

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Interoperability / Information Sharing Sub Committee
Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2013 12:30 pm

Northampton Police Department, 29 Center Street, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Dennis Nazzaro (DFS/NFD), Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), Ann Shea (MMC), John Taylor (SFD/DFS), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Gary Cromack (SAIC), Bernard Forgea (CFD/CPD), Jason Breault (PPD), Roberty Garriepy (HPD), Robert Van Zandt, Bob Desourdis (SAIC), Peter Rosamilia (SAIC), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Lucy Britton (CMED).

The meeting was brought to order by Russ Sienkiewicz, Chair, at 12:37 pm. A round of introductions followed.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 15, 2013 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2013 meeting as submitted. Dennis Nazzaro seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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DTV Presentation – SAIC

Bob introduced Mark O'Brien who joined the meeting by telephone. Bob and Mark gave a presentation of live video over digital TV onto a computer screen. This can be a valuable tool for public safety responders. Peter stated that this is part of a pilot project with WGBH. This will be an opportunity to try this technology on a full scale in this region. SAIC will be working with MEMA, EOPSS, MSP, the Council, etc. If the project goes well further funding to expand it will be sought. This will be an inexpensive way to show video during an incident. Bob stated that the video is secure because it is encrypted. Data can also be shared such as building blueprints, plans, etc. WGBH will dedicate a megabit of bandwidth but will allow more bandwidth during a major event. Discussion followed.

Project Updates

WMLEC

Gary stated that the WMLEC system is up and running. Lenox and Butternut have been tested but can not be left on until a license issue has been resolved which should be very soon. Russ thanked Gary for his dedication to this project. He exceeded his contracted hours and stayed with the project to see it through to completion. A round of applause followed.

WMRIC

Russ stated that a brainstorming session was held and another one is scheduled for November 25th at 9 am at the Northampton Police Dept. The consultant is reaching out to project partners.

Berkshire 385

Lucy thanked Raine for all her help with this project. The bid was awarded to Motorola and the PO has been issued. Raine stated that she is going to be meeting with Tom Grady and EOPSS to put in writing that the Council does not want to do business with Comtronics due to the many issues they have had with recent projects.

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CMED

Raine stated that Bob Hassett was unable to come to the meeting because he is conducting an exercise today. The information for the EHPs is being compiled.

Interoperability Consultant

Gary stated that the Quantar equipment has been removed from the WMLEC system and has been delivered to Pittsfield Communications. Discussion followed.

Requests

No requests were presented.

Old Business

Interops Consultant – project update

Raine stated that the RFQ was released on Monday and are due back on December 11th. We will need members to review the proposals. Russ stated that participation is appreciated.

Radio Reprogramming MDTs

Dennis stated that almost 100 MDTs have been reprogrammed to date. Raine stated that Franklin County has a concern about liability. A discussion followed about signing a waiver or hiring a consultant to do the reprogramming. Some of the Harris radios were purchased and stored and now need the latest version of the software updated. Steve Kozlowski is working with Harris to get the updated software.

Dennis stated that the Communication 101 trainings received great feedback. Requests for a second training have been requested. The video for the 101 training will still be a challenge. Feedback from the trainings was to include all of the information presented. Discussion followed.

New Business

Russ stated that the Interops Subcommittee prioritized projects last month. A special meeting was held on November 12th to discuss adding the town of Russell to the Phase I of the Hampshire Hills project. Russell had been planned to go in a later phase of the project. Unforeseen circumstances have created a critical need. It was proposed and approved by the Council earlier today. Russ thanked everyone that was able to discuss the issue at the special meeting. Bernie thanked the Subcommittee for their support. Discussion followed.

Dennis stated that the Boston area FOG cost \$12 each to print. The sleeves to replace updated sheets is vital to keep the book up to date without large reprinting costs. John stated that it would be great if the State created a template for an app to use on smart phones. Dennis stated that he would be concerned about battery life if using an app and also that the phone is often ringing a lot during an incident making using the app difficult. Raine asked about how the updated information would be distributed. Tom stated that he would like to have a control document to know that the updated pages have been replaced. Discussion followed.

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Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Dennis stated that he has heard that a consultant has been approaching municipalities about a radio system at a large price savings. They are not informing the municipalities that the system is not public safety rated. Steve Staffier has been doing outreach to warn communities. Raine asked Dennis to put information on this in writing for distribution. Discussion followed.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for December 17th at 12:30 at WMEMS.

There being no further business Dennis Nazzaro motioned to adjourn. John Taylor seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at
2:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Gretchen Johnson
Homeland Security Program Assistant
Franklin Regional Council of Governments