

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 12:30pm**

Subcommittee members present: Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (Pelham FD), Alan Sirois (Agawam FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Anthony Massoia (WESTCOMM), Jake Pyra (State 911/Berkshire), Penny Ryan (WESTCOM)

Subcommittee members absent: Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Kurt Seaman (S. Deerfield FD)

This meeting was conducted in person at the John Olver Transit Center in Greenfield, with additional participants joining on Zoom. The meeting was recorded.

Anthony Gentile called the meeting to order at 12:38 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 20, 2025 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2025 meeting as submitted. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Alan Sirois, Dennis Nazzaro, Anthony Gentile, Rob VanZandt, and Tom Grady voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair – None.

SWIC/SIEC Update – Dennis Nazzaro reported that at the last SIEC meeting all the projects were approved. The 800 system is moving forward across the State toward Phase 2. Make sure your radios are updated to the new system.

Project Updates

FC40 Comms Upgrade – This project is complete.

WMLEC Equipment Replacement – Raine Brown reported that the project had a delay because MAPC was rushing to do procurements for FFY21 and FFY22 projects for other Councils. Procurement should go out next week.

BCSO Radio Repeater Site – This was approved by SIEC and Raine sent specs to MAPC.

Berkshire Mobile Command Unit Mast Camera and Router Antenna – This was also approved by SIEC. Raine is working on the specs and it should go out for procurement in a few weeks.

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Hampshire County Fire Chiefs Roip Gateway – Raine will send the specs to MAPC.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Jake Pyra had no updates to report.

Franklin County – No one was present to give an update.

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 – No one was present to give an update.

911/Dispatch – Anthony Gentile reported that the 911 compliance form is due at the end of July. Every PSAP needs to get it in by July 31.

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

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine Brown reported. There is \$26,067 available in FFY24 with a current end date of next July. We still haven't heard anything about whether or not there will be an FFY25 grant.

Requests

Pittsfield Fire Comm Shelter – No one was present to speak to the request, so it will be tabled until next month.

Old Business

WESTCOMM and CoMIRS – Penny Ryan explained that she and Tony Massoia are new to WESTCOMM and are trying to reconnect. They are going through a tough patch with their current radio vendor. They are trying to finish things up with that vendor and then send out an RFP for a new radio vendor. In response to questions from the committee, she replied that she is concerned about the lack of interoperability with other areas. Speaking with an outside vendor, it sounds like low hanging fruit; they could set up some talk groups and get some things going as soon as they cease and desist with the current vendor. She will connect with Dennis Nazzaro offline.

Dennis provided some background information on the history of the interoperability challenges between WESTCOMM's Kenwood platform and the other assets in the region

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that are on Motorola. WMRIC purchased the Motorola system key about two years ago and it was shipped to WESTCOMM several years ago, but since then no one has been allowed to use it. Dennis spoke with Kristy before she left and she said that he could use it, but he still has not gotten access to it. There needs to be a process so that there is some accountability. Penny promised to rectify the situation in the next month or so.

New Business

Western Mass COMU Proposal – Dennis Nazzaro presented the request. The Council and this committee have supported COMUs and COMLs over the years with equipment and training, but there has never been a formal team that they respond as part of. In other parts of the State there are more formal radio teams that respond out to assist, and speaking with others in the area, there is interest in doing something like that here, too. Dennis’s vision is to create a Western Mass COMU team. He has spoken with Tom as well as Rich Fiske and a few others, and they like the idea. The model he has in mind would be similar to Tech Rescue, under the supervision of this group. When WMRIC was first formed, it was the interoperability subcommittee of the Council, but at some point the members decided to change the name to the Western Mass Regional Interoperability Committee so that it could continue to exist even if Homeland Security funding ceased, meaning that a COMU team could continue to exist as well. Dennis envisions a board of overseers or directors made up of people from this committee from different disciplines. The Council spent a lot of money on two WMLEC assets, one which went to Monson and one to Huntington. The Huntington asset is now in Pelham, but Chief Kozloski will also be retiring, so it is unclear what will happen to the WMLEC trailer in Monson. The idea of this team would be to have members train regularly on these and other assets and be able to deploy them when needed. Discussion ensued. There was agreement that it would be valuable to have this sort of team in Western Mass. The next step will be for Raine to send out an email to the full WMRIC and WRHSAC membership to see if there are people interested in serving on a subcommittee or board of directors.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 12:30 pm, on Zoom.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Rob VanZandt, Lindsay Stromgren, Alan Sirois, Dennis Nazzaro, and Anthony Gentile voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for June 17, 2025
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2025 (draft)

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- WMRIC FFY23 Budget Report through 6/13/25
- WMRIC FFY24 Budget Report through 6/13/25
- Request from Thomas Sammons / Pittsfield Fire for Fire Comm Shelter

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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