

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2017 12:30pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Matt Barstow (MSP), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire, HCFA), Bob Hassett (Springfield CMED), Tom Grady (BCSO), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Bernard Forgea (CFD/CPD), Jason Breault (BCSO), Butch Garriety (MSP), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Jim Welcome (AMR), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC), 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 March 21, 2017 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2017 meeting as presented. Bernard Forgea seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update - No updates

Project Updates

WMLEC Tactical Command Trailer – Steve Kozloski reported the trailer arrived a few weeks ago. However, there was a technical issue with cracks on the trailer frame. The Company is working on repairing the cracks using a local vendor. Steve also replaced some radio cables that were installed incorrectly.

Hampshire Hills 800 – Raine reported this project is out to bid.

FCECS GPS Clocks – Raine reported this project is out to bid, with the RFP due on Friday. The FCECS oversight committee will review the RFP, so they can grade the responses.

Hampshire Hills Control Station- The purchase order has been issued and the project is in progress.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported the NextGen 911 is scheduled to go live on Thursday. There are some communication issues with Lenox and Butternut Tower which BCSO are working to remedy.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbets reported a small glitch on a Greenfield repeater. The FCECS is in discussion with the vendor to plan maintenance and repairs, and to test the antennas to gather data information. FCECS is looking at installing a panel antenna installed on the Erving

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Tower to improve communications, it is currently under evaluation. FCECS created a subcommittee to work with Undersecretary Curt Wood's Office to discuss Franklin County moving to the State 800 MH system. The process will take several years, as capacity, coverage and cost must be considered, before the migration will take place. The process is at the information gathering stage.

Hampshire County – No updates.

WMLEC – Steve reported having some issues with the Butternut Tower, some network cables need to be re-attached. Steve is happy to make the trailer available and give a demo.

CMED – Bob Hassett reported that National Grid plan to install the guy lines at the Hovey Hill Tower. This will allow CMED to move forward with their project.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported interference on various control channels from consumer household devices, caused by the device location and frequency. NextGen 911 will go live at Shelburne Dispatch on April 06, 2017. Matt will keep the subcommittee updated on the release of the new ADC version to be tested in Cambridge first. The State is looking at text to 911, to be managed by Boston, Framingham and Essex.

Other- Dennis Nazzaro reported that Northampton Dispatch Control Center replaced the DFS radios with Kenwood radios.

Budget Review

Raine reported the FFY15 funds are fully allocated, there might be some funds remaining from the Hampshire Hills 800 project. Raine will have more information by the next meeting. There is \$200,000.00 in FFY2016, with a proposal coming up later in the meeting. The FFY17 proposals were reviewed at the last meeting.

Requests-

WMLEC Gap Solutions Proposal. Steve noted that WMLEC has decided to focus on enhancing existing portable solutions with the introduction of one new portable asset. He thanked Dennis Nazzaro for his help with researching the gap solutions. WMLEC is requesting Council funds from FY16 WMLEC Gap Solutions to fund four (4) projects that will help fill these gaps, and supply the four (4) counties served by WMLEC with rapidly deployable, mobile assets. The proposal is as follows:

In Eastern Hampshire /Hampden County - Continue build out of the WMLEC RapidCom mobile communications trailer. This request is for three (3) repeaters (VHF, UHF and 800 MHz), a Motobridge gateway, cables and antennas, and Pepwave 4g router. The cost of this project would be approximately \$75,000.

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Western Hampshire / Hampden County – Purchase a portable “box” or “Command Module” that would be quickly deployable to the Westfield River Valley gap area any other regions throughout the area that are under served by existing fixed infrastructure remotely placed. The cost of this project would be approximately \$55,000.

Franklin County – Update outdated radios in Field Comm 40. This unit already has a gateway switch and UHF repeater. While its 800 Mhz radios have already been updated, this project would update all the VHF and UHF radios to be P25 capable and provide a medium size asset that can operate either independently or through patching into the fixed WMLEC infrastructure. We are also requesting a Pepwave 4g router for this unit. The cost to replace the four (4) VHF / UHF mobile radios, interface cables and the Pepwave router would be approximately \$30,000.

Berkshire County – Continue build out of the BCSO Command Unit. This large platform fills the gap in Berkshire County, but like the trailer, needs repeaters to make the unit a complete asset capable of operating independently or patching into the existing WMLEC infrastructure. We are requesting VHF and 800 MHz repeaters, cables and antennas to fill out the need of this unit. The cost of this project would be approximately \$40,000.

The total cost of the proposal is \$200,000.00.

Melissa asked for a motion prior to any further discussion.

<p>Motion: Butch Garriety moved to approve \$200,000.00 from FFY16 funds for the WMLEC Gap Solutions Proposal. Walter Tibbets seconded the motion. Motion passed by a majority. YES: 4 Abstain: 3</p>
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The cost includes the installation and building.

BCSO Satellite Internet: Jason proposed the hardware and installation of a Viasat Antenna with 2 year activation (Up to 120/GB per year). The cost of this project is \$31,537.00. As there is no FFY16 funding left, Tom suggested to add this project to their priority list, and will recommend this project to the Council as a spend down project.

<p>Motion: Dennis Nazzaro moved to recommend the BCSO Satellite Internet project as a spend down project if funds are available. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. Motion passed by a majority. Abstain: 1</p>

BCSO 6_Bank Charger- Jason received a quote my email, and will present a formal request later.

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Berkshire Vislink Unit - The recommendation is not to invest any more money on the units, as the system will be updated soon. It was suggested that the unit in Springfield, which is underutilized, be transferred to Berkshire County. Tom & Jason will follow up on this.

Old Business

Helicopter Communication – MIFOG

Melissa will suggest to SIEC to send the previous radio communications instructions to the helicopter companies again.

New Business – Tom Grady will share some radios from Berkshire County UHF cache to assist at the Boston marathon. Tom is also looking at a new site in Becket to install equipment on the tower to solve some communication gaps. He also thanked Dennis Nazzaro and Bob Garriepy for assisting with the delivery of equipment to the Town of Conway after the recent tornado.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Melissa reported that Chief Jeff Coe wishes to notify the subcommittee that he is unable to attend the meetings on a regular basis, due to his work commitments in the Town of Dalton.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2017, 12:30 at WMEMS at 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA.

Melissa announced the conflict with the September meeting, as it coincides with the TEEX EOC Operations & Planning exercise, which is scheduled to take place on Sept 18 – 20, 2017. It was suggested to move the meeting to Sept 12, 2017 in coordination with the other meetings.

There being no further business Mark Babineau moved to adjourn. Tom Grady seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:47pm pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from February 21, 2017 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY15 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet
- WMLEC Gap Solutions Proposal.
- Motorola UHF P-25 GTR Request.
- Accelerated Media Technologies, Inc. quotation for Viasat Antenna.

Respectfully Submitted by
Ann Dunne
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

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