

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2015, 12:30 pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Matt Grudgen (FRCOG), Gary Cromack (SAIC), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Robert Garriepy (HPD), John Paciorek (DPD), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Lindsay Stromgen (AFD/HCFCA), Tom Grady (BCSO), Walter Tibbetts (FCECS), Matt Grudgen (FRCOG), Tim Donnelly (DHS), Jeff Coe (DPD), Terry Dun (FCECS), Butch Garrity (MSP SC), John Pond (WMFCA), Manny Litos (Motorola), Ken Moriarty (HPD), Rob Hanson (Amtrak PD), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Matthew Barstow (MSP)

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 19, 2015 meeting. Melissa clarified that it was Bruce Bellevue that gave the presentation for the FCECS Study.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2015 meeting as corrected. Butch Garrity seconded. Motion passed.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Project Updates

Hampshire Hills 800

Raine Brown stated that Phase III has been completed. It had been discussed to possibly use the remaining FFY14 funds for Phase IV of the project.

WMLEC Borden Fiber

Gary Cromack stated that the installation of the fiber optic cable is underway.

Hovey Hill

Gary stated that the first RFQ had no responses. Raine replied that it has been re-released and was sent to specific vendors.

Great Hill to Borden Microwave Link

Gary stated that he will send the bid specifications to Raine next week. Gary stated that the scope of work is very detailed. This project will not be able to be completed by July 31st. Discussion followed.

BCSO Mobile Command Unit Pneumatic Tower

Raine stated that she will work with Jason Breault to finalize the bid specifications. Tom stated that he had expected Jason to be at the meeting today but that he will follow up with him.

Interoperability Consultant Report

Gary stated that the FCC license for Great Hill to Borden has been granted.

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Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Franklin County – Walter Tibbetts stated that the paging issue in Franklin County is still prevalent. A new board has been ordered. Motorola needs to update the console but all of the consoles in the State have to be updated before there will be an improvement.

MSP – Tom stated that a seized generator is being replaced on Mt. Tom.

Berkshire County – Tom Grady stated that there are no reportable issues.

Hampshire County – Raine stated that Bernie Forgea emailed her that the Hampshire County System is working well.

WMLEC – No update was given.

CMED – No update was given.

Budget Review

Raine stated that there are FFY14 funds that need to be allocated. The funds must be spent by July 31, 2016. There is a request from FCECS and the Hampshire Hills 800 project next phase to consider.

Requests

FCECS Engineering Study

Terry Dun stated that the FCECS proposal is to conduct an engineering study to determine the best course of action to fix the FCECS system. This is intended to be a true independent review. The goal of the project is to produce a list of suggested improvements to make the system more reliable and resilient. Tom stated that his opinion is that the system owner is responsible for corrective actions. Tom asked for reassurance that other funding options have been exhausted. Terry replied that the FCECS Oversight Committee has invested almost \$70,000 of their reserve funds trying to solve the FCECS issues. Terry stated that the original seven site system worked well. The issues seemed to arise as the system was expanded. Walter Tibbetts explained that this study will help identify how to fix the current issues but also give guidance on how to plan for the future. Discussion ensued.

<p>Motion: Peter Cowles moved to approve up to \$67,000 for the FCECS Engineering Study Scope of work with the understanding that the WMRIC Subcommittee will review the RFPs. Butch Garrity seconded. The motion passed. Terry Dun abstained.</p>

Melissa stated that there is a remaining balance of \$60,000 in FFY14 to allocate. Raine stated that the Hampshire Hills summary, the WMRIC priorities and the IP from the AAR for the Anti-Terrorism exercises were included in the meeting packet. Raine indicated that the IP identified action items for each of the Homeland Security Subcommittees. The action item for WMRIC is

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outreach and education on the capabilities of the WMLEC system for the end users. Another recommendation is education and outreach of the available regional resources. Discussion followed concerning the programming of the mobile communication units and the availability of COMLs and COMTs. John Paciorek suggested sending an information sheet listing the available resources, staffing, response times, etc. to the stakeholders. Tom stated that he will follow up on that with Pat Carnevale. Tom invited the Subcommittee members to the Training and Exercise Subcommittee meeting at 9 a.m on July 21st. There will be a discussion about the Training and Exercise Plan (TEP). The plan outlines the trainings and exercises goals for the next three years.

Melissa tabled the Hampshire Hills 800 Phase IV discussion until Bernie Forgea is present to answer questions regarding the project.

Old Business

No old business was presented.

New Business

WMRIC At-Large Vacancy Appointment

Raine stated that an email was sent regarding the vacancy. Three people expressed interest but only John Paciorek responded as being interested. Melissa appointed John Paciorek to the At-Large WMRIC seat. The next election will be held in November 2016.

Interoperability Consultant Proposal Review & Evaluation

The SAIC staff left the meeting. Raine stated that an RFP was released for the WMRIC project consultant. One response was received. Raine reviewed the evaluation form and the SAIC proposal that were included in the meeting materials. The Subcommittee members took time to review and complete the evaluation form.

<p>Motion: Terry Dun moved to approve the SAIC Consultant Proposal as presented as long as the price proposal is within the allotted budget. Butch Garrity seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
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Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Melissa stated that she would like a discussion about the downlinks at the next meeting.

The Subcommittee members thanked Terry Dun for his commitment and dedication to the Subcommittee. Terry stated that it has been a pleasure to serve on the Subcommittee since 2004.

Tom stated that he attended the National Homeland Security Conference in San Antonio. He was given a lot of positive feedback about our Council's work.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for July 21st at 12:30 at WMEMS.

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Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
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There being no further business Tom Grady motioned to adjourn. Peter Cowles seconded. The motion was voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm.

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