

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Interoperability / Information Sharing Sub Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2013 12:30 pm
Northampton Police Department, 29 Center Street, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Sue Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Robert Garriepy (HPD), Dennis Nazzaro (DFS/NFD), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), Bernard Forgea (CFD), Manny Litos (Motorola), John Marley (DPD), Ann Shea (MMC), Gary Cromack (SAIC), Jason Breault (PPD).

The meeting was brought to order by Russ Sienkiewicz, Chair, at 12:33 pm. A round of introductions followed.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 27, 2013 meeting.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2013 meeting as submitted. Dennis Nazzaro seconded. A correction was made to clarify that the motion to table the Hampshire Hills Police Communications project was supported but there was insufficient funds to fund the project. The amendment was accepted as a friendly amendment. Motion passed.

Project Updates

Berkshire Simulcast

Tom stated that the project is moving along.

FCECS Route 202

Russ stated that the project had hit unanticipated bedrock. Additional funds were needed immediately to continue the project. FCECS covered the additional expense. The radio PO has been issued. The tower steel will be delivered this week.

WMLEC Expansion

Russ stated that the guy wire replacements have been completed. Russ and Gary are working on the lease agreements and reviewing the contracts. Russ is working with DCR to keep the project moving forward. Discussion followed.

IMC Node Linking

Sue stated that the project is fairly completed. The project is on hold until June when the software to test the system will be available.

WMRIC

Sue stated that the PJ has been approved. Sue is developing the scope of work.

Reprogramming Grant

Sue stated that Comtronics and Pittsfield Communications are working on Franklin and Berkshire County radios. There are ongoing discussions with the vendors to assist Hampshire and Hampden Counties.

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Berkshire 385

Sue stated that work on the EHPs has begun.

Gaps and Analysis

Sue stated that the PJ has been approved. Sue is working on the scope of work for the RFP.

Interoperability Consultant

Gary stated that he met with Russ last week to discuss the critical link to Borden. DCR's permission is needed to change the microwave on the Borden tower. An MOU with DCR is also needed for the WMLEC project.

Gary stated that Captain Sprague has retired and that Blair Sutherland is now the contact for the MSP sites. Russ stated that he spoke with Blair last month and the project should be able to proceed smoothly.

Gary stated that payments to the landlord for the Peru site will begin on May 1st. The Peru site is the hub of the WMLEC system.

Russ stated that the Council approved the \$10,000 for the engineering study for the Borden tower. Gary stated that Northeast Utilities has 50% of the load on the Borden tower, FRCOG 35%, and Berkshire 15%. He stated that it would be good to negotiate expenses.

Requests

Dalton Police Department Radio Request

John Marley stated that the Dalton Police Department would like to request funding to purchase portable radios for the Central Berkshire Regional School District. Dennis stated that the radios need to be public safety grade to have all the required channels to be approved. This would increase the cost of the radios significantly. Discussion followed. Tom and Jason offered to speak to John after the meeting and take care of this project as a Berkshire County issue. Russ thanked Jason and Tom.

Old Business

FFY2011 CMED

The CMED PJ was tabled by the SIEC. It will be edited and resubmitted.

FFY2012 WMRIC PJ & SOW

Sue stated that she is working on the scope of work. She checked with EOPSS and it is allowed to contract directly with the Collins Center at UMASS. She will contact them and clarify that they have the expertise to do the project. If not, then the project will go out to bid.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

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Business Unforeseen by the Chair

No unforeseen business was discussed.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for May 21st at 12:30 at the WMEMS.

There being no further business Tom Grady motioned to adjourn. Dennis Nazzaro seconded.
Voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 pm.

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