

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 21, 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), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Lindsay Stromgen (AFD/HCFCA), Tom Grady (BCSO), Walter Tibbetts (FCECS), Butch Garrity (MSP SC), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Matthew Barstow (MSP), Bernard Forgea (CFD/CPD), Jason Breault (BCSO), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC), Jamin Carroll (PVTA), Paul Stanson (PVTA).

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 June 16, 2015 meeting.

<p>Motion: Butch Garrity moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2015 meeting as presented. Tom Grady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Project Updates

WMLEC Borden Fiber

Raine Brown suggested tabling this discussion until the Consultant Update.

Hovey Hill

Raine suggested tabling this discussion until the Consultant Update.

Great Hill to Borden Microwave Link

Raine suggested tabling this discussion until the Consultant Update.

BCSO Mobile Command Unit Pneumatic Tower

Raine stated that the bid specifications have been sent to MAPC to advertise for quotes.

FCECS Engineering Study

Melissa stated that this project was approved by the SIEC last month. Raine noted that the RFP will be published in the next couple of days. The bids will be due mid August. September 2nd is the date that has been set aside to interview candidates at the John Olver Transit Center in Greenfield. Melissa stated that she would like at least two WMRIC members to evaluate the proposals and attend if interviews are held. Raine suggested requiring five members of FCECS to do the same.

Interoperability Consultant Report

Suzanne MacBain stated that this is the last meeting with the WMRIC under the current contract. Gary stated that the Motorola proposal was submitted to WMLEC for review. The Borden Fire Tower Fiber project had a multi-coupler installed in June.

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Gary said that the EHP for the omni directional antennas for the Hovey Hill project was completed in April. Gary stated that Beliveau Communications and Consulting will be installing the antennas.

Gary stated that the FCC license was granted in May for the Great Hill to Borden Tower Microwave link. The draft radio vendor RFQ to move and reconfigure equipment has been released.

Suzanne thanked the WMRIC Subcommittee for selecting SAIC as the Interoperability Consulting firm.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady stated that DCR came out to the Butternut site to renew some leases. There was a conversation about a pole with wires that has been down since February on Lenox Mountain. DCR stated that permits will be required. Tom suggested inputting a clause about emergency repairs in all future leases.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbetts said that there was an issue with a microwave that was able to be fixed later that day. A request to lower some equipment on a New Salem tower has been submitted. The tower owner approved the request but is requiring a \$2,500 engineering study. One site was changed to receive only and it resulted in a lot of improvement for the system as a whole. However, Erving was having trouble with communications in the center of town after the change was made.

Hampshire County – Bernie Forgea indicated that the Hampshire County System is working well.

WMLEC – Steve Kozloski stated that there have been some power issues on Lenox Mountain and Mt. Tom. Both simulcast and regional channels were non-operational for about two hours. Steve is investigating the emergency back up power available on Mt. Tom. Steve advocated for the system monitoring project to be discussed further. Steve stated that the 800 cross band from Mt. Tom is still unlicensed. He is working on that issue. It may be necessary to reduce the power to 40 watts due to interference issues.

Gary stated that Motorola is installing the P25 upgrades to all ten sites by the end of August. Steve reminded the Subcommittee that users will need to start paying for the maintenance contract. Russ sent a notification letter before he retired.

CMED – No update was given.

MSP – Matt Barstow stated that there was an issue with tones but an interim solution has been implemented.

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Budget Review

Raine stated that the FCECS Engineering study was approved by EOPSS. The funding for the project will be available until the end of July 2016. This project will primarily be equipment installations that will not require EHPs. Raine suggested coordinating with Bernie to begin the next phase of the 800 project. Matt stated that Granville Police will lose coverage if they go to the 800 system. Melissa suggested leaving the remaining funds in unallocated until November 2015. The Subcommittee was in agreement with this suggestion.

Requests

No requests were presented.

Old Business

Video Downlink Discussion

Melissa stated that the State Police video downlink is a visilink to a secure IP network. Matt stated that MSP has four aircraft with this technology and portable receivers. There is an issue that MSP is replacing channel 49 with channel 65. All new receivers purchased should be channel 65 compatible. Melissa asked Raine to get a quote for an upgrade for three units previously purchased by WMRIC.

New Business

FFY15 Investment Plan Process

Melissa explained that the WMRIC Subcommittee compiled a list of project ideas in April and May. Raine stated that the FFY15 Investment plan is due to EOPSS by August 31st. Raine will use the list of WMRIC projects. Interops equipment will be added to the secondary project list.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Tom announced that the Butternut site had an issue caused by lightning. It has been resolved.

Melissa stated that SIEC authorized a second receiver to be installed in Western Mass to offer redundancy. The receiver will be installed in Ludlow.

Melissa announced that the meeting to discuss the MIFOG update has been postponed until September 2nd at 10:00.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

Raine stated that there is no pressing business for August and the Council and other Subcommittees have decided not to meet in August.

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Motion: Tom Grady moved to defer the August meeting. Butch Garrity seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2015 at 12:30 at WMEMS.

There being no further business Butch Garrity motioned to adjourn. Steve Kozloski seconded.
The motion was voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.

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