

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2016, 12:30 pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Bob Dean (FRCOG), Gary Cromack (SAIC), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Matt Barstow (MSP), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Butch Garrity (MSP), Jason Breault (BCSO)

The meeting was brought to order by the Chair, Melissa Nazzaro at 12:35 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the June 21, 2016 meeting.

<p>Motion: Butch Garrity moved to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2016 meeting as presented. Matt Barstow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update

Boxborough is on target for NextGen 911 to go live on August 9th. Roll out completion to all PSAPs between June and September, 2017. Shelburne and New Braintree CAD MSP discussion. Scenario-based and user-based testing before implementation.

Royalston EMD is now a representative to the Central Region Homeland Security Council. He reported a generator failure at the FCECS Royalston tower site. Once made aware of the problem, FCECS had it fixed. A solenoid on the starter was replaced and it should be operating as expected now.

Project Updates

WMLEC Tactical Command Trailer

Raine talked to the vendor yesterday. They are working on it and will have the trailer to us soon. It is taking a little longer than originally anticipated, but should be fine for a timely completion and delivery.

Interoperability Consultant Report

Final report was distributed today. They are finalizing all remaining tasks, including the FCECS Northern Franklin County study. The final report PDF will be sent to Melissa and Raine. Gary Cromack looked at several sites. Recommends co-locating on an existing 300' tower at Bear Swamp in Rowe. The goal is to extend coverage across Franklin County as well as into Rowe Yankee valley and along the Deerfield River. The project would create two new channel pairs, will simulcast with existing channels, but will limit TDI across the entire system.

Need to get agreement with site owners to locate FCECS equipment there. Gary created a draft RFQ with pre-bid specs. The state ITT57 bid can also be used to obtain equipment.

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To address Rowe Yankee radio issues, the plan is to buy mini-repeaters to locate at Rowe Yankee. Ten watt local area coverage, will allow them to talk on Simulcast 1 and 2 through the Bear Swamp tower. Butch said Rowe Yankee has been testing on Simulcast 1 and 2 since last week. Gary said his RFQ lists it as a part B. Bear Swamp tower is part A. We can eliminate part B if it's not needed.

Once the final report is received, whose responsibility is it to move the project forward? It's a WRHSAC project in FFY15 at \$100K. But shouldn't FCECS play a role? Should FCECS cover the cost of the structural analysis and EHP, at least? It will be discussed at the next FCECS Oversight Committee meeting on Thursday, 7/21.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Berkshire County has taken on Adams' 911 dispatching. Adams still answers its own administrative calls. Berkshire is preparing an application for new equipment to the State 911 Commission. There is a possibility that Lee may join their system. Looking ahead at capacity issues and how best to address them.

Franklin County – Testing has been completed on Simulcast 2 in Shutesbury. A problem was found in New Salem. No interference since it was fixed. A voting receiver at Mt. Lincoln was having problems. Found issues with tree growth into the path. High winds took care of one tree. The other was cut with permission. Leyden tower microwave link on the regional repeater failed. Then the spare failed. Working on a fix now. Gary offered an idea: Berkshire County bought spares 8 – 10 years ago and they may have the part needed by FCECS. Control station link on Orange Tower. Radio system manager has pricing and will bring it to the FCECS meeting on Thursday for discussion.

Hampshire County – MSP is working with Motorola for a hard quote so the system upgrade can be shopped around for funding.

WMLEC – No report

CMED – There is a problem between Wing Memorial Hospital and AMR that is a Verizon issue. It is being worked on through channels at Verizon. It's an important CMED connection at issue.

MSP – No report

Budget Review

No new update

Requests

No new requests

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Old Business

COML Training

The application deadline is approaching. Encourage western MA applicants and please notify Melissa and Raine so that Melissa will know how many have applied.

BCSO UHF/800 Repeater – Satellite Internet

Jason Breault reintroduced the Command Center issues to be addressed through the satellite internet request. Tested at Tanglewood and at Mass MOCA events. Yearly expense is \$7,000 for 120 gigabytes of data per year (guaranteed 4 GBs up and 1 GB down). Pay extra for overages.

Already has radio access to MSP. If Council would fund the UHF piece of the request, that should be enough. Concern that there may not be enough money left to pay for this request. Suggestion to wait for the result of the competitive grants. Maybe there will be money left after the Hampshire Hills project is funded. Jason said the satellite project is his first priority over the UHF project if funding is limited. Will keep this on the table and bring back for consideration in September.

Helicopter Communication – MIFOG

Yesterday the state released the plan for helicopter communications. Melissa will forward to Raine to forward to the committee. It says if you have a process in place now, continue to use it. If not, the plan outlines a process to use. We should keep it on the agenda as it rolls out to users. Hopefully it will be included in the MIFOG now that the state is on board.

New Business

Review WRHSAC Comm Drill AAR

The AAR for the communications drill was distributed. Keep it on the agenda as subcommittee members will review for discussion at the next meeting.

Melissa thanked Jason for his assistance over the 4th of July weekend. It was good to exercise the communications team.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

None

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2016 at 12:30 at WMEMS. There will be no meeting in August.

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

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The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from the June 21, 2016 meeting
- SAIC Project Status Report for Period of 06/18/2016 – 07/31/2016
- WRHSAC FFY14 State Homeland Security budget spreadsheet
- WRHSAC FFY15 State Homeland Security budget spreadsheet
- Undated Memo from Investigator Jason Breault to Raine Brown Re: Satellite Internet
- Undated Memo or E-mail from Jason Breault to Raine Brown Re: Request for satellite internet funds
- Motorola Solutions Quote # QU0000362399 to the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office
- Motorola Solutions Quote # QU0000364451 to the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office
- 2016 Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council Communications Drill After Action Report, June 10, 2016

Respectfully Submitted by
Bob Dean
Franklin Regional Council of Governments