

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Interoperability / Information Sharing Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
October 21, 2014 12:30 pm  
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

**In attendance:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Melissa Nazzaro (Springfield Comm), Bernie Forgea (CFD/CPD), Manny Litos (Motorola), Wendy Snow (MSP), Terry Dun (FCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD), Bob Garriepy (HPD), Lindsay Stromgen (AFD/HCFCA), Gary Cromack (SAIC), John Taylor (SFD/DFS), Bob Barry (MEMA), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Czerwinski (PFD/EM), Robert Alberti (EPD), Edward Murray (EPD).

The meeting was brought to order by Russ Sienkiewicz at 12:37 pm. A round of introductions followed.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 16, 2014 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Melissa Nazzaro moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2014 meetings as submitted. Bernie Forgea seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

#### **Motorola Alarm Solutions Presentation**

Manny Litos gave a PowerPoint presentation on Motorola Alarm Solutions. The State Police currently uses Motorola Alarm Solutions to monitor their sites. Many of our region's systems are co-located with MSP. Manny stated that the system is customizable. It can show a high level map of locations or specific site information can be brought up. The system can be set up to monitor fuel levels, temperature, remote access for gates, lights, to re-set hardware, alert when a generator is initiated, etc. Dennis Nazzaro asked if the system had text or email capability to alert core users if there is an issue rather than requiring constant monitoring. Manny stated that he would look into that. Suzanne MacBain asked if different user levels can be formed. Manny replied yes. Manny stated that the system can integrate all alarms and interface with up to 50 non-Motorola devices.

Russ stated that he asked Manny to show the options available to monitor our systems as a first step. The next steps will be to discuss options and cost. Berkshire County uses this technology and also has co-located sites with MSP. The co-located sites are able to be monitored by both entities. Tom stated that any co-located site that has the system can submit an email to be notified of any warnings. Russ asked Manny for a list of the Interops sites with estimates.

#### **Project Updates**

##### *Hampshire Hills 800*

Manny stated that equipment has been delivered for Goshen, Westhampton and Chester. Installation work will begin soon.

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*WMLEC Borden Microwave*

Raine Brown stated that an RFQ was released but no responses were received. MAPC has contacted vendors directly and re-issued the RFQ. Gary Cromack stated that he would like to have a conference call to discuss the process of installing fiber at the MSP site.

*Hovey Hill*

Gary passed out plots showing coverage options for Hovey Hill. The MSP site with an Omni Antenna at 100 feet shows the best coverage. Gary asked for feedback from the towns involved to see if the new coverages will address their current limitations. MSP will need to approve an antenna at that height. Russ stated that potential interference should be checked prior to moving forward. Discussion followed.

*WMLEC to MSP Gateway*

Russ stated that a letter of concurrence was received from Troy and Rensselaer NY. The system will be up again soon.

*Westfield River Corridor*

Russ stated that this project is listed on the agenda as a place holder.

**Interoperability Consultant Report**

The Consultant report was covered during the project updates.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

Terry Dun stated that the Franklin County system is experiencing interference on Simulcast One from Connecticut. Gary was able to do a brief analysis and improve the situation. Gary is looking up the licenses.

Tom stated that the Berkshire system is working well.

Bernie Forgea stated that the Hampshire System is working well.

Melissa stated that the CMED system has begun phase III.

**Budget Review**

Raine stated that the CMED EHP cost less than expected. The Subcommittee will also need to decide on how to proceed with the Westfield River Valley project funds soon.

Gary stated that the WMLEC Borden Tower project may require additional funds for the fiber. Gary asked where the microwave for that project should be stored. Terry suggested that the microwave be used for the Shelburne to Borden connection. Russ tabled this discussion until next month.

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Dennis stated that the portable switch trailer can also be considered if there are available funds. Raine stated that there is confusion on how the trailer would be managed that needs to be clarified before the project moves forward.

**FFY2014 Projects**

*Interops Consultant*

Raine stated that the FFY14 contract has been signed and the funds are now available. The funds for the consultant will be held aside until the current year funds have been spent down.

*Hovey Hill Continuation*

Raine stated that \$75,000 has been allocated to continue work on this project.

*Hampshire Hills Phase III*

This project is allocated \$100,000. Raine will work with Bernie to keep this project moving forward.

*Rural Terrain Gaps & Solutions*

Raine stated that this project is listed on the agenda as a place holder.

**Requests**

No requests were presented.

**Old Business**

*SIEC Alternate*

Raine stated that John Taylor has stepped down as the SIEC Alternate. An email was sent out asking if anyone was interested. Dennis Nazzaro, Jason Breault and Bob Garriepy expressed interest. Dennis withdrew his name. Bob withdrew his name as well stating that Jason is more knowledgeable about the systems and would be a better fit.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Terry Dun moved to approve Jason Breault as the SIEC Alternate. Peter Cowles seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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*Field Comm Unit Use*

Bob Czerwinski stated that he is the owner of Field Comm Unit in Pittsfield. He stated that the Pittsfield Fire Department houses and maintains the vehicle. He is appreciative of the enhancements made by the investment of the WRHSAC but they were not requested. He has heard that the Berkshire Sheriff's Department would like to take ownership of the vehicle because it is not being sent out when requested. The Pittsfield Fire Department sends the vehicle when requested for legitimate reasons only. Overtime must be paid when that vehicle is sent out. Russ asked Bob to write up a letter describing when the Field Comm Unit can be provided and a list of drivers. Tom clarified that the Berkshire Sheriff's Department made an offer to house the Field Comm Unit to lessen the burden on the Fire Department of overtime and the requirement that a city employee drive the unit for insurance reasons. Raine stated that the Pittsfield Fire

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Department could explore billing for use of the Field Comm Unit at planned events. Discussion followed. John offered to organize a meeting with MEMA, CommLs and other interested parties to discuss these issues further.

**New Business**

Russ stated that the Supreme Court made a ruling that will allow mutual aid for law enforcement without needing to request formal approval. Russ reported that 34 towns have signed on to the WMass Law Enforcement Mutual aid agreement. However, most end users do not know how to utilize the radios correctly to talk to other departments. A few meetings have already occurred to discuss how to remedy this problem.

*COML Class Rhode Island Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>*

Russ stated that the COML class in Rhode Island has five spots available for Massachusetts attendees. Lindsay Stromgen is the only candidate that has interest in the class, the qualifications and the support of his Department to attend. Melissa clarified that anyone can request one of the five seats as long as they have the pre-requisites for the class and Steve Staffier ultimately decides. Raine stated that the Council voted to sponsor Lindsay Stromgen and if he is selected, to reimburse his travel expenses if approved by the Subcommittee. Discussion followed.

<p><b>Motion:</b> John Taylor moved to approve up to \$1,000 to reimburse for related travel costs of attending the three day COM L course in Rhode Island. Tom Grady seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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Lindsay thanked the Subcommittee for their support.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair**

Dennis stated that he has been assisting the Tech Rescue Team with communication training. Dennis asked who has the authority to give permission to use WMLEC Channel 2. Russ stated that the MOU states that it can be used for purposes like the Tech Rescue Team.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at WMEMS.

There being no further business Tom Grady motioned to adjourn. Bernie Forgea seconded. The motion was voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm.

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