

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2018 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 (Springfield CMED), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Butch Garriety (Shelburne Dispatch), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Dennis Nazzaro (Huntington FD), Jason Breault (BCSO), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Sean Sullivan (Springfield PD), Matt Barstow (MSP), Rick Viruet (Springfield PD), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting is audio recorded.

Bob Hassett called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 19, 2017 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Walter Tibbets moved to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2017 meeting as presented. Dennis Nazzaro seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

#### **Updates from the Chair**

*SIEC Update* – Melissa Nazzaro reported that Governor Baker has approved the buildout plan for the First Responder Network by opting in to FirstNet. The decision enables the First Responder Network Authority and AT&T to begin offering priority on their existing network to public safety communications. This will encourage competition between the providers.

#### **Project Updates**

*WMLEC Gap Solution* –Dennis Nazzaro brought the mobile communication command pod for members to view. It will be housed in Huntington. Dennis is working with Steve Kozloski to create a user policy. WMLEC is still waiting on Motorola to move forward with the Franklin County Field Comm 40 radios. Tom Grady and Matt Barstow will contact Manny to move the project along. Steve Kozloski has received the specifications for the Berkshire County repeaters, and will coordinate with Raine to prepare the bid.

#### **Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

*Berkshire County* – Tom Grady reported the State 911 Development Grant project is moving along, with a target completion date of June 30, 2018.

*Franklin County* – Walter Tibbets noted the grant pursued by the FRCOG was successful, and will be used to conduct further studies onto the viability of joining the State 800 MHz system. As the grant request to help reengineer the existing system was unsuccessful; the FCECS will have more updates after their next meeting on the timeline and availability of the above funding. For now, they are working on keeping their system working.

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*Hampshire County* – Robert Garriepy noted the status has not changed regarding the installation of the 800-megahertz radios. Matt Barstow continues to work with the MSP to coordination with local PD's to complete the project.

*WMLEC* –Matt will ask Motorola for a status update.

*CMED* –Rick Viruet continues his work with the power companies to ensure updates are made to the Hovey Hill Tower, and provided a detailed handout on the progress. Raine Brown will work on the EHP details to seek a quote.

*MSP* – Matt Barstow noted the class of recruits will graduate next week, and will be part of the force in the area.

Other - No updates.

### **Budget Review**

Raine noted the FFY16 budget is on track; however, she is concerned about the WMLEC gap solutions project. A request to extend the project beyond the July 2018 deadline may be necessary. The FFY17 contract is in place, and Raine will prepare the project justification for the Go-Kits, but needs additional information before submission. The \$45,000.00 funds set aside for the Hampshire Hills/Lincoln project could be moved elsewhere. The subcommittee has until July 2019 to decide.

**Requests** - None

### **Old Business**

*Helicopter Communication:* - Peter Cowles will make a social call to discuss the radio frequency communications the helicopter companies are using. It was suggested to invite a representative to our meeting to discuss.

*SIEC Representative:-*

WRHSAC does not have a representative from the subcommittee, to represent the Council on the SIEC Committee. Bob Hassett is the EMDs representative on the SIEC Executive Committee, and agreed to also represent the Council.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Dennis Nazzaro moved to approve Bob Hassett as the SIEC Representative, with Jason Breault as the alternate. Walter Tibbets seconded. Motion passed by a majority. One abstention.</p>
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Raine will notify Nick DaDalt in writing of the decision.

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**New Business** – Melissa Nazzaro reported that Jeremy DeMar, Director of Dispatch, Springfield, is willing to be considered as the Communication Representative on the Council. Bob Hassett will contact Jeremy before the next meeting, to discuss becoming involved. Tom Grady asked EOPSS to look at expanding the requirements needed to full this position, to make it available to a broader experienced group who may be interested. Raine will provide the request in writing to EOPSS to follow up.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair** – None

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2018, 12:30 pm at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

There being no further business Peter Cowles moved to adjourn. Matt Barstow seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- Minutes from December 19, 2017 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet- 1/12/2018
- CMED-Hovey Hill Tower notes

Respectfully Submitted by  
Ann Dunne,  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments