Washtenaw Area Mutual Aid Council (WAMAC)
Membership Meeting - Minutes
September 1, 2026 - 9:00AM

Ann Arbor – Kennedy
Ann Arbor Twp – Nicholai
Augusta Twp – Music
Belleville – N/A
Chelsea – Payeur
Clinton – N/A
Dexter Area – Armstrong
Green Oak Twp – Lupo, Chamberlain
Hamburg Twp – N/A
Manchester Twp – Kouba
Milan Area – Carpus
Northfield Twp –Bishop
Pittsfield Twp – Chevrette, Foulke, Olson, Girbach
Salem Twp – Salem
Saline Area – Sperle
Scio Twp – Houde
Sumpter Twp – Goode
Superior Twp – Kimball
Van Buren Twp – Lenaghan
Ypsilanti – Hobbs
Ypsilanti Twp – Densmore, Wallgren

Assoc: HART (Simpson), HVA (Youngblood, Torres, Scott), 1800BoardUp/Belfor (Arbini, Hughes), MJ White & Son (Greg), WCSO (Pinette), Med Control (Henderson), WC radio consortium (Swenson)

1. Meeting Called to Order (Rachwal) – President Rachwal called today's meeting to order at 9:01AM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of the agenda – Motion to approve with a couple revisions. Approved unanimously.
5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – Motion to accept the minutes by Kennedy, seconded by Hobbs. Carried.
6. Public comment – Welcome to Chief Lupo, Green Oak Twp. Thank you to Washtenaw 100 for their $70k donation towards the TRT vehicle. Photo/check presentation today.
7. Call to the Public
    a. Medical Control Report (Henderson) - detailed report followed. No meetings over the summer. B-packs to be changed this fall. Cleo waiver has been updated with a 2028 expiration date.
    b. HazMat Report (Girbach) – report was sent electronically for reference. Russ provided highlights from his report. Team has been very busy. Girbach provided details on several callouts. Vehicles are back in service. Reviewed training schedule.
    c. HVA Dispatch Report (Torres) - provided information related to updating the backup radio system. Discussion followed on the process and streamlining. PSAP subcommittee meeting. Music (Augusta Twp) mentioned recent incident and interoperability channel assignment. Discussion followed.
    d. HVA Operations (Scott) - busy summer with the concerts and football starting up. Mentioned graduating academies coming up. Provided future training schedule.
    e. HART Report (Simpson) - Roger stated there were five callouts over the summer.
    f. Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office (Pinette) - Ben provided updates on the following: PSAP/backup center, follow up to communications exercise from last year, added another radio console in the EOC (total of 2). Dam safety planning, drafting hazard specific appendices (ongoing), added new monitors to enhance visibility, Homeland security grants. Rachwal added they are working on the communications piece (now have Starlink) and now have access to a high-power unit (HPU) hotspot, currently beta testing.
    g. Washtenaw County 800 MHz Consortium Report (Swenson) - reported on the recent (July 3rd) weather-related event, and provided details related to the communication issues that occurred. We must evaluate the surrounding counties and their resources. He also mentioned that we're running low on radios and will need to purchase more. Rachwal mentioned the ability to switch from an android tablet to an apple product. Witt provided information related to the costs affiliated with iPads.
    h. DNR (Crawford, Beachnau) - N/A

8. Correspondence (M. Chevrette) - Mike mentioned the following:
    a. Oct 14th - Midwest Fire Rescue Expo in Novi 1PM-6PM. RSVP: www.MiChiefs.org
    b. Oct 22 - Washtenaw 100 annual dinner fundraiser. Purchase tix: www.Washtenaw100.org
9. Treasurer Report (Houde) – Andy provided the following report. Call for a motion to accept. Motion to approve Music, supported by Goode. Approved.
    a. Bank Account balances reconciled as of August 25, 2026

        WAMAC Checking – $10,824.40

        WAMAC Savings - $82,308.89

        WAMAA Checking $9,172.31 (no activity so we will be closing shortly)

    b. FY2027 Budget – draft budget was distributed for review and discussion - detailed report providing insight into the proposed budget. Rachwal lead the discussion followed on income & expenses, including the approval process. An email with template will be sent to all members, as each community needs to approve. Much discussion followed on the need to pass a balanced budget. More to come as Houde will rework the budget document and send out again.
10. Training Report (Nicholai) – report sent electronically for reference. Mark reviewed the report, and highlighted past and upcoming trainings. Discussion followed on the importance of meeting the minimum attendance requirements to these classes.
11. Officers Committee Report (Nicholai) – report was sent electronically for reference. Next meeting is Sept 15th, as they did not meet over the summer.
12. Blue Card (Nicholai) – report sent electronically for reference. Reminder that we are funded to come into your department for training. Reach out to Mark to schedule. Looking at scheduling a SIM lab this fall.
13. TRT Report (Olson)- reported on the following. No incidents over the summer. Provided training updates, and upcoming schedule. Moving forward with updating the new vehicle.
14. MABAS Report (Rachwal) – Jim provided details of the September 30th tabletop exercise focusing on engine deployment. If you have sleeping bags to give to Task Force, please let Jim know.
15. Food Truck Inspections (Densmore) - Steve provided brief report. Spring food truck rallies are being scheduled. He provided details of the IROL system, which is used to keep track of food truck certifications.
16. Old Business –
    a. County Dispatch - Rachwal said the attendance of fire chiefs at the county commissioners meeting was noticed. Hoping for an oversight group of county dispatch, with equal PD & FD representation. He recently toured the Macomb County dispatch center. More to come.

17. New Business –

a. EMS Commission vacancies (Chevrette) - reminder that WAMAC needs to appoint two reps on the EMS Commission Board (meets quarterly via zoom). Pinette explained the responsibilities related to this commission. If anyone is interested, please let Rachwal know.

b. Water Rescue - Rachwal provided background and insight to disseminating the equipment/assets. More to come at next month's meeting. Sperle voiced his concerns and requested to be included in these meetings. More to come.

18. Good of the Order -

a. Medical Control Board - Henderson/Arbini reminded this group that there is a vacancy to fill. Discussion followed. Steve Densmore was appointed to be this rep, effective immediately
b. HIEBA - Kouba requested update on usage, where the county stands, and the plan for the future. Rachwal offered some insight. Youngblood provided further usage and pricing information. Torres provided information, as well. Discussion followed.
c. Manufactured Housing Communities / taxation process - Goode provided update on the antiquated taxing process. He requested that you do your research on callouts to these homes and send detailed information to your legislators.
d. Our Firehouse to Yours - Denny Hughes reminded everyone of this annual voluntary equipment donation program, delivering equipment to the UP. He also introduced Chief Rob Arbini as a new rep of 1800BoardUp/Belfor.
e. Hazmat Golf Outing - Sept 28th. Girbach provided details and reminded there are still spots available.
f. Active Assailant Conference - Girbach attended and provided feedback. Applying lessons learned to the rescue task force.

Adjournment: 10:37AM

Next Meeting – October 6th at 9:00AM