

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Interoperability / Information Sharing Sub Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2012 12:30 pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), 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), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Gary Cromack (SAIC)

The meeting was brought to order by Chair Russ Sienkiewicz at 12:38 pm. A round of introductions followed.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 16, 2012 meeting.

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| <p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2012 meeting as submitted. Melissa Nazzaro seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p> |
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Project Updates

Hampshire Hills Interops

Russ stated that the \$1,500 in fees related to the use of the Crown Castle Tower in Cummington was approved at the Council meeting. Sue stated that the project is moving along but there is a concern that not all the equipment will be delivered before the funding deadline if the FFY09 extension is not granted. Russ stated that we should push Motorola to deliver on time because John Fabiano informed the Council that some of the extensions from other states have been denied.

Berkshire Simulcast

Tom stated that there was an issue with DCR and the land owner but it has been cleared up. Gary stated that there are some issues that have arisen regarding the MOU. The DCR legal staff has been reduced to one staff person, which has affected their ability to process items in a timely manner. Discussion followed.

FCECS Route 202

Sue stated that the FAA has required an additional study. The study will take 120 days and will put us beyond our current funding deadline. EOPSS is waiting to hear on the extension request. Terry Dun has been deployed to assist with the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in New York.

WMLEC Expansion

Russ tabled this discussion until after the other updates.

EHPs

Sue stated that all of the EHPs have been completed.

WMSIN Medical Module

Sue stated that the project has been completed and is up and running.

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IMC Node Linking

Sue stated that the project has started in Springfield and Pittsfield.

WMRIC

Russ stated that this agenda item is a place holder until the 2012 funding has been approved.

WMLEC Expansion

Russ stated the Northeast Utilities did not agree with the analysis of the Borden Tower. The IFB for the guy wire work was released and is due back today at 3pm. Northeast Utilities feels that the tower is not a category 1 tower. A handout was passed around depicting in red where the tower at category 2 and 3 would need additional work beyond the work proposed in the IFB. Northeast Utilities is a tenant of the DCR tower. Russ asked Gary if the proposed work could be conducted and then another IFB be issued for the additional work to keep the project moving. Russ would like to negotiate with Northeast Utilities to split the cost of the additional work. Gary stated that he will research if the guy wires would need to be an additional thickness for a higher category tower. Discussion followed.

Gary stated that he will update the project Gant Chart to reflect changes. Gary will follow up on the MOU with the Mass State Police. Captain Sprague is retiring at the end of November. Russ asked Gary to include Steve Staffier on all the correspondence with the Mass State Police.

Interoperability Consultant

Gary Cromack stated that the updates had been covered earlier in the meeting.

Requests

No requests were presented.

Old Business

Reprogramming Grant

Sue stated that every Council's application for the Radio Reprogramming grant was approved. If the FFY09 funding is granted an extension then all applicants will get the full funding requested. EOPSS is waiting to award the grant until word is received about the FFY09 extension. Discussion followed.

Berkshire 385 Update

Sue stated that the project was not presented at the November meeting as expected. Sue will follow up with Lucy Britton and Steve Staffier to determine the status. Russ suggested that if the project is not going to move forward then the funding could be used for the additional costs related to the Borden tower.

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FRCOG Franklin Data Sharing Request

Sue stated that she has not heard anything further on this project. Russ asked that this project be removed from next month's agenda.

New Business

Dennis stated that CommLs met and formed a group called the COMMU to represent all of them. MEMA interops Team 1 was deployed to New York. Communication radios in the affected region were not well organized. People were impressed with the Massachusetts procedures. This is an excellent interoperability experience. Discussion followed.

John stated that Mark Cady has a PowerPoint presentation on the situation/response in New York. It is worth seeing. Russ asked that the PowerPoint be presented at the December meeting. John asked how people are notified if a tower is unavailable during an event in the WMLEC system. Dennis stated that an email list is being set up. Notices will be sent. If the event is classified it will state that the repeaters are not available from this time to this time.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

No unforeseen business was presented.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for December 18th, 2012 at 12:30 at the WMEMS.

There being no further business Tom Grady motioned to adjourn. John Taylor seconded. Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:38 pm.

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