

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2017 12:30pm  
WMEMS, 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, Ma.

**In attendance:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Bob Hassett (Spfld CMED), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Bernard Forgea (CFD/CPD), Butch Garriety (MSP), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Paul Madera (Ludlow PD), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC), Stephen Gaughan (EMS), Nancy Morrissey (Spfld CMED), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Matt Barstow (MSP), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire, HCFCA ), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting is audio recorded.

Melissa Nazzaro called the meeting to order at 12:35pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 18, 2017 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Matt Barstow moved to approve the minutes of April 18, 2017 meeting as presented. Butch Garriety seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair**

SIEC Update – Melissa Nazzaro reported that AXIA Networks, the operator of MBI has filed for bankruptcy. The Commonwealth is looking for a new network operator.

Applications are under review to fill the SWIC position as soon as possible.

The Statewide radio plan is almost completed.

The recently established interference SIEC subcommittee is working on determining best practices and the extent of their authority in dealing with interference issues.

The P25 Compliance Assessment Program is a partnership of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Office for Interoperability and Compatibility, industry, and the emergency response community. The initial program focus is on the Common Air Interface, which allows for over-the-air compatibility between radios and tower equipment. The Project 25 (**P25**) develops standards for interoperable land mobile radio (LMR) systems so emergency responders can exchange critical communications across agencies and jurisdictions.

Melissa reported The P25 Compliance Assessment Program develops standards for interoperable radios systems , and a recent bulletin announced a change in P25 radio encryption compliance. AES meets the P25 compliance standard, and as Motorola radios come with ADP installed, this requires users to add AES at a cost of \$367.00 to meet this new standard. If Motorola adjusts their business plan, and removes ADP from their radios, this will eliminate the

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requirement to add AES at an additional cost. Radios are not required to have encryption, but must install AES if ADP is already installed.

The Hampshire Hills dvr 700mhz vehicle repeaters used to boost communications are unlicensed. The MSP are working with the FCC to seek a waiver, rather than re-assigning the dvr to a high output frequency.

Raine asked about going ahead with the current Hampshire Hills contract, as the PO will be issued to Motorola this week. Melissa will give Raine an update later today.

### **Project Updates**

*WMLEC Tactical Command Trailer* – The trailer will be on view at the Springfield LEPC on May 19, 2017.

*Hampshire Hills 800* – The contract is still under negotiation, and the PO should be issued this week to Motorola.

*FCECS GPS Clocks* – Walter Tibbetts reported the PO was released last week, and the project is underway.

*Hampshire Hills Control Station*- The equipment arrived and is being installed.

*WMLEC Gap Solutions* – The project was conditionally approved by the SIEC, based on the adjusting for the new radio encryption requirements. This project should be approved by EOPSS soon.

### **Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

*Berkshire County* – No Updates

*Franklin County* – Walter Tibbetts noted the panel antenna quote for Erving Tower has increased. Walter participated in a conference call to move forward on joining the Commonwealth Radio System, with planned field testing using APX6000 radios to determine coverage.

*Hampshire County* – Matt noted the installation of equipment at the Hampshire Hills Control Station will take place this week.

*WMLEC* – No updates

*CMED* – Nancy Morrissey reported that Bob Hassett is working with FC on the radio communications master plan and a draft will be available soon.

*MSP* – Matt Barstow reported that SOP 7&8 channels are currently in use by MassDOT and are not available..

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*Other-* No updates.

**Budget Review**

Raine reported the remaining FFY15 funds were returned to the Council, and the Council agreed to purchase:

- Two hydration test misters for Hampshire and Franklin County - \$11,000.00
- Replacement of the Hampshire County fit tester - \$15,000.00.
- The remaining funds will be used to purchase tech rescue equipment.

Melissa Nazzaro noted the return of \$11,566.00 to the Council, which was allocated to purchase portable radios.

WMLEC Gap Solutions project will utilize all the FFY16 funds of \$200,000.00.

**Requests-** None

**Old Business**

*Helicopter Communication – MIFOG – No updates*

*WMLEC Portable Radios – will be removed from the agenda.*

**New Business** – Dennis Nazzaro reported the Mass. State Police Air Wing will be testing the downlink system in western mass, and has invited all users to participate. There will be a large-scale exercise called Hard Knox scheduled for October 19-23, 2017. Many communication units will be involved.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair-** Raine noted she will be out of the office May 25 -June 4, 2017.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2017, 12:30 at WMEMS at 168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, MA.

There being no further business Bernie Forgea moved to adjourn. Matt Barstow seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10pm

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- Minutes from April 18, 2017 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY15 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet-5/12/2017
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet- 5/12/2017

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Respectfully Submitted by  
Ann Dunne , Franklin Regional Council of Governments