

**Legislative Coordinating Commission  
Preparedness for Terrorism and Disasters Working Group  
Wednesday, November 28, 2007  
3:00 PM  
Room 112, Capitol**

**Present**

Rep. Chris DeLaForest  
Rep. Carolyn Laine  
Rep. Ryan Winkler  
Sen. Linda Higgins  
Sen. Warren Limmer  
Karen Anderson  
Steve Andreasen  
Rocco Forte  
Dr. Michael Osterholm

**Excused:**

Sen. Terri Bonoff

Greg Hubinger, Director of the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC), called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm. A quorum was present. Members introduced themselves. Mr. Hubinger reviewed the resolution adopted by the LCC that established the Preparedness for Terrorism and Disasters Working Group.

**Election of House and Senate Co-Chairs**

Rep. Laine nominated Sen. Higgins and Rep. Winkler for the positions of co-chairs. There were no other nominations. Dr. Osterholm moved that Sen. Higgins and Rep. Winkler serve as co-chairs of the Preparedness for Terrorism and Disasters Working Group. **THE MOTION PREVAILED.**

Sen. Higgins took over as Chair of the meeting.

**Case Study: Southern Minnesota Flood Relief**

Jeff Vlaminck, Assistant District 6 Engineer for Operations for MnDOT, gave an overview of MnDOT's response to the flood in Southern Minnesota. Mr. Vlaminck cited that 300 locations on highways and bridges in the region sustained damages due to the flooding. In response, MnDOT implemented an Incident Command System (ICS) staying in contact with the Department of Homeland Security and local Emergency Operations Centers (EOC); held weekly internal meetings; worked closely with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for documentation purposes; and submitted Detailed Damage Inspection Reports to the FHWA for emergency relief dollars.

Lieutenant Colonel Eric Waage, Chief Interagency Operations Officer for the Minnesota National Guard, gave an overview of the National Guard response to the flood. The

response effort included the quick approval and placement of National Guard units in the areas impacted; the dispatch of two Blackhawk helicopters; the dispatch of the ready response force; the dispatch of medical personnel to assist victims; and the placement of satellite communication to the areas. Lt. Col. Waage and Mr. Valminck stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

### **Case Study: 35W Bridge Collapse**

Rocco Forte, Minneapolis Emergency Preparedness Director, gave an overview of the City's response to the I-35W bridge collapse, which included the implementation of a National Incident Management System (NIMS); the immediate activation of the EOC; the utilization of Mutual Aid Partners; and the activation of the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Mr. Forte cited their response effort worked well due to good relationships, good communications, planning, equipment and training. He also noted the size of their EOC was not large enough to accommodate the individuals involved. Mr. Forte stood for questions. Discussion Ensued.

Michael Campion, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS), gave a chronology of the Department's response to the bridge collapse. The DPS followed the Minnesota Emergency Operations Plan, a NIMS based response plan that guides agencies to their role during a particular disaster. In response, the DPS activated the state EOC; coordinated the entire state agency response; provided security to the immediate area; assisted with the dissemination of public information and served as a liaison with federal government. Mr. Campion stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

Chief Deputy Mike Carlson, Inspector Ken Shilling and Captain Bill Chandler of the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) gave an overview of the HCSO response to the bridge collapse as river command. Chief Deputy Carlson cited critical elements that aided their effort included established relationships, intercommunications system, NIMS, planning and training. Inspector Schilling gave an overview of the equipment and technology utilized during the water rescue and recovery effort.

Captain Chandler presented the HCSO five phase response to the bridge collapse. The phases were: rescue and recovery operations; public safety diving operations; a systematic search by US Navy divers; addition of commercial divers to the search; and debris removal and river security. Chief Deputy Carlson, Inspector Shilling and Captain Chandler stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

Cathy Clark, Acting Director of the Emergency Management Section for MnDOT's Office of Maintenance, and Sue Mulvihill, Metro Program Delivery Director, gave an overview of MnDOT's response to the bridge collapse. Ms. Clark spoke to MnDOT's EOP that addresses responsibilities, roles and protocol. Responsibilities include traffic control, debris removal and assisting with travel information services. Ms. Mulvihill then gave an overview of MnDOT's response the night of the collapse, which included the closure of roadways, management of traffic and assistance with debris removal. Ms. Clark and Ms. Mulvihill stood for questions. Discussion ensued.

**Next Meeting**

Sen. Higgins requested members think about other issues they would like the Working Group to look at and e-mail any suggestions to the co-chairs. The next two meetings of the Working Group have been scheduled for Monday, December 10, 2007 and Monday, December 17, 2007.

There being no further business Sen. Higgins adjourned the meeting and 5:38 pm.

---

Senator Linda Higgins, Co-Chair

---

Representative Ryan Winkler, Co-Chair