

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2015, 12:30 pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Gary Cromack (SAIC), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Robert Garriepy (HPD), Steve Kozloski (MPD), John Paciorek (DPD), Terry Dun (FCECS), Bernard Forgea (CFD/CPD), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Peter Rosamilia (SAIC), Jason Breault (BCSO), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD), Lindsay Stromgen (AFD/HCFCA), Anthony Gentile (EMD).

The meeting was brought to order by Russ Sienkiewicz at 12:34 pm. A round of introductions followed.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 17, 2015 meeting.

<p>Motion: Jason Breault moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015 meeting as submitted. Steve Kozloski seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Project Updates

Hampshire Hills 800

Raine Brown stated that all of the installation of equipment is moving along.

WMLEC Borden Fiber

Russ tabled this discussion until the Consultant's update.

Hovey Hill

Russ tabled this discussion until the Consultant's update.

Great Hill to Borden Microwave Link

Russ tabled this discussion until the Consultant's update.

Interoperability Consultant Report

Gary Cromack stated that WMLEC Borden Fiber project has two pieces; the first is the fiber installation from the MSP shelter to the H frame. This part of the project will need to wait until the snow melts. MSP technicians have installed the fiber to T1 converters at Lenox Mountain and connectivity to from the WMLEC hub site at Peru. There is an issue regarding the power at Butternut. A multi-coupler had a mouse issue and needs to be replaced. Raine stated that the multi-coupler has been put out to bid.

Gary stated that he sent Raine the information to conduct the EHP for the Hovey Hill site. Raine stated that the bid came back at \$600. The Subcommittee had set aside \$3,000 for the EHP.

Gary stated that the Great Hill project has finished the frequency coordinating stage. The license should have been filed yesterday. The site is on schedule to be functional by this summer.

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Russ stated that the WMLEC monitoring system quote was about \$500,000 and has been removed from the agenda until WMLEC decides to scale the project down or to complete it in a phased approach.

Gary stated that he is working on putting all the WMLEC licenses into an excel file with a pdf of each license attached. WMLEC has decided to keep the unused licenses.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

WMLEC – Russ stated that Steve Kozloski is the new Chair of WMLEC. WMLEC has nominated John Paciorek as the new Police Council member. This nomination has been forwarded to Massachusetts Chiefs for recommendation to EOPSS. The next step is for the Council chair to appoint a new WMRIC Chair.

Berkshire County – No update was given.

Franklin County – Terry Dun stated that the paging issue in Franklin County is still prevalent. The timing issues are being worked out to help with the interference. FCECS is working with MSP and Motorola on the paging problems.

Hampshire County – Bernie Forgea stated that the Hampshire County System is working well.

CMED – No update was given.

MSP- No update was given.

FFY2014 Projects

Interops Consultant

The SAIC staff left the room for the discussion. Raine stated that the SOW for the next Consultant contract was included in the meeting packet. Raine reviewed the SOW.

<p>Motion: Peter Cowles moved to approve the FFY15 Consultant SOW as presented. Terry Dun seconded. Steve Kozloski suggested tabling the vote until discussion the FCECS system has been concluded. Peter Cowles accepted the suggestion. The vote was tabled.</p>

Terry Dun stated that when the FCECS system was completed that 95% of the system worked 95% of the time. It worked well for about five years. The service provider has changed a few times over the years. This system has been built up and become more complicated. Gary Cromack has been consulted to help alleviate some of the issues that have developed. Dennis Nazzaro stated that he would like to see propagation maps and engineering studies. Peter Cowles suggested conducting a site visit to each location to be sure that the proposed improvements will work and identify any additional repairs needed. Terry stated that Franklin County is experiencing system failures. FCECS has invested all they can at this point. John

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Paciorek stated that Deerfield is a large user of the system. His Department is experiencing major interference. John stated that it takes additional resources to use the work arounds. Jason Breault stated that the immediate concern is officer safety. He asked if using different radios would work. Russ stated that he would like to see independent study and propagation maps before funding is discussed further. Terry requested to table the discussion until next month.

Motion: Bernie Forgea moved to approve the FFY15 Consultant SOW as presented. Peter Cowles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The SAIC staff were invited back into the room.

Rural Terrain Gaps & Solutions

Steve Kozloski requested to withdraw this project and remove it from the agenda. Raine stated that this project was allocated \$33,000.

Motion: Steve Kozloski moved to reallocate \$33,000 from the Rural Terrain Gaps and Solutions project to FFY14 unallocated funds. Melissa Nazzaro seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Requests

BCSO Mobile Command Center Tower

Jason Breault stated that the BCSO has submitted a request to purchase a 25 foot pneumatic tower for the Berkshire Mobile Command Center. It will cost \$13,500 installed.

Motion: Melissa Nazzaro moved to approve \$13,500 to purchase a pneumatic tower for the Berkshire Mobile Command Center. Steve Kozloski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

WMLEC VHF-UHF Patch

Steve stated that he is compiling an estimate on the necessary equipment.

Orange control hardwiring

Terry requested that this project be removed from the agenda.

New Business

FFY15 Priority Project Development

Raine stated that EOPSS has requested more detail for the FFY15 investment plan which will be due in September. The Training and Exercise Subcommittee and the CBRNE Subcommittee have decided to keep the same project and investment areas as FFY14. The Planning Subcommittee has decided to continue existing projects with additional phases; create a debris

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management template, and purchase some storage containers. The FFY 15 plan will run on a 3 year grant cycle. The Council is expected to be level funded. Russ requested a list of the projects planned for and what has been spent to compare to the prioritized project list. Russ stated that he would like to see some investment in maintaining the systems that are now 10-12 years old.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Raine stated that the Anti-Terrorism Exercise in Franklin County will be held on April 28th. The Hampden exercise will be held on May 12 and the Hampshire exercise on May 14th. All Council and Subcommittee members are encouraged to attend.

Jason Breault stated that the Field Comm Units are no longer compatible with the upgraded MSP download link system. Dennis Nazzaro stated that it is a minimal cost to get on their secure IP network. Bob Garriepy stated that not all rural areas have high speed internet access. Terry stated that the Coast Guard helicopters have compatible equipment and their helicopters can stay in the air longer than MSP helicopters. Peter Rosamilia stated that the MSP downlink can be sent through secure backhaul to WGBH television channels.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for May 19th at 12:30 at WMEMS.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 pm.

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