

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 19, 2019 12:30pm  
Hatfield Fire Department  
3 School Street, Hatfield, MA 01330

**In attendance:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Bob Hassett (Spfld. CMED), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Bernie Forgea (CFD/CPD), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Butch Garriety (Shelburne Dispatch), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Matt Barstow (MSP), Nicholas Chirekos (Amherst FD), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC), Jason Breault (BCSO), Peter Cowles (WEMA), 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 January 15, 2019 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Dennis Nazzaro moved to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting. Butch Garriety seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

### **Updates from the Chair**

*SIEC Update* – No meeting

*SWIC Update* –Melissa gave a progress update on the changes to the Massachusetts Interoperability Field Operations Guide (MIFOG), and expects the final draft to be available in March 2019. The electronic version of the MIFOG guide will be available in an app. format later in the year.

### **Project Updates**

*WMLEC Gap Solutions* –The specialty cables are ordered, and Motorola will schedule the upgrades to the RapidComm Trailer soon.

*CMED Hovey Hill* –The project is out to bid.

*Holcomb Road Project* –Green Mountain Company will contact Bob Garriety to plan a date to get to the site once the weather improves.

*COMU Go Kits* –Jason Breault agreed to provide Raine with the specific details on the miscellaneous connecting cables for the procurement specifications.

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

*Berkshire County* – BC is waiting on the radio console upgrades.

*Franklin County* – Walter Tibbets updated the committee on some tower microwave equipment repairs, and noted that the Radio System Manager is doing a great job identifying some system

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problems in the field. There are ongoing discussions on available radio systems options, and the viability of migrating to the Commonwealth 800 MHz radio system. EOPSS will provide more details on the costs involved.

*Hampshire County* – Matt Barstow reported on the ATT upgrades at the Goshen tower, and the possible communication systems impact newer equipment may cause. Matt expressed concerns about the recent FCC changes to power density output, as allowed to cell phone companies. Any increase to the power could lead to public safety concerns with interference on the towers.

*WMLEC* – Steve Kozloski noted the RapidComm Trailer was deployed recently as a resource at several area events.

*CMED*: No Report.

*MSP* – Matt Barstow noted the radio console upgrades should be completed by next week.

*Other* – No Report.

**Budget Review** – Once Raine has the final costs for the CMED project and the COMU Go Kits costs for the connecting cables, she will be able to finalize the FFY17 funds remaining.

The FFY18 contracts are ready to get started, and the following two can start immediately.

- (I) The Video Downlink Project-\$50,000.00
- (II) Satellite Internet for BSCO Mobile Command Unit-\$35,000.00

**Requests** – None

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** – Lindsay Stromgren reported on the legal debate between Eastern/Western Mass. EMS at the MIFOG meeting, regarding the use of (NIFOG) tac channels by public safety for helicopter communications in western mass. For now the MIFOG helicopter communications policy will remain as part of the MIFOG guide update.

Lindsay reported on a recent incident, where the MIFOG policy was not followed, leading to a channel miscommunication between dispatch and the helicopter company.

The meeting highlighted the apparent communication systems differences in use between eastern/western mass.

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Jason Breault setup the 'Plum Case' for the committee to review and test, and noted this new technology is a portable broadband kit with technology to provide secure, reliable high-speed internet anywhere.

Nick Hamel is the new contact person at Motorola Solutions.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair -  
Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2019, 12:30 pm at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

There being no further business, Walter Tibbets moved to adjourn. Peter Cowles seconded.

Voted unanimously in favor. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- Minutes from January 15, 2019 meeting
- WRHSAC FFY17 State Homeland Security Budget – 02/14/2019
- WRHSAC FFY18 State Homeland Security Budget – 02/14/2019

Respectfully Submitted by Ann Dunne  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments