

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2015, 12:30 pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Gary Cromack (SAIC), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Lindsay Stromgen (AFD/HCFCA), Butch Garrity (MSP SC), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Bernard Forgea (CFD/CPD), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD), Robert Garriepy (HPD), Matt Barstow (MSP), Jason Breault (BCSO), Manny Litos (Motorola), Wendy Snow (MSP SC), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Jeff Coe (DPD), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Steve Kozloski (MPD).

The meeting was brought to order by the Chair, Melissa Nazzaro at 12:30 pm. A round of introductions followed.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 17, 2015 meeting.

Motion: Butch Garrity moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting as presented. Peter Cowles seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Melissa stated that the statewide radio network RFP will be released soon. The MIFOG update is ongoing. The next SIEC meeting will be in February. There are technical assistance funds available from DHS for COML and COMT training. Steve Staffier is working to release these funds.

Project Updates

Great Hill to Borden Microwave Link

Gary Cromack stated that work is happening at both sites. The cutover to the new microwave system will likely occur after the holidays. Goosetown is holding all the spare parts for the system. Monson is housing the six foot dish that Russ Sienkiewicz had been housing at the Northampton Police Department. Gary has the Aviat spares for the project. The project will be completed with greater bandwidth from Shelburne to Borden and will have redundancy. The current radio will be freed up and can be saved as a spare for the Butternut link.

Melissa asked if the spare parts locations are being tracked. Discussion followed.

Gary suggested that an additional piece of flexible wave guide be purchased to keep the cutover time as short as possible. It will be approximately \$500.

Motion: Butch Garrity moved to approve up to \$700 to purchase flexible wave guide for the Great Hill to Borden Microwave Link project. Jason Breault seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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BCSO Mobile Command Unit Pneumatic Tower

Raine Brown stated that the PO for the nycoil has been issued.

FCECS Engineering Study

Walter Tibbets stated that work is ongoing. The results of the initial findings were shared with the FCECS committee. There have been some noticeable improvements. There have also been challenges with timing at a couple of sites. There is a difference in performance between Simulcast 1 and Simulcast 2. The final report will be submitted in January. Melissa asked if any of the adjustments might affect the WMLEC system in anyway. Gary noted that he has had an initial discussion with CDCD about this, but he will talk to them both about this again.

Interoperability Consultant Report

Gary stated that he has researched FCC license data for nine sites connected to Northampton Control for the Hampden and Hampshire Hills project. He stated that he plotted preliminary system coverage.

Gary stated that the WMLEC license was renewed.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady stated that there is a plan to update the frequency to a three site system form the current VHF configuration. The plan to consolidate Adams PSAP into the BCSO system is moving forward. A vendor has been hired to fix the challenges with the Berkshire UHF to WMLEC system. He has been working with MSP to establish a Berkshire County talk group on the 800 system.

Franklin County – Walter stated that the link from Shelburne Control to Great Hill has been fixed. There are still a few coverage issues to test. Some of the remaining issues may be due to older equipment that is not working at full capacity. Discussion followed concerning helicopter communications.

Hampshire County – Bernie Forgea stated the Hampshire System is not experiencing any issues.

WMLEC – Steve Kozloski stated that he has been working with MSP to try to coordinate making Franklin tactical receivers and repeaters to be able to handle digital. There have been some significant outages that have interrupted communications. One outage was due to an improperly programmed control station. The issue has been fixed. There have been challenges with Butternut. He has been talking to MSP to see if WMLEC can use a VPN solution to address challenges in the system to identify where the challenge is. This would allow monitoring in several locations.

CMED – Melissa stated that Sean Sullivan in no longer a contact for the CMED system. Springfield is developing a formal plan to address after hours CMED issues. Gary asked about

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changing the CMED contact name on the Springfield FCC licenses. Melissa stated that it is being addressed.

MSP – Matt Barstow stated there are no issues to report.

Budget Review

Raine stated that there is \$58,228 of unallocated funds in FFY14 which need to be spent by the end of July 2016. There is a \$150,000 unallocated funds in FFY15.

Requests

BCSO Command Unit Camera & DVR

Jason Breault stated that it would be beneficial to have a camera and DVR to record on scene incidents. The information was included in the meeting packet. The image can be forwarded to other commanders or be made accessible via a secure login if the commander is at a different location. The equipment has 8 channel inputs. Melissa noted that this type of equipment does not need to be reviewed and approved by SIEC.

<p>Motion: Bob Garriepy moved to approve up to \$6,000 from FFY14 to purchase the camera and DVR. Steve Kozloski seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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WMLEC Tactical Communication Trailer

Steve Kozloski stated that he prepared a proposal for a tactical communication trailer and that the information was in the meeting packet. Raine asked who will host the trailer. Steve replied that Monson PD or Huntington PD will house the trailer. Raine suggested that the SAIC review the proposal to be sure that the trailer is compatible with all of the systems in Western MA and MSP. Steve stated that Monson PD will program the trailer with assistance from other COMLs and it will be programmed similarly to other multiband radios. It will be the host's responsibility to coordinate with COMU for deployment. Steve stated that a mobile screw on antenna and a set portable cables should be added to the quote for an additional \$350.

<p>Motion: Bob Garriepy moved to approve up to \$135,000 utilizing the remaining FFY14 unallocated funds and the balance will be taken from FFY15 unallocated funds to purchase the WMLEC Tactical Communication Trailer after it has been reviewed by SAIC and COMLs. Lindsay Stromgen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

Old Business

Visilink Update

Melissa tabled this discussion until it is certain that the current versions no longer work.

New Business

Repurpose of BCECS UHF to FCECS

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Raine stated that FCECS has requested the now unused BCECS Harris equipment and channel banks from BCECS. Tom stated that BCECS will coordinate with FCECS to transfer the equipment ownership. The Subcommittee agreed with the equipment reuse plan.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Raine stated that there is an Anti-Terrorism drill planned for May and a full scale exercise in October. Both events will be hosted by Six Flags New England. The scenario will involve an active shooter. Improving communications is an objective identified by Six Flags. The planning for these exercises will begin on January 27th at the MEMA offices in Agawam. Steve offered to be the WMLEC representative during the planning meetings.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

Melissa thanked the Subcommittee for their commitment. She wished everyone a happy holiday season.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2015 at 12:30 at WMEMS.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm.

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