

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 12:30pm
Hatfield Fire Department
3 School Street, Hatfield, MA 01330

In attendance: Matt Barstow (MSP), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire)

This meeting was audio recorded.

Bob Hassett called the meeting to order at 12:36 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 17, 2019 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2019 meeting as submitted. Bob Garriepy seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

None. The SIEC & SWIC update was postponed until later in the meeting (see page 3).

Project Updates

CMED Hovey Hill – Bob Hassett reported. Everything is in place and the last tower assessment is done, so now they are just waiting for the building permit from Monson. Raine Brown informed the subcommittee that Bob had called her toward the end of December to tell her the project wouldn't be done in time, so she got an extension on FFY17 funds until March.

Video Downlink Repairs & Upgrades – Raine has been in email communication with Linda at Visilink to send the shipping labels so we can return the units. Linda hasn't recently responded. Raine will follow up with a phone call.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported. They are continuing with "Phase 3" of the multiyear plan, but it probably will be held up until spring for people to get up to the towers. Chief Meranti is managing that piece of the project. Prior to Christmas they had an incident with a transformer on Lenox Mountain with generator failure due to a series of cascading events with poor communication. Tom wants to have deeper conversations because State Police seemed comfortable with the site going dark, but that doesn't work for the County side. They have a redundant workaround and got the system back online within a day, but it was a challenge.

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

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Hampshire County – Matt Barstow reported. The transfer of the Goshen tower to the Town of Goshen is still in the works but should be completed by March 1st, allowing County fire operations to maintain a presence unimpeded.

WMLEC – No one was present to give an update.

CMED – Bob Hassett reported that Baystate has put an app (e-Bridge) into play, just for Baystate Medical Center but Mercy is also going there soon. Many departments are starting to use the app instead of CMED, which costs \$4/call. CMED is taking a financial hit, expecting to see a significant loss of revenue. Dennis Nazzaro acknowledged that the app works well and saves time, because you can take a photo of people's IDs and send it in so that they are already registered when the ambulance arrives. Bob says they will have to reassess because it costs over \$100,000/year to maintain the CMED system. OEMS requires that CMED be used by all services. Bob does not want to stand in the way of a good technology answer, but at large events the cell towers are often jammed. They have lost cell coverage at Westover and at the Big E, so we can't let the CMED system die even if it's often redundant. Lindsay noted this is a classic case of poor communications; Baystate did this without telling anyone in advance or giving others a chance to prepare or consider possible downfalls. It's a good use of technology, but it depends on private carriers to do emergency work, which doesn't always work. There was a question about HIPAA compliance; Melissa explained that it is HIPAA compliant only if responders are not using personal cell phones that could take screen shots. Agencies need to get iPads or other devices that are registered with the system. Melissa has been sitting in on conversations about this. If you're using agency devices, the data transfer is secure. This is the way that things are moving, and there are conversations about this and concerns about CMED. For coordinating response with hospitals, it's supposed to be in addition to CMED calls not instead of CMED calls, but there's no enforcement mechanism for this. Bob Garriepy asked if CMED could start billing communities yearly instead of charging per call. Dennis replied that it would have to be paid for by the 26 ambulance services who use it, not communities. Bob H noted that Baystate offered CMED an opportunity to buy the e-Bridge app and manage it, with hospitals paying fees, but it didn't happen in time to present before the Commission.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported. An ice storm during Christmas caused many communication challenges including extensive power outages, generator fueling problems, a stranded truck and Sno-Cat, and other more, but their staff did a good job handling each issue. He reiterated that having redundancies in place is important. Tom mentioned that he talked to Chief Meranti in North Adams because they host the generator that the Council bought; they are looking at getting a sled that it can go on for easier transportation.

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

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SIEC & SWIC Update – Melissa Nazzaro reported. The SCIP is done. Melissa will send the edited version out to people who were at the SCIP workshop, and is hoping to get feedback and vote on the final version at SIEC meeting on February 5th.

Melissa went to the Region 1 MCI planning with Tom, and she is also working on the FEMP (Fire and EMS Mobilization Plan) update to add communications components. Getting interoperability into larger plans with forethought is important. Tom added that there has been a huge gap especially in western MA of including communications. Melissa wants to get more involved on the EMS side as well. The SIEC policy and programs subcommittee has had two working groups that met recently, encryption and radio communications, but they are hoping to have a full policy and programs meeting next month. Melissa will let the regional HS Councils know when it is scheduled. The MIFOG is done and published as a pdf. It is available if requested. Melissa is not pushing it out until the new tactical channel plan is ready to go out with it, but that still requires some tweaks. Regarding the app version, they are waiting on legal documents before proceeding. The app is available for download if you have the link, though it is not searchable yet.

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine reported. In FFY18, Visilink is the only project still remaining. The FFY19 contracts with MAPC and EOPSS are now in place so that money is available. For FFY19 we had a placeholder for \$150,000 for this committee, for enhanced regional interoperability projects, but nothing specific has been identified yet. The Council as a whole has an extra \$48,000 unallocated that we could propose a use for. There will likely also be extra funds in FFY18, possibly around \$15,000-\$18,000.

Requests – None.

Old Business – None.

New Business – Bob Garriepy raised the concern that interoperability equipment does not always work in emergencies. He wonders if we could get everyone together a few times a year to test the systems. He recounted a recent failure at dispatch, not being able to patch and tone at the same time, and several other issues that have come up, mostly because we don't use these systems enough. He pointed out that we spend a lot of money on the equipment, but we also need to also spend money making sure it works and people know how to use it. Matt Barstow added that like everything else, if you don't exercise it it's going to atrophy, so testing it periodically is a good idea. Dennis Nazzaro noted that on a positive note there have been two successful patches recently when he has called John Ruggerio, but he added that he shouldn't have to call him directly to get things done. Bob G also was frustrated when he asked MEMA to use a specific tower and they apparently had a bad map and questioned his request. Dennis added that this was a complicated situation and there were many things that could have made the situation better.

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Tom shared that BCSO are looking at upgrading their phone system at the 911 Center to get better caller ID, and in the process he has discovered that depending what you upgrade to you might need to purchase a new license through Equature to be able to do call recording. Make sure to have conversations with State 911 if you are looking to update PSAP phone systems. A terroristic threat was called in and CPAC got involved, but getting Verizon to trace the call was very difficult. Matt reminded everyone of a FCC report from October; the deadline is February 1 for some of the changes. If you have a new or substantially renovated phone system, there are new regulations about 911 non-dispatchable locations, 911 call notifications, and prefix dialing that has to take place. Make sure your systems are compliant, as well as hospitals and businesses. State 911 is going to require that non-compliant devices have stickers in English and Spanish explaining how to call 911. Vendors have been notified and should be aware of the changes.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair – None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 12:30 pm at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

There being no further business,

Motion: Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Matt Barstow seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for January 21, 2020
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2019 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY17 Budget Report through 1/17/20
- WMRIC FFY18 Budget Report through 1/17/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 12:30pm
John W. Olver Transit Center
12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA

In attendance: Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Peter Cowles (Westfield EM), Jeremy DeMar (Springfield 911), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Scott Flebotte (HCSD), Butch Garrity (MSP), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire), Walter Tibbetts (FCECS)

This meeting was audio recorded.

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 21, 2020 meeting.

<p>Motion: Robert Garriepy moved to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting as submitted. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. Walter Tibbetts abstained. The motion passed.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair
None.

SIEC & SWIC Update – Bob Hassett reported that there was discussion about COML sign-offs at the last SIEC meeting. The SWIC update was postponed until later in the meeting (see p. 2).

Project Updates

CMED Hovey Hill – Bob Hassett reported. The project is moving along well now, and they are hoping to complete the project before the end of the month.

Video Downlink Repairs & Upgrades – Raine Brown reported. All locations should have received shipping labels this week to ship units back to Visilink. All units will be upgraded; one unit needs known repairs, and another is frozen and needs to be assessed.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported. They are still trying to do pre-positioning for the simulcast and ran into issues last week with some antennas. They saw some decreased power from a few locations and sent Motorola out. Those are now back up to full power.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbetts reported. The equipment for the New Salem link has arrived and is being configured and tested. It should be installed later this week. They borrowed a radio from a site in Buckland to replace the bad simulcast radio until the new radio antenna and microwave link are installed. They re-engineered the new link to get it off the control station in New Braintree. The equipment came in for the Poets Seat / Montague project. It is now up and

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running, but Walter just saw a trouble ticket come in this morning from Greenfield about intermittent transitions. Walter was not at the last meeting about the transition to the state system and therefore cannot report much on that, but he noted that pricing is still up in the air. General discussion regarding system capacity ensued.

Hampshire County – Lindsay Stromgren reported no update.

WMLEC – Dennis Nazzaro mentioned hearing from Steve Kozloski about a request for power supplies. He reportedly will get a written request to Raine soon.

CMED – Bob Hassett reported. The two ongoing projects were already discussed.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported. They are currently planning their support for the Town of Amherst for upcoming spring activities. Berkshire County helped with a power issue at one of their sites. Tom added that they had a generator failure at Florida Mountain; they got it back online, but he noted that there have been a lot of generators failures recently. They are going to implement regular testing and Tom recommends that others do the same.

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

SIEC Update – Melissa Nazzaro reported. They had the First Policy and Programs Committee Meeting last month and intend to start holding those regularly. There are several projects that they are working on. The SCIP 2020 release was voted on for approval and has been moved up to EOPSS for formal adoption, then Melissa will send the final version out. As Bob mentioned, they have created Position Task Book sign off groups to help with the process of reviewing the COML, COMT, and ITSL task books. Melissa is looking for one or two more COMTs for this.

Several working groups have been established, including one on encryption that came up with a draft 1-page bulletin that will be a template for additional bulletins to come out from Policy and Programs for the first responder community. The goal of these is to provide easy-to-digest information about topics related to communications.

A radio communications planning workshop was held in Andover on Jan 31st for senior leadership from communities and regional agencies. COMLs in the room joined community tables to work on emergency planning for the first 60-90 minutes of a large-scale event. This was a pilot workshop and it went really well; they got feedback that the communities benefitted from the presentation and from having COMLs there to work with them. They are now putting finishing touches on materials to go out with another presenter. If you want more information about the workshops, ask Melissa.

Other – None.

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Budget Review

Raine reported. For FFY18, all projects that we have planned are in process and moving along. There was a project idea put forward in FFY18 for computer forensic equipment and training, but the Council has been slowly pulling money out of it. However, there is over \$14,000 in it that needs to be spent by the end of July 2020. There is also over \$12,000 from a funding increase that is available for the full Council to spend. Steve's request may use some of that money, depending on the timing. For FFY19 we have \$150,000 for enhancing communications, but we don't have a specific project or projects for that. We also had a funding increase for FFY19 that is available for the Council to use. Bob Hassett will check with Steve about his requests.

Requests

Hilltown IMC – Raine explained that this was on the agenda because of conversations she has been in with Mike Perkins, but he did not have a formal request ready for this meeting.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair – Tom noted that PSAP development grants are out, with submission deadlines of April 3.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 12:30 pm at the Hatfield Fire Department, 3 School Street, Hatfield, MA.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Peter Cowles seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for February 18, 2020
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2020 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY18 Budget Report through 2/14/20
- WMRIC FFY19 Budget Report through 2/14/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 12:30pm
Conference Call**

In attendance: Matt Barstow (MSP), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Peter Cowles (Westfield EM), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Scott Flebotte (HCSD), Bernie Forgea (Cummington Fire), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson PD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton Fire), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Mike Perkins (Cummington Police/Hilltown IMC), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire), Walter Tibbetts (FCECS), Paul Madera (Elms College).

**This meeting was conducted as a conference call due to COVID19 restrictions. The meeting was recorded.*

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the February 18, 2020 meeting.

<p>Motion: Peter Cowles moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting as submitted. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>

Updates from the Chair

None.

SIEC & SWIC Update – Melissa Nazzaro reported that at the last SIEC meeting they participated in a review, going through projects with emergency communications to see where Massachusetts fit within the rest of the country with regard to communications. The Policy and Programs Committee is working on encryption guidelines for stakeholders looking for encryption options for frequencies. They have finished the publication of the MIFOG and are now in the process of printing 6,000 copies. They are also working on Version 2 of the Tactical Channel Plan update. At this point there is no meeting scheduled for April, but they might host a virtual meeting if there are requests.

Project Updates

CMED Hovey Hill – Bob Hassett reported. The project is being completed and the invoice just came in. Raine has not yet had a chance to see how it compares to the budget.

Video Downlink Repairs & Upgrades – Raine Brown reported. Vislink cannot do the upgrades, because the units we had were the first run of that model and no upgrade option is available for them. They can do the repairs if we want to proceed with that. Linda from Vislink will give Raine quotes for just repairs versus purchase of new units, so we will wait on that info before making decisions about how to proceed.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported. Nothing new to report, but now that the weather is starting to turn they are hoping to get back out to finish the microwave links.

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Franklin County – Walter Tibbets reported. The next meeting will be Thursday (March 19). They are still trying to get the New Salem tower back up and running. There were some issues with the Montague 2 Channel that the police use, problems with the power supply. A new one has been ordered.

Hampshire County – Lindsay Stromgren reported no update. Matt Barstow noted that they have provided pricing info to towns currently using the 800 system for buying additional units.

WMLEC – Steve Kozloski reported. There was ice damage to an antenna at Peru; they are reaching out to the vendor to try to get it repaired. A Motorola service technician discovered the damage, and the Peru site is now down. WMLEC has submitted a request to WMRIC to address the power supply issues, to be discussed later in the meeting.

CMED – Bob Hassett reported. In addition to the work being completed on Hovey Hill, they recently discovered that the microwave link between Mt. Tom and Shelburne is down. It is not used very often, but they do still need it. They are currently trying to diagnose the problem. CMED will pick up the cost.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported. They are still in the process of getting the plan together for system expansion. With the Boston marathon cancelled, it gives MSP a chance to switch gears and support COVID-19 response operations.

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

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine reported. For FFY18, we are looking at over \$14,000 from forensic equipment and training. We've been steadily drawing down from this allocation as the project never went forward. Following motions made this morning at the full Council meeting, we have just over \$2,000 for the whole Council left to be allocated in FFY18. WMRIC has \$150,000 to allocate to projects in FFY19, these funds may be used today for the requests being considered at this meeting. There are also additional funds left for the whole Council in FFY19 as well.

Requests

WMFCA UHF Radio Cache Backup Batteries

The Western Mass Fire Chiefs intend to send a formal letter of request, so this is being tabled for now.

WMLEC Power Supplies and Rapid Comm Trailer Duplexers

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Steve Kozloski explained that they have been experiencing Ltech power supply failures at a number of WMLEC sites. Due to the age of the equipment, it is no longer supported, so the only option is replacement. They are requesting support from the Council to replace the identified power supplies (Butternut, Peru, Mt. Grace, Shelburne, and Borden) for a total of \$30,486.

The second request from WMLEC concerns a cost-saving measure proposed by Steve Kozloski and Dennis Nazzaro. They were trying to use antenna separation to accomplish what a duplexer would normally accomplish, but in practice it does not work well enough to meet expectations of responders on the ground. They are therefore requesting funding to install duplexers into the RapidComm trailer, for a total of \$11,040. See the letter and quotes in today's handouts for more details about both WMLEC requests.

Walter Tibbetts noted that FCECS is in the process of replacing the Shelburne power supply even though that is a WMLEC site. Steve explained that he had been in cursory discussions with Tom Grady about utilizing single power plants to share resources in the Berkshires, though they never pursued it because there have not been issues with the Lenox site. However, they could be shared resources. If FCECS pays for the power supply, the money allocated by WMRIC would go back to the committee, and if WMRIC pays for it, FCECS would likewise save that money. The motion was accordingly worded to approve "up to" the requested amount, in recognition that the Shelburne funds might not be needed. Raine asked if the power supplies are in racks, to which Steve replied affirmatively. Raine explained that replacing racked equipment does not require an EHP.

Motion: Dennis Nazzaro moved to approve up to \$30,486 for power supply replacements at the Butternut, Peru, Mt. Grace, Shelburne, and Borden WMLEC sites. Walter Tibbetts seconded the motion. Steve Kozloski abstained. The motion passed.

Motion: Walter Tibbetts moved to approve \$11,040 for the purchase and installation of three duplexers into the RapidComm trailer. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. Steve Kozloski abstained. The motion passed.

Hilltown IMC – Mike Perkins, Chief of the Town of Cummington, explained that when the new CAD system was put in place it was paid for by the Commonwealth, but the records part was not able to be put in place. Mike has been in discussion with the fourteen communities trying to figure out a way to pick up records management and provide cross-agency information. They are proposing a phased approach to bring on the 13 police departments dispatched by Northampton. The other piece is the fire departments, as there are five that have indicated their interest in coming to IMC, but that would be done at a later time. The center was not eligible for 911 grants, but they have leveraged credits from agencies to bring down the cost and are requesting funding for the remaining \$81,855 from the Council.

Matt Barstow clarified that the reason they were ineligible for the 911 grants is that the state has different categories for PSAPS, REC, and Regional. Northampton Control, for the purposes of

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911 grants, is not REC or regional. One of the restrictions is that RMS hardware and software is not eligible.

A question was asked about the sustainability of the annual fees of \$12,500. Mike replied that it has been made clear to the departments that going forward it is incumbent on each agency to pick up those costs. Another question regarded data conversion to carry over records. Mike replied that data conversion is expensive for this, so current agencies that have IMC understand that their existing records would become stand-alone systems, and from whatever date the new system goes live, it would start over. When CAD went live, they provided data to Northampton Control. Tom Grady cautioned that they need to make sure to clarify naming conventions before moving forward, because if they have different naming conventions in their systems it is not going to work. Steve Kozloski agreed, as they are going through that now with West Com migration. Every code by department must be unique, and he added his caution about duplicate codes outside of geocoding. Another question was raised about whether the sharing of info would be supported just by these communities or whether it would feed into the greater county-wide and region-wide database. Mike replied that he has talked to a TriTech technician about this and they will connect to the regional hub.

<p>Motion: Steve Kozloski moved to approve \$81,855 for the Hilltown IMC. Walter Tibbetts seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
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Old Business – None.

New Business

FFY2020 Investment Planning

We received guidance from EOPSS for FFY2020 Investment Planning. See slides in today's handouts. The award amount to the Council is \$1,246,662. The Council recommended setting aside \$200,000 for WMRIC for enhancements to existing systems.

COVID-19 WRHSAC Meetings and Events

Until further notice, Council and subcommittee meetings will be held as virtual meetings due to COVID19 restrictions.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

The CBRNE subcommittee came forward at the Council meeting this morning with recommendations for various projects. One was from the Western Mass Tech Rescue Team. When they purchased the two new trucks, we bought tri-band radios. The team finds them helpful but is also requesting a mobile in the trailer in Holyoke and two portable radios, for a total of \$26,080. The funds would come from the interops committee rather than CBRNE. Dennis Nazzaro mentioned that he has talked with some tech rescue members about getting Harris radios that aren't in use. Raine replied that she has not heard anything about that.

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Motion: Steve Kozloski moved to approve \$26,080 for the WMTRT radios. Matt Barstow seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Dennis Nazzaro opposed.

Paul Madera is now at Elms College and not sure what his status is with the group now. He has asked if he needs to send a letter of request to remain on the committee. The Western Mass Chiefs will probably be looking to have another member. Raine requested that he send a letter of interest to her.

Melissa Nazzaro announced that she will be reporting to MEMA starting tomorrow, and she invited anyone to reach out to her.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 12:30 pm. The meeting will be held virtually. Raine will be in touch with specific details about the platform nearer to the date.

Motion: Steve Kozloski moved to adjourn. Bob Hassett seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for March 17, 2020
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from February 18, 2020 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY18 Budget Report through 3/13/20
- WMRIC FFY19 Budget Report through 3/13/20
- Email from Linda Sousa/Vislink dated 3/12/20 re HDR2100 cases
- Quote from Goosetown Communications for Motorola Batteries
- Letter of request from Stephen Kozloski/WMLEC dated 3/5/20
- Quote from Goosetown Communications for power supplies
- Quote from TriTech for IMC Records System
- WRHSAC WMRIC Planning – FFY2020 Investment Plan Considerations

Respectfully submitted by:

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

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 12:30pm**

In attendance: Matt Barstow (MSP), Jason Breault (BCSO), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Peter Cowles (Westfield EM), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson PD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton Fire), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire), Walter Tibbetts (FCECS),

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom due to COVID19 restrictions. The meeting was recorded.*

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 17, 2020 meeting.

<p>Motion: Peter Cowles moved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2020 meeting as submitted. Robert Garriepy seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>

Introductions

Updates from the Chair

None.

SIEC & SWIC Update – This was moved to later in the meeting.

Project Updates

CMED Hovey Hill – Bob Hassett reported. The project has been completed, and we are waiting for Prevailing Wage documentation.

Video Downlink Repairs & Upgrades – Raine Brown and Bob Hassett reported. Raine is waiting to hear back from Linda at Vislink so we can move forward with new quotes. We will be purchasing new units. The repaired units have not been shipped back to us yet. Something for the committee to consider is where the new units will go, whether they will go where the old ones are or distributed differently. They will have some different abilities.

The WMRIC requests from last month were approved at the full Council meeting this morning. This included the five power supplies and three duplexers for WMLEC, the Hilltown IMC records management system, and the WMTRT multiband radios.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported. With recent breaks in the weather they are in the middle of getting the microwave portion of their upgrade done. They expect to have it operational by July 1 for expanded capacity in the county.

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Franklin County – Walter Tibbets reported. Multiple systems have been problematic in the past month. The Montague system was returned to its original state from mini simulcast system, because it was too difficult to get parts for multiple transmitters. On the New Salem tower, the microwave link running from Grace to Royalston to New Salem, the signals are coming in 8-10 db's less than engineered; they are still working on diagnosing the problem. New antennas were put on in New Salem, but because of a power supply failure there, that is still not up and running on Simulcast 1 and 2. They are taking a transmitter from another site to get it working. The Greenfield transmitter on Great Hill is starting to fail; they voted to replace it, as it is a greatly used local repeater. The microwave link between Great Hill and Toby is swaying in and out of frequency but still working. There was a problem with JPS voters on Great Hill, and also a problem with the power supply, and in trying to address the issue the Greenfield PD repeater was not coming back online. They are hoping the 800 MHz system starts coming through sooner rather than later.

Butch Garrity added additional information. A fire chief in Western MA patched together a system that caused disruption. Jason added that it was a disturbance and they have had a conversation with him about it.

Hampshire County – Matt Barstow had nothing new to report.

WMLEC – Steve Kozloski had nothing new to report.

CMED – Bob Hassett reported. CMED is doing fine now that Hovey Hill is complete.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported. They are hoping to have the access road to the Lenox site taken care of before the end of the fiscal year. It has already been approved. He also reported that there have been a few site breaks in Central Mass with the C Troop, with people breaching a fence twice in Oxford with no obvious intention as to their motive. As a result, Fusion Center and the FBI are looking into it and DCR has asked the environmental police to step up patrols of remote tower sites. They are also asking service personnel to have IDs with them. They had cameras in Oxford and were able to identify the people who broke in, but not all sites have cameras.

Raine mentioned that she had read this morning that there have been upticks in attacks on cell and communication towers in Britain. People have been trying to set them on fire because of a conspiracy theory that COVID-19 is caused by 5G.

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

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine reported. The projects approved at today's Council meeting will come out of the FFY19 funds, from the line item for enhancement projects through the region. We are using almost all of

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that money for these four projects, so we will need to wait for FFY2020 funds for new projects for this subcommittee. There are no new requests at this time.

Old Business – None.

New Business

Tom reported that the State 911 has been encouraging everyone to look at their COOP plans. In the longer term we have to look at the interoperable piece in developing COOP plans, to avoid redundancy with alternate PSAPs. This can be a topic for future discussion and brainstorming.

Bob reported that there is a new 911 director in Springfield, Chief David Wells, who will come to a future WMRIC meeting to meet everyone.

Raine noted that we need a new communications representative to the Council since Jeremy DeMar stepped down. We should figure out who to reach out to. Nina Barscsz from Westfield is one possibility.

SWIC/SIEC Update

Melissa Nazzaro reported that she has been activated since the last meeting as part of ESF2 by the state EOC. They are keeping in touch with commercial partners regarding the rise in telecommuting and infrastructure demands, but so far there have been no major issues. They are also maintaining communication with PSAPs to make sure they are stable in terms of staffing needs. They have been supporting communication needs for state-run or state-sponsored testing sites. She noted that unlike other incidents that are first-come-first-served, in this case they are planning for the long term, and working with local and regional resources to exhaust those before tapping the state resources. These should be used only as a last resort so we have them available if needed in the future. They are operating with a different structure than usual, not just filling needs immediately as they get requests, trying to think long term and utilize local resources.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

None. Bob conveyed well wishes from Jeremy.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at 12:30 pm, location to be determined pending COVID-19 meeting restrictions.

<p>Motion: Bob Hassett moved to adjourn. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 12:53 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for April 21, 2020
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2020 (draft)

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- WMRIC FFY18 Budget Report through 4/16/20
- WMRIC FFY19 Budget Report through 4/16/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
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Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 12:30pm**

In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Bernie Forgea (Cummington), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton Fire), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Cameron Spanfelner (Air Methods), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire), Walter Tibbetts (FCECS)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom due to COVID19 restrictions. The meeting was recorded.*

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 21, 2020 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2020 meeting as submitted. Lindsay Stromgren seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
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A round of introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC Update – Bob Hassett reported that the requests approved by the Council last month were approved at the last SIEC meeting.

SWIC Update – Melissa Nazzaro reported. She is working on establishing a COM-U share point site and a SWIC link off the state’s website to keep information available to people who need to access it. She hopes to have it up in the next few weeks. Melissa also intends to have deeper conversations soon with Franklin County around intra- and inter-state interoperability.

Project Updates

Video Downlink Repairs & Upgrades – Raine Brown reported. There have been delays due to Vislink staffing issues within the warehouse and misunderstandings with MAPC. The three old units are being repaired, including firmware for the Pittsfield unit. The Springfield and Shelburne units required new TCM cards, and the Springfield unit also needed a new screen. The Shelburne unit has a small crack in the screen as well, but it is a minor issue and does not need to be repaired. The units should be sent back later this week. Raine is in the process of writing up the specifications for the new units. She asked if we are going to place those new units where the old ones are, and if the old ones will also go back to where they came from. This would make the new ones duplicates, though they are on an upgraded frequency. Bob suggested that they go to the same locations for now, and if someone else needs them we can deliver on mutual aid.

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WMLEC Power Supplies and Rapid Comm Trailer Duplexers – Raine reported. This project was just approved last week, as were the other two projects discussed below (Hilltown IMC and WMTRT radios). Raine is beginning to work on specifications for all of them and will get procurement out. Procurement for the WMLEC project will include power supply installations.

Hilltown IMC

Raine has been in contact with David Bell from IMC to work on specifications. This project is over the \$50,000 procurement threshold for RFQs, so an RFP will need to be conducted. Raine will check to see if they are on the state contract, and if so whether they are willing to work within the 60 day payment cycle of the grant.

WMTRT Multiband Radios

This project will be pretty straightforward. Melissa had a question about discrepancies between quotes regarding multi-key versus over-the-air provisioning. There may have been a mistake in the quotes, although it is approvable as written. Raine will connect Melissa with Daryl to discuss.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported. They are continuing the local build-out, still hoping to have everything running by June. They got notification from DCR that the power supply on Lenox Mountain will be put underground, which will be a big improvement. MSP is in the process of repairing the road to Lenox Mt., which will improve access for technicians and others who need to access the sites.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbets reported. New Salem is not up and running properly yet even though the microwave link is now working. Apparently there was no documentation on how the server was set up, so they are working on getting info from error data. A new power supply was ordered for Great Hill; they are now awaiting an install date. All microwaves are currently functioning. There was a problem with SIM2 where dispatch was cutting out due to issues with JPS units. State Police moved it onto a control station, so it requires a short wait that no one is used to. This has now been repaired and they are in the process of switching it back.

Lindsay noted that the microwave equipment in Mt Lincoln is offline and asked if that was intentional. Walter confirmed that it was intentional, explaining that they shut it down because the receiver went deaf. He added that it can pose a problem when there is a call there, and that that corridor is still a problem with the New Salem tower not working properly. Areas on the fringes are taking a hit. They had a conversation with EOTSS about the 800 system switchover, which is looking positive but moving very slowly. A lot of radios will be purchased in the coming year. They have set up a website for towns to order equipment. The coverage maps look good in most areas, and they have found a solution to the capacity issues.

Hampshire County – Lindsay Stromgren reported. Last Friday Mt. Lincoln was hit by a squall and lost power, but the backups did what they were supposed to do so the systems stayed up. Repairs were completed by morning.

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WMLEC – Dennis Nazzaro had no update.

CMED – Bob Hassett reported. They were approached by Motorola to do upgrades for some of the systems that are nearing end-of-life, but they need to wait until the end of June to find out what CMED billing is. Baystate implemented a new system where ambulances can transmit data for free, bypassing the CMED system. This is not legal according to CMED, but it's happening, and CMED is losing money. They are not sure if they will be able to afford upgrades.

MSP – No one was present to give an update.

Air Methods – Cameron Spaefelner reported that they are continuing to service the area. Normally at this time of year they are planning large PR events, but they are not as busy this year. They are anticipating more calls as warmer weather moves in.

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine reported. The FFY18 funds will be all spent down once the Vislink project ends. The FFY19 funds will be used up by the three projects discussed above. We will not be able to commence new Interops projects until the FFY2020 funding comes online at the end of this year or early next year.

Old Business – None.

New Business

Tom reported that there was some discussion at the T&E subcommittee and in the Council meeting about trainings. We need to start thinking about how we want to do trainings moving forward while we can't bring together large numbers of people. Radio 101 classes have been discussed in the past and he wondered if they may be possible now. We have a fair amount of money in the training budget, and we will have funds available that we won't need for food, locations, etc. When we eventually do get back to face-to-face meetings, we will need to consider getting PPE. We will eventually need to make decisions about that. Bob Hassett asked if COM-L and COM-T trainings could be done by webinar. Melissa replied that she believes COM-T would be almost impossible to do remotely, but maybe COM-L could be done. She added that she has not heard about anyone trying to put that together.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 12:30 pm, location to be determined pending COVID-19 meeting restrictions.

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<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Bob Garriepy seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for May 19, 2020
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from April 21, 2020 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY18 Budget Report through 5/15/20
- WMRIC FFY19 Budget Report through 5/15/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 12:30pm**

In attendance: Matt Barstow (MSP), Jason Breault (BCSO), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Carrie Clifton (OGR/DHS) Butch Garrity (MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Bob Hassett (CMED), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton Fire), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire), Walter Tibbetts (FCECS)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom due to COVID19 restrictions. The meeting was recorded.*

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 19, 2020 meeting.

<p>Motion: Walter Tibbetts moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting as submitted. Matt Barstow seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>

Updates from the Chair

SIEC and SWIC Update – Melissa Nazzaro reported that no SIEC meeting was held this month. The next is scheduled for July. The beginning of June became busy for communications in coordinating interoperability resources utilized across state for protests. This covered the period from June 1 through June 13. Melissa is putting together some numbers, but her initial count for June 2-10 was 104 events. It was interesting trying to keep up with all of the needs, but it went well. She thanked the subcommittee members for their support for interoperability, which was carried across the Commonwealth.

Project Updates

Raine Brown reported on the status of current projects as follows.

Video Downlink Repairs & Upgrades – Springfield got their repaired downlink back and had it up and ready to go for the protests. Jason Breault reported that Berkshire County also got theirs. Raine noted that the new ones should be coming soon.

WMLEC Power Supplies and Rapid Comm Trailer Duplexers – Procurement came in \$4,000 more than anticipated; we had allocated \$31,000 but it came in at \$34,997. The funds to cover the difference will come from the Franklin County MACC project, which was completed under budget. Raine is moving active projects to FFY18 to spend down that contract.

Hilltown IMC – This is going to require RFB instead of RFQ. RFBs require a public opening. MAPC has had to figure out how to do this process electronically. They just got approval from legal on how to do it, so this project will be out for RFB soon.

WMTRT Multiband Radios

This project is out for procurement.

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Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Jason Breault reported. They are upgrading the microwave sites, and hoping by third quarter to be online.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbets reported. They did preventative maintenance visits on all sites and will have updates on Thursday. A trouble ticket was filed by Greenfield PD where field units were intermittently not receiving dispatch. The problem has been identified and a readjustment was made, but the transmitter is going bad so it will need to be fixed or replaced. The New Salem tower link is still not completed because of lack of documentation. As for everything else, there have been some minor issues but most were addressed.

Hampshire County – Lindsay Stromgren reported no updates.

WMLEC – No one was present to give an update.

CMED – Bob Hassett reported. CMED had been having issues that turned out to be due to operator error. In July they will sit down with Motorola to discuss replacing systems that are coming to end of life.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported. As Melissa already talked about, there was significant use of interoperability resources during protests. It highlighted the need for the upgrades that we are making, with regard to smaller simulcast regions and a larger number of shared interops channels. State Police currently only have eight across the system, which limited their ability to give out channels for usage. Going forward there will be more regional channels and they will be able to support regional events better.

In other news, they are almost complete with the upgrade in B Troop regarding channel capacity for Troop B North, including Franklin County. Based on a study of load and capacity, they added additional channels so that when Franklin County comes on board they can continue to use it without anyone being impacted. That process is almost complete. Walter asked about adding channels to analog. Matt replied that if they do, it will be in another phase. They are less concerned about the capacity in those systems because they have more channels than the B Troop System had.

Bob commented that over the past few weeks with protests and multiple events each day, the fact that relationships were already established helped things happen smoothly. The COML program led to successes in efficient communication.

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

Other – None.

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Budget Review

Raine reported that things are moving along well. The FFY18 interoperability projects will wrap up with the video downlink project. The three projects in FFY19 will use up the interoperability money for that grant, so no new money for interoperability projects will be available until the FFY2020 budget comes online. Bob expressed appreciation for Equipment giving leftover funds to WMRIC to cover the additional needs of the power supply and duplexer project.

Old Business – None.

New Business

Lindsay has been seeing concerns about anti-5G protests. He asked if this is a legitimate concern or if there has been any activity. Matt replied that site security was mentioned in a previous meeting; they had a breach in one site, and there were several more in other parts of the state. Most are probably unrelated, just people who are going stir crazy indoors and looking for places to explore. Environmental police are stepping up patrols, as are regular patrols by municipalities and other partners. Social media chatter about a 5G protest was sent to the Fusion Center for vetting, and they responded that the concerns are more prevalent in Europe. June 3 was supposed to be “Anti 5G Day” with civil unrest, but no organized events were identified in Massachusetts. MSP stayed vigilant, but nothing happened. Going forward, site security is an issue, as there has been more vandalism and damage at sites. Lindsay observed that more cameras have appeared around the DCR tower at Mt. Lincoln. He asked who is controlling the feeds. Matt replied that he does not know. The environmental police and DCR are using some cameras. MSP has a few closed circuit cameras, but they have no access to the feeds Lindsay is referring to.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

None. Bob thanked everyone for participation in recent events.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 12:30 pm, location to be determined pending COVID-19 meeting restrictions.

<p>Motion: Walter Tibbetts moved to adjourn. Matt Barstow seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for June 16, 2020
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from May 19, 2020 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY18 Budget Report through 6/12/20
- WMRIC FFY19 Budget Report through 6/12/20

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Mason, Homeland Security Program Assistant
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
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Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 12:30pm**

Franklin Regional Council of Governments

DRAFT

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 21, 2020, 12:30pm**

In attendance: Matt Barstow (MSP), Raine Brown (FRCOG), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Tom Grady (BCSO), Bob Hassett (CMED), Steve Kozloski (WMLEC/Monson PD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton Fire), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst Fire)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was recorded.*

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the June 16, 2020 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting as submitted. Matt Barstow seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
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Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

SIEC and SWIC Update – Melissa Nazzaro reported. This past month the 2020 Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) was approved by the governor’s office. This replaces the 2015 version. Melissa will send the link to the pdf for distribution. The plan sets goals for the next 3-5 years. The MIFOG is also now available; in addition to the pdf, there are also 6,000 printed copies at the MEMA warehouse that have not been distributed yet. They are waiting for the eFOG to be completed through CISA. As part of the Policy and Programs committee for the SIEC, they have approved a public safety encryption bulletin for agencies considering encryption as part of a solution for emergency communications. There is an increased chance of seeing a push toward encrypting channels in the current climate regarding law enforcement, and there are many ways that could go awry. They also want to make sure there is information available to a lay person not from a vendor.

Project Updates

Raine Brown reported on the status of current projects.

Video Downlink Repairs & Upgrades – We received the new video downlinks, and discovered that the vendor stayed within our budget by not including the antennas. We could use the antennas from the old units, but those only operate at the lower frequencies and it would leave the old units without antennas. There is a quote in today’s packet for antennas and optional batteries and chargers, for a total of \$20,100. WMRIC does not have much in our budget; just under \$4,000 is left over from the duplexer project. Motions were made this morning at the Training & Exercise subcommittee and full Council meetings for funds to be transferred from T&E if WMRIC chooses to go forward.

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Motion: Butch Garrity moved to approve \$20,100 for the purchase of video downlink antennas, batteries, and chargers. Tom Grady seconded the motion. The motion passed.

WMLEC Power Supplies and Rapid Comm Trailer Duplexers – Procurement and purchase orders have been completed for the power supplies and batteries. There was also a successful bid on the duplexers, and purchase orders have been issued.

Hilltown IMC – We just received a bid on Friday. It is now being reviewed to make sure it is complete, but we will likely be moving forward with issuing a contract for that project.

WMTRT Multiband Radios – We have received quotes, and purchase orders have been issued.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported. They are in the middle of system optimization, the final phase of the build out. They hope to be operating quickly. DCR had some money available at the end of the fiscal year and decided to bury the electrical cable on Lenox Mt. This should help with losses of power. They used the backup generator that the Council purchased to run the shelters while the work was being done.

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

Hampshire County – Lindsay Stromgren had no update to report. [Matt Barstow's report was combined with his MSP report, below.]

WMLEC – Steve Kozloski reported. They are waiting on the duplexers, power supplies, and batteries. The original quote for the duplexers quoted units that were not effective for the trailer, so a second request for quotes went out again with minor modifications, and that has now been awarded. Unfortunately, since we closed the deal on the power supplies Northampton discovered that WMLEC's Mt. Tom 2-repeater had failed. It turned out to be yet another power supply failure, but it will be covered with local funds. There was also damage to an antenna at the Peru site; they are in touch with the vendor to replace it. Dennis added that both mobile assets were deployed during protests and other recent incidents. He thanked the Council for these resources.

CMED – Bob Hassett reported. They deleted 8 telephone lines from Bald Peak at Hovey Hill, saving \$728/month for Springfield CMED thanks to the project we just did. Reliability has been added back to the system because of the Council's project.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported. With regard to the Hampshire County update, last winter Rep. Blais' office reached out about trying to help expand the Hampshire Hills Fire VHF system to tie them together into five site simulcast. This is a project that Bernie Forgea has been working on since 2013. Rep. Blais was able to secure a \$50,000 earmark for the project, used for equipment going toward expansion of the system to five site simulcast. If the project does not get full funding they can still use that equipment as backup for the existing sites. Matt conveyed his gratitude to Rep. Blais and her office.

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On the MSP side, they are still in the process of doing the statewide **comms** upgrade and getting the first RFR onto street. By the end of August or early September, they will select a vendor for the statewide rollout. Tom already mentioned the Lenox Mt project; Matt thanked the BCSO for the use of the generator. The road was a separate project from the power replacement, but they took care of it before the end of the fiscal year. The downside is that the road is so good now that everyone wants to ride it, and they are getting complaints from neighbors. They also heard that DCR is getting flack about power lines and the Berkshire Scenic Act. There were a couple more vandalism incidents at radio sites in the eastern part of the state, but it seems to be kids getting into trouble. Damage has been limited to cutting fences. They are making sure to patrol the sites, as there is an uptick in people hiking and walking. Tom added that they are going to work on a solution for a gate at the bottom.

Air Methods – No was one present to give an update. Tom got an email from Steve Anderson, who is leaving air methods after 18 years as of July 24th. Aidan O’Conner will be his replacement.

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine reported. WMRIC funds have all been expended in FFY18 and FFY19. There will be no new funds for this subcommittee until FFY2020 becomes available.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

We need a new communications representative for the Council. Melissa Nazzaro recommends Nina Barszcz, the Westfield 911 PSAP director. She has come to two meetings to learn about it. Melissa thinks she would be a great addition. Steve suggested that if she is not interested, Anthony Gentile or Erin Hastings might be other possibilities. Melissa suggested that it would be good to bring more people in. Matt Barstow also suggested Erin Hastings. Anthony confirmed that he would be interested in and able to take on this role if Nina does not want it. Melissa acknowledged that Anthony is more prepared to take on the role currently, though she wants to encourage others to start coming to meetings to be able to take on more later. Raine explained that as there is no regional group of dispatchers to make a recommendation, it is up to this committee to make a motion.

<p>Motion: Bob Hassett made a motion to recommend Anthony Gentile as the new communications representative to the Council. Tom Grady seconded the motion, but added that he wants to ask Nina to be the alternate. Dennis Nazzaro amended the motion to recommend Nina Barszcz as the primary communications representative, with Anthony Gentile as the alternate. Steve Kozloski seconded this amended motion. The motion passed.</p>
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Melissa will reach out to Nina and connect her with Raine and Bob.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 12:30 pm, location to be determined pending COVID-19 meeting restrictions.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Matt Barstow seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for July 21, 2020
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2020 (draft)
- IMT Quotation dated July 10, 2020
- WMRIC FFY18 Budget Report through 7/17/20
- WMRIC FFY19 Budget Report through 7/17/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 12:30pm**

Subcommittee members present: Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Robert Hassett (Springfield EMD/CMED), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Walter Tibbetts (NWMIMT/FCECS)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Scott Flebotte (Hampden CSO), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS)

Subcommittee members absent: Peter Cowles (City of Westfield), Bernie Forgea (Cummington FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD)

**This meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions. The meeting was recorded.*

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the July 21, 2020 meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2020 meeting as submitted. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. Walter Tibbetts proposed an amendment, noting a spelling correction on page 3. A roll call vote was held. Jason Breault, Dennis Nazzaro, Anthony Gentile, Tom Grady, Steve Kozloski, and Bob Hassett voted in favor. Walter Tibbetts abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Bob Hassett reported that Nina Barszcz was approved by the Council this morning to be the new communications representative. Anthony Gentile is approved to be the alternate.

SIEC and SWIC Update – Melissa Nazzaro is officially out on FMLA, though sitting in on today's meeting. Bob Hassett reported that the hard copies of the MIFOG are at the warehouse, with distribution to come. The electronic version is still in final review with feds. Melissa added that the federal Law Enforcement and Interoperable Radio MOU for the state is being finished for the feds, and as soon as that is done any other state or local agency that wishes to program those channels in their radios will be authorized to do so with just a letter from the SWIC. This should be set to go by the end of September.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
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Project Updates

Raine Brown reported on the status of current projects unless otherwise noted.

Video Downlink Repairs & Upgrades – Raine was asked if there would be training available on the new units. Raine asked Vislink. They shared the user’s manual which Raine has sent out, but she has not yet heard back about anything else.

WMLEC Power Supplies and Rapid Comm Trailer Duplexers – Steve Kozloski reported that Peru has been done, and they are now coordinating for the others to be done the latter half of this week and into next week. The duplexers have not arrived yet. Steve will reach out to the vendor.

Hilltown IMC – Central Square is the vendor. They have had some questions around MAPC’s standard contract language; once that is finalized, the purchase order will be issued.

WMTRT Multiband Radios – The two portable radios have been delivered. One is with Daryl Springman in Northampton and the other is with Pete Jerusik in Chicopee. They are mostly programmed but need a little more from the state.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported. They are finishing the system optimization and hoping to do the cutover to the new microwave soon. The state police system has been enhanced by this as well.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbetts reported. On the FCECS system there have been no new major failures. They are at a standstill on a lot of things because the company tech has left Beltronics. The one tech left who knows a little about it has been working with Kurt Seaman of Greenfield to keep things running, but no new work has been done. Beltronics does not have the resources to handle the FCECS systems anymore. Their contract is up at the end of the month, and FRCOG went out to bid for new vendor, Modular Communications, which was started by a former employee of Beltronics but is not on state approved list. They are currently in a stalemate in contract negotiations. Walter and Dan Nietsche will be speaking with a rep from Goosetown to see if they can do anything. As for the transition to CoMIRS, things are moving ahead well. They have money for radios set aside. They need to create a new MOA between FRCOG, FCECS, and town stakeholders, and one between FRCOG and EOTSS to make them the sole source for all the towns. They had a public forum by Zoom last Thursday which was well attended by towns. The goal is to start purchasing radios by December. They are still working on channel plans. Until they figure out the new paging system they will keep the current system up and running.

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

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WMLEC – Steve Kozloski reported. In addition to the earlier reports about the duplexers and maintenance work, they discovered an issue with a local repeater at Mt Tom, but it has since been repaired. They are in discussions with FCECS and the state about mutual aid and interoperable communications into Franklin County if/when they make the full cutover to the 800 system. Dennis added information about an issue that was recently identified. The command pod purchased a few years ago was supposed to have AES encryption, but it was never used. They recently identified at a protest that the radios did not include that encryption; they had ADP but not AES, so they are not compliant even though we paid for it. Dennis is working to find the Motorola paperwork and will be in touch with Raine.

CMED – Bob Hassett reported. They embarked on a \$217,000 five-year project to replace equipment nearing end-of-life, and also to upgrade software and other components at the main facility. The EMS Commission and Springfield City Council approved the project. They intend to start this fall.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported. The FAA has abandoned the Mt. Tom site. They had come to MSP a while back saying that the site no longer served a purpose for them, and they asked if MSP has interest in taking over the site. They are now working on lease negotiations. The ultimate goal is no disruption in service for anyone. There is concern about the cost that the FAA was paying SBA to be there. Matt will update the committee as he gets more info. They are still moving ahead with CoMIRS Part 2 RFR requirements for bidders, and moving forward with discussions with Franklin County.

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

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine reported. WMRIC funds have all been expended in FFY18 and FFY19. There will be no new funds for this committee until FFY2020 becomes available, likely around the new year.

Requests – None.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Raine asked Jason about the status of the spectrum analyzer that had an issue. Jason replied that the unit shipped out. He will update the group when he has more info. Raine is hoping it will be covered under the three year warranty. She had also asked Steve to check the spectrum analyzers in the COMU kit; Steve replied that he did so and they are working.

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Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Dennis Nazzaro moved to adjourn. Jason Breault seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Walter Tibbetts, Tom Grady, Steve Kozloski, Butch Garrity, Dennis Nazzaro, Anthony Gentile, and Jason Breault voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for September 15, 2020
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2020 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY18 Budget Report through 9/11/20
- WMRIC FFY19 Budget Report through 9/11/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
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Subcommittee members present: Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Bernie Forgea (Cummington FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Robert Hassett (Springfield EMD/CMED), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Walter Tibbetts (NWMIMT/FCECS)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Scott Flebotte (Hampden CSO), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS), Cameron Spanfelner (Air Methods)

Subcommittee members absent: Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD), Peter Cowles (Westfield)

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

Bob Hassett called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 15, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2020 meeting as submitted. Walter Tibbetts seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Steve Kozloski, Matt Barstow, Bob Garriepy, Anthony Gentile, Dennis Nazzaro, Lindsay Stromgren, Nina Barszcz, Walter Tibbetts, Tom Grady, and Bob Hassett voted in favor. Bernie Forgea abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Bob Hassett had no updates to report.

SIEC and SWIC Update – Melissa Nazzaro reported. The response to the Bondi's Island fire went well as far as communications was concerned. They utilized national TACs to put together disparate users. This was successful because of Mass tactical channels in almost all radios. Melissa is also working on ESF2 for the state EOC for the elections. If you want to talk to Melissa about specifics, let her know.

MIFOG printed copies are available; MEMA will be working on distributing those. The link is also available. EFOG beta testing for the app is also starting. Melissa is working on an internal system for COMLs and COMTs, and an external facing page on the mass.gov site.

The second round of RFP is starting for CoMIRS. Melissa is working with Franklin County to ensure interoperable solutions are available long term. We have been dealing with some issues with Motorola regarding encryption that have been discussed at the state and federal level.

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Melissa recently discovered some discrepancies; pay attention to P25-compliant encryption when ordering. Units still need to be ordered without ADP. She is trying to get to the bottom of it.

Project Updates

Raine Brown reported on the status of current projects unless otherwise noted.

Video Downlink Repairs & Upgrades – Raine did not get further info back regarding available training. She asked if she should continue to push for that, and Bob replied affirmatively.

WMLEC Power Supplies and Rapid Comm Trailer Duplexers – Steve Kozloski reported that the power supplies have been installed at all sites except Borden Mt, where they are in the process of waiting for new parts. The rapid comm trailer duplexers have been installed. There were some issues that had to be corrected locally to get it working properly. That project is ok to be closed out. Invoices have gone out to all major agencies in WMLEC. For next year there will be a slight change in user fees, so that they will be population based.

Hilltown IMC – The project has been delayed as Central Square and MAPC negotiate the contract wording. Hopefully that is now resolved and the project will start moving.

WMTRT Multiband Radios – All radios have been received. Some programming has happened, though Raine is not sure if it is complete. She will find out for next month.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported. They just finished the systems upgrade with the new microwave and conversion at the tower sites. They simulcasted the police side and added some simulcast capabilities on the fire side. STs are at the center this week to tweak issues, but overall it has been a smooth transition.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbetts reported. The FCECS system made it through the high wind storm well, with no major failures. They have not made a lot of inroads in getting a new repair vendor. Goosetown came out and tried to tweak Simulcast 1 and 2 to get them back up. The microwaves seemed to be working, but the final platforms are not working. They do not have a solution yet and are waiting to hear on prices for other repairs.

They are making good progress on the transition to the CoMIRS system. They are waiting on two towns to get MOAs back, but the MOA between FRCOG and EOTSS is done. They are still working out some minor issues with programming, assigning radios, etc. Overall it is moving ahead well. Walter had a question regarding air ops; when we switch to 800, what are we going to use for air-ground communications? Cameron replied that they are working through that right now with the base in Meriden, CT, and he will be sending out an email to the group. Lindsay noted that it is listed. Melissa added that nothing changed between new and old MIFOG, but they are looking to streamline things more.

Hampshire County – Lindsay Stromgren, Matt Barstow, and Bernie Forgea had no updates.

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WMLEC – Steve Kozloski gave a WMLEC update earlier.

CMED – Bob Hassett reported. CMED has been busy. They just signed a 5-year contract with Motorola to take the consoles through the next five years, which should be good for 11 years. They also just upgraded Med-9, which was nearing end-of-life.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported. Overall, they survived storm damage well. There were between 15-17 sites on generators because of downed lines and trees, but we fared well in Western Mass. MSP is also heavily involved in the CoMIRS process. It involves a lot of documentation. They are working with SPA and DCR on the Mt. Tom site, trying to figure out what is happening with that. Trying to get ahold of permitting has been challenging. Internally, they hope to hire two more radio techs for the Troop B radio shop.

Air Methods – Cameron Spaefelner reported. The Life Star 3 aircraft is starting to get back out with agencies and departments. If you have LZ questions, reach out to him. By Dec 1 They plan to have blood on board by December 1, housed at the hangar. As previously mentioned, communications will be coming out regarding streamlining and standardizing frequencies.

Other – Nina gave a 911 update. There will be a State 911 Commission meeting this Thursday. One of the primary things they will be talking about is the FY21 awards and FY22 guidelines, pushing for statewide regionalization. The PSAP leadership scholarship is award coming out. A new Emergency Call Tracking System, ECATS, is also now available for PSAPs.

Budget Review

Raine reported. For this subcommittee the FFY18 and FFY19 funds have been spent down. FFY2020 funding is not expected until December or January.

Requests – None.

Old Business – *Berkshire County Spectrum Analyzer Repair*: Jason was unable to attend today's meeting, and neither Tom nor Raine know the status of this. Tom will check with Jason.

New Business – *Multikey for Command Pod Radios*: Raine explained that last month, Dennis brought up that encryption was not included in the radios as it should have been. We moved forward with Motorola on that, and also asked if multikey had been included. It had not. Motorola gave us a quote for just over \$1,000 to add it to the radios. Dennis explained that leaving out encryption was a mistake on their part, but leaving out multikey was a mistake on our part. Having multikey would allow encryption for more systems. Users can change the key every time, but having multikey is better. Bob asked if there are funds to add this. Raine replied that there are funds unallocated in other subcommittees, so WMRIC would have to ask them. There is a standing order that the chair can approve up to \$10,000, but that is only this subcommittee. The request should go to another subcommittee to ask, which would take another month. Bob agreed to ask another committee. He will talk to Raine about which one. Tom Grady suggested

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that the T&E committee could probably help out. Raine asked if we should move forward with the encryption or wait until we can do both. Dennis suggested that we move forward with encryption now.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Tom asked Matt to talk about Blanford changing dispatch centers. Matt explained that at the end of 2018, the entire Blanford Police Department resigned en masse. Blanford negotiated with the town of Chester to provide police services, and they are now fully served by mutual aid. However, challenges arose regarding how PSAP calls are routed. Chester PD was already operating on 800, with seamless coverage in both towns, but fire is different. Sharing frequencies does not work well, so they were looking for different ways to bring on Blanford. Chester offered up their fire frequency to let Blanford be dispatched off that, but it does not cover the town adequately. One option would be to reprogram station, but that is not the best way to do it. They had a meeting with Berkshire County and State 911 to discuss options. They are still waiting on letters of intent from the town for securing services, but the plan is to expand the Chester fire radio from one site to a two site simulcast system. They had a surplus of funding for FY20 for the department that they could utilize for the end of the fiscal year. They also looked at what would happen if they implemented something larger than a two-site simulcast, e.g. a four site with Montgomery and Westfield, consolidating them into a single dispatch, but that would be a phase 2 discussion because of funding and logistics. They have started the process of securing equipment so that there is no delay within the time frame of grant. Tom added that the Berkshire County fire chiefs had their meeting last week and the Berkshire county bordering towns expressed substantial concerns about effect it would have on mutual aid because they use it often. This is an example of something we have talked about before: when people make changes to the system, we all need to be aware of it because it can affect others. The target is for July 1, 2021 to make the transition.

Bob Hassett mentioned that he had a video conference with the National Weather Service. October 7 was a true derecho; the highest winds recorded on Mt. Tom were over 88 mph. We did well compared to eastern part of state and CT. He was impressed by how well the communications systems survived the storm.

Steve had a question regarding what would happen with the old Vislink units once the new ones arrive. Raine replied that the old units are staying in the same locations and will be doubled up. Steve recounted discussion at WMLEC level that it would be more effective to spread them out. WMLEC would be willing to house and maintain one. Bob replied that if anyone needs one, give him a call and they will bring it out

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

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Motion: Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Walter Tibbetts seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Tom Grady, Walter Tibbetts, Bernie Forgea, Lindsay Stromgren, Dennis Nazzaro, Nina Barszcz, Anthony Gentile, Matt Barstow, Bob Garriepy, and Butch Garrity voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for October 20, 2020
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from September 15, 2020 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY18 Budget Report through 10/16/20
- WMRIC FFY19 Budget Report through 10/16/20
- Motorola Solutions – Quote for APX Multikey Upgrades

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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Subcommittee members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD), Peter Cowles (Westfield), Bernie Forgea (Cummington FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Robert Hassett (Springfield EMD/CMED), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Walter Tibbetts (NWMIMT/FCECS)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS), Melissa Nazzaro (EOPSS)

Subcommittee members absent: Matt Barstow (MSP), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC)

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

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 20, 2020 meeting.

<p>Motion: Walter Tibbetts moved to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting as submitted. Lindsay Stromgren seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Bob Hassett, Lindsay Stromgren, Butch Garrity, Walter Tibbetts, Nina Barszcz, Bernie Forgea, Tom Grady, Jason Breault, Dennis Nazzaro, Bob Garriepy, and Anthony Gentile voted in favor. Peter Cowles abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair

Bob Hassett had no updates to report.

SIEC and SWIC Update – Melissa Nazzaro reported. There was no meeting last month and not much to update. They spent time between September and November planning for the election, doing ESF2 planning and response support that was thankfully unnecessary but a good exercise for all partners. The MIFOG hard copy is available; MEMA is looking at distribution through regional offices but there is no plan yet for full distribution. The e-FOG is still in beta testing. She will let this committee know when changes have been made and reviewed and the final product is. Bob Hassett noted that he has been using it and finds it easy to use.

Project Updates

Raine Brown reported on the status of current projects unless otherwise noted.

Video Downlink Repairs & Upgrades – When Jason got the new batteries, he noticed that they did not charge to 100%. He asked for feedback from others, but no one else replied so Raine assumes they are ok. Raine will follow up with Vislink. Jason added that he got them to 100% after 4-5 chargings, but he still wondering if there is an issue. Bob Hassett reported that

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Springfield's batteries are good. Raine will follow up with Vislink regarding the batteries. She reported that Vislink can do an online training with us; we just need to find a date. Raine will send a doodle poll.

WMLEC Power Supplies and Rapid Comm Trailer Duplexers – The duplexer project is complete, and the power supply project is waiting for one last power supply. Goosetown had ordered the wrong item and had to reorder.

Hilltown IMC – This project has been delayed because of contract negotiations between MAPC and Central Square. According to Amy Reilly, the final pieces have been agreed upon and should be issued next week so the project can begin in December.

WMTRT Multiband Radios – Raine checked with Daryl Springman and learned that all radios are now fully programmed.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported no major updates. They are monitoring for challenges with the upgrade and encountered some interference and a few intermittent issues, but overall things are going well.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbetts reported. Goosetown went through the system and found several issues that need to be fixed. Those repairs are underway. They are voting this Thursday on whether to accept Goosetown's proposal for yearly maintenance. There have been no major failures recently. They are moving ahead on the migration to CoMIRS. The grant from EOTSS is being finalized. All departments have to do an inventory of radios; the form just went out to all of the chiefs to get that done. Ordering and pricing worksheets have been finalized and they are moving forward. On December 10, both Motorola and Kenwood will hold a radio fair so people can see each model and make final decisions on what they want. CoMIRS meetings moved to Tuesdays.

Hampshire County – Lindsay Stromgren reported no major updates. Hampshire County Fire Chiefs is currently only allowing city chiefs to go to monthly meetings, not alternates or assistants, so he has not been getting updates.

WMLEC – Dennis Nazzaro reported no major updates. The system is working normally, with the Sim2 back up and running on Mt Tom.

CMED – Bob Hassett reported. The Springfield City Council approved the 5 year contract for maintenance with Motorola. They bought replacement radios for Med9 as the old ones were coming to end of life. Both radio techs are out with COVID right now.

MSP – No one was present to give an update.

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

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Other – Nina Barszcz and Anthony Gentile reported no major 911 updates. Tom noted that State 911 has gone back to online training. This is a 40 hour training that requires substantial investment of time and energy from PSAPs. It is difficult to bring on new staff. Nina added that an in-person training still needs to be done after that, so it is not ideal.

Budget Review

Raine reported. For this subcommittee the FFY18 and FFY19 funds have been spent down. FFY2020 funding is expected by December. \$200,000 is allocated for this subcommittee for FFY2020.

Requests – None.

Old Business –

Berkshire County Spectrum Analyzer Repair: Jason reported that the vendor thought he was requesting a repair, but he pointed out that it should be under warranty. He will check in about the status.

Multi-key for Command Pod Radios: Bob Hassett reported that the Council approved the funds for this today. Raine explained that the encryption will be covered by Motorola, as it should have been included already, but \$1,026 will come from the T&E subcommittee for multi-key. The next step will be to do a project justification for the multi-key part. Dennis added that Nick Hamel wanted to do it all at the same time. He put Nick in touch with Mike Gerard from Huntington, who will take care of this. Raine noted that it will still be a few weeks before procurement, but she hopes to get it done for the next meeting. Dennis clarified that multi-key allows you to have multiple encryption keys in the radios, so you can store keys for multiple channels rather than remove them and input them each time.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Dennis reported that Verizon has acquired four mini COW units (cellular on wheels), designed for public safety use. One will be for State Police use and one for the Department of Fire Services, and the remaining two will be retained by Verizon. The Department of Fire Services will keep theirs at the Verizon facility but they have 24hr access. A satellite dish goes up automatically, and a big antenna broadcasts a Verizon signal. The other two will be available for pre-planned events. Dennis was trained on how to set it up. This will be useful in Western Mass, where there are many locations with limited cell phone coverage. The DFS special ops team can bring it out as needed. It is on a single axle trailer, smaller than the rapid comm trailer.

Anthony mentioned an incident in which they joined Central Mass's LPS system. A child had jumped into river and multiple agencies came in to assist. They were able to patch fire department ops to LPS10 as the state agencies came in and were able to talk to Central Mass on LPS7 and 8 and Springfield on 9 and 10. It worked well.

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Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Walter Tibbetts seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Peter Cowles, Lindsay Stromgren, Walter Tibbetts, Bernie Forgea, Tom Grady, Jason Breault, Butch Garrity, Dennis Nazzaro, Bob Garriepy, Anthony Gentile, and Bob Hassett voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for November 17, 2020
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2020 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY18 Budget Report through 11/13/20
- WMRIC FFY19 Budget Report through 11/13/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 12:30pm**

Subcommittee members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD), Peter Cowles (Westfield), Bernie Forgea (Cummington FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Robert Hassett (Springfield EMD/CMED), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Walter Tibbetts (NWMIMT/FCECS)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Scott Flebotte (Hampden CSO), Erin Hastings (WestComm Regional Dispatch), Khristy Lord (WestComm Regional Dispatch), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Patricia McGuirk (EOPSS)

Subcommittee members absent: Matt Barstow (MSP)

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

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 17, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Nina Barszcz moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2020 meeting as submitted. Tom Grady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Bernie Forgea, Bob Hassett, Lindsay Stromgren, Walter Tibbetts, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, Peter Cowles, Bob Garriepy, and Anthony Gentile voted in favor. Steve Kozloski abstained. The motion was approved.

Updates from the Chair

Bob Hassett reported that the multikey project was approved by SIEC. The new MIFOGs are out in hard copy. Each town will be getting four copies from MEMA Region 3.

SIEC and SWIC Update – Melissa Nazzaro was not present to give an update.

Project Updates

Video Downlink Repairs & Upgrades – Jason Breault reported that he now has the new batteries, but he has not put them in yet. Raine Brown reported that she has not had any response about training yet, but will keep trying.

WMLEC Power Supplies and Rapid Comm Trailer Duplexers – Steve Kozloski reported that all of the power supplies in sites that were slated for replacement have been replaced. The duplexers are also all done. Both parts of this project are complete.

Hilltown IMC – Raine reported that the purchase order was finally issued a little over a week ago. Mike Perkins and Central Square IMC are coordinating on that. The goal is to complete this by the end of the month.

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WMTRT Multiband Radios – Raine reported that this project is done and can be taken off the agenda. The radios are fully programmed and operational.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported. They are still refining the upgrade, and also working with the City of North Adams to repurpose some of their Quantars through Pittsfield Communication. There was a major washout in Monterey; a beaver dam was breached and it caused a substantial amount of damage. DCR is taking the lead on the repairs.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbetts reported. There have been no major issues recently. While looking into why the New Salem tower was not working, they found that the tower took a lightning strike and it blew out parts. They are still working on repairs. They will replace the regional tower at the same time. Lindsay recalled that during the storm two weeks ago, they were told that Shelburne had no radios. He asked for a follow up. Walter explained that there was a connectivity issue on the State Police side, but it was only down for a short period of time and they had mobile radios as backups. Butch added that the radios are linked into the state corps for backup and redundancy. The link between Wachusett and Framingham went down and they lost the consoles for about an hour and a half, but there was still backup.

Hampshire County – Lindsay Stromgren had no updates on Hampshire County, but he noted that the radio vendor tour at FRCOG was very helpful.

WMLEC – Steve Kozloski reported. They have discovered some issues with two antennas at the Peru site, as well as some damage related to the ice storm. They are hoping to get out there next week. This does not affect most users, though there might be some issues with coverage in Berkshire County. They are also tracking some microwave issues between Mt. Tom North and Hovey Hill. It might be because of the age of the equipment, which dates back to before the extra build out. They are tracking losses of connectivity there. Also, National Grid is moving forward with plans for a new tower at the Hovey site, and they are exploring it as a possibility for expansion of WMLEC, which might affect CMED. The funding and design are in calendar year 2021. The plan is to tear down the old tower.

CMED – Bob Hassett reported. They signed the 5-year contract with Motorola, which was approved by the City Council. They then learned that the Med-9 was within a year of end-of-life. They got approval from the EMS commission to order a new one, and the day after it arrived the old one died. They were able to install the new one.

MSP – No one was present to give an update.

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

Other – Nina Barszcz reported that the deadline for grants for the State 911 support incentive trainings and EMD grants is December 30. The development grant deadline is March 4, with an

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online workshop on February 10. The online training for newly hired dispatchers is being done by in-house certified trainers. Moving forward, dispatchers will still need to take classes after the pandemic, but the four hour equipment class inside PSAPs does not have to be re-done.

Budget Review

Raine reported. This committee has expended all FFY18 and FFY19 funds. We just learned that the FFY2020 funds are now online, so we now have \$200,000 to work with through the end of July, 2022.

Requests – None.

Old Business –

Berkshire County Spectrum Analyzer Repair: Jason Breault reported that this was sent to the manufacturer and came back. However, Comtronics is charging \$50 for a processing fee. He asked if that could be paid for by the Council. Raine noted that it was expended prior to being approved, so it is challenging. However, if BCSO paid for it we could try to get reimbursement approved. Jason explained that the fee was not stated up front; the invoice was sent after. They had said that the unit was covered by warranty. Comtronics sent an email again today asking about it. Tom will look into it.

Multi-key for Command Pod Radios: This was approved. Raine explained that this will have to go through official procurement. She sent the specs to MAPC yesterday and expects that the RFQ will be in in a few days. Dennis said that Mike Gerard will take care of it.

New Business:

Bob Hassett asked about the equipment for hostage negotiators. Tom explained that Barry Ross had reached out to Raine about Hampden County SRT equipment. They had included comms equipment and portable radios and accessories. Raine asked for information about P25 compliance and encryption, which they did not have. The suggestion was for him to reach out to this subcommittee to get guidance and help. They need to have that info for Raine before she can see if it is an approved item. It is work they need to do on their end first.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Dennis reported that WestComm has a new UHF radio system that they are using in Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, and a few other departments. UHF radio system. They bought Kenwood radio units, and it turns out that our command modules will not work with their system. We are up to date with regional systems and they can patch into local and national channels, but they ran into an issue today because WestComm has the Kenwood system, not Motorola. They would need to get a system key to be able to work on that system. WestComm would need to approve that. Is this something they would have to pay for, or could the Council pay for it because we are looking to upgrade regional radios? The cost would be under \$500. Dennis thought it should be discussed here as part of a conversation about regional approaches. Anyone with Motorola radios would need access.

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This would be a multi-part project. WestComm would need to approve who gets the system key and then we would have to decide who does the programming. It would be useful to have on COM-L laptops, among others. Raine asked if there other system keys that we also do not have. Dennis replied that all are Motorola except the Harris in the WMLEC trailer in Monson. Steve noted that we already have the keys for Harris.

Erin Hastings replied that they would be willing to allow the frequencies to be put in if the Council could fund it. If not, they will look at ways to purchase it. Dennis said that a master key with four subscriber units is under \$500. It is tricky because it is a WestComm system but others want to be on it. The request would have to come from WestComm and they would have control over it. Raine suggested that it could be a joint approach from WestComm and this committee as a regional asset. She asked if there are other systems in the region that we could consider adding as well as part of a regional asset, as it would be better to do it all at once. Dennis replied that this is the only trunking system we have in Western MA other than the State system. When Franklin County comes on board, it will be Motorola. There are not a lot of Kenwood users in this area. Raine suggested that Dennis, Khristy, Erin, and Raine start an email conversation to figure out what to put before this committee at next month's meeting.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Bernie Forgea, Bob Hassett, Lindsay Stromgren, Walter Tibbetts, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, Steve Kozloski, Butch Garrity, Peter COWLS, Bob Garriepy, Anthony Gentile, and Dennis Nazzaro voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for December 15, 2020
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from November 17, 2020 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY18 Budget Report through 12/11/20
- WMRIC FFY19 Budget Report through 12/11/20

Respectfully submitted by:

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