

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Interoperability / Information Sharing Sub Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2013 12:30 pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Sue Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Ann Shea (MMC), Tom Grady (BCSO), John Taylor (SFD/DFS), Robert Garriepy (HPD), Dennis Nazzaro (DFS/NFD), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Butch Garrity (Shel. Control), Terry Dun (FCECS), Lindsay Stromgen (AFD/Hamp. Chiefs), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Gary Cromack (SAIC); Linda Moriarty (WMEMS), John Kenney (HCSP)

The meeting was brought to order by Tom Grady at 12:40 pm. Tom announced that Chief Sienkiewicz is on vacation. A round of introductions followed.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 18, 2012 meeting.

<p>Motion: Dennis Nazzaro moved to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2012 meeting as submitted. Terry Dun seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

Project Updates

Hampshire Hills Interops

Sue stated that the project was officially completed at the end of December. However, two of the sites, Cummington and Plainfield, do not have the licenses needed. Motorola is not being responsive. Sue will continue to reach out to resolve the situation.

Berkshire Simulcast

Tom stated that the project is moving along. The Butternut site should be completed in April.

FCECS Route 202

Terry stated that the Orange portion is in serious jeopardy due to the required FAA study. Sue stated that there has not been a determination on the FFY09 extension yet. The FAA did determine that the tower is allowable with a light. Terry did not have a cost estimate for the lighted tower yet. Sue stated that we are still cautiously optimistic about the FFY09 extension being approved.

WMLEC Expansion

Gary handed out a map of the WMLEC 10-site analog/P25 Simulcast IP over microwave Network Plan. He stated that the vendor was able to install the racks in six of the ten sites. The project is moving forward.

We are currently waiting for the construction permit from DCR to conduct the guy wire work on the Savoy tower. It is possible that a severe winter storm could take the tower down if the improvements are not done soon. Sue stated that she would contact Russ to follow up with DCR on the permit. Discussion followed concerning keeping the project moving forward and the finalizing the category of the Savoy Tower to determine the other needed upgrades to satisfy DCR to allow the microwave installation.

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IMC Node Linking

Sue stated that she is working with Phil Tarpey. It has been settled that the project involves three sites. Tri Tech informed us that the software will not be made available until August. The funding for this project ends in June. Tri Tech can finalize the project and prepare it to connect to the new software in May. Melissa suggested testing the system in May. This would require two communities to upgrade to the 6.1 software. Discussion followed.

WMRIC

Sue stated that this agenda item is a place holder.

Reprogramming Grant

Sue stated that she got word this morning that the signed contract has been received. We need to go out to bid for vendors to conduct the reprogramming. John Taylor passed out and reviewed the channel guide handout.

Motion: John Taylor moved to approve the channel guide as presented with the discussed changes. Butch Garrity seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

John will update the channel guide and send a complete version to Sue to prepare the bid.

Interoperability Consultant

Gary Cromack stated that most of the updates had been covered earlier in the meeting. Gary passed out a map of the existing CMED towers. Gary stated that there is very little power coming from the Hovey site. Linda Moriarty stated that Springfield is going to take the lead on the CMED Coverage project. Linda passed out a handout. She asked the Subcommittee to review the proposal and give advice on how to pare the project down to a realistic budget level. Terry stated that we need a clear picture of the current system and the coverage in all four counties. Then a prioritization will need to be done of the existing gaps. Discussion followed.

Requests

John asked for an estimate to have Gary prepare a map of the repeaters in each of the Counties.

Motion: John Taylor moved to have SAIC prepare an estimate to create a map of the repeaters in each of the four Counties. Butch Garrity seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Berkshire 385 Update

Lucy thanked the Subcommittee for allowing the Berkshire 385 update project to be presented again. Two-thirds of Berkshire County has only one channel to use to speak to hospitals. They

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are looking at building redundancy. The VHF to VHF link will be the most reliable for the least expensive cost. Discussion followed concerning the cost of the project. It was proposed to decrease the requested amount to \$45,000 from the previously approved \$51,000. Sue stated that the funds for this project end on June 30th.

Motion: Melissa Nazzaro moved to approve \$45,000 FFY10 System Hardening funds for the Berkshire 385 Update project. Terry Dun seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

FFY2011 WMSIN Module

John Kenney stated that the FY2011 WMSIN Module is a continuation of the WMSIN project. It is proposed to add a module that will allow the DA's office to share information concerning convicted inmates including police reports and witness statements. The end result will be a two way sharing project. A total of \$25,000 has been set aside for this project. However, the DA's office has not been responsive to the project. John stated that the user group will meet to discuss how to proceed. Discussion followed.

Presentation of response to Hurricane Sandy

The presentation was tabled due to timing.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Bob asked if security related to schools is an allowable type of expense for HS funds. Sue stated that there are limitations to related security projects. Sue asked Bob to contact her directly to discuss the possible future project further. Tom cautioned that it is difficult for the Council to approve new projects with diminishing funds.

Lindsay stated that as an ambulance service provider he feels a disconnect from CMED of information about items like the PL code changes scheduled to happen on February 1st. Had he not attended the meeting he would not have known about the upcoming change. John Taylor noted that if the change could be a rolling roll out, the old PL codes could remain active for a while to ease the transition. Linda Moriarty indicated she would speak to people at CMED about this idea.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

Suzanne MacBain thanked the Subcommittee for agreeing to participate in the WGBY grant. The application was submitted.

Butch asked if there are left over funds that need to be spent. Sue stated that there is \$19,000 in FFY08. If the FFY09 funds are not granted an extension then the Subcommittee will need to decide how to proceed with the FCECS Route 202 project.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19 at 12:30 at the Northampton Police Department.

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There being no further business Butch Garrity motioned to adjourn. John Taylor seconded.
Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Gretchen Johnson
Homeland Security Program Assistant
Franklin Regional Council of Governments