

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2017 12:30pm
Hatfield Fire Department
3 School Street, Hatfield, MA 01330

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire, HCFA), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Bob Hassett (Spfld. CMED), Tom Grady (BCSO), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Matt Barstow (MSP), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Bernard Forgea (CFD/CPD), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting is audio recorded.

Bob Hassett called the meeting to order at 12:32pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 12, 2017 meeting.

<p>Motion: Dennis Nazzaro moved to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2017 meeting as presented. Tom Grady seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update – No updates.

Project Updates

WMLEC Gap Solutions –

Steve Kozloski noted the Portable IT Command Module is being built, and he expects delivery by late November. The Franklin County Field Comm oldest radios are in the process of being replaced. Steve is working on the specifications for the repeaters for the Berkshire County Command Post, and on the additional upgrades to the Rapid Comm Trailer.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported that the Lee PSAP dispatch center is now incorporated into the county system. Tom noted he received \$1,500,000 of the State Development Grant; the funding will be used for upgrades across the disciplines.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbets noted the installation of the Erving Panel antenna is now complete. Walter discussed the cost of maintenance of the current system, and outlined the feasibility of going with a new design system or move to the 800 MHz system.

Hampshire County – No updates.

WMLEC – Steve Kozloski noted the communications command trailer was used at several area events and festivals. WMLEC is concerned about the sustainability of their projects. While the dues cover the rental obligations, WMLEC will meet with stakeholders to discuss funding ideas

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to cover the equipment maintenance costs. Particularly since some communities are opting out of paying dues and fees.

CMED – Bob Hassett noted the delay in replacing the component on the Westfield microwave, was due to the procurement laws and the bid process for costs over \$10,000.00. CMED experienced an outage last Friday, however once the system was rebooted everything was fine. Once National Grid updates their cables on Hovey Hill, CMED will be able to replace their radios on the tower. Raine noted the FFY17 contract is being finalized by MAPC and EOPSS; the next step will be the project justification.

MSP – Matt Barstow noted that 215 PSAT centers have migrated over to the NextGen911 system. However, due to some issues processing 911 calls, all further site migrations this week were halted.

Other - No updates.

Budget Review

Raine noted the FFY16 WMLEC Gap Solutions projects are moving forward. Once the FFY17 contracts are approved by MAPC, the subcommittee can begin working on the projects. Raine has received the FFY18 investment planning guidance, and expects the projects will be level funded. The subcommittee should come with ideas for the FFY18 Investment Plan to the next meeting.

Requests- None

Old Business

Video Downlink Discussion:

Matt Barstow noted the goal of the department is to provide greater coverage to all of the state, with additional sites designated for Springfield, Peru, and Wachusett. While the downlink has some tactical and operational purposes, current funding is limited.

Helicopter Communication – No Updates

New Business - Review of WMRIC Members

Raine updated the subcommittee on the current members' status. Bob Hassett replaces Melissa Nazzaro as the subcommittee Chair. Bob noted that Nancy Morrissey wishes to resign her position due to time constraints. Raine asked for an email confirming her resignation, and with the details of a possible replacement member.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair –

Tom Grady is facing some challenges on getting the talk groups set up on the 800MHz system.

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Next Steps/Future Meetings

New Location: The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2017, 12:30 pm at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

There being no further business Dennis Nazzaro moved to adjourn. Tom Grady seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00pm

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from September 12, 2017 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget Spreadsheet- 10/13/2017
- WMRIC Organization Chart.

Respectfully Submitted by
Ann Dunne,
Franklin Regional Council of Governments