

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2018 12:30pm
Hatfield Fire Department
3 School Street, Hatfield, MA 01330

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (Spfld. CMED), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Walter Tibbets ((FCECS), Robert Garriepy ((Huntington PD), Tom Grady (BCSO), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Jeremy DeMar (Spfld. Comm), Bernie Forgea (CFD/CPD), Nancy Morrissey (Spfld. CMED), Matt Barstow (MSP), Butch Garriety (Shelburne Dispatch), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting is audio recorded.

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

A round of introductions followed.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 17, 2018 meeting.

<p>Motion: Peter Cowles moved to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2018 meeting as presented. Tom Grady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update –The SIEC discussed providing the MIFOG update in a MIFOG app format.

SWIC Update – No updates.

Project Updates

WMLEC Gap Solutions – Raine reviewed the progress of the WMLEC Gap Solutions projects.

CMED Hovey Hill – This project will increase the communication signal to the Eastern Hampden and Hampshire area. Raine asked for the photos for the EHP. Bob indicated he will send them soon.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported on the project upgrade to the GTR radio equipment. Tom applied for the next round of the State 911 Development Grant to complete the last stage of this project.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbets reported on the continued issues with some of the microwave links, and the challenges and costs to repair the equipment.

Hampshire County – No updates.

WMLEC – No updates.

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CMED: Nancy Morrissey reported the Hovey Hill paperwork is completed.

MSP – Matt Barstow noted the Mass Pike coverage is now divided between other Troop Divisions, as the Mass Pike Troop Division was dissolved. The Motorola upgrade is scheduled for October, and will affect connectivity and there may be some outages. Matt gave an update on the PSAT wireless direct program.

Tom Grady noted the State 911 Development Grant deadline is today, and the application requires submission of the plan in place to be able to accept wireless direct calls.

Other - No updates.

Budget Review – Raine is confident the extension of FFY16 projects to December 31, 2018 will be approved.

Old Business

Helicopter Communication: - Deb Clapp (WMEMS) has invited the air ambulance group to the next meeting.

New Business – Lindsay Stromgren reported an issue with a bidirectional amplifier on the UMASS campus, causing signal interference in Ludlow.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair – Tom Grady noted Blair Sutherland of Massachusetts State Police is retiring. He thanked Blair for his years of service and his support of the Council and its projects.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2018, 12:30 pm at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

There being no further business, Walter Tibbets moved to adjourn. Tom Grady seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:01 pm

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from April 17, 2018 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget – 5/11/2018
- WRHSAC FFY17 State Homeland Security Budget – 5/10/2018

Respectfully Submitted by Ann Dunne,
Franklin Regional Council of Governments