



# MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM

MABAS - Illinois  
233 W. Hintz Road  
Wheeling, IL 60090  
PHONE: 847-403-0500  
FAX: 847-215-1875

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes-October 17, 2012

### I. Call To Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call

President Macko called the October 17, 2012 MABAS-IL Executive Board Meeting to order at 13:11 hours. The meeting was held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Peoria, Illinois.

#### Roll Call:

Present: Division 1, Division 2, Division 3, Division 4, Division 5, Division 6, Division 7, Division 8, Division 10, Division 12, Division 13, Division 16, Division 17, Division 19, Division 20, Division 21, Division 23, Division 24, Division 25, Division 26, Division 27, Division 28, Division 30, Division 31, Division 32, Division 36, Division 37, Division 38, Division 41, Division 42, Division 43, Division 49, Division 53, Division 54, Division 56, Division 62, Division 66.

Absent: Division 9, Division 11, Division 14, Division 15, Division 18, Division 22, Division 29, Division 33, Division 34, Division 35, Division 39, Division 40, Division 44, Division 45, Division 46, Division 47, Division 48, Division 50, Division 51, Division 52, Division 55, Division 57, Division 58, Division 59, Division 60, Division 61, Division 63, Division 64, Division 65, Division 67 Division 68.

Having 37 of 68 Divisions present, a quorum was in present.

President Macko led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### II. Agenda Additions, Deletions, Amendments

No additions or deletions to the minutes were offered.

### III. Minutes-Motion to Approve the Minutes of the July 19, 2012 MABAS Executive Board

A. Motion: (Division 21 and Division 4) to accept the minutes as presented.

Discussion: None

Motion Approved: Approved by unanimous voice vote.

### IV. Guests-Introductions-Recognition

MABAS-IL Elected Board: President Jeff Macko, 1st Vice President Terry Lipinski, 2nd Vice President Randy Justus, Comptroller Paul Maplethorpe.

MABAS-IL Staff: Jay Reardon, CEO, John Stanko, Larry Jamarozek, Dave Haywood, Scott Small, Dave Fleege, Ed Murphy, Al Vrshek, Darin Beckman, Michael Graves, Jim Klinefelter, Nick Wilkens.

OSFM: Larry Matkaitis and Jim Watts, IFSI: Col Mortonsen, Illinois National Guard, Maj Riddle, and MABAS Enterprise vendor Ryan Crabtree.

Ryan Crabtree discussed his efforts during the past year in promoting and selling MABAS-IL items. He further offered his assistance to any MABAS Division.

**V. Public Comment Period**

No comments were received.

**VI. Agency Representatives Remarks**

State Fire Marshal Matkaitis addressed those in attendance. He reported the OSFM has included the following items in the budget for the next fiscal year: Added \$8,000,000 for the Apparatus/Ambulance Loan program, \$2,000,000 for small equipment grants (applications available through the website). There are 17 vacancies at the OSFM. Applications for these positions will be available beginning Friday. Budget items intended for MABAS-IL this year include \$125,000 (insurance and fuel costs). The new budget cycle has begun. The Fire Marshal expects an overall 10% reduction in agency funding. Matkitis asked fire chiefs and their agencies to support the proposed Illinois Fire Code update. He anticipates updates in the next few weeks, at which time the fire code will be sent to JCAR for further review.

**VII. Finance, Budget, and Comptroller's Report**

**A. General Fund, Grant Fund, Enterprise Fund**

Comptroller Maplethorpe reported that today's report is not comprehensive due to pending audit issues. Unrestricted Funds: \$818,811. Grant Management Fund: \$975,000. We will see the overall amount of future funds declining as grant funds are now being retained by the State of Illinois until such time as the project is completed.

**B. Dues Report 2012**

As of October 12th, 24 of 68 Divisions have paid their dues assessment. This results in \$109,560 to date.

**C. Grant Matrix 2009-2010-2011**

CEO Reardon reported this information has been included in the meeting packet. Fiscal year 2009 has been closed out. We anticipate the 2010 grants to be completed by the end of year. 2011 grant funds run through the 2013 calendar year.

**D. SHGP & UASI**

- i) 2012 SHGP program grants are included in the meeting packet. The sub-agreement has been signed and it is expected that funds will become available in November.
- ii) 2012-2011 – UASI grants for 2011 and 2012 have not yet been signed. It is expected that these grants are forthcoming.

**VIII. Attorney and Legislative Reports**

**A.** Sean Flaherety, ESQ was in attendance. Mr. Flaherety had no MABAS issues to present.

B. Legislative Report

i) HB 4576 – MAMA-C

CEO Reardon reported MABAS-IL has been working with other Great Lakes States for several years to standardize policies in regard to interstate working arrangements. The Illinois bill made it out of committee but was then put on hold by Speaker Madigan's Office. Discussion with the Speaker's representative were then held and we are now hopeful a document will be prepared and supported in veto or lame duck session.

iii) HB 5813-/SB 3198 – Tort Immunity

CEO Reardon reported on the bill relating to mutual aid with private resources. This bill would provide immunity for private sector resources called upon for emergency situations. Further discussions with the trial lawyers association have been held. Senator Althoph is the lead sponsor for this bill. A solution is being sought so this bill can be moved forward while addressing the multiple issues related.

iii) HB 576 – MABAS Property Tax Exemption

CEO Reardon stated this bill is directly and singly related to the MABAS Readiness facility. While the bill passed the senate, an amendment was added. When it then went to the house it did not receive support from the Speaker. We are now working to identify a resolution. While the Cook County Board of Tax Review passed a resolution to waive property tax on the MABAS-IL MRC, the Department of Revenue is the agency with the actual authority to do so and, as such, it will require a statute change.

iv) Fire Service Caucus 2013

CEO Reardon reported the next Fire Service Caucus meeting is scheduled for the end of October. All 3 of the above issues will be reintroduced for discussion. A "Placeholder bill" will be sought to be put in place. This would ultimately provide for the funding of MABAS on a continuing basis.

**IX. Policy Considerations**

A. Towing of MABAS Owned Trailers

President Macko reported on this issue. The policy (included in meeting packet) is for posting only with a vote for adoption to be held at the February 2013 Executive Board Meeting. This policy was prompted by our insurance carrier:

B. IDOL Standards and Millennium Masks and Canisters

CEO Reardon reported IDOL is focusing on inspections of fire departments. Reardon recommended you review your agencies protective PPE guidance documents and Millennium masks policies as well as other PPE related policies. Section Chief Bob Key has developed a sample packet for the Millennium Mask and is suggesting that all MABAS agencies adopt this document as their policy. An IDOL representative is scheduled to be present at the February MABAS conference. This proposed policy is for introduction only, and will be considered at a future date. This document, included in the meeting packet, should be reviewed prior to the February meeting.

B. Elections 2013

Elections for President and Comptroller will be held at the February 2013 meeting. Information has been included in the meeting packet for those interested.

C. By-Laws Committee-By-Law Amendment

Allowing for Change From A Minimum of Four to a Minimum of Three Meetings Per Calendar Year.

**X. Committee Reports**

No reports given.

**XI. CEO Report**

**A. UASI & SHGP – Expedient Shelters**

CEO Reardon reported that, by the end of year, each Division will have an expedient shelter and kit. Total of 68 systems, each capable of being integrated with the Western Shelter Tent City system will be field deployed. We are currently awaiting 18 shelters to complete the distribution. Total capacity of the tent city program will be 2,200 persons.

**B. UASI & SHGP – Water/Boat Tandem Units**

CEO Reardon reported we have 14 or 15 underwater rescue recovery teams (Division resource). Each team will receive a tandem boat unit package by the end of 2012. This number includes the UASI teams. In addition to the units, training will be provided in the use and operation of the equipment.

**C. UASI Water Rescue Robotics**

CEO Reardon reported MABAS-IL is ordering 2 underwater rescue/recon units for the dive teams. While both units will be purchased with UASI funds, and deployed in the UASI region, they will be available throughout the state. Guidance will be provided on when it is appropriate to utilize these assets.

**D. 2013 Annual MABAS Operations Budget**

Salaries for MABAS personnel will be paid from M&A funds received from the Federal Grants. Greg Peters reported this funding will result in no change in staffing and reflects 100% funding of current positions. The proposed budget includes contingency funding for the future. The proposed budget was included in the meeting packets. CEO Reardon stated we will need a motion to accept the 2013 budget.

**Motion:** Division 24 and Division 20 to approve the 2013 budget as presented.

**Discussion:** Division 4 asked for detail regarding the special project category. CEO Reardon reported this increase was due to the inclusion of UASI planning dollars (replaces some of the state dollars that are no longer available). No new items or personnel are projected in this category, these are maintenance funds only.

**Motion Approved:**

Ayes: Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 36, 37, 38, 41, 43, 49, 53, 54, 56, 62, 66

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

**XII. Capital Projects Report**

None.

**XIII. New Business**

No new business was brought forward for consideration or discussion.

**XIV. Old Business**

**A. Executive Summary – MABAS 2020 – Issues**

President Macko stated we need to consider the future and make decisions as an organization. While we are doing well, we need the memberships input on where the organization should go. CEO Reardon provided the following timeline in regard to past funding:

- 1999: Terrorism Taskforce: Unclear where we, as an organization were headed
- 2001: World Trade Center and Anthrax attacks resulted in Federal funding becoming available
- 2009: Reduction in funding from Federal Government (80% drop from high to current levels for ITTF)
- 2012: Unknown what the future holds. Currently the M&A funds pay for administrative and office staff as well as planning dollars.

IEMA Director Monken has recently began development of a 2020 vision plan. What IEMA anticipates for the future will directly impact MABAS. As a result, MABAS needs to consider where we should be, in all aspects.

Reardon reported we currently have sufficient funding available through March 2014 or beyond. However, if the current funding trend from Federal government continues, we need to envision where we should be headed. (Additional information and funding sources were included in the meeting packet).

Today's discussion on this topic is for introduction purposes only, relating to where we have been, how it is today and where we will be in the future. Do we want to retain the capacity we currently enjoy or do we want to change our core mission? To determine our future direction we will need input from the membership as to what is desired. Further discussion on this topic will be held, in detail, at February Conference.

President Macko stated any such decision will be based on honest and well founded discussion with the membership.

## B. Core Issues Discussion

i) *Should MABAS continue with current disaster response mode or return to previous daily operations mode?*

Division 20: To regress would be unacceptable. Given local funding, MABAS is relied on to provide this capability. We need to plan to maintain or improve our ability as an organization even though the goal is not yet clear.

Division 4: Agrees with Division 20. We don't want to roll backwards, but need to look at our core mission. Are we where we need to be? CEO Reardon stated the issue of Meta Disasters/earthquakes capability is lacking. Division 4 stated we should build out the meta-disaster component as funds allow. Division 4 further recommended creating a permanent state funding stream. We should keep supporting our core but continue to fill-in gaps identified while being fiscally responsible. Reardon added that Federal funding will not go away completely, but this funding will become more competitive. While dues is not capable of sustaining our current level of spending, we need to determine how to utilize our dues. It is not our intent, as an organization, to take funds away from any currently funded agencies. Division 4 responded we need to make legislators aware of the needs for cooperative and sustainable emergency capabilities and push for legislation to provide needed funding.

ii) *Should we pursue funding streams we have not had/envisioned?* No discussion

iii) *Should MABAS be an active participant in legislative arena for mutual aid related proposals? Should a lobbyist be retained or is one needed?* No discussion.

iv) *Should MABAS continue to provide a full and part-time staff?*

Division 24: Commented on funding versus expenditure. If we can no longer provide the day-to-day capacity we currently provide, how will we educate those that make the decisions? CEO Reardon added that if fire departments are unable to rely on “the guys from MABAS” to provide daily response assistance, where will this assistance come from? Will we reach a point where MABAS provides large-scale assistance but no longer provided the core mission of day to day response? Each component of MABAS must be evaluated for cost effectiveness and capability.

- v) *Should MABAS pursue statewide radio communication and interoperability?* CEO Reardon discussed the IFERN grants recently awarded and intended for daily use. How will the StarCom system be used? Will we need Interstate and Intrastate capability? These issues will require maintenance and funding should we determine these items are necessary.
- vi) *MABAS currently maintains statewide hazmat, TRT, water rescue, urban search and rescue teams and other capabilities for response. Special operations teams are trained and equipped and expected to provide established levels of service. Should MABAS continue to support this endeavor?*

Division 43: We need to consider funding and roster issues. We need instructors for special teams. Could we provide regional instructors with top-shelf specialty abilities? Should we use regional training centers.

- vii) *MABAS has a robust fleet inventory throughout the State of Illinois as well as at the MRC. The fleet and major equipment has been supported by MABAS or through cooperative agreement with divisions. No capital replacement plan exists and some of the 387 vehicles statewide are nearing 10 years of age. Should MABAS continue to support the statewide fleet through purchase, repair, maintenance, insurance, and eventually, capital replacement efforts?*
- vii) *MABAS currently maintains a facility, the MRC. The MRC provides capabilities for staff work, office space, mobility control and coordination, radio communications systems, vehicle and equipment storage, training and briefing rooms. The facility lease terminates in February 2016. Should MABAS pursue options to secure sustainment and facility stability beyond February 2016 when the lease expires?*

Comptroller Maplethorpe stated he believes MABAS should assist new Divisions in becoming proficient in day-to-day operations and provide needed support to accomplish this.

#### **Consensus Regarding Executive Summary - Direction**

President Macko asked for a show of hands to indicate whether or not MABAS is moving in the right direction. There was a unanimous positive response with no negative responses.

#### **The Board needs to know what the membership desires! Give us your feedback.**

##### **C. MABAS Readiness Center**

President Macko reported the Village of Wheeling has given MABAS an opportunity to purchase the facility.

**Motion** (Division 4 and Division 20) to move forward with an exploratory process for the purchase of the facility.

**Discussion:** Division 4 stated the Readiness Center has given MABAS a home, a face, and a center to work from. Division 4 supports this opportunity.

Comptroller Maplethorpe stated that it would be beneficial if we were to receive a tax exempt status for the property.

CEO Reardon clarified that this vote is not to purchase the building, but to continue exploring the option with an eye on purchasing the facility in the future. Comptroller Maplethorpe further stated that while he has received nothing but positive comments, he has been asked why the MRC is located in NE Illinois. The reality of the MRC is largely based on Cook County UASI funding. This location is based on a political/funding decision. It was further stated that while resources are spread throughout state, the MRC provides a base of operations while also being located to maximize funding to the organization.

**Motion Approved:** Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

- C. Humanitarian Service Medals  
President Macko stated the medals have not yet been received.

## **XV. Divisional Reports**

### **A. Illinois Divisions**

- i. Divisions 1-10. No Report.

- ii. Divisions 11-20.

Division 17 asked if it would be possible to put the minutes on the website. It is important to remember that the minutes are not valid until approved by the membership. Draft minutes will be provided.

- iii. Divisions 21-30. No Report.

- iv. Divisions 31-40. No Report.

- v. Divisions 41-50. No Report.

- vi. Divisions 51-60. No Report.

- vii. Divisions 61-68. No Report.

### **B. Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan**

- i. Wisconsin. No report

- ii. Indiana. No report

- iii. Michigan. No report.

### **C. Allied Agency Reports**

No Allied Agency reports.

### **D. New Illinois Divisions**

No applications pending.

## **XVI. Closing Public Comment Period**

Chief Dato reminded the membership that many StarCom radios have not been turned on and as such have not been 'touched' (updated). He asked that the radios be powered up occasionally.

## **XVII. Adjournment**

**Motion:** (Division 4 and Division 7) to close the meeting at 15:00 hours.

**Discussion:** None

**Motion Approved:** Approved by unanimous voice vote

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will coincide with the MABAS Conference. The conference will be held in Springfield this year (Hilton Downtown Hotel). The Planning Conference will be conducted during the days leading up to the conference. The schedule is as follows:

- February 17: Conference pre-meetings
- February 18-20: Command Conference
- February 20: Executive Board Meeting
- February 20-22: Dispatch Conference

Minutes respectfully Submitted by

Randy Justus

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, MABAS-IL