

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Interoperability / Information Sharing Sub Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2012 12:30 pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), Bob Dean (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Terry Dun (FCECS), Ann Carroll (MMC), Steve Kozloski (MPD), Tom Grady (BCSO), John Taylor (SFD/DFS), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD/DFS), Lindsay Stromgren (AFD/HCFCA), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld. Comm.), Roberty Garriety (HPD), Butch Garrity (SC MSP), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Gary Cromack (SAIC)

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 17, 2012 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2012 meeting as submitted. Dennis Nazzaro seconded. Voted unanimously.</p>

Project Updates

Franklin County Data Sharing

Russ stated that this project is complete. The system has been installed. Training on the new equipment is underway.

Visilink Video Downlink

No update was given.

Hampshire Hills Interops

No update was given.

Berkshire Simulcast

Russ stated that the system is being used and is working well.

FCECS Route 202

Terry stated that this project is awaiting approving from EOPSS on the EHPs.

WMLEC Expansion

This discussion was held for the consultant report.

EHPs

The WMLEC EHPs are completed. All of the EHPs have been approved except for the Shutesbury and Orange.

MIFOG

The MIFOG has been distributed. Five copies were sent to Fire Departments, five to Police Departments and two to EMDs. It is also available online. Steve Staffier is taking requests for printed copies. There have been a few corrections submitted.

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Naming Convention

The naming convention issue will be covered at the TICP workshop.

TICP Workshop

There are 38 registrants so far.

WMSIN Medical Module

More information is needed to move forward on this project.

PSIC Grants

PSIC Trans-regional

All State Tower was awarded the contract. An MOU with DCR is being worked on. The Ragged Hill site needs a structural integrity assessment done.

Interoperability Consultant

Suzanne MacBain stated that the WRHSAC booth was one of the most highly visited at the Interops Conference on May 3rd. Suzanne would like to keep the real life stories used in the PowerPoint presentation updated for use on the WRHSAC websites.

Gary Cromack stated that that the WMLEC project is back on track. A deal has been worked out with MSP. The rack layouts and other information is needed for sites that the MSP owns. Gary will give the punch list to Russ to review. Gary passed out a handout on the IP Cloud upgrade cost summary and reviewed it. Discussion followed.

<p>Motion: Terry Dun moved to approve the \$132,000 for WMLEC hardening needs from FFY10. Tom Grady seconded. Voted unanimously.</p>

Russ stated that this vote will need to go to the full Council next month. Gary stated that it is hoped that the WMLEC system will be installed by September. Russ commended Gary on his work on this project.

John Taylor asked about a repeater coverage map from SAIC. Dennis stated that a coverage map could be discussed at the upcoming TICP conference. Discussion followed.

John Taylor asked about the status of narrowbanding and if there is any funding available to offset the related costs. Russ stated that there is no funding right now. It may be possible to purchase a laptop, software and cables so that we can narrowband the radios that we purchased. Tom Grady cautioned that Sue Brown should be consulted to be sure that narrowbanding the radios is an allowable expense. Discussion followed.

Requests

No requests were presented.

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Business Unforeseen by the Chair

No unforeseen business was presented.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

Russ congratulated Melissa, Dennis and Suzanne on a great job for the display booth at the Statewide Interops Conference on May 3rd.

Russ stated that the Council approved the request from Interops to purchase batteries, chargers and antennas for the multiband radio cache. The Council also approved \$10,000 for Western Mass Ready and website campaign materials. That left a balance of just under \$10,000 unallocated in FFY08 and FFY09. The WMASS Fire Chiefs submitted a proposal for additional radios for \$82,000. It was decided that the request need to go through Interops before going to the full Council. The most urgent need for radios is eight radios for a tech rescue team that doesn't have any now. The Council voted to allow Interops to use the left over funds. We need to allocate the left over funding today. It was decided to use the funds to pay for structural needs on the towers. Russ stated that he will ask police departments about needs for additional radios and will present a request next month to get some radios for both police and fire departments.

Melissa stated that the COMM T class is the technical version of the COMM L class. The COMM T class will be held on July 23 through July 27th. The class is open to fifteen participants. The class is open to NERAC members first and then will open up to others. The requests for non-NERAC members will come through this subcommittee. Melissa will coordinate distributing the information with Sue Brown.

Melissa shared that there is interest in having a Communication Field Day in Western Mass. next year. The training would be a two to three day event. It would also be a multi-state event. The most likely location would be the Big E fairgrounds. Discussion followed.

The New England Communications Field Day will be on June 7th in Connecticut. MEMA will be attending. Dennis is registered to go. The deadline for registration is today.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2011 at 12:30 at WMEMS.

There being no further business Terry Dun motioned to adjourn. Tom Grady seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm.

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