

Region 6 Homeland Security Planning Board

“Community Preparedness through Regional Collaboration”

Abby Watkins, Board Chairperson

Newaygo County Emergency Services, 306 S. North St., White Cloud, Michigan 49349, 231.689.7354, abbym@co.newaygo.mi.us

Lou Hunt, Board Vice Chairperson

Ottawa County Emergency Management, 12220 Fillmore Street, West Olive, Michigan 49460, 616-738-4050, lhunt@miottawa.org

Allison Farole, Board Secretary

City of Grand Rapids, Emergency Management Administrator, 38 LaGrave Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503, afarole@grand-rapids.mi.us, hsregion6@gmail.com

Leah Delano, Chair R6 Sub-Committees
Scott Corbin, Chair R6 Planning Committee

REGION 6 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes – May 13, 2024 – 10:00 AM

Big Rapids Department of Public Safety Building, 435 N. Michigan Ave, Big Rapids, MI 49307

In-Person with Teams Meeting Option

I. Called to Order at 10:05am

II. Roll Call

Voting Members:

X	Abby Watkins – Chairperson	X	Leah DeLano – R6 Sub-Committee Chair
X	Lou Hunt – Vice Chairperson	V	Scott Corbin – R6 Planning Committee Chair
X	Allison Farole – Secretary		
	A = Absent X = Present		AL = Alternate V = Virtual

Non-Voting Members:

A	Amanda Frifeldt (WMRMC)	V	Mark Schmiedeknecht (WMRMC)
X	Katherine DeVoursney (WMRMC)	V	Alex Yared (Kent County)
X	Lt. Orville Theaker (MSP/EMHSD)		
X	Troy Maloney (Oceana County)		

III. Approval of Agenda

- Motion: Hunt
- Second: Farole
- *All in Favor*

IV. Approval of Minutes

- Motion: Farole
- Second: DeLano
- *All in Favor*

V. Committee Reports

- AAF Reports
 - Kent Co:
 - FY22 MEMA Conference 2024
 - a. Motion: Hunt
 - b. Second: Farole
 - c. Discussion: It was discussed that it would be beneficial for Katherine to create Regional AAFs for the reoccurring annual conferences such as MEMA, Active Assailant & GLHS. In the past this effort was headed up by Rich Warner (former Muskegon Co EM) but since his retirement

- c. Discussion: This project is a continuation of their local RTF project done for FY21. Mecosta received 2 RTF kit bags from the FY21 Clean-Up Project so using their local allocations to purchase more is appropriate.
 - d. *All in Favor*
 - e. THIRA Gap Alignment: Public Safety/EM Functions
- WMRMC Fiduciary Report
 - Amanda is on vacation but did not send out the Allocation Spreadsheets before leaving; the importance of getting those on a regular schedule needs to be stressed – receiving those spreadsheets before the Planning Board meeting is beneficial so everyone has time to read and prepare
 - Katherine will contact Amanda and see if she can access the spreadsheets and send them out inside the same Agenda Packet email that will be sent for the upcoming Planning Board meeting
- Regional Coordinator Report
 - AAFs status update:
 - The AAFs on today's agenda are now approved by the Executive Committee and after voting is done on them by the Planning Board on Monday, all FY22 AAFs will officially be voted on/submission process completed
 - Next month's meetings will be the official start of voting on/approving FY23 AAFs
 - Website:
 - Katherine will be changing the Members Only password and inform everyone at Monday's PB meeting
 - Eventually would like to add two sections for NPAs and THIRA that would contain general overviews of those processes
- Region 6 Sub-Committee Report (NPA, LETPA, HazMat)
 - LETPA
 - Still on schedule for FY21/22, still a needed focus for FY23
 - Encourage all R6 members to conduct as many LETPA projects as possible for FY23
 - NPAs
 - Not many updates to report; Katherine will contact EMD to check on the AAF status of the Cyber Consortium and Barricade projects – they have been assigned tracking numbers but we need those approvals soon in order for the PO process to begin
 - FEMA approved the change of NPA Project Description for FY23 Election Security; that project will now focus primarily on barriers
 - HazMat
 - Quarterly meeting being held today and run by Derek Schroeder
 - June 3 – Strategic Planning Session being held
- Planning Sub-Committee (THIRA)

- Katherine, Alex, and Scott have a virtual meeting scheduled for tomorrow (5/14) afternoon to discuss progress and action plan for gathering the final pieces of missing data
- The next THIRA meeting will be held virtually only; a major discussion point will be about how to handle counties that have missing or partial data – whether to include them, exclude them, or include them inside an appendix or addendum

VI. Action Items/Updates

- It was discussed that next month Katherine will use this section to give updates on the AAFs that had some concerns talked about today; she will also skim the minutes from the past couple of months to give any updates on other AAFs

VII. New Business – None

VIII. Open Discussion

- Budget Cuts to HSGP
 - It was discussed that Amanda will attend next month’s Executive Committee meeting to present a few options for dealing with reduced amount of funding for FY24
 - The PB will need to name and vote to approve a Region 6 Fiduciary by the end of August, this will be added to agendas for next month
- Letter to Congress
 - Allison presented the letter recently sent to Congress regarding the 9% cuts to HSGP, EMPG, etc and signed by IAEM as well as many other emergency response organizations
 - This letter will be sent out to EMs via email as well as included in these minutes and the agenda packet for Monday’s PB meeting
 - There is an online form currently being created that would allow EMs to enter stories and concerns about how these cuts will impact their programs; Allison will share that out once it is ready
- A Regional Perspective
 - It was discussed that due to the expected cuts in FY24, the region may want to explore moving towards spending funds in a more deliberately regional way; large and small counties need to all receive/see benefits
 - In the past there were a number of committees used to approve and put forward projects that benefited the region as a whole
 - When approaching things with a regional perspective, it would be beneficial to focus on common reoccurring projects and maintain a “long-term” mindset; Katherine will take a look at the AAF Archive and notice any common patterns of projects being done and update at the next Executive Comm meeting
 - Examples given: software, radios, barricades, RTF kits, etc.

IX. Dates Review:

FY22 Important Dates	
Grant Performance Period Start Date	9.1.22
Budget Approval Date	1.23.23

Fiduciary Opens Grant	6.1.23
AAFs due to R6 Coordinator	4.1.24
PO Request Documents due to Fiduciary	8.15.24
Reimbursement Packets Due	1.1.25
Grant Performance Period End Date	5.31.25
Fiduciary Closes Grant	5.31.25

FY23 Important Dates	
Grant Performance Period Start Date	9.1.23
Budget Approval Date	2.26.24
Fiduciary Opens Grant	6.1.24
AAFs due to R6 Coordinator	4.1.25
PO Request Documents due to Fiduciary	8.15.25
Reimbursement Packets Due	11.30.25
Grant Performance Period End Date	5.31.26
Fiduciary Closes Grant	5.31.26

X. Adjourned at 11:52am

- The next Region 6 HSGP Planning Board Meeting is May 20, 2024
- The next Region 6 Planning Subcommittee (THIRA) Meeting is May 23, 2024 and will be held **VIRTUAL ONLY** (via Teams) from 1-2pm
- The next Executive Committee Meeting is June 10, 2024



May 10, 2024

Dear Members of Congress:

The FY24 appropriations agreement for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will have lasting, deleterious effects to the first responder, homeland security, and emergency management communities. The nine percent reductions to all grant programs within the Federal Assistance Account at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) demonstrates a lack of understanding of how state, local, tribal, and territorial governments help augment federal preparedness efforts.

The associations endorsing this letter represent state and local elected officials, first responders, and those directly responsible for homeland security and emergency management across the country and in communities you represent. We each take our role in national preparedness seriously, and we urge Congress to do the same. The FY24 cuts in state and local funding will negatively impact our country for years to come. It will stymie states' and localities' efforts to protect their communities from cyber and other threats to our infrastructure, hobble first responders and state and local officials' efforts to respond to disasters and reduce assistance to tribes with their preparedness efforts. Programs that will be adversely affected are:

- The **State Homeland Security Grant Program** and **Urban Area Security Initiative** allow state and local governments to augment gaps in national preparedness and enhance terrorism prevention capabilities during a time when nationwide threats are at their greatest since September 11, 2001.
- The **Port Security Grants** and **Public Transportation Security Assistance** allow managers of critical infrastructure nodes to protect commerce and millions of Americans who utilize public transportation in the nation's largest metropolitan areas.
- The **Emergency Management Performance Grant** is a 50/50 grant supporting baseline emergency management capabilities when those professionals are stretched the thinnest managing events beyond natural hazards to include cyber-incidents, asylum seekers, and school safety.

- The **Assistance to Firefighters** and **Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response** grants provide critical matching grants to local fire departments for basic training, equipment, and staffing.
- The **Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Assessment Program** addresses the flood risk across the country and directly impacts the abilities for communities to manage their location within a floodplain and save the lives and property of millions of Americans.
- The **Regional Catastrophic Grant Program** is a one-of-a-kind program allowing communities and states to work across jurisdictional borders and coordinate their catastrophic planning efforts.
- The **Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program** just recently came into its own and allowed underserved tribal communities to bolster their local security posture for a range of preparedness efforts.

While each of these programs represents unique constituencies, partnerships, and capabilities, they also represent decades of post-September 11 efforts. Countless reports, testimonies, and anecdotes highlight the direct return on investment of these programs. The cuts made in the FY24 spending agreement for DHS will result in an inability to sustain response and recovery capabilities across the country and put critical infrastructure at risk. This comes during a time when nation-state actors, domestic and international extremists, and the hazards of our natural environment pose a tremendous threat. As you consider supplemental funding this summer and the FY25 budget, we urge Congress to restore these cuts and the trust established over decades of work between federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal stakeholders.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association
 Association of State Floodplain Managers
 Big City Emergency Managers
 Council of State Governments
 International Association of Emergency Managers
 International Association of Fire Chiefs
 International City/County Management Association
 Major Cities Chiefs Association
 Major County Sheriffs of America
 National Association of Counties
 National Conference of State Legislatures
 National Emergency Management Association
 National League of Cities
 National Fire Protection Association
 National Fusion Center Association
 National Sheriffs' Association
 National Volunteer Fire Council
 The United States Conference of Mayors