

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2015, 12:30 pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Melissa Nazzaro (Springfield Comm), Terry Dun (FCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD), Lindsay Stromgren (AFD/HCFCA), Gary Cromack (SAIC), Tom Grady (BCSO), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Butch Garrity (MSP), Steve Kozloski (MPD), Bernard Forgea (CFD/CPD), Robert Garriepy (HPD), John Paciorek (DPD), Manny Litos (Motorola), Matthew Barstow (MSP), Wendy Snow (MSP), Jeffrey Coe (DPD).

The meeting was brought to order by Russ Sienkiewicz at 12:34 pm. A round of introductions followed.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 16, 2014 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2014 meeting as submitted. Butch Garrity seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Project Updates

Hampshire Hills 800

Raine Brown stated that the equipment for Phase III has been ordered. Delivery is being made to Motorola. Motorola will program the equipment and then install it.

WMLEC Borden Microwave

Gary Cromack stated that the fiber optic and electronic equipment have been ordered. The installation will wait until the spring.

Russ Sienkiewicz stated that this is a project that will utilize fiber optics instead of the anticipated microwave solution. This will be a less expensive resolution and the microwave originally purchased for this project will be repurposed for the Franklin County system.

Hovey Hill

Gary stated that he is waiting on input from Monson, Wilbraham and Hampden before the project can move forward. Steve Kozloski stated that he hasn't had time to look over the maps in detail but believes that it doesn't impact Monson greatly. Steve stated that he will review the differences and reach out to the other towns and report back.

Russ stated that the Hovey Hill site is an MSP owned tower that was damaged during the tornado. MSP has decided to maintain the tower. This project is looking to better communication gaps for the WMLEC system.

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Great Hill to Borden Microwave Link

Gary stated that this is a hub site for the Franklin County system. This fix will increase capacity for the system as well as partially complete a ring that will create redundancy for the WMLEC system. Terry Dun stated that EOPSS approved the project and the process of licensing has begun. Gary stated that he will have a quote for this project next week. Terry cautioned that coordination with dispatch departments will be very important when the fix is installed because it will disrupt the UHF communications in West County.

Raine stated that this project was originally funded with leftover funding from the CMED project. Additional consultant hours will need to be allocated to keep the project moving forward. Discussion followed. The additional hours will be allocated to the Borden Tower task.

Interoperability Consultant Report

Gary stated that Motorola is preparing an estimate for a monitoring system. It is expected to be in the \$500,000 range. Manny stated that the estimate will be ready soon. Russ stated that a monitoring system for the 10 site WMLEC system is being quoted. Many of the sites are already monitored by other agencies such as MSP. Gary stated that he had handed out a chart a few meetings ago, showing the WMLEC system and which sites are monitored and which are not.

Gary stated that an upgrade to P25 from analog was prepaid for the WMLEC system. The upgrade can be accomplished remotely. Discussion followed. Gary will work with Manny and the technicians to see how best to proceed.

Gary stated that he has not heard back from MSP if the directional to omni change has been sanctioned at the Hovey Hill site.

Suzanne MacBain congratulated Manny on his new child.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Tom Grady stated that a tower in the Berkshire System went offline but it is being fixed. Work a rounds are being used.

Terry stated that the Franklin County system is still experiencing problems with interference and paging but is making progress. Currently, the issues are primarily in the eastern part of the County. Additional funds were authorized to fix a timing issue. Ticket tracking is being established. Equipment to monitor sound quality is also being purchased.

Bernie Forgea stated that the Town of Williamsburg is requesting to use a site on Skinner Mountain.

Melissa Nazzaro stated that there was a question regarding the CMED System repeaters. Each hospital has a CMED designated channel. This allows direct hailing capabilities to specific

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hospitals. This may cause some confusion with the end users. Lindsay Stromgen stated that he received a list of the channels but a written explanation would also be helpful.

Matt Barstow stated that MSP is currently working with Hampshire County on the 800 system. Russ welcomed Matt to WMRIC.

FFY2014 Projects

Interops Consultant

Raine stated that the funds for the consultant will be held aside until the current year funds have been spent down. An RFP will need to be conducted for the FFY2014 contract.

Hovey Hill Continuation

Raine stated that funding was set aside if gaps were identified in during the 2013 Hovey Hill project. Raine advised the Subcommittee to begin considering how to proceed with this project. The funding for this project end on July 30, 2016.

Rural Terrain Gaps & Solutions

Raine stated that this project was proposed to purchase a mobile TACSDAC trailer. Dennis Nazzaro stated that he will bring forth more information next month. Discussion followed. Russ asked Raine to add the Gaps Analysis Study back on the agenda for next month. Terry suggested doing a review of the WMRIC project priorities at the next meeting. Russ asked Raine to compile a summary of projects done to date.

Requests

No requests were presented.

Old Business

WMRIC Executive Committee – Member list

Raine read the list of WMRIC members. Raine stated that John Taylor has declined his appointment as an At-Large member due to time constraints. Raine suggested appointing the next member with the next highest votes.

WMLEC VHF-UHF Patch

Dennis asked for this item to stay on the agenda. He will try to have an update for next month. Discussion followed.

Orange control hardwiring

Russ asked for this item to stay on the agenda as well.

New Business

MIFOG/MTCP Planning

Melissa stated that it is very important for the system owners to review the MIFOG for any inaccuracies or typos. Tom urged system owners to have their COMML's review it as well. The

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next planning meeting will be on February 4th. There is no identified funding to print the field guides but MEMA has offered to print the 8.5 x 11 size if needed.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

No business unforeseen was discussed.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

Russ stated that a MEMA trailer was brought in to use at the First Night celebrations in Northampton. The WMLEC channels were used as a practical exercise to familiarize end users with the WMLEC System. It went very well.

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

There being no further business Tom Grady motioned to adjourn. Peter Cowles seconded. The motion was voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm.

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