

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2016
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garriety (MSP), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire, HCFA) Peter Cowles (WEMA), Bernard Forgea (Cumington FD/EMD), Ann Dunne (FRCOG), Bob Hassett (Springfield CEMD), Tom Grady (BCSO), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham PD), Jeff Coe (Dalton PD), Matt Barstow (MSP), Paul Madera (Ludlow PD), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm)

This meeting is audio recorded.

Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 12:30pm. Melissa was running behind schedule.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 18, 2016 meeting.

<p>Motion: Walter Tibbets moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2016 meeting as presented. Bob Hassett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update - Melissa Nazzaro attended a Communications Planning session, and had a good conversation on how to incorporate some growth initiative to encourage better communications with the regional and statewide system.

The SIEC meeting did not take any votes.

There are (13) NEXTGEN911 sites up and running in the Commonwealth, with positive feedback regarding the product, all the PSAPS site upgrades should be completed by 2017. The Statewide Radio Consultant Survey should be available for review by the end of the year.

There was a security breach at Chelsea, two people scaled the roof. While the building remained secure, we should consider the security procedures we have in place to protect our communication sites/towers and shelters.

Tom Grady contacted Mike Saltzman who is conducting the Statewide Radio Survey, and confirmed that Berkshire County is interested in joining the 800 system. Tom encouraged other interested counties to contact Mike soon, as it is a good idea to be on the list if a funding stream becomes available. He noted that budgeting for the subscriber fee is always a challenge, or perhaps users makes a contribution to the cost of maintenance.

Paul Madera reported that Ludlow is not interested in joining, and Peter Cowles noted there is not enough capacity to handle the Westfield Division. Walter suggested using repeaters.

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Project Updates

WMLEC Tactical Command Trailer – No updates

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported that under the development grant for State 911 department upgrades, Berkshire County applied for an upgrade of their consoles – to eventually connect to the 800 Trunk System. This Phase 2 project was approved, and Phase 3 will focus on bringing simulcast to the police departments' communication systems.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbets met with Beltronics (the new maintenance contractor) They looked at the whole system and the recommendations from the CDCG design study group to work on fixing some of the system repairs and projects. They agreed the two areas needing upgrades are the antennas and the GPS clocks. The 12 clocks are guaranteed for 10 years and are beginning to fail. FCECS voted to buy new antennas and also purchased three new GPS clocks. Walter feels Beltronics are off to a good start in fixing their problems.

There are some overlap problems in Shutesbury and Wendell, with communication being unintelligible. Gill/Bernardston is experiencing some coverage and distortion problems when the Erving Tower is operational; they are considering relocating the simulcast to the Orange Tower as a possible solution to solving this issue. Beltronics will run an entire program analysis to determine if moving the simulcast will result in better communications. FCECS does not have sufficient funds to replace all of the GPS clocks. The clocks costs up to \$6,000.00 each, installation and labor costs are \$15,000.00. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$75,000.00

Hampshire County – Matt Barstow reported Mount Skinner had a brown out condition in October 2016, and the equipment would not work, the generator had to be manually started. Matt is waiting on a quote from Motorola to include Mt. Skinner and Mt. Lincoln to the simulcast site.

WMLEC – No report

CMED – Bob Hassett and CMED met last week and recommended hospitals and physicians use a universal reporting format, using plain language instead of medical codes. Physicians are on board to make these changes and will be in compliance with NIMS and the Joint Commission.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported on the video downlink, it has four different components, and is not online yet. The IT group is running some routines for the server, to make sure they do not compromise the network. Mass IT is working with MASSPORT to get connectivity to the Logan Tower. Northampton is waiting on a \$5,000.00 purchase order to purchase more grounding connectivity to the Tower, and also to connect the MBI fiber converters from the shelter to the

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building. There is a hold on the installation of the antennas on the Barnstable Tower, until the Osprey leave the nest.

Budget Review

Raine reported the FFY15 budget is the same, with \$210,000.00 not allocated for any specific project. We allocated \$50,000.00 to complete the Hampshire Hills 800 Project and \$100,000.00 towards the Northwest Corridor Project.

FFY16 budget is under contract, and we can start working on projects now.

EOPSS is requesting we submit our FFY17 investment plan no later than early April 2017, to allow EOPSS time to develop and submit their plan to DHS by the end of April 2017.

Raine asked the subcommittee to begin thinking of 2017 projects. Raine noted the budget is projected to be level funded, and is not sure if any portion will be conducted as a competitive grant process.

There are no requests on the table and we could utilize FFY15 funds to complete the Hampshire Hills 800 Project. Tom reported that Jason Breault is in support of completing this project.

Raine received a price update from Manny at Motorola, with a list of equipment to be replaced or upgraded. There is a slight price increase from the quote of \$231,000.00 received earlier this year. There are sufficient funds to complete this project from FFY15 funds. Raine read Manny's email with the specifics to complete this project.

Melissa asked the subcommittee to make a motion to allocate funds from the FFY15 budget to complete Hampshire Hills Project.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady made a motion to allocate up to \$250,000.00 to complete the Hampshire Hills 800 Project using FFY15 funds. Peter Cowles seconded. Motion passed by a majority. Robert Garriepy abstained.</p>

Raine will get some final numbers regarding the pricing.

Requests

No new requests

Old Business

FCECS Northwest Corridor

Raine reported there are two pieces of equipment on the list not funded by SIEC, as they are not P25 capable. Raine is speaking with Manny to seek upgrades that are comparative to the set up. Raine noted that SIEC contract ended before the proposal and scope of work was submitted so we didn't have time to review any questions about the project. There seems to be quite a few

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questions. Manny has not yet replied regarding P25 equipment to replace the two items which are not P25 compatible. Raine noted that given the delay the project at best wouldn't begin before March 2017 which may not allow time to complete before the FFY15 funds deadline of July 31, 2017. Raine suggested moving the completion of this project to FFY16 or FFY17, giving us time to look at the project design also. We can switch the money to fund the replacement of the GPS Clocks, as discussed earlier by Walter.

This is a WMRIC lead project not a request from FCECS. The subcommittee can make a decision to move forward.

Melissa noted that no action will be taken at this meeting, given the design on the NW Corridor project is not approved; and we need a formal proposal from FCECS for the replacement of the GPS clocks.

Walter reported FCECS has increased their capital improvement budget proposal by 12%, for the long term sustainability of the system. Ideally he would like to join a statewide 800 system if it is compatible with all Public Safety equipment. .

Hampshire Hills 800

This was covered under the budget review section.

BCSO UHF/800 Repeater – Satellite Internet

No updates.

Helicopter Communication – MIFOG

Melissa has no updates.

New Business

WMRIC Nominations for December election

There are a total of 12 members, with one vacancy as John Paciorek has, by not attending any meetings since fall 2015, relinquished his seat. Melissa discussed the importance of having all disciplines represented. CMED should confirm in writing if Nancy Morrissey will continue as the representative and Bob Hassett as the CMED proxy. Raine will send out an email to CMED to confirm.

Melissa nominated everyone except Dennis Nazzaro, Walter nominated Dennis. In total six people were nominated for the at-large positions - Lindsay Stromgren, Bob Garriepy, Butch Garrity, Peter Cowles and Dennis Nazzaro. John Paciorek is at less than 50% attendance, and does not meet the criteria to be nominated. Melissa nominated Anthony Gentile to fill the sixth at-large member position. There were no additional nominations. The final votes will take place in December.

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At this time the WMLEC trailer will be located at Monson Police Department. Paul suggested we keep up skills of the COML and COMT Teams, and is willing to share skilled team members to lead training sessions. Melissa will ask Steve to attend a meeting to give us an update on training and goals. The trailer will fill in the gaps at local events. There is some discussion to locate the trailer in Huntington, so this resource can be more regionally accessible.

Tom updated the subcommittee on the decision of the T&E Subcommittee to change the request process from submitted requests and proposals, to the Council setting the investment areas for training and exercise as needed. T&E will take into consideration the recommendations of the AAR and feedback from all of the subcommittees.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Raine shared the photo book on the Six Flags Exercise.

Melissa wished everyone a Happy Holiday, and thanked everyone for their support and hard work on the subcommittee.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2016 at 12:30 at WMEMS at 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA.

There being no further business Matt Barstow moved to adjourn. Bernard Forgea seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from the October 18, 2016 meeting
- Green Mountain Communications Cost Estimates
- Cromack Industries, Inc. - FCECS Site Selection Analysis.
- WMRIC Organizational Chart
- WMRIC List of Active Members
- WRHSAC FFY15 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet

Respectfully Submitted by
Ann Dunne
Franklin Regional Council of Governments