

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Interoperability / Information Sharing Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2014 12:30 pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Gretchen Johnson (FRCOG), Tom Grady (BCSO), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Terry Dun (NWMIMT), Russ Sienkiewicz (NPD), John Taylor (SFD/OFS), Gary Cromack (SAIC), Robert Garriepy (HPD), Peter Rosamilia (SAIC), Butch Garrity (MSP), Tony Pettaway (SHHSP), Bob Hassett (SFD), Steve Kozloski (MPD), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD), Jason Breault (BCSO), Bernie Forgea (CFD/CPD).

The meeting was brought to order by Russ Sienkiewicz at 12:32 pm. A round of introductions followed.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 20, 2014 meeting.

Motion: Butch Garrity moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2014 meetings as submitted. John Taylor seconded. Motion passed.

A round of introductions followed.

Project Updates

WMRIC

Russ stated that there was a conference call earlier this month to review the drafted bylaws. The draft provided was too broad and did not take into account the current structure of WMRIC as the Interops subcommittee. The decision was to design bylaws to mimic the bylaws of this Subcommittee. This will allow this Subcommittee to formalize and continue if the Homeland Security Council is ever dissolved. Raine stated that the draft was supposed to be sent to her yesterday. Raine will follow up with the consultant.

Berkshire 385

Raine stated that this project has been completed.

CMED

Raine stated that the EHP for Roosevelt Tower has been submitted to EOPSS.

Hampshire Hills 800

Russ stated that all of the Subcommittees made concessions to their priority lists in order to balance the FFY14 budget. It was decided to allocate \$13,000 from FFY11 to this project. Raine stated that in the end this project has \$113,000 allocated to it. \$13,000 of that must be spent by July 31, 2014. Raine will coordinate with Bernie. Victoria stated that EOPSS will assist with expediting the approvals.

NWMIMT Field Comm Unit Equipment

Terry stated that the equipment is being installed and will be completed before the end of July.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Interoperability / Information Sharing Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2014 12:30 pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

WMLEC Borden Microwave

Russ tabled this discussion for the Consultant update.

Hovey Hill

Russ stated that this project will be updated in the Consultant report.

WMLEC to MSP

Raine stated that project has been approved. Raine is working with Gary on the specifications for the procurement.

Westfield River Corridor

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

Field Communication Unit Cell Boosters

Raine stated that the project was approved and will go out to bid soon. Jason stated that Steve Staffier is very interested in the project.

Interoperability Consultant Report

Gary stated that the CMED equipment has been ordered. The license application has been filed for the frequency coordination from the Holyoke Hospital to the tower. The license application for the med 9 channel to the four hospitals is underway. Bob stated that he will need a quote in advance. Gary stated that there have been issues with DCR and the installation with the microwave at the Borden Tower. Gary inquired about using the MSP fire tower but the response was not favorable due to structural concerns. A conference call was held on the 28th to discuss the current status of the tower and future plans. Gary stated that installing fiber seems to be the best option. He is researching the cost and will send an estimate prior to the July meeting. Discussion followed. The Hovey Hill project has been held off until the New York interference analysis was completed. Gary stated that he traveled to Rensselaer and to Troy New York and no WMLEC signal was detected at all. Gary will write up a report of his findings. The next step will be to hold a meeting with the Fire Chief in Rensselaer. Gary noted that NECS is going out of business. All of the WMLEC equipment being held by NECS has been returned. Discussion followed. Jason stated that Verizon is not going to continue to support copper analog circuits.

Victoria introduced David Cruz. David is the new Western Region Homeland Security Council EOPSS representative. Victoria encouraged the Subcommittee members to reach out to David to show him projects in this region if site visits are occurring. Russ welcomed David.

Requests

Radio Interoperability Switch

Bernie stated that the request is to trade in the RIOS system because it is not upgradeable to a new system for approximately \$7,000. The new system would normally cost \$24,000.

Discussion followed. It was decided that the asset was owned by the town of Cummington and must be maintained by the town.

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Interoperability / Information Sharing Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2014 12:30 pm
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

Comm Trailer Proposal

Dennis stated that a communication trailer would fill an identified gap. The cost is approximately \$35,000. The Town of Huntington has offered to house and maintain the trailer. It could be used during the Westfield River Race, a brush fire and many other situations. Peter stated that Westfield has a similar piece of equipment that could be loaned out for mutual aid but it does not accommodate the 800 channels. Raine stated that the trailer proposal will require a detailed sustainable plan for deployment since a CommL or CommT must accompany the trailer as well as detailing the responsible entity for refueling the generator, etc. Terry stated that the Field Comm Units can also fulfill this type of function. Discussion followed concerning Field Comm Unit 50 not being a readily available asset. Russ asked Raine to compile the information on how much the Council has invested in equipment for the Field Comm Units and to draft a letter.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to support the Comm Trailer proposal contingent on the development of procedural governance. Butch Garrity seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business

FFY2014 Planning

This was discussed previously in the meeting.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Russ stated that he received an email about an unidentified distress signal. Discussion followed.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for July 15th at 12:30 at WMEMS.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm.

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