

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2017 12:30pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Butch Garriety (MSP), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Jason Breault (BCSO), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire, HCFCA), Paul Madera (Ludlow PD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting is audio recorded.

Melissa Nazzaro called the meeting to order at 12:35pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the June 20, 2017 meeting.

<p>Motion: Butch Garriety moved to approve the minutes of June 20, 2017 meeting as presented. Steve Kozloski seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update – Melissa was not at the last SIEC meeting, and Nick DaDalt updated the subcommittee on Mass Broadband. The State is preparing an RFI for alternate vendors, as a decision has not been made yet to opt in/out with AT&T as the vendor. AT&T is not guaranteeing a fixed price across the market.

Melissa noted there is no official decision on the SWIC position.

Project Updates

Hampshire Hills 800 – Motorola is on target to complete the project by the end of July.

FCECS GPS Clocks – The project is completed.

Hampshire Hills Control Station- The project is completed.

WMLEC Gap Solutions – Steve Kozloski is working with Raine Brown on the specifications for the project. Procurement for the communications command pod is expected to go out in the next couple of weeks.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Jason Breault reported that Berkshire County is in the final stages of installing new consoles.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbets reported the GPS clocks are installed and are working well. The panel antenna on the Erving Tower is installed, and they are waiting on a connection to the combiner. There are some issues with the older equipment on Mt. Toby. The Commonwealth 800 Radio System is in the evaluation stage with planned field-testing in Franklin County to

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determine coverage; the schedule is not in place yet. Lindsay Stromgren expressed concerns about communication compatibility in the region and remaining interoperable if Franklin were to transition to the 800 system. Conversation ensued.

Hampshire County – No updates.

WMLEC – Steve Kozloski plans on setting up the WMLEC Tactical Command Trailer at the Western Mass Fire Chiefs Association meeting in the fall for a demo.

CMED – No updates

MSP – No updates.

Other - No updates.

Budget Review

Raine noted the \$200,000.00 FFY16 funds are set aside for the WMLEC gap solutions project. FFY17 funds will be contracted in the late fall.

Requests- None

Old Business

Berkshire Antenna Request:

Jason updated the subcommittee on his request for a downlink receiver, and provided a quote of \$48,027.00 from IMT. While funding is not available, there is a need for mobile deployable sites in the region. Melissa suggested listing the request as a specific agenda item, and to invite the stakeholders to provide recommendations to the subcommittee regarding the types of equipment purchases they should support.

Helicopter Communication – MIFOG

Jason reported on one issue in Berkshire County.

New Business

Melissa noted her concerns that Holyoke Fire has switched to a DMR system, which does not meet public safety criteria standards, but is less expensive than the P25 system. The DMR radio system is not compatible within the region unlike the P25 system, which meets the digital standard for public safety grade radios, and can communicate with the surrounding towns. Discussion ensued

Business Unforeseen by the Chair - None

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Next Steps/Future Meetings

New Location: The next meeting is scheduled for Sept 12, 2017, 12:30 pm at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

Raine noted she is on vacation next week and away from the office August 17-29.

There being no further business Walter Tibbets moved to adjourn. Butch Garriety seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:37pm

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from June 20, 2017 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY15 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet-7/14/2017
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet- 7/14/2017
- Quotation from IMT to the Berkshire County Sheriff's office

Respectfully Submitted by
Ann Dunne,
Franklin Regional Council of Governments