

**MABAS Special Ops Work Group**

**MINUTES**

**May 11, 2020 1:00PM**

**Via Zoom**



1. Call to Order – Chairman Chris Martin called today’s meeting to order at 1:02PM. Present: Atkins, Chevrette, Dean, Kwapis, Martin, McGee, McIntyre, Parker, Stone, Whitehead
2. Approval of Meeting Agenda – Motion by Parker, seconded by Chevrette. Motion carried.
3. Review of February 20, 2020 Notes
4. Financial Report (Stone)
  - a. Account balances as of 5/8/2020
    - i. Fund Balance \$108,380.11
    - ii. FY20 State Appropriation \$361,304.80
  - b. Petty Cash (Joe Chopski) - \$500
5. Program Director Updates – McIntyre reported the following:
  - a. Work Plan Updates – COVID-19 Response, LARA Budget Amendment
    - LARA Budget Amendment - We’ve received \$540K of the \$600K, per FY20 appropriation. LARA approved the amendment to shift \$100K from training to COVID-19 related ops. LARA has been extremely active in the details of this budget, and our role in this health pandemic.
    - COVID-19 Response – this portion of the budget is split between Response & Training budget lines. Response has started with us conducting weekly Wellness Checks of our members. We do have two confirmed cases. Our doctors have followed up with these team members. Logistics Section assisted in delivering PPE in SE Michigan, focusing on Oakland County. We were also involved with Alternate Care Facility at the TCF Center in Detroit. We deployed a Supply Unit Leader from our Command Section through a MEMAC agreement with the SEOC to assist DNR IMT (April 12-24).
    - Training consists of developing a decontamination and sanitation processes for our Base of Operations and then conducting mandatory training for all members. This poses unique challenges without relying on an external water source or brick and mortar structures. This includes mandatory sign in/sign out procedures for all MOB Center visitors (to include medical surveillance questions & body temp readings)
    - Due to delay in receiving FY20 funding and the cancellation of all training and exercises, we have developed new mandatory membership requirements between now and 9/1/20 to maintain our operational readiness. Hosting MOB Ex in a COVID environment, one Virtual Section Training & One Hands On Section Training.
    - Looking at transitioning from IRIS to Connect Rocket.
6. Training & Exercise Coordinator Updates – Whitehead reported:
  - a. Work Plan Updates – Whitehead reported on some of the cancelled events - water rescue symposium in South Bend, swift water technician classes in South Bend, deployment exercise (was to be held at the combat readiness center in Alpena). These cancellations have affected our training milestones. We are working towards rescheduled dates. Goal is to maintain engagement with members. Working with section coordinators & managers to train all sections. Planning exercises at the MOB center, Base of Operations (BoO) Exercise. Looking at Rescue Boat Op class, as well. HART (Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team) update provided.
7. Old Business
  - a. Hurricane Florence Update – McIntyre reported that no payment received, as it’s

transitioned from their Logistics Section to another section. Slow process.

- b. Hurricane Dorian Update – No payment yet. McIntyre provided an update.
- c. MSP Hazmat Work Group – Whitehead had nothing to report, as everything has been put on hold. Next meeting is scheduled for August. Atkins stated that MSP's conference is canceled.
- d. Special Ops Validation – Atkins had nothing to report, as MSP's focus has shifted. No completed applications have been received.
- e. Mission Ready Handbook – McIntyre has been working with Atkins and provided a status report. We'll need to look at different ways of communicating with chiefs.

#### 8. Work Groups

- a. IMT – McGee reported on the team, as Oakland County faced personnel issues due to COVID. System worked, and special thanks to Atkins & Ball. Provided details surrounding the TCF facility, as it was a great experience. McIntyre provided more information related to pooling resources and possible future incidents.
- b. HazMat (Whitehead) – Nothing more to report.
- c. TRT (Martin) – Nothing more to report.

#### 9. New Business

- a. FY21 Presentations – McIntyre reiterated the importance of keeping our eyes on funding for 2021. It may be extremely challenging to convince the continued funding of this team, so it's imperative that we relate our lessons learned, available resources, etc. to legislators & decision-makers. Recruitment & retention on the special operations teams is an issue, just like at the entry level fire personnel levels.

#### 10. Next Meeting/Adjourn – Next meeting will be announced, though most likely in

June. Adjournment – 1:37PM Motion by Parker, Seconded by Dean. Motion Carried.