

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2017 12:30pm
Hatfield Fire Department
3 School Street, Hatfield, MA 01330

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (Spfld. CMED), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Matt Barstow (MSP), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting is audio recorded.

Bob Hassett called the meeting to order at 12:31pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 17, 2017 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2017 meeting as presented. Peter Cowles 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 Gap Solutions –

Dennis Nazzaro noted there is a delay on the delivery of the radios to the POD unit, and expects Motorola to ship them by the end of November. Raine noted the radios for the Field Comm Unit are also ordered.

Berkshire County – Tom Grady noted that Berkshire County is working with the State 911 to modify their project, as they received a partial award from the State Development Grant. Great Barrington requested access to the simulcast system for dispatch purposes, and they are in the early stages of discussion.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbets express concerns on the coverage from the Borden Tower. The FRCOG is pursuing a grant to conduct further studies into the viability of joining the State 800 MHz system, and take into consideration the sustainability of the system. Walter noted there is a programming issue in the settings in some of the GPS Clocks, and he will follow up to resolve.

SWIC – Melissa Nazzaro noted she is settling in to her new position as the SWIC.

Hampshire County – Robert Garriepy noted the 800-radio project is not complete, Motorola delivered the radios in July yet programming is not complete. Tom Grady offered to contact Manny from Motorola to move the project along. Matt Barstow will reach out to his MSP colleague to resolve.

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WMLEC – No updates

CMED – Bob Hassett noted the Westfield microwave component was installed, but CMED is waiting on Verizon to repair the copper wires.

MSP – No updates.

Other - No updates.

Budget Review

Raine noted she is working with Steve Kozloski to complete the specifications on the last two WMLEC Gap Solutions projects. Raine expects the FFY17 contracts will be in place soon, allowing the subcommittee to move forward with the projects.

Requests - None

Old Business

Video Downlink Discussion:

Raine noted this project is on hold until the FFY17 funds are available.

Helicopter Communication: Lindsay Stromgren noted in his email to Raine, that Life Lite is giving a lecture in Amherst on 12/3/17, and one of the topics is on helicopter communications. Lindsay will ensure everyone has the same information, and will update the subcommittee at the December meeting.

New Business – FFY2018 Investment Plan – Raine noted the FFY2018 guidelines were issued. EOPSS expects the grant to be level funded at \$900,000.00. The preliminary plan is due to EOPSS by January 17, 2018 and the full plan by February 14, 2018. Raine asked the subcommittee to make project recommendations today for consideration by the Council at their next meeting.

The current list of FFY 17 projects are:

- ❖ CMED, Hovey Hill project
- ❖ Portable and Go Kits for the COMMU's
- ❖ Hampshire Hills Lincoln and Skinner project

The subcommittee was allocated \$ 286,000.00 in FFY17.

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EOPSSs list of priorities to take into consideration are:

- ❖ Preventing, Responding to and Recovering from an Active Shooter Incident/Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack
- ❖ Enhancing Cyber Security
- ❖ Preventing, Responding to, and Recovering from a Radiation/Nuclear Attack

The subcommittee listed two preliminary plans for FFY18 placeholders:

- ❖ Video Downlink \$50,000.00
- ❖ Satellite Internet for BCSO Mobile Command Unit \$ 35,000.00

Business Unforeseen by the Chair –

Dennis Nazzaro represents western mass on the SIEC interference working group; some TV antennas are causing radio coverage interference in eastern mass, although most are unintentional. The goal of the group is to streamline the process to identify the source of the interference, and to work with the FCC to isolate and resolve the problem.

Tom Grady reported the Albany news stations are going to discontinue using the towers on Mt. Greylock.

Bob Hassett wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2017, 12:30 pm at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

There being no further business Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Matt Barstow seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10pm

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from October 17, 2017 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet- 11/20/2017
- FFY2018 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Local Share Guidance for Homeland Security Planning Regions.

Respectfully Submitted by
Ann Dunne,
Franklin Regional Council of Governments