

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2017 12:30pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Paul Madera (Ludlow PD), Matt Barstow (MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire, HCFA), Bob Hassett (Springfield CMED), Tom Grady (BCSO), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Nancy Morrissey (Springfield CMED), Bernard Forgea (CFD/CPD), Jason Breault (BCSO), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting is audio recorded.

Melissa Nazzaro called the meeting to order at 12:32pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 20, 2016 meeting.

<p>Motion: Peter Cowles moved to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2016 meeting as presented. Matt Barstow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update - Melissa Nazzaro attended the SIEC meeting and reported on the MBI Project to diversify the fiber loops in the area to improve the service. The State 911 development competitive grant is increased from \$8 million to \$12 million. The 413 CAD Motorola award was rescinded at the State level. The FCECS GPS clocks were approved by the Council and EOPSS, and did not require specific SIEC approval.

Project Updates

WMLEC Tactical Command Trailer –Melissa read the email received from Chief Steve Kozloski, updating the subcommittee on the borrowing policy and location of the trailer. Steve is flying to Florida to meet with the company, and to make any final approvals, before the trailer is shipped.

The trailer will be housed in Monson, and will be made available to responsible requesting parties (REP) on a first-come, first- served basis in response to a bona fide emergency or pre-planned event. REPs are financially responsible for repairs and must return the trailer to the host agency within 48 hours of the end of the emergency or event.

Once WMLEC meets, they will discuss accountability and security of the trailer before considering moving it to a more central location.

Hampshire Hills 800 - Raine Brown will contact the communities, and start the procurement process regarding the purchase of the radios and the programming of equipment purchased by towns on their own. Installation will probably take place in late spring.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2017 12:30pm
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FCECS GPS Clocks – Walter Tibbets reported the FCECS are working on the scope of work for a request for proposals procurement. This gives FCECS the ability to look at the price plus the experience of the company. The FCECS will decide at their Thursday, Jan 19, 2017 meeting whether to ask for a price only or a request for a proposal. The cost of the project will not change.

The malfunctioning GPS clock was returned under the warranty, to be checked out over a 48 hour period.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady noted there is an upcoming meeting on Jan 26 with Motorola regarding the on going 911 center console project. Adams asked the State 911 for some funding to install in vehicle repeaters, and Tom and Jason are closely monitoring that the systems are operating properly. Berkshire County is also working on the next phase of the simulcast buildout for the Police Departments which will begin after July 1, 2017.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbets noted the FRCOG Finance Committee approved the release of funding from the Capital Improvement Account to replace the antennas.

Hampshire County – see CMED update below and request under business unforeseen by the Chair.

WMLEC – Melissa read Steve's update and reported on the following. Steve stated his concerns regarding the WMLEC system failures between Mt. Tom and the Hovey Hill Tower; this was fixed in the past under the warranty as an installation defect by Motorola. WMLEC is no longer under warranty, and Steve will provide an update at the next meeting once he has a chance to pinpoint the issue.

Steve also addressed the following concern regarding maintenance of the WMLEC Trailer. Steve asked what happens when/if a town pulls out of the WMLEC membership, and then requests the trailer. The WMLEC funding structure is changing, and the fees may need to be increased to cover the cost of maintenance. Given it is funded through a Homeland Security grant; he believes the trailer is a regional resource to be used by all communities as needed. Raine confirmed that the WMLEC Trailer can be requested locally, regionally, deployed to anywhere in the state and even requested out of state, as it was purchased as a regional asset. Tom suggested WMLEC establish a fee schedule for non-participating members. Maintenance of the trailer falls on the membership communities and the municipalities, which covers both police and fire usage.

CMED – Bob Hassett presented his equipment upgrade proposal at the Springfield CMED Hovey Hill Transmission Site. This project will replace and upgrade the current radio, antenna and repeater system on Hovey Hill with new radios and antenna systems for channels MED 8

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2017 12:30pm
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and 9. It will provide a reliable microwave transmission capability to Springfield CMED. The overall estimated costs are \$165,000.00. A detailed breakdown of the costs was provided as part of the handout package.

As the request was not received on time to be added to the agenda, the project will be discussed under business unforeseen by the Chair.

MSP – No report.

Other - No report.

Budget Review

Raine gave a budget overview for FFY15.

The subcommittee has allocated most of the funds to finish some projects as discussed at the December meetings. Currently there is \$43,057.00 left in FFY15 to be spent by July 2017.

There is \$200,000.00 in FFY16, to cover WMLEC gap solutions, and the subcommittee should start identifying some projects.

Requests - None

Old Business

BSCO UHF/800 Repeater - Satellite Internet

Jason Breault submitted his request in writing for the purchase and installation of a satellite antenna and satellite receiver (including a 2 year activation, up to 120/GB per year, overage at \$80 per GB) for the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office, Mobile Command Center. The cost is \$31,537.00. This will allow the Command Center to access internet when normal cell service is not available. The satellite internet will also benefit the community, during an emergency it can be set up in an area to provide limited access to a community to allow contact with friends and family during a disaster. After the two (2) years of pre-paid service has expired, the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office will be responsible for all yearly service fees.

<p>Motion: Bob Hassett made a motion to approve the funding of this project as presented in the sum of \$31,537.00. Seconded by Walter Tibbets.</p>
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A lengthy discussion ensued, regarding the availability of this asset to the region, and concerns over payment of the service fees. Jason and Tom reassured the subcommittee that Berkshire County has never charged anyone for the use of the vehicle, and have made it a regional asset to be used throughout the area. The command center will also support VOIP phone system.

Peter Cowles made a motion to table the motion to be reviewed at the end of the business unforeseen discussions. Melissa suggested amending or rescinding the motion.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2017 12:30pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

Motion: Bob Hassett rescinded his motion and tabled it to be discussed as the last item under business unforeseen by the Chair. Melissa seconded. Motion passed by a majority. Tom Grady abstained.

Helicopter Communication - MIFOG

Melissa is waiting on a copy of the letter that was sent to the helicopter companies.

New Business

Raine reported that EOPSS has requested our FFY17 preliminary list of projects by mid-February, and the final plan is due by mid-March, however they have not issued formal guidance. EOPSS anticipates level funding in the amount of approximately \$900,000.00 for the entire Council. This grant timeline will be fall 2017 – July 2019 for projects. EOPSS is not sure if any portion will be part of the competitive grant process.

We have wrapped up a lot of FFY15 projects, and should focus our efforts on FFY17. Tom noted that EOPSS is hoping to take the lead on Statewide Training to Counter Violent Extremism if they receive a portion of the Federal Grant on Complex Coordinated Attacks. Although CVE falls under Training & Exercise, this would benefit us and provide regional training.

Suggestions for FFY17 projects:

- I. CMED Hovey Hill upgrades.
- II. WMLEC is looking at sustainability as discussed earlier.
- III. Hampshire Hills Control Station Request

We should think about projects before the next meeting, and we may need to add an additional meeting to complete the details before the mid-February deadline.

Raine suggested the subcommittee look at all the requests before making a decision or voting.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Hampshire Hills Control Station Request.

Matt Barstow requested on behalf of the Board of Overseers of the Northampton Regional Dispatch Center, funding for four (4) talkgroup control stations for Hampshire Radio System. Currently Massachusetts State Police (MSP) is using one of their radios as a control station. The purchase of new stations will allow this radio to be returned to MSP use; will provide backup to all the talkgroups and also allow communication recording. MSP received a quote from Motorola Solutions outlining both the equipment needed, its respective costs and installation cost. The overall estimate is \$42,788.22.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
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Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2017 12:30pm
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Motion: Dennis Nazarro made a motion to approve the request for \$42,788.22. Peter Cowles seconded.

After some discussion Paul suggested amending the motion to include using the “remaining FFY15 funds” for this project.

Motion: Dennis Nazarro amended his motion to approve the request up to \$43,057.00 from FFY15 funds. Anthony Gentile seconded. The motion as amended passed by a majority. Matt Barstow and Bernard Forgea abstained.

The Council must approve this funding at their meeting.

All of FFY15 funds are now allocated.

In FFY16 there is \$200,000.00 for WMLEC gaps.

Hovey Hill CMED Upgrade

Bob reported that National Grid will need to make their upgrades and install the cables before CMED can move forward.

Given the timing, this may be a good project for FF17 funding.

Raine will add this request to the agenda for the Feb 21 meeting, and set a placeholder for FFY17 funds.

BCSO UHF/800 Repeater - Satellite Internet

This project does qualify as a WMLEC gap, and will require approval from the Council and SIEC if approved.

Jason will request a new quote and the subcommittee will take a vote at the next meeting.

It was agreed to keep this request on the February 21 agenda.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2017, 12:30 pm at WMEMS at 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA. (Unless we need to meet sooner)

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

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List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from the December 20, 2016 meeting
- WMLEC Tactical Communications Trailer Deployment Policy
- Proposal request from FCECS- Walter Tibbetts
- WMRIC Nomination List for At-Large Executive Committee Election
- WRHSAC FFY15 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet
- Hampshire Hills Control Center Request Letter and Motorola Quotation dated 12/29/2016 from Matt Barstow, MSP
- Satellite Internet Request from Jason Breault, Berkshire County Sheriff's Office
- Hovey Hill CMED Upgrade request from Bob Hassett

Respectfully Submitted by
Ann Dunne
Franklin Regional Council of Governments