

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 18, 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), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Butch Garriety (Shelburne Dispatch), Matt Barstow (MSP), Paul Madera (Ludlow PD), Peter Cowles (WEMA), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC), Jeremy DeMar (Springfield Emergency Comm), Ann Dunne (FRCOG).

This meeting was audio recorded.

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 20, 2018 meeting.

<p>Motion: Butch Garriety moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2018 meeting. Tom Grady seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.</p>

A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update – Bob was unable to attend the recent meeting. Melissa Nazzaro may attend the meeting later and give an update.

SWIC Update – No Report.

Project Updates

WMLEC Gap Solutions – Steve Kozloski noted Motorola's inability to meet all the needs of the trailer specs, and he is unable to make contact with the representative. Raine will ask Amy Reilly to assist with communications with Motorola to get the last stages of the project completed.

CMED Hovey Hill – Bob Hassett is waiting on additional project details from Motorola to move forward with the project.

Holcomb Road Project – The EHPs are approved and the purchase order is with Green Mountain.

COMU Go Kits – SIEC approved the project. Raine asked if carrying cases should be included on the list. Steve recommended waiting until all the equipment is received and storage is decided. All items will be shipped to Monson PD. Raine will work on procurement specifications.

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Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Work on the project slows down during the winter months, however they are still in the process of staging equipment from the last round of the State 911 development grant funding. The project will resume in the spring.

Hampshire County – The MSP upgrades to the radio consoles has caused technical issues, leading to the separation of the patch between the 800MHz system and the VHF radio systems for the foreseeable future.

Franklin County – There were communication difficulties between Warwick and Shelburne Control. Kurt Seaman from Greenfield Fire Department is acting as the Interim Radio System Manager and is helping with the communication system issues.

CMED: Bob Hassett noted a Med 4 channel system failure was caused by an operator error.

WMLEC – Steve Kozloski reported that WMLEC is tracking some power supply issues. The equipment that powers the infrastructure is supplied by LTECH Co. who no longer supports its' maintenance and repair. Steve plans on holding a meeting to find a replacement solution and to discuss a funding option to repair the equipment. Paul Madera expressed concerns about the continued communication issues in the Ludlow/Springfield area.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported on the ongoing radio console upgrade in preparation for the statewide core upgrade. MSP are working on strategies to resolve the patch failure between the 800 system and the VHF radio system. Text to 911 went live statewide recently and first responders are encouraged to test it out. Matt noted the retirement of Ken Short from the MSP radio team will be a huge loss, the radio team services and maintains radio towers throughout Western Massachusetts.

Other – Bill Stubba reported the Air Ambulance business team met with Amherst officials, and will continue to set up meeting with the Fire Chiefs in the New year.

Budget Review – Raine is working on resolving any issues with the WMLEC Gap Solutions project, to close out the FFY16 budget.

Raine reviewed the FFY17 budget and there will be some funds remaining, and suggested waiting to determine the final cost of the CMED project before allocating the funds elsewhere. The FFY18 contract is in place with MAPC. Raine will provide a project update for the next meeting.

Requests – None

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Old Business - None

New Business – Tom Grady reported on some major call center concerns, where calls were routed erroneously to the incorrect dispatch centers.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair – As a result of the Cybersecurity Conference, Raine was asked to represent the western region as a member of the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Initiative Working Committee. Adam Hakkarien (MSP) is willing to fill the IT/cybersecurity representative slot.

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 in the their community, and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

There being no further business, Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Bernie Forgea seconded.

Voted unanimously in favor. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- Minutes from November 20, 2018 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY16 State Homeland Security Budget – 12/13/2018
- WRHSAC FFY17 State Homeland Security Budget – 12/13/2018

Respectfully Submitted by Ann Dunne
Franklin Regional Council of Governments