Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Urban Area Working Group (UAWG) Chair Bill Austin at 1005 hours.

List of attendees is attached to the file copy of the minutes.

Review/Approval of Minutes from the September 29, 2010 meeting

Don Janelle, seconded by Ed Lescoe, moved to accept the November 10, 2010 minutes as submitted. All in favor so voted.

Administrative Remarks

Dan Scace called attention to the handouts provided and noted the rumors regarding changes to the UASI grant. John Shaw also commented on funding issues for UASI and for MMRS and suggested that the local UAWG’s should closely follow the situation and potentially organize an effort to educate congress on the need for continued funding.

MMRS Steering Committee Update

John Shaw commented on the ongoing MMRS funding issues at the national level and called attention to the revised RESF-8 strategy handout. There is a dialog underway between DPH and the RESF-8 chairs in each of the five regions regarding responsibilities and authorities at the regional level. He has drafted a consensus document which has been distributed for review by the 5 regional chairs. DPH has indicated that they will support the results of this effort. He also reported on the latest FEMA Region1/New England MMRS meeting. Four of the six jurisdictions are using the same process for forward movement of patients. Cross-state information sharing has been a topic of discussion. Hartford will host the next meeting of this group.

Spending Summary 2008 and 2009

Dan Scace did a walkthrough of the UASI budget and spending plan documents for 2010, 2009, and 2008, and then led a review and discussion of suggested changes to the 2008 spending plan that would keep the totals for each goal intact to the extent possible. The only revision to the changes described on the spreadsheet presented was to the proposed addition of $32,500 for RESF-5 Duty Officer and IMT equipment. After a review of the list of requested equipment, a correction was made to the number of portable radios (reduced from 15 to 12), and funding for jackets for duty officers was removed. Bill Austin, seconded by Mark Sirois, moved to reduce the amount included for IMT
equipment from $32,500 to $28,600. All in favor, so voted. The UAWG reviewed and approved by consensus the adjusted 08 UASI budget. See attached spreadsheet.

At the request of Cheryl Assis and approved by consensus, the Capabilities Assessment update was moved up on the agenda.

New Business – Capabilities Assessment Update

Andy Mazzeo, Tetra Tech, presented a spreadsheet showing the ratings of probabilities and impacts of various hazards that had been developed for the original capabilities assessment and invited comments. He does not anticipate that these numbers will change much, but Tetra Tech will incorporate additional historical information and update as necessary. He reviewed the approach and outcomes of the original assessment and noted that this has formed a basis for the IJs for subsequent spending plans. They have reviewed investments and project outcomes and also the AARs from incidents and exercises. The next step will be validation of the scoring and review of proposed projects.

Similar to the process done during the original assessment, workgroups will be formed to review the ratings assigned to capabilities. The information gathered will be used to identify new priorities. Workgroups are structured in a logical grouping of capabilities and require participation from related RESF personnel who are subject matter experts. In response to his request for volunteers to assist with the assessment update, the following individuals either volunteered or were recommended as workgroup leads or participants:

- Public Health, Health Care and Medical (RESF 8) Lead: John Shaw
- Law Enforcement (RESF 13) Lead: Mark Sirois
- Public Safety Communications (RESF 2) Lead: Keith Victor
- Critical Infrastructure/Public Private Partnership (RESF 14) Lead: Laurie Ann Scotti, other participants: Mark Sirois (RESF 13) and Bill Turley (RESF 5)
- Fire Services and Hazardous Materials (RESF 4) Lead: Bill Austin, RESF-10: Gary Allyn, Bomb Squad: Dustin Rendock, RESF-9: Peter Vernesoni, IMT: Don Moore
- Emergency Management (RESF 5) Lead: Don Janelle, Participants: RESF-6, Chris Baker and Katherine McCormack

CRCOG staff will work with Andy to schedule workgroup sessions and ensure the necessary SMEs are present.

Tetra Tech will also be providing a web-based performance measurement tool. He reiterated previous concerns about future funding. There may be a delay of 6-12 months with the 2011 funding, or we may not get it at all. He noted that a recent OMB report suggested that the slowness in spending current funding indicates diminished need. The report also recommended the consolidation of grant programs, and stressed citizen preparedness and resiliency.
Urban Area Security Strategy Update

Dan Scace advised the UAWG that he would soon be entering the updated strategies and will attempt to include appropriate language to reflect the new FEMA perspectives.

The Annual Grant Cycle

Dan Scace pointed out that the guidance is late in coming to support the standard grant cycle timing.

Old Business

CREPC The Road Ahead Status - CRCOG is working with CREPC leadership to assess applications for the CREPC Operations Manager position. Mark Sirois added that the selection committee is being established to cover all RESFs that will interface significantly with the new Manager.

Carmine Centrella reported that the ESF 21 project to review Continuity of Operations plans for independent colleges and universities in the region has been completed. Each school has received its specific report and these will also be sent to the local EMDs in the communities where the schools are located.

Carmine provided an update on the WMD exercise series and asked people to encourage service chiefs to attend the WMD seminar series. The next one is scheduled for March 17, and the TTX for April 13.

In response to a question by Chief Austin, Dan responded that we have received approval from DEMHS to send 6 people to the UASI conference in June, but he had asked Cheryl to increase that number to 10.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 19, 1300–1500, at the RCC, Manchester.

Adjournment

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 1153 hours.