

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Grants and Finance Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday ~ July 16, 2009 ~ 9:00 a.m.

**Washoe County Regional Emergency Operations Center
5195 Spectrum Boulevard, Reno, Nevada**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL *

Chair Magenheimer called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Brian Allen – Sparks Police Department; Eileen Coulombe – Washoe County Health District; Aaron Kenneston – Washoe County Emergency Manager; Bob Knoll – Reno Fire Department; Chris Magenheimer – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Scott Shaw – Reno Police Department; Eugene Spoon – Renown, Chris Smith – Washoe County School District, joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m. Alan Minor Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility, joined the meeting late.

ABSENT: Tim Alameda – Reno Fire; Steve Driscoll – Sparks Emergency Management; Marshall Emerson – Washoe County Sheriff's Office; Jim Gubbels – Regional Emergency Medical Services Agency; Bruce Hicks – North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District; Chet Malewski – Truckee Meadows Water Authority; Mike Mieras – Washoe County School District; Dale Richardson – Washoe County School District; Bob Sack – Washoe County Health District.

Mary Kandaras – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

2. GRANTS AND FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE – *Review, prioritize requests and recommend action to the General Membership of the Local Emergency Planning Committee on the 2009 State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), 2009 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP), Mid-Cycle Training grant applications*

Chair Magenheimer provided an overview of the agenda item and Cathy Ludwig – Grants Administrator, to explain the grant parameters and applications.

Ms. Ludwig explained that this particular pool of grant funds was for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness for planning and training derived from funds collected from facilities housing hazardous materials. Ms. Ludwig noted that some of the \$92,000.00 in Planning and \$57,000.00 in Training that is available statewide had been allocated by SERC (State Emergency Planning Commission) previously, thus reducing the total pool of mid-cycle funding. Ms. Ludwig noted that this particular grant had to be expended by September 30, 2009. A packet with additional information was distributed that further defines what is eligible and non-eligible for funding. Ms. Ludwig noted that the 2009 HazMat Explo had been cancelled with SERC seeking other training opportunities.

* denotes NON action item

Local Emergency Planning Committee Grants and Finance Subcommittee

DRAFT Minutes

July 16, 2009

TRAINING – *Continuing Challenge, September 8-11, 2009*

The following agencies have submitted for funding:

North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District – one (1) attendee.

Sparks Fire Department – ten (10) attendees.

Washoe County Health District – three (3) attendees.

Reno Fire Department – six (6) attendees.

Ms. Ludwig noted that the grant funds a per diem allowance for rooms and lodging and that SERC encouraged room and ride sharing to reduce expenses and that \$81.00 for meals provided during the conference were deducted.

OTHER TRAINING

HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard)

Ms. Ludwig noted that the Inter-Hospital Coordinating Council had provided a letter from the State Fire Marshal declining the training.

Ms. Ludwig then summarized an incomplete training equipment application submitted by Reno Fire Department. Ms. Ludwig noted that training equipment is highly specialized and must be associated with training funded by HMEP (Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness) funds.

Ms. Ludwig noted that the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue had requested funding for Continuing Challenge training under Planning, which also includes a needs assessment.

There was some discussion about the per diem and grant application requests. It was pointed out that the applications were shown as requested.

Tom Garrison – Sparks Fire Department, explained that the City of Sparks application did not include dinner for the Friday return.

Chris Smith – Washoe County School District; joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Other discussion noted that the funding could not be adjusted once awarded. Therefore, agencies need to ascertain whether or not the dinner allowance for the Friday return should be included in their application. A consensus was reached to move the Continuing Challenge applications to move forward without change.

* denotes NON action item

Local Emergency Planning Committee Grants and Finance Subcommittee

DRAFT Minutes

July 16, 2009

Art Glass – Washoe County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue, summarized his thoughts on including the Continuing Challenge as part of an overall planning exercise that would allow the volunteers an opportunity to work with first responders to better understand the needs of law enforcement and fire fighters. Additionally, law enforcement and fire will have a clearer understanding of the resources that the search and rescue volunteers can bring to the scene such as planes, side-sonar among other areas of expertise.

During the discussion it was noted that the Continuing Challenge portion of the application was better suited to the Training portion of the grant. It was noted that a separate request form needed to be submitted along with the number of rooms needed and per diem.

Mr. Glass noted that there would be five attendees thus requiring three rooms.

It was moved by Bob Knoll, seconded by Chris Smith, to send the five persons identified in the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue application to Continuing Challenge. MOTION CARRIED.

HAZWOPER Training through Inter-Hospital Coordinating Council

Eugene Spoon – Renown, provided an overview of the request noting that this will provide training for twenty-five (25) persons each at the 40-hour & 24-hour trainings. Arrangements have been made with AGC (Associated General Contractors) for the meeting room, which would be withdrawn if another venue is identified. The trainees will come from the area's hospitals from among the supervisory and Emergency Department personnel who will deal with walk-in patients and others.

Bob Knoll – Reno Fire Department, expressed his support for the request noting that it is crucial that the region's hospitals understand what needs to be done and receive proper training for nuclear related incidents. Mr. Knoll noted that this is a regional issue that excludes the State of California.

Mr. Spoon noted that an individual had been air-lifted to Renown after ingesting an unknown substance, which was later determined to be Malathion. Mr. Spoon noted that the Veteran's Administration Hospital was also included in this request.

It was moved by Tom Garrison, seconded by Bob Knoll, to recommend approval of the Inter-Hospital Coordinating Council request for HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard). MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Ludwig asked that an explanation of the request be provided that incorporates the explanation of the needs be provided for inclusion with the grant request.

* denotes NON action item

Local Emergency Planning Committee Grants and Finance Subcommittee

DRAFT Minutes

July 16, 2009

Discussion then focused on the Reno Fire Department training equipment request. During the discussion it was pointed out that documentation from the State's Fire Marshal was needed that declined the training, before a request is submitted for grant funding. Other discussion noted that Sparks Fire representative Tom Garrison would contact the State Fire Marshal to secure the needed document on behalf of Reno Fire. It was pointed out that the City of Sparks Fire Department is part of the Triad and their assistance would be appreciated as Joe Nishikida, contact for the application – Reno Fire, was deployed on one of the two wildfires north of the City.

It was moved by Bob Knoll, seconded by Eugene Spoon, to recommend approval of the Reno Fire request for training equipment contingent upon: 1) receipt of necessary documentation from the State Fire Marshal declining the provision of training; and 2) that the training equipment is associated with a HMEP (Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness) funded training program. MOTION CARRIED.

Responding to an inquiry about whether the funding requests should be prioritized now, Mary Kandaras – Deputy District Attorney opined that any prioritization would be inappropriate at this time without full knowledge of the level of funding being received. Ms. Kandaras recommended that a special meeting be called if needed when the level of funding is known.

PLANNING - Washoe County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue

Art Glass – Washoe County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue outlined the request and summarized the various types of equipment and fields of expertise the volunteers can bring to major emergencies. For example, there are fourteen (14) aircraft available with qualified pilots who will fly the region at no charge except for fuel reimbursement. Other areas of expertise include side-scan sonar that can also be used to search for radiological containers as well as the more traditional use. Mr. Glass explained that the intent is to develop an exercise that allows the first responders and volunteers to work together in a situation that helps each group identify needs and areas of improved communication and validates the program.

Aaron Kenneston expressed his support for a program that further integrates and causes the various agencies to interact as in a regional manner. The most difficult component will be a description and support material to clarify the request for SERC consideration. Mr. Kenneston explained that SERC takes a very black and white approach to grant funding approvals and that it would be beneficial to have someone present to provide an explanation of the request should the need arise.

Ms. Ludwig concurred noting that they may question how an application is related to the funding category such as hazardous materials or terrorism.

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Local Emergency Planning Committee Grants and Finance Subcommittee

DRAFT Minutes

July 16, 2009

Mr. Glass commented that he appreciates the discussion and information provided at this meeting. It is Mr. Glass' belief that the request responds to the spirit of the SERC grant criteria and that the proposal is the lowest possible cost to provide a functional program that can be expanded in the future for both man-made, natural and WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) scenarios.

During the discussion it was noted that the establishment of local capabilities was made stronger with more interoperability. Other discussion noted the benefits from participation in other training activities outside the region that improve the ability of the region to provide assistance to others.

Ms. Ludwig noted that the SERC Funding Committee would meet the last week in July (2009) and that she would provide notice of time, date and location of the meeting.

It was moved by Aaron Kenneston, seconded by Scott Shaw, to remove the Continuing Challenge from the planning application and direct that the request be updated no later than Tuesday, July 21, 2009, to meet the parameters set forth in the grant application guidelines.

Ms. Ludwig noted that the five members of the Search and Rescue team had already been approved under training for Continuing Challenge.

MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Ludwig recapped the requests as follows: 1) Continuing Challenge Training: (a) North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, one attendee (1) at \$1,086.20; (b) Sparks Fire, ten (10) attendees at \$8,500.50; (c) Washoe County District Health, three (3) attendees at \$2,896.92; (d) Reno Fire Department, six (6) attendees at \$4,851.00; and (d) Washoe County Sheriff's Office, five (5) attendees at \$3,505.00; 2) HazMat Training Equipment: (a) Inter-Hospital Coordination Council, Hazwoper Training and Refresher \$9,600.00 and (b) Reno Fire Department BullEx HazMat Training Equipment \$6,261.00: TOTAL REQUEST \$36,700.62: and 3) Planning – Needs Assessment for Field Integration Training (FIT) Program – Washoe County Sheriff's Office \$4,688.00.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS *

There were no public comments.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Magenheimer adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

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