

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2017 12:30pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Bob Hassett (Spfld CMED), Butch Garriety (MSP), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Stephen Gaughan (EMS), Nancy Morrissey (Spfld CMED), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Jason Breault (BCSO), Tom Grady (BCSO), Alex Plotnikiewicz (CMED Intern), Doug Fellows (Eastern Communications Ltd), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire, HCFCA), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting is audio recorded.

Melissa Nazzaro called the meeting to order at 12:42pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 16, 2017 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of May 16, 2017 meeting as presented. Bob Hassett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update – Melissa noted the SWIC interviews are on going, and she should have an update by the next meeting.

Project Updates

Hampshire Hills 800 – Motorola has started the project, and have given a projected completion date of July 31, 2017.

FCECS GPS Clocks – The clocks are being installed, and once testing takes place, the project should be completed by next week.

Hampshire Hills Control Station- The project is near completion.

WMLEC Gap Solutions – Steve Kozloski will meet with Dennis Nazzaro to finalize the specifications. Steve will work with Raine on the details, and Raine will seek bids for the four (4) separate components. The project is approved by EOPSS.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady noted the 911-center upgrade will be completed by next week. BC has filed a grant application under the State 911 development grant program to enhance radio systems in Berkshire County, to include a new site in Beckett/Otis area.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbets noted the installation of the GPS Clocks is moving along, and FCECS will focus on the Erving antenna installation next.

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Hampshire County – No updates.

WMLEC – Melissa noted that Steve Kozloski will provide a demo of the WMLEC Tactical Command Trailer at the WMLEC Chiefs' quarterly meeting, and is in communication with the Fire Chiefs to do the same. CMED has requested the trailer at the upcoming Airshow in August, Bob Hassett will follow up with Steve.

CMED – Nancy Morrissey reported that CMED is working with FC on switching their radio frequency. The recent meeting was cancelled, as FC is waiting on the costs of the license renewal.

CMED is waiting on National Grid to reinforce the guy lines at the Hovey Hill Tower, before CMED can replace their equipment.

MSP – No updates.

Other- No updates.

Budget Review

Raine noted the \$200,000.00 FFY16 funds are allocated to the WMLEC gap solutions project.

Raine updated the subcommittee on the DHS grant funding for FFY17. The grant award was \$35,000.00 less than the anticipated \$936,315.00.

Raine noted the reduction in the following investment area.

- Hampshire Hills Project was reduced by \$5,000.00 to \$45,000.00

The grant award was \$901,230.00

Requests

Jason Breault requested the funds for the 800 UHF repeaters be reallocated to purchase a downlink receiver for the command center. Jason was quoted an amount of \$54,000.00, and will seek further quotes from vendors. It was suggested to leave the WMLEC gap solutions project alone, and Jason was asked to submit a separate project request to the subcommittee for consideration. Jason recognizes the need for the repeaters as identified in the WMLEC gap solutions proposal, however, he felt the downlink receiver as a greater need. He is happy to comply with the project proposal request, and will provide the new project details at the July meeting.

Old Business

Helicopter Communication – MIFOG

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Melissa noted there is some confusion of the universal use of non- federal interop channels. There is a lack of consistency amongst users, and the subcommittee's goal is to move the process along.

New Business

Butch Garriety noted the Hard Knox FEMA Mobilization Exercise is scheduled for October 19-21, 2017 in Western Massachusetts.

Melissa noted that the State 911 department released the FFY18 support & incentive grants, and the EMD and Training grants. Melissa noted the eligibility guidelines require all dispatch staff to be current on training and recertification.

The NextGen 911 Cambridge ACD site is upgraded. It was a smooth transition, although there will be a learning curve.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair - None

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2017, 12:30pm at WMEMS at 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA. It was also noted the new meeting location will be at Hatfield Fire Dept., Hatfield, MA beginning with the Sept. 12 meeting.

There being no further business Melissa Nazzaro moved to adjourn. Butch Garriety seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from May 16, 2017 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY15 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet-6/15/2017
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet- 6/15/2017

Respectfully Submitted by
Ann Dunne,
Franklin Regional Council of Governments