

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2016
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garriety (MSP), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire, HCFCA), Bob Hassett (Springfield CEMD), Tom Grady (BCSO), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD) Dept.), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC), John Ingram (Leverett FD), Ann Dunne (FRCOG),

This meeting is audio recorded.

Melissa Nazzaro called the meeting to order at 12:36pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 15, 2016 meeting.

<p>Motion: Butch Garriety moved to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting as presented. Tom Grady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update - Melissa Nazzaro updated the subcommittee on the roll out of the NEXTGEN911 to the dispatch centers, with the completion of over 40 smaller sites by the end of 2016. Once the product is completely tested and launched, the thirty (30) larger ACD sites will be updated. A lengthy discussion ensued on how the equipment works, and 8 hours of training will be available to existing dispatchers.

Project Updates

WMLEC Tactical Command Trailer – Steve Kozloski noted the continued delay is due to staff changes in the company, and the project is still in the concept stages. Steve expressed his concerns regarding the lack of experience of the team, and the timeframe for completion. This was due to be completed by October 2016. Raine will follow up with the company contact person to move the project along.

The borrowing policy was part of the original contract and outlines the procedure covering maintenance and return of the trailer. Steve will share this with Raine for the next meeting.

Once delivered, the trailer will be housed in Monson, and Steve has arranged the funding for registration and insurance through his municipality. Melissa asks Steve to consider a more central location to house the trailer in the future, Steve will discuss the possibility with the WMLEC members.

Hampshire Hills 800- Raine Brown reported EOPSS and SIEC have approved the funding to complete this project. Raine will contact the communities, and start the procurement process

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regarding the purchase of the radios and the programming of equipment purchased by towns on their own.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported on the antenna failures at Mt. Brody, and the sporadic issues experienced at Mt. Lenox with the microwave dish. The MSP will send a team to check the equipment with Pittsfield Communications. Berkshire County received approval from the State 911 development grant, and will upgrade their consoles in the 911 centers to Motorola MC7550, and Berkshire County also received a mobile unit for the command center.

Franklin County – see Walter Tibbett's report and presentation in the last section on this page.

Hampshire County – No report.

WMLEC – Steve reported the Police Chiefs would like to have more multi-disciplinary representation at their WMLEC meetings, and plan on taking a more formal role in including the Fire and EMS Departments in their discussion. As fees have increased it is important to give the Fire Service an equal voice. WMLEC will contact the Western Mass Fire Chiefs to discuss.

CMED – Bob Hassett reported on the positive progress of the change over from code terminology to using a universal reporting format by the medical profession and hospitals. Bob confirmed that Nancy Morrissey is the formal representative for CMED and he is the alternate.

MSP – No report.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbets reported on the failure of the new GPS clock in Shelburne, once the old clock was re-installed the system stabilized. FCECS received approval to fund the replacement of the necessary antennas from their capital improvement line item. In an effort to become more fiscally responsible and self sufficient the FCECS plan to increase the user assessment fees, to bring the annual capital improvement line item from \$10,000.00 to \$75,000.00. The WMLEC owned antennas will not be changed, but will be adjusted for coverage overlap. He will conduct a study to determine coverage before changing them out. Walter is anxious to make sure the system is in good working condition.

Requests

FCECS GPS Clocks Request - Walter Tibbets presented the FCECS Oversight Committee's written proposal, requesting assistance from the WMRIC with the purchase and installation of nine (9) GPS Clocks. The total project cost range is \$64,775 to \$67,500. Raine noted there will be a three (3) quote process to select a Vendor.

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Walter will check the warranty on the recently purchased three (3) GPS clocks, and particularly the failed clock, to make sure it extends beyond the timeframe of the purchase of the additional clocks, to ensure all twelve are compatible. The System Manager will provide the oversight for the installation of this project. Melissa will check if the project needs to be approved by the SIEC.

Motion: Tom Grady made a motion to allocate up to \$67,500.00 to assist FCECS in the purchase and installation of nine (9) GPS clocks. Steve Kozloski seconded. Motion passed by a majority. Walter Tibbets and Butch Garriety abstained.

Budget Review

Raine gave a budget overview for FFY15

The Hampshire Hills project will be completed using the following funds.

- I. Hampshire Hills Phase IV - \$50,147.00
- II. Interoperability Consultant - \$100,000.00
- III. Hampden/Hampshire Hills Fire/EMS Improvements - \$64,299.00
- IV. WMLEC Tactical Communications Trailer - \$35,554.00

The GPS Clocks purchase and installation project will be funded as follows:

- a) \$10,556.00 left over from the WMLEC Trailer
- b) FCECS Northwest Region Enhancement - \$100,000.00. This project was put on hold.

After this allocation of \$67,500.00, this leaves \$43,056.00 in FFY15 to be spent by July 2017.

There is \$200,000.00 in FFY16, to cover WMLEC gap solutions

Old Business

FCECS Northwest Corridor

This project was put on hold indefinitely, based on the recommendation of the FCECS as stabilization of the existing system takes preference.

Hampshire Hills 800- The Council voted to allocate funds to complete this project

BCSO UHF/800 Repeater – Satellite Internet - No updates.

Helicopter Communication – MIFOG

Melissa discussed at the SIEC meeting, the concerns with the helicopter companies and requested a copy of the letter sent to the helicopter companies last week, outlining the recent issues and concerns.

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WMRIC Nominations for December election

WMRIC Nominations for At-Large Executive Committee members

The slate of officers are:

- Lindsay Stromgren
- Bob Garriepy
- Butch Garriety
- Peter Cowles
- Dennis Nazzaro
- Anthony Gentile

Motion: Tom Grady made a motion to elect the slate of officers as presented.
Steve Kozloski seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Bob Hassett reported on the status of the Hovey Hill site which is shared with Wilbraham Fire. Wilbraham Fire is moving to the Ludlow Fire Tower and will be purchasing new equipment. CMED would like to remove the combiner and upgrade the equipment using one brand only, the estimated cost is \$150,000.00. National Grid owns the antenna, and was mandated by the State to add additional guy lines to the tower. Once this takes place, CMED would like install their upgrades at the same time. CMED added boosters over the last ten (10) years. Tom advised Bob to check the FCC rules, and ask all the questions regarding engineers etc. Steve believes all the combiner equipment belongs to National Grid.
Bob Hassett will bring a formal request to the February meeting

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Dennis Nazarro asked the subcommittee to add a line “other” to the Western Mass Systems of the agenda.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2016 at 12:30 at WMEMS at 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA.

There being no further business Tom moved to adjourn. Butch Garriety seconded.
The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 pm.

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List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from the November 15, 2016 meeting
- Proposal request from FCECS- Walter Tibbetts
- WMRIC Nomination List for At-Large Executive Committee Election
- WRHSAC FFY15 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet

Respectfully Submitted by
Ann Dunne
Franklin Regional Council of Governments