

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Interoperability / Information Sharing Sub Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2014 12:30 pm  
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

**In attendance:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Manny Litos (Motorola), Terry Dun (NWMIMT), Jason Breault (BSCO), Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), Curtis Sampson (BPD), Robert Garriepy (HPD), John Taylor (SFD/OFS), Bernard Forgea (CFD/CPD), Bob Hassett (SFD CMED), Ann Shea (MMC), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Elham Sliman (Collins Center), Peter Rosamlia (SAIC), John Meaney (NAAS).

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 February 18, 2014 meeting.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2014 meetings as submitted. Terry Dun seconded. Motion passed.

A round of introductions followed.

### **Project Updates**

#### *WMRIC*

Elham stated that Kym was not able to attend the meeting today. The proposal for Phase II of the WMRIC project was included in the meeting packet. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** Terry Dun moved to approve the WMRIC Phase II proposal as presented. Melissa Nazzaro seconded. Motion passed.

#### *Berkshire 385*

John Meaney stated that he will be the project manager for the Northern Berkshire final portion of this project. He thanked the Subcommittee for their support. The equipment list has been reviewed and approved. Raine will seek quotes. The project should be able to move quickly.

#### *CMED*

Raine stated that she will need the specifications from SAIC as soon as possible. Suzanne stated that the channels will go through a peer review. Bob Hassett stated that CMED will pay for the licensing. Russ asked the Subcommittee to review the draft channel plan. Melissa stated that when the channel plan is finalized, it should be distributed to end users.

#### *Hampshire Hills 800*

Bernie stated that the installations are nearly completed. The radios are waiting to be programmed. Raine stated that the letter to Blair requesting his help in getting the ID numbers assigned to the radios so that they can be interoperable with the MSP system was sent. Dennis Nazzaro and Steve Kozloski have been working with John Ruggerio to get the radios integrated

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into the system. It has been difficult because John Ruggerio is the only person in the state authorized to distribute the ID numbers. Discussion followed.

*Field Communication Unit Cell Boosters*

Raine and Jason are coordinating to finalize the specifications and then Raine will seek quotes for the equipment. Terry stated that the Field Comm 40 and 50 are only missing the cell communicator to make them a Type 3 Field Comm.

*NWMIMT Field Comm Unit Equipment*

Terry stated that he is working with Raine to finalize the specifications to release it for quotes and issue the purchase orders.

**Requests**

*No requests were presented.*

**Old Business**

Cache Radio Batteries

Bob stated that the Impact batteries are not interoperable between VHF and the 800 system. The battery did have a long life but it will not work for many of our users. John suggested staying with the Motorola Impress batteries. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve the purchase of 168 Impress batteries and one six-bank charger. Melissa Nazzaro seconded. Motion passed.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved transfer the remaining funds from the project allocation to the Council. Bernie Forgea seconded. Motion passed.

Raine stated that SAIC will need to focus on the Borden tower EHPs next. The next project to focus on after that will be the Westfield River WMLEC project. Discussion followed.

**New Business**

Melissa suggested purchasing a Conventional Channel Gateway for the WMLEC system. This equipment will allow system level patching to the MSP 800 system. Russ asked SAIC to have Gary look into this suggestion.

Tom asked Jason to give an update on the Green County, New York radio interference issue. Jason stated that a project was presented to the Council requesting funds to reprogram radios that were causing interference with a system in Green County, New York. The request was tabled and Tom offered to talk to the group after the meeting. It was possible to reprogram the 200 radios with the trained CommLs and the Homeland Security purchased laptops and software. This resource saved the community over \$20,000. Tom stated that this is a great example of the real benefits of the training and equipment purchased due to the foresight of the Council.

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Russ Sienkiewicz stated that the City of Northampton is participating in a pilot project along with 5 other communities, Livermore Sandy National Labs and the National Grid. The purpose of the project is to set up small pockets of generator supported microgrids. This will allow an area to support businesses, such as a gas station, convenience stores, etc. during a long term blackout.

Peter Rosamli stated that WGBH was one of five public television stations in the nation to be selected for a pilot program to broadcast real time secure video and data. The project is underway. The system will need to be worked into current procedures. Discussion followed. Peter thanked the Council for their support for this project.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair**

No business unforeseen was discussed.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 pm.

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