

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Interoperability / Information Sharing Sub Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2013 12:30 pm
WMEMS, 68 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Sue Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Dennis Nazzaro (DFS/NFD), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), Ann Shea (MMC), John Taylor (SFD/DFS), Manny Litos (Motorola), Robert Garriepy (HPD), Bob Hassett (SFD), Jason Breault (PPD), Terry Dun (FCECS), Linda Moriarty (WMEMS).

The meeting was brought to order by Russ Sienkiewicz, Chair, at 12:39 pm. A round of introductions followed.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the July 16, 2013 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2013 meeting as submitted. John Taylor seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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Gap Analysis Task II – Gap Improvement Recommendations – presentation

Suzanne MacBain gave a PowerPoint presentation. Gary Cromack joined the discussion via conference call. Task II was to identify gaps and prioritize and review reasonable solutions that offer the most impact. Suzanne passed out a handout depicting the seven top prioritized areas of concern.

1. BCECS (Northern Berkshire County) - \$561,370 – find an existing tower located in New York or build a new tower.
2. WMLEC (Borden Mountain Fire Tower) - \$67,813 – Obtain an MOU with DCR and use Borden Mountain Fire Tower
3. WMLEC (Northwestern Corner)- \$260,350 – Issues involve mountains and gorges. A multiple prong approach will be needed to proceed with this project area.
4. HCRS (Town of Huntington)- \$73,240 – This area has a gorge and will require low towers along the river.
5. FCECS & WMLEC (Western Region) - \$136,180 – This area also has mountains and gorge issues. A combination of low towers and microwaves is proposed.
6. WMLEC (Hovey Hill site issues)- \$65,040 – The Hovey Hill site was damaged during the tornado. SAIC proposes doing a search ring and move the equipment to a new site.
7. WMLEC (Westfield River Valley)- \$97,720 – Low towers are recommended.

Suzanne asked for input on the findings. There will be economies of scale on the engineering costs if more than one project is pursued at the same time. Terry stated that there is often interference when using low towers. Bob stated that Westfield Valley is a lower priority than the Huntington area because they can patch calls. Dennis felt that both projects are important. Discussion followed. Suzanne stated that she will prepare a draft of next steps.

Interoperability Consultant Report

WMLEC is waiting on the MOU from DCR for the Borden, Butternut, Mount Grace and Lenox sites.

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Suzanne stated that SAIC was awarded the WGBH pilot project. She will let the Subcommittee know about the next steps soon.

Project Updates

WMLEC

This project was previously covered.

IMC Node Linking

Sue stated that the project is close to be finalized.

WMFCA MDTs & GIS

Sue said that the 33 MDTs were delivered last week.

WMRIC

Sue stated that she is working with MAPC to finalize the contract with the Collins Center.

Berkshire 385

Linda stated that Lucy was not able to attend the meeting. The project is on hold until the FFY10 contracts are reissued. All of the EHPs have been completed and are waiting to be signed off and then sent to Sue. Discussion followed concerning streamlining the EHP process.

Gaps & Analysis

This project was previously covered.

CMED

Bob Hassett stated that the information for the EHPs for the last hospital is expected soon. Sue stated that once the EHP information is complete she will prepare the bid.

Field Comm Unit P25 Radios

Sue stated that the new radios were delivered to Pittsfield Communications. Terry stated that the programming is being done now.

Interoperability Consultant

The consultant report was covered previously in the meeting.

Requests

Cellular Booster/Repeaters Mobile Command Vehicles & Field Comm Units

Jason stated that cell service is varied throughout our region. The cell boosters/repeaters will increase the level of cell service in the Mobile Command Vehicles and Field Comm Units.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve \$17,606.70 FFY10 unallocated funds to purchase five cellular booster/repeaters. Terry Dun seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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Sue asked for a letter of consent from each Department that will have a unit installed. Discussion followed regarding the installation costs. Sue stated that she will go out to bid for the units on ITT40.

Old Business

Hampshire Hills Police 800Mhz radios

Russ stated that the Hampshire Hills Police 800mhz radios project will be a place holder until funding can be identified.

FFY11 Unallocated Funds

Sue stated that FFY13 funding has been increased by 20%. The FFY13 funds will go through July 2014. EOPSS has asked that the Councils no longer look at the funding years but the total amount of funding available and prioritize projects. The fiduciaries will keep track of the funding deadlines. Interops has \$285,272 of FFY11 unallocated funds. The Council has asked that all of the Subcommittees create a prioritized list of projects for the September meeting. Discussion followed. Russ asked the Subcommittee members to circulate project priorities via email. This will allow time to gather estimates for the projects.

Interops Consultant

Sue stated that consultant project support funds have been spent down. The current contract can not be increased. Support for the WMLEC project and the CMED will require approximately \$35,000 for consultant support. Discussion followed.

Motion: Terry Dun moved to approve up to twenty hours of Gary Cromack's time to give phone support to Motorola and Russ to finalize the WMLEC Expansion project with FFY10 unallocated funds. Bob Garriepy seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

No business unforeseen was discussed.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

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

There being no further business Dennis Nazzaro motioned to adjourn. Bob Garriepy seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at
3:08 pm.

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