

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2017 12:30pm
Hatfield Fire Department
3 School Street, Hatfield, MA 01330

0In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm.), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire, HCFCA), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Bob Hassett (Spfld.CMED), Tom Grady (BCSO), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), John Mauro (CMRPC), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting is audio recorded.

Melissa Nazzaro called the meeting to order at 12:45pm.

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

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of July 18, 2017 meeting as presented. Bob Hassett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update – Melissa announced she has accepted the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) position effective October 02, 2017. As this is her last meeting as Chair, the subcommittee discussed filling her positions as Chair of WMRIC, the Communications Representative to the Council and the Vice Chair of WRHSAC. The communications representative must be from a dispatch center, while the WMRIC Chair can be any member of the Council. The Vice-Chair of WRHSAC can be from any discipline. Raine will send an email to the Council members, seeking interest in the Chair.

Project Updates

Hampshire Hills 800 – Raine noted that FFY15 is closed out, and this project is completed.

WMLEC Gap Solutions – The PO was issued for the communications pod, and will be delivered in October/November. Steve Kozloski is developing specifications for other portions of the project. The entire project will be completed in stages.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady noted that the State 911 Development Grant was used for the console upgrades, and they are working with Crocker Communications and MBI on the next stages.

Franklin County – No updates.

Hampshire County – No updates.

WMLEC –No updates

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CMED – Bob Hassett noted the Springfield Police will replace some microwave equipment for \$80,000.00 using Town funding. Bob reported on the recent communications issues at the Westfield Airshow, while using the Med 5 event channel. The WMELC Trailer will be equipped with a repeater, which will solve this issue in the future.

MSP – No updates.

Other - No updates.

Budget Review

Raine noted the \$200,000.00 FFY16 funds are being utilized for the WMLEC gap solutions project.

Requests- None

Old Business

Video Downlink Discussion:

Matt Barstow sent an email to Raine and Melissa on Sept. 12, as he was not available to attend the meeting regarding the helicopter downlink.

Melissa updated the subcommittee on his behalf:

“After speaking with Jon Ruggiero, Jon recommended for WMRIC to support the upgrade and maintenance of at least one portable downlink receiver (especially for Berkshire County). The Northampton site is now live and works well but really only for Hampshire and some of Franklin and Hampden Counties, coverage is questionable in the most populated areas of Hampden County and non-existent in Berkshire County. Therefore, the portable receivers will still have some tactical and operational purposes in the near term.”

There will be no funding available until the FY17 contract is in place. There is \$45,000.00 in funding set aside from the Hampshire Hills project. The subcommittee agreed to look at evaluating the Berkshire County downlink. The last quote for an upgrade of three units from 4GHz to 7GHz was \$41,000.00.

Helicopter Communication – MIFOG

Bob Garriepy noted that there was some communication confusion between dispatch and life star regarding the radio frequency to use. The subcommittee agreed to keep this on the agenda.

New Business- None

Business Unforeseen by the Chair - None

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Next Steps/Future Meetings

New Location: The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2017, 12:30 pm at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

After a brief discussion, Bob Hassett agreed to act as Interim Chair of WMRIC for up to one year.

There being no further business Melissa Nazzaro moved to adjourn. Anthony Gentile seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35pm

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from July 18,2017 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY15 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet-9/8/17
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet- 9/8/17
- Complete expenditure for Hampshire Hills 800 project
- Email from Matt Barstow.

Respectfully Submitted by
Ann Dunne,
Franklin Regional Council of Governments