

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Kurt Seaman (S. Deerfield FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), John Hart (Hampden County Sheriffs Dept), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Alex Rock (EOPSS)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Alan Sirois (Agawam FD)

*This meeting was conducted on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.*

Anthony Gentile called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 16, 2025 meeting. Kurt Seaman noted that the wrong minutes were added to the meeting packet. Raine put the correct minutes in the chat.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Kurt Seaman moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2025 meeting as submitted. Aaron Budine seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Dennis Nazzaro, Kurt Seaman, Matt Barstow, Nina Barstow, Aaron Budine, Rob VanZandt, Tom Grady voted in favor. Anthony Gentile abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC/SIEC Update** – Alex Rock had no updates to report.

**Project Updates**

**FC40 Comms Upgrade** – This project is complete.

**WMLEC Equipment Replacement** – Raine Brown reported. This is at MAPC for procurement.

**BCSO Radio Repeater Site** – Raine reported that this is waiting on SIEC review. EOPSS forgot to put it on the agenda for the last meeting, so it will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Berkshire Mobile Command Unit Mast Camera and Router Antenna** – Same as above.

**Hampshire County Fire Chiefs Roip Gateway** – Dennis Nazzaro reported that this was approved at the SIEC meeting.

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**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

*Berkshire County* – No one was present to give an update. Tom Grady noted that Don Tryon speaks for Berkshire County now.

*Franklin County* – Kurt Seaman had no updates to report.

*Hampshire County* – Dennis Nazzaro had no updates to report.

*WMLEC* – No one was present to give an update.

*CMED* – No one was present to give an update.

*MSP* – Matt Barstow reported. They are still working on the CoMIRS project. One hurdle left that will affect most agencies is updating interoperable radios. This will be a big lift over the next 12-15 months. If you haven't seen the information about this, please let him know.

*911/Dispatch* – Nina Barszcz reported that many dispatch centers are changing their CAD systems, which will impact Law Enforcement cross agency operations.

*Air Methods* – No one was present to give an update.

*Other* – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. There is just over \$26,000 available in FFY24. We still haven't heard anything about whether or not there will be an FFY25 grant.

**Old Business**

***Interoperability using the State's P25 system talkgroups LPS9 and LPS10***

Anthony Gentile asked that we take this off the agenda until the upgrade is complete.

***WESTCOMM and CoMIRS*** – Nina reported that she was approached by Mike Gerard, the project manager for some Westfield radio projects. He asked her to confirm that WRHSAC gave funding for the system keys. MEMA is having a hard time getting them from WESTCOMM, though she is not sure why. Dennis reported that he reached out to the radio tech from WESTCOMM. They do have the two system keys that we purchased. They had a change in leadership and didn't know what they were for and locked them away. But they now understand and are interested in sharing the keys. Dennis got an email last week that they have found them and are willing to hand over one to the committee to be shared with MEMA. Anthony noted that as a neighboring agency, it took about three years before he could get them to program the radios or add talk groups. He is hoping that with the change in leadership things can move more quickly.

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John Hart echoed the hope that new leadership will be able to get things running, noting that the new repeaters have yet to be installed. He also reported that the HCSO has been talking with Chicopee and Springfield PD about starting up a crime analysis Fusion-type center, and he asked if WMRIC funding could go towards this. Raine replied that they had a long conversation with Chicopee PD about this. The short answer is that if there are WRHSAC funds, it is an eligible cost; however, there aren't funds at this time. Anthony suggested that we keep this on the agenda and try to get the new director to come to the next meeting. Nina will reach out to her and will get her contact info to Raine.

**New Business**

*Western Mass CommU proposal* – Dennis Nazzaro had to leave the meeting before he could present the request.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair:** Regarding the CAD updates mentioned by Nina, Tom noted that the Council funded a project to create hubs and super hubs to allow for info sharing. We don't have control on who selects what CAD systems, but it would be good for people to have the info about the hubs and super hubs as they make that decision.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 12:30 pm, in person/hybrid, John W. Olver Transit Center, Greenfield.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Kurt Seaman, Matt Barstow, Nina Barszcz, Aaron Budine, Tom Grady, Anthony Gentile, and Rob VanZandt voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for May 20, 2025
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2025 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY23 Budget Report through 4/11/25
- WMRIC FFY24 Budget Report through 4/11/25

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason, WRHSAC Program Assistant  
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments