addition, due to the vintage of the Harris MASTR III units, we are unable to find suitable parts for repair.</p> <p><b>IMPLICATIONS:</b>  If a repeater were to fail, someone using that tower to contact dispatch or another first responder would not be able to do so. In short, the tower would be shut down along with its coverage area. Repairing the unit is nearly impossible.</p> <p><b>CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN:</b>  If a MASTR III fails the FCECS has a plan to deal with the issue. The FCECS System Manager has devised a site hierarchy list. This list outlines which sites are the most and least important to all system users. In the case that an important location loses a MASTR III the System Manager will take parts from a low ranking site.</p>
<p>4. Old business:  a. MCI Plan Update</p>	<p>a. A follow up meeting will be held to iron out the distribution plan. Matthew Wolkenbreit reported that other regions in WMASS are updating their MCI plans. Matt does not think it this plan will change how we work but might affect how the other counties work with Franklin.</p>
<p>5. New business:  a. Election of Vice-Chair</p>	<p>Tim lively nominated Dennis Annear for the position of Vice-Chair of the Franklin County REPC for a term of two years. Chris Myers seconded the motion. The</p>

	<p>motion passed by unanimous vote.</p>
<p>6. Update / Questions / AAR Discussion</p>	<p>a. The dams along the Deerfield River have been sold to a company called Great River Hydro. It was asked if anyone had or if they knew of new contact information or even a listing of the staff which would handle emergency operations. The meeting attendees have not received any new information. Apparently, Mathew Cole a representative with the old owner, TransCanada has made the transition with the new company. Bob asked that Matthew come and speak with the REPC. It was noted that Great River Hydro just had their inundation maps redone which are essential to have for the towns that could be affected by the river. Carolyn voiced concern that before she could call the emergency operation center and now she cannot. She also is concerned that now all the numbers in our CEMP plans are no longer accurate. She is wondering who is making the decision on drawing down the dam level in emergency situations. Robert Strahan recommends the REPC reaches out to and they are asked to perform a presentation and answer our concerns. MEMA will reach out to the utilities to ask on our behalf about a call list. Dan Nietzsche will contact Matthew Cole.</p>
<p>7. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the meeting</p>	<p>a. Robert Strahan publicly thanked Shelburne, Buckland, Monroe, and Conway for granting their EMPG money to Greenfield in order for Greenfield to purchase an advanced thermo-imaging drone that will be available for use by all of Franklin County. The training will involve getting between two to four Greenfield Fire and Police employees FAA and FCC licenses. Chris Myers wishes this information would have been made earlier because he feels more towns would have joined in the funding effort.</p> <p>b. Greenfield has been awarded a State E911 grant to study how a regional dispatch center would work in Franklin County. It is expected the study will look at the data from multiple perspectives to ensure the best recommendation. One of the options which will be studied is Greenfield would house the dispatch center in the new public safety building which the City would like to build. Chris Myers asked how close the public safety building is to being a reality. It is expected to take a little over one year to construct after final approval.</p>
<p>8. Wrap up and adjourn</p>	<p>Carolyn Shores Ness made a motion to adjourn. Matthew Wolkenbreit seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Meeting was adjourned at 5:10PM.</p> <p>Next Meeting: January 2, 2018 4:00 p.m., John W. Olver Transportation Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room, 12 Oliver Street, Greenfield, MA</p>