



**State of Wisconsin
Homeland Security Council**

TONY EVERS
Governor

MAJ GEN PAUL E. KNAPP
Homeland Security Advisor

Department of Military Affairs
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

608.242.3075

Open Session Meeting Minutes

Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ)
2400 Wright Street,
Room 230
Madison, WI 53708

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
9:01 AM – 9:11 AM

Members Present: Supt. Tim Carnahan (State Patrol), Chief David Erwin (Capitol Police), Greg Engle (WEM), Kelly Smithback (DATCP), Trina Zanow (DOA), Chief Mike Steffes (Chiefs of Police), Sheriff Mark Podoll (Badger Sheriffs), Chief Kevin Bierce (WI State Fire Chiefs), Jared Hoy (DOC), Kara Pennoyer (PSC), Chief Jeffrey Norman (Milw PD).

Members absent: Chair Maj Gen Paul Knapp (DMA), Shane Goss (DNR), Natalie Easterday (DHS), Meagan Wolfe (Election Commission), Tina Virgil (DCI).

Alternates present: BG Matt Beilfuss (DMA), Jeremy Peery (DNR), Lourdes Fernandez (DCI).

1) Call to Order/Roll Call.

- a) The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM.
- b) Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

2) Opening Remarks.

- a) BG Beilfuss welcomed members.



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- 3) Review and Approval of November 7, 2023, Open Session Meeting Minutes.
 - a) Motion by Sheriff Mark Podoll, seconded by Chief Mike Steffes, to approve the minutes.
 - b) Motion carried.

- 4) Agency Updates.
 - a) DOA – Trina Zanow.
 - i. 2024 Governor’s Cyber Summit Planning:
 - (1) Targeting last week in October (Monday-Wednesday).
 - (2) Request for Proposal for venue to be released within the next week.
 - (3) A tourism person retiring; the Wisconsin Elections Commission is assisting.
 - ii. Grants Application Process:
 - (1) The draft is currently being reviewed by the core team.
 - (2) Cybersecurity subcommittee to vote soon for release.
 - (3) Open to local government, schools, and tribes.
 - b) DATCP – Kelly Smithback.
 - i. There will be a Community Health Session on the topic of Animal Disease Response.
 - c) Capitol Police – Chief David Erwin.
 - i. Newly hired Captain Brian Knepper returned to DNR.
 - ii. Replacement: Captain Abby Onsgard.
 - d) Chiefs of Police – Chief Mike Steffes.
 - i. No update.
 - e) DCI – Lourdes Fernandez.
 - i. No update.



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- f) WEM – Greg Engle.
 - i. The Governor’s Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security is taking place this week in Lake Geneva.
 - ii. Preparedness for Extreme Weather Season:
 - (1) The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is undergoing a transition to streamline operations.
 - (2) Position training was conducted to adapt to the incident support model changes.
 - (3) Organizational structure and terminology modifications for efficiency.
 - (4) Official cutover to the new model scheduled for April 1st.
 - (5) Ongoing training and drills until the transition.
 - (6) Most partner agencies in the SEOC have participated in training.
- g) GOV – Mel Barnes.
 - i. No update.
- h) WI State Fire Chiefs – Chief Kevin Bierce.
 - i. No update.
- i) Badger Sheriffs – Sheriff Mark Podoll.
 - i. Badger Sheriffs Conference Recap:
 - (1) Concluded last week with discussions on the election and role of the Sheriff’s office.
 - (2) Emphasized collaboration with county government.
 - ii. Sheriff Shawn Becker from Wood County was introduced as the new alternate.
- j) State Patrol – Supt. Tim Carnahan.
 - i. Joint Effort with WE Energies:



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- (1) Bringing on two new towers in the Southeast region.
 - (2) Both towers support the Wisconsin Interoperable System for Communications.
 - ii. Looking forward to receiving a \$10 million federal grant for improving the infrastructure of the towers.
 - k) Milwaukee PD – Chief Jeffrey Norman.
 - i. No update.
 - l) DNR – Jeremy Peery.
 - i. Major Brian Knepper returned to the DNR, his former position.
 - ii. The Homeland Security advisor position is under review for reallocation.
 - iii. Likely dissolution of the position, with Peery taking on the responsibilities.
 - m) PSC – Kara Pennoyer.
 - i. Due to weather conditions, one state utility has exhausted its tree-clearing funding.
 - ii. Collaborating with authorities to approve funding for the remainder of the year.
 - iii. Other utilities in the state are also approaching the depletion of their clearing budgets.
 - n) DOC – Jared Hoy.
 - i. Secretary Kevin Carr retired, with his last day on March 8th.
 - ii. Continued Partnership for Republican National Convention (RNC) Planning:
 - (1) DOC will persist in being a partner for RNC planning.
 - (2) Emphasized collaboration with institutions and field offices in the Southeast area.
 - o) DMA – BG Matt Beilfuss.
 - i. No update.
- 5) Set the Date, Time, and Place of the Next Meeting.



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- a) Confirmed next meeting will be May 14th, 2024, at 9:00 AM.
- 6) Adjourn Open Session to Go into Closed Session at 9:11 AM.
 - a) Motion to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(d) by Kelly Smithback, second by Trina Zanow.
 - b) Motion carried unanimously.
- 7) Reconvened in Open Session at 10:18 AM.
 - a) Approval of November 7, 2023, closed session minutes.
 - i. Motion to approve by Chief Jeffrey Norman, seconded by Chief Mike Steffes.
 - ii. Motion carried; BG Beilfuss announced that closed session minutes were approved.
 - b) Motion to adjourn by Chief David Erwin, second by Chief Jeffrey Norman.
 - i. Motion carried; open session adjourned at 10:19 AM.