

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Interoperability / Information Sharing Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2014 12:30 pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Manny Litos (Motorola), Terry Dun (NWMIMT), Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), John Taylor (SFD/OFS), Ann Shea (MMC), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Gary Cromack (SAIC), Robert Garriepy (HPD), Chris Kuczarsin (SFD/CMED), Peter Rosamilia (SAIC), Butch Garrity (MSP), Zachary Smith (SC EMS).

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 15, 2014 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2014 meetings as submitted. Butch Garrity seconded. Motion passed.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Project Updates

WMRIC

Russ tabled this discussion until Kim Craven connected on the conference call.

Berkshire 385

Tom stated that the project is moving along. The coverage is better than anticipated. The system was used during the closure of the North Adams hospital. The hospital equipment is being housed at the North Adams ambulance for the interim.

CMED

Gary stated that the equipment has been ordered.

Hampshire Hills 800

Raine stated that the project is all set. The programming has been completed. Manny has sent the code plugs and they are ready to be forwarded to the CommLs. The Council has the software and cables. Tom asked Raine to contact Dennis Nazzaro.

Field Communication Unit Cell Boosters

Raine stated that SIEC did not meet last month. Tom stated that Jason has had experience with a transmitter on a vehicle that works well. Raine stated that SIEC will meet the first week in June. The project should be able to be completed by the end of July.

NWMIMT Field Comm Unit Equipment

Terry stated that the equipment has been arriving.

WMLEC Borden Microwave

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Gary stated that there was a productive meeting with David Sprague, Blair Sutherland, Lou Demis and others. MSP has some concerns about allowing the microwave on DCR owned Borden Tower due to limited space in the shelter and the fire tower potentially being overloaded. Lou Demis has concerns that the tower was rated as a category 1. Gary stated that the engineer was confident on the category rating. MSP accidentally buried the conduits when the concrete slab was poured. Gary asked for guidance. Discussion followed. Russ asked Gary to find out if the system can work as is and if not then investigate using the MSP microwave path for redundancy.

Motion: John Taylor moved to authorize the Chair to approve the expense of a Topographical Category 3 study if deemed necessary after further investigation prior to the next meeting in order to keep the project timeline on track. Terry Dun seconded. Motion passed.

Hovey Hill

Gary stated that he has a list of top alternative sites after speaking to Chief Kozloski. Gary stated that it is most likely that he will recommend adding an 11th WMLEC site rather than removing the Hovey Hill site. Gary will prepare coverage maps for discussion next month.

WMLEC to MSP

Raine stated that she made the changes to the PJ that Dennis suggested. She will send it to SIEC for their review.

Westfield River Corridor

Gary stated that he plans to travel on his own to Rensselaer and then take another trip in coordination with the departments in Troy and Rensselaer to test the radio interference.

WMRIC

Raine stated that Kim was not able to call in but that she sent an email. Kim has reviewed 8-10 bylaws and has begun to draft a WMRIC Bylaw and draft a public outreach plan.

Interoperability Consultant Report

Gary stated that the report was covered in previous discussions throughout the meeting.

Requests

Raine stated that she received a late request from Bernie Forgea but he was not able to attend the meeting. A letter outlining the request was included in the meeting packet. It is a request to return the RIOS system because it is not upgradeable to a new system for approximately \$7,000. The discussion was tabled until a representative for the project can attend the meeting.

New Business

FFY2014 Planning

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Raine stated that the Subcommittees have been asked to come to the June Council meeting with their funding priorities. Discussion followed. The proposed projects in prioritized order were:

- Interops Consultant for \$100,000
- Hampshire Hills 800 Phase II for \$75,000
- Hovey Hill for \$75,000
- Northwest Franklin County \$50,000
- Hampshire Hills 800 Phase III for \$60,000

Raine asked representatives to take the battery caches:

- The Field Comm Unit 40 received a cache of 6 batteries and one bank charger
- The Northampton PD WMLEC cache received 12 batteries
- The Ware and Palmer WMFCA caches received 8 batteries each
- The Williamsburg/Granby and Russell caches received 8 batteries each
- The Springfield cache received 6 batteries
- The Easthampton ISU –WMFCA cache received 6 batteries
- The Berkshire Tech Rescue Team cache received 18 batteries
- The Pittsfield Police Dept. cache received 40 batteries
- The Pittsfield Sheriff's Office cache received 48 batteries

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

No business unforeseen was discussed.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17th at 12:30 at WMEMS.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm.

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