

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2018 12:30pm
Hatfield Fire Department
3 School Street, Hatfield, MA 01330

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Bob Hassett (Spfld. CMED), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Walter Tibbets ((FCECS), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Paul Madera (Ludlow PD), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Tom Grady ((BCSO), 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 March 20, 2018 meeting.

<p>Motion: Robert Garriepy moved to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2018 meeting as presented. Tom Grady seconded. Motion passed by a majority. One abstention.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update – None

SWIC Update - Melissa Nazzaro reported on the Technical Assistance (TA) for Mass Communications Unit, and shared the following email with her update.

“The Technical Assistance (TA) is called COMU Planning and Policy Development Workshop. The goal is to use subject matter experts from DHS OEC, collaborating with stakeholders from the Commonwealth, to help formalize the MA COMU Team and develop policy in areas where we currently have gaps. The stakeholders will include representatives from the following:

- EOPSS
 - Current SWIC and previous SWIC for continuity
- MEMA Communications
- MSP Communications
- DFS Special Ops
- State 911 Department
- Four Homeland Security Regions and the UASI
 - 1 communications technical representative, 1 management/policy level representative

The initial commitment of these representatives is a single conference call, and 1-2 in-person meetings. At the in-person meetings there is the opportunity to include additional technical contributors. The goal is to end up with a business model/plan and corresponding policies & procedures for the formal establishment of a MA COMU team within the framework of Massachusetts governance.”

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Melissa is looking to identify two people through WMRIC to participate in this TA.

After a brief discussion, Tom agreed to be the policy advisor to the committee, and Bob Hassett, will ask Steve Kozloski to identify a representative from the COML Team, to provide a technical representative.

Motion to confirm Tom Grady's appointment as a policy advisor:

<p>Motion: Robert Garriepy moved to nominate Tom Grady as the policy representative to the COMU Planning and Policy Development Workshop. Paul Madera seconded. Motion passed by a majority. One abstention.</p>

Melissa will also be working on a TA plan to update MIFOG and the Tactical Channel Plan.

The next SIEC meeting will be on May 08, 2018.

Project Updates

WMLEC Gap Solution – Raine reviewed the progress of the WMLEC Gap Solutions projects. The Berkshire County project is under contract, the Franklin County project is near completion, and Steve Kozloski provided the specs for the Hampden County project. If the project extends beyond the July 1, 2018 deadline, the proposed extension by MAPC for the FFY16 funds will cover it.

CMED Hovey Hill – Bob Hassett noted the cooperation of National Grid in making the tower accessible to install the guidelines. This will improve communications. Bob will provide some photos for Raine this week.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported on the next phase of the build out, and is waiting on better weather conditions for the equipment addition on Florida Mtn. and other area sites. Tom is applying for the next round of the State 911 Development Grant, to seek funding to improve the microwave system.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbets reported on the continued issues with some of the microwave links, which is possibly due to an aging system. Franklin County continues to work with EOPSS on migrating over to the State 800 MHz system and is looking at purchasing Kenwood radios instead of the Motorola radios.

Hampshire County – None.

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WMLEC –Robert Garriepy reported that Steve Kozloski met with the WM Fire Chiefs, to discuss the lack of funding of the system and asked for their financial support.

CMED: Bob Hassett reported he is going out to bid, to replace the microwave link between Mt. Tom and Springfield.

MSP – None

Other - No updates.

Budget Review

Raine reviewed the FFY16 budget and continues to work on the WMLEC Gap Solutions project.

The FFY 17 projects are underway:

- ❖ CMED, Hovey Hill project
- ❖ Portable and Go Kits for the COMU's - no updates.

Raine recommended holding the FFY17 unallocated funds of \$45,000.00 until after the CMED project is complete.

Old Business

Helicopter Communication: - No updates

New Business – None

Business Unforeseen by the Chair – None

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2018, 12:30 pm at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

Robert Garriepy suggested supporting projects that are microwave based only.

There being no further business, Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Paul Madera seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from March 20, 2018 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget – 4/12/2018

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- WRHSAC FFY17 State Homeland Security Budget – 4/12/2018

Respectfully Submitted by
Ann Dunne,
Franklin Regional Council of Governments