

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 20, 2018 12:30pm
Hatfield Fire Department
3 School Street, Hatfield, MA 01330

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Bob Hassett (Spfld. CMED), Nick DaDalt (EOPSS), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Tom Grady (BCSO), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), William Stubba (Air Ambulance), Bernie Forgea (CFD/CPD), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Butch Garriety (Shelburne Dispatch), Matt Barstow (MSP), Paul Madera (Ludlow PD), Bob Barry (MEMA), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting was audio recorded.

Bob Hassett called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

Raine confirmed and updated the spelling of William Stubba (Air Ambulance) name for the October 16, 2018 minutes.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 16, 2018 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2018 meeting as amended. Walter Tibbets seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update – The SIEC approved the COMU Go-Kits project.

SWIC Update – Melissa Nazzaro updated the Council on the upcoming FirstNet release of the ITT 72 contract to include the public safety broadband portion. The contract for the engineer should be in place by Jan 2019. The engineer will look at the specific sites for expansion and upgrades to the statewide radio systems in Massachusetts. The target deadline for the study is June 2019. The roll out to text 911 is in progress.

Project Updates

WMLEC Gap Solutions – Steve Kozloski is having problems with Motorola on the Hampden portion of the project. Raine will clarify with Steve what is outstanding on the project. Raine is still waiting on inventory numbers from stakeholders. Dennis Nazzaro offered to help inventory the serial numbers. Paul Madera noted communication challenges on WMLEC in the Ludlow/Springfield area.

CMED Hovey Hill – Raine reported the EHP was submitted to EOPSS for approval, once it is approved the equipment can be purchased. Raine asked for a new equipment purchase list to match the project changes to include the Cadwell tower.

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Holcomb Road Project – The EHP was submitted to EOPSS for approval. Once approved the project can move forward as an RFQ is not required for as this project under \$10,000.00, which is the new minimum threshold for RFQs.

COMU Go Kits –SIEC approved the project, and there will be a total of (4) kits assembled and assigned to a COMU resource in each of the four counties. Raine will confirm the list and will start the procurement process.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – The State 911 Development Grant award was less than expected. It is part of the multi-year project to incorporate the Adams PSAP. The next phase should finish this portion of the project. FCC tested 5 tower locations in Berkshire County. The plan is to add more repeaters to the law enforcement channel. Some communities experienced issues accessing the 911 system. The Verizon call center in Albany was receiving the calls. The service is now restored, but the problem was not identified.

Franklin County – Franklin County is seeking a Radio System Manager and are currently working with an Interim Radio System Manager. Walter noted the continued issues with the New Salem tower. Some radio equipment, owned by other than FCECS, was moved to the top of the tower, creating additional weight and causing the tower to sway in the wind. The technician shut the tower down effectively wiping out communication to several communities. MEMA helped develop a temporary work around using other regional towers until the issue is resolved at New Salem.

Hampshire County – None.

WMLEC –No report.

CMED: Bob Hassett noted that Chestnut Tower had a lightning strike which caused a major equipment outage. The engineers fixed the grounding issues and it is now up and running.

MSP –Matt Barstow reported on the 711 core upgrade of the console sites and held a meeting for the stakeholders. The upgrade is on schedule to begin in Jan. 2019.

Other – Bill Stubba reported the frequencies were all updated as requested. Air Ambulance plans to meet with the Fire Chiefs in the New year.

Budget Review –The FFY16 budget ends on December 31, 2018. Waiting for one final invoice on the WMLEC Gap project, but anticipate full spenddown on WMRIC projects.

Raine noted it appears there will be some funds left over from the FFY17 budget, from the COMU Go-Kits project and the Lincoln/Skinner project. Raine suggested waiting to determine

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the final cost of the CMED project before allocating the funds elsewhere. The FFY18 contract will be in place soon.

Requests – None

Old Business - Helicopter Communication –Air Ambulance

The Vigilant Guard was located in an area of western mass where communication is often a challenge, however the WMLEC pod worked well. Overall, the event was successful.

New Business – Dennis Nazzaro thanked the Town of Huntington for assisting the Town of Montgomery in resolving their radio communication issues.

Melissa plans to schedule the next MIFOG meeting for Jan 2019 and would like system owner representation.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair – No Report

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2018 12:30 pm at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

Bob thanked the members for their continued hard work and dedication, and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

There being no further business, Butch Garriety moved to adjourn. Tom Grady seconded.

Voted unanimously in favor. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from October 16, 2018 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget – 11/16/2018
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Respectfully Submitted by Ann Dunne
Franklin Regional Council of Governments