

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Walter Tibbetts (NWMIMT/FCECS)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Peter Cowles (Westfield), Bernard Forgea (Cummington FD)

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

Anthony Gentile called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December 21, 2021 meeting.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2021 meeting as submitted. Jason Breault seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Lindsay Stromgren, Jason Breault, Tom Grady, Tom Kettle, Butch Garrity, Dennis Nazzaro, Matt Barstow, Steve Kozloski, and Bob Garriepy voted in favor. Walter Tibbetts abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SIEC & SWIC Update** – Rich Fiske reported. At the SIEC meeting there was conversation about finalizing the Western Regional representative for SIEC. It is on today's agenda.

**Project Updates**

**Hinsdale Rehab Bus Radio** – Raine Brown reported. The quote was lacking some needed info. Raine contacted Motorola to get those details; when it comes she will pass it along to Rich for approval.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

**Berkshire County** – Tom Grady had no updates to report.

**Franklin County** – Walter Tibbetts reported. Their monthly meeting will be this Thursday. They are trying to get as many people as possible moved to CoMIRS to eliminate the patching issues.

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**Hampshire County** – Lindsay Stromgren reported. There was a brief power loss at Mt. Lincoln yesterday, and several radios were fried when Eversource brought it back on. Goosetown has been working on fixing them.

**WMLEC** – Steve Kozloski had no WMLEC updates to report, but he asked Rich to keep in the forefront the need to consider WMLEC assets in decisions about decommissioning in Franklin County. Rich replied that they spoke a few weeks ago about that, including the intention that as they decommission things they will check with WMLEC to find out if there are things they could repurpose. Anthony asked if the PSAP issue with WMLEC in Ludlow was ever rectified. Steve replied that he heard complaints but believes it was a result of an antenna change

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

**MSP** – Matt Barstow reported. Starting on January 1, 2022, Blandford moved dispatch services to Northampton Control. They got VHF fire radio simulcast for Blandford and Chester up and running. There are internal discussions about possibly expanding that system further to other towns. The CoMIRS project is still moving forward.

**911/Dispatch** – Anthony Gentile had no updates to report, but noted that he has had some problems trying to get 911 calls from Decision Station and running reports.

**Air Methods** – No one was present to give an update. Walter Tibbetts reported that he spoke with their radio technician and confirmed that all aircrafts have all MIFOG frequencies.

**Other** – Steve Kozloski reported that the system keys for Motorola are in at Westcomm.

**Budget Review**

Raine reported. In FFY20, which runs through the end of December, this subcommittee has \$181,875 to allocate to projects. FFY21 funds are now on board, with \$150,000 for WMRIC.

**Requests** – Walter Tibbetts informed the committee that a request will be forthcoming and is waiting on quotes from Motorola. Dispatch at Shelburne Control have to use a console for patching between UHF and 800. This has taken one of the consoles out of operation and at times has made it complicated for them to be able to run operations. Butch Garrity had asked about putting proposal for mini dispatch console, which would likely be approximately \$35,000. They would put it on their third floor and use that for doing patches. This need would last at least for another few years, and the console then could redeploy for another need when done. Raine noted that it might not be an allowable cost if owned by State Police, as the Council is not supposed to spend funds on state agencies, though there is some leeway where interoperability is concerned.

**Old Business** – Matt Barstow reported that the ITT57 contract expired and a new contract to replace it went into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>. Motorola is not on the State contract right now because they failed to sign in time. The new contract is PSE01 and covers what was in ITT57, FYR04, and FYR04A. They hope to have Motorola cleared by February.

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**New Business**

***SIEC Representative and Alternate*** – Rich Fiske brought this up because at the SIEC meeting there was no representation from the West. Bob Hassett had been the primary representative and Jason Breault was the alternate. Jason agreed to move into the primary role, and Bob Garriepy expressed interest in becoming the alternate.

**Motion:** Steve Kozloski moved to name Jason Breault as the primary Western Region representative to SIEC. Walter Tibbetts seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Lindsay Stromgren, Tom Grady, Tom Kettle, Butch Garrity, Dennis Nazzaro, Matt Barstow, Steve Kozloski, Walter Tibbetts and Bob Garriepy voted in favor. Jason Breault abstained. The motion was approved.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to name Bob Garriepy as the alternate Western Region representative to SIEC. Butch Garrity seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Lindsay Stromgren, Tom Grady, Tom Kettle, Butch Garrity, Dennis Nazzaro, Matt Barstow, Steve Kozloski, Walter Tibbetts and Jason Breault voted in favor. Bob Garriepy abstained. The motion was approved.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair** – Butch Garrity reported that Shelburne control has come online as the alternate dispatch for the Tech Rescue Team. Northampton Control is the primary. Also, there is an initiative throughout the State for a Tactical Emergency Response Team that would include deploying dispatchers. State 911 has four subcommittees working on this to bring it to fruition.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for January 18, 2022
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from December 21, 2021 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 1/13/21

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason, WRHSAC Program Assistant

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**Subcommittee members present:** Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Walter Tibbetts (NWMIMT/FCECS)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Erin Hastings (WESTCOMM), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Peter Cowles (Westfield), Bernard Forgea (Cummington FD)

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

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 18, 2022 meeting.

**Motion:** Walter Tibbetts moved to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 meeting as submitted. Jason Breault seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Walter Tibbetts, Lindsay Stromgren, Anthony Gentile, Butch Garrity, Jason Breault, Dennis Nazzaro, Tom Grady, Bob Garriepy, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SIEC & SWIC Update** – None. Jason Breault noted that there was no SIEC meeting this month.

**Project Updates**

**Hinsdale Rehab Bus Radio** – Raine Brown reported. The project had been approved pending a new quote with P25, which came through. However, another question came from SIEC because the radio quoted only receives digital; the question is whether it should it also receive analog. Raine sent the question to Hinsdale but has not heard back. Jason and Dennis agreed that it could be beneficial to have analog, too. Some of the direct channels CoMIRS uses are still analog. Raine will move forward with procurement.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

**Berkshire County** – Tom Grady had no updates to report.

**Franklin County** – Walter Tibbetts reported. The radio system has been fairly stable but there is still an intermittent problem on the UHF side that has been difficult to track down. It sometimes

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gets into a loop and creates static and drops out 800. They are working with John Ruggerio to try to remedy the issue, and they are trying to get everyone running on 800 as quickly as possible so they can break the permanent patch between 800 and UHF. Lindsay noted that the longer they can keep the UHF going the better, as it will be a long time before Hampshire County will be fully on 800. Walter replied that they will keep it up and running, but that they are trying to move to 800 for normal operations as much as possible. They are also looking at asking Franklin County Fire Chiefs to do an AAR on communications after every large fire. Dennis noted that in responding to a fire in Ashfield, some mutual aid responders from Hampshire did not even know about the switch to 800 and it became a communications problem. Walter agreed to discuss this at Thursday's meeting to make sure information is pushed out to Hampshire and Hampden counties. Lindsay noted that it was discussed at a Hampshire County Chiefs meeting, but that not everyone attends those or passes on information from them. Everyone needs to be aware and know what the options are.

**Hampshire County** – Lindsay Stromgren had no updates to report.

**WMLEC** – Steve Kozloski reported. WMLEC is on the FCECS agenda for Thursday to begin talking about short and long term plans for decommissioning. Steve may come back to this committee after that to see about recommissioning Gary Cromack for help understanding who owns what equipment and what will have to be signed over to WMLEC or another agency. Steve also reported that on police operations for WESTCOMM he has voiced concerns that the fire operations group is continuing to use trunked groups for on-scene operations. They need to try to get across the challenges of outside agencies coming in unable to get on trunked groups.

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

**MSP** – Butch Garrity had no updates to report.

**911/Dispatch** – Anthony Gentile reported. State 911 grants are now open.

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

**Other** – None. Tom expressed concern that CMED has not had representation here recently. Raine clarified that Chief Dyson was supposed to have taken over. She will follow up with him.

**Budget Review**

Raine reported. In FFY20, which runs through the end of December, this subcommittee has just over \$181,000 to allocate to projects. FFY21 funds are now on board, with \$150,000 for WMRIC.

**Requests** – None. Project proposals from Jason Breault and Walter Tibbetts are expected next month. Walter reported that the Shelburne Control mini consoles are likely to be around \$35,000; five desktop control stations at \$14,000 total; and two or three suitcase DVRs for FRCOG to bring to larger/more remote locations at around \$46,000 for two. Tom noted that the

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development grant is available for this type of project; if you get it in by March 3rd, that can help with video systems and anything related to 911.

**Old Business** – None.

**New Business** – None.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair** – None.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Jason Breault moved to adjourn. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Walter Tibbetts, Lindsay Stromgren, Anthony Gentile, Butch Garrity, Jason Breault, Dennis Nazzaro, Tom Grady, Bob Garriepy, and Steve Kozloski 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 February 15, 2022
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2022 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 2/11/22
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 2/11/22

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason  
WRHSAC Program Assistant  
Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council  
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**Subcommittee members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Bernard Forgea (Cummington FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Walter Tibbetts (NWMIMT/FCECS)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Todd Dodge (Greenfield PD), William Gordon (Greenfield PD), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD)

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

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the February 15, 2022 meeting.

**Motion:** Anthony Gentile moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 meeting as submitted. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Bernie Forgea, Lindsay Stromgren, Jason Breault, Anthony Gentile, Dennis Nazzaro, Walter Tibbetts, Butch Garrity, Steve Kozloski, Bob Garriepy, and Tom Grady voted in favor. Nina Barszcz abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SIEC Update** – Jason Breault reported. During the SIEC meeting the COMU governance document working group worked on a credentialing statement. Credentialing the unit will take legal review. A Top 10 Best Practices for Massachusetts Interoperability document was prepared. Jason will share this with the group. They also discussed whether it is worth continuing to purchase single band radios through grants, with the thought to prioritize quotes for multiband radios moving forward. CISA has been working with PSAPs on cybersecurity in light of what is going on in Ukraine.

**SWIC Update** – No one was present to give an update.

**Project Updates**

**Hinsdale Rehab Bus Radio** – Raine Brown reported. Specifications are with MAPC and will go out for procurement soon.

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**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

**Berkshire County** – Tom Grady reported. They were notified by the Town of Otis that they are looking to install a repeater to pick up dead areas, so they made some suggestions on what they need to do to get that equipment, license it, and put it in place. Jason is working with Crown Castle on a tower location in Tolland. They are looking to expand capacity for the county wide radio system. They got permission, and now need to do feasibility studies.

**Franklin County** – Walter Tibbetts reported. The FCECS System has been fairly stable. The issue discussed before was believed to be due to the Mt. Toby 2 repeater feeding back into the 1 channel. It has since been taken off the air to take care of issue, but Butch Garrity reported that it did not actually solve the problem. As of March 1, they are using strictly 8Tac91b for air to ground communications. On April 1, they will be breaking the permanent patch between Fire 1 and Sim 1, and Police 2 and Sim 2. They are still able to be patched in as needed for incoming mutual aid. Walter also announced that he is retiring June 30. Zach Smith from South County EMS was elected to be the new representative to the Council. Walter will bring him up to speed before he departs. Lindsay Stromgren asked if Shelburne Control will still be monitoring Sim 1 after the break the patch. Walter confirmed. Butch added that the immediate plan is to go to simul-select and gently transition out of it.

**Hampshire County** – Lindsay Stromgren had no updates to report.

**WMLEC** – Steve Kozloski reported. WMLEC met with FCECS about the decommissioning plan and will continue working with them. They are currently tracking some brief microwave outages between Mt. Tom North and Hovey. The vendor is coming tomorrow to look at it, but they will likely need to replace the microwave path.

**CMED** – Tyrone Denson reported. Everything is running well.

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

**911/Dispatch** – Nina Barszcz reported. The shutdown of 3G networks is underway. State 911 is pushing compliance for MLTS multiline telephone systems to have direct access to 911. This also requires having a correct dispatchable location for each phone.

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

**Other** – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine reported. For FFY20 the committee has \$181,875 available to spend through the end of December, 2022. For FFY21 we have \$150,000 to spend through the end of July, 2023.

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**Requests**

**Greenfield Police Department Mobile Command Unit Equipment:** William Gordon presented the request. GPD just took control of a \$160,000 command post. They decided to go with a mobile unit so it will be easier to utilize in emergency call outs, but it maxed out their budget. The interior is designed, but they have no technology except computer monitors. They are requesting funding for additional equipment. The unit was bought with city money, but the City of Greenfield understands the regional needs of Franklin County and Western Mass. The first week the unit was in service they had four callouts, and none were for Greenfield. It could be used for multioperation periods. MEMA wants to put it on the resource list for Western Mass because of the lack of mobile command posts. Details of the request are in the meeting packet, though there is one change: the repeater system came in at \$12,997, which is less than in the packet, but they also need to add the installation fee of about \$750. Raine calculated that the revised cost would \$31,175.

Walter Tibbetts made a motion to begin discussion, seconded by Jason Breault. Discussion included some questions about the repeater for which Deputy Chief Gordon did not have answers, as that element of the request came from the fire chief. Dennis Nazzaro pointed out that a duplexer was not included in the quote and would be needed. Jason noted that that would be around \$2,600. That would bump the total cost up closer to \$34,000. Regarding interoperability, they are still researching Gateway. Butch Garrity noted that there is a Franklin County radio committee for UHF and one for CoMIRS to reduce redundancy, and this request has not gone before either of those committees. Several other committee members wondered if this would be duplicating resources already available. Tom Grady noted that on behalf of the Council as a whole, one concern with interop projects is that often no one reaches out to COMLs and COMTs prior to requests being submitted.

Tom added that he is supportive of the project but not with moving forward on it today, as we need to have better understanding of the capabilities of the command post to make sure it is fully operable with other resources we have built out. Then we can make decision about redundancy. Chief Gordon noted that although there are trailers and command posts in Hampden and Berkshire Counties, there is nothing in Franklin County and there is a huge need. If they would have to bring in another command post for the repeater, that would be duplicating resources. Tom noted that FSUs are also available.

Regarding the IT equipment, Lindsay asked if that is within the scope of this committee. Raine confirmed that is it, as it qualifies as info sharing equipment. She also clarified that the Council could pay for one year of subscription fees with initial procurement, but not repeated.

Walter and Jason withdrew their motion, as the committee decided to wait until they had some of their questions answered about the repeater and about coordination with the radio committees.

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**Motion:** Walter Tibbetts moved to table the proposal until next month. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Jason Breault, Walter Tbbetts, Nina Barszcz, Anthony Gentile, Dennis Nazzaro, Butch Garrity, Steve Kozloski, Bob Garriepy, and Tom Grady voted in favor. The motion was approved.

***Berkshire County Request:***

Jason Breault submitted a request for the purchase of six APX8000 portables at \$58,122. This includes multikey and would be ready for Phase 2 of the buildout. The charger is an additional \$1,300. He also submitted a request for a mobile VHF repeater and duplexer for \$17,793.50.

Walter Tibbetts made a motion to begin discussion, seconded by Bob Garriepy. Discussion ensued around the portable radios. They have a cache of old Harris and need to replace them. There were questions about whether or not the radios can be purchased using CoMIRS pricing. Steve Kozloski suggested broadening the request to replace cache radios across all four counties. Discussion on this followed. The Franklin County cache radios have already been replaced. Berkshire County uses theirs frequently, and in Hampden County they are deployed with the rapid comm trailer, but the Hampshire County cache is not often used. Raine noted that replacing radios for Hampshire, Hampden, and Berkshire Counties would use all of the funding. The committee decided to proceed with radios for Hampden and Berkshire Counties. Walter and Bob withdrew their motion.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$120,000 to replace the Hampden County and Berkshire County multiband cache radios with 12 APX multi-bands. Butch Garrity seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Jason Breault, Walter Tbbetts, Nina Barszcz, Anthony Gentile, Dennis Nazzaro, Butch Garrity, Steve Kozloski, Tyrone Denson, Bob Garriepy, and Tom Grady voted in favor. The motion was approved.

There was agreement to consider the rest of the request next month.

**Old Business** – None.

**New Business** – Butch Garrity reported that there have been a couple of near misses in Franklin County with communication around some fires. In one case lots of patches were used, and units were confused about what channel they were talking on and missed an evacuation order. So they have established a quality improvement committee to take a forensic look at events and how they can do better to keep people safe. Communications issues are often cited in line of duty deaths.

The CoMIRS committee also met yesterday and discussed if WMRIC should take a stance on whether a COML be assigned for incidents. If people are not familiar with technology and not good with patching, they can negatively affect communications and equipment.

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Tom noted that we have three fire chief reps on the Council, and that they should be included in this conversation. Butch replied that the CQI committee has been through the Fire Chiefs, but the COML question was only discussed in CoMIRS, though there is a fire chief on that committee.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair** – None.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Jason Breault moved to adjourn. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Jason Breault, Butch Garrity, Lindsay Stromgren, Nina Barszcz, Walter Tibbetts, Anthony Gentile, Steve Kozloski, Dennis Nazzaro, Tyrone Denson, Bob Garriepy, and Tom Grady voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:49 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for March 15, 2022
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from February 15, 2022 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 3/11/22
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 3/11/22
- Proposal from William Gordon, Greenfield Police Department
- Proposal from Jason Breault, Berkshire County Sheriff's Office

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Bernard Forgea (Cummington FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Walter Tibbetts (NWMIMT/FCECS)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Erin Hastings (WESTCOMM), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD), Peter Cowles (Westfield).

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

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 15, 2022 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022 meeting as submitted. Walter Tibbetts seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Bernie Forgea, Anthony Gentile, Walter Tibbetts, Lindsay Stromgren, Tom Grady, Tyrone Denson, Jason Breault, and Bob Garriepy voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SIEC Update** – Jason Breault reported. There are PSAP COOP planning workshops and COML and COMT trainings coming up.

**SWIC Update** – No one was present to give an update.

**Project Updates**

**Hinsdale Rehab Bus Radio** – Raine Brown reported. The purchase order has been issued.

**Multiband Radio Replacement Berkshire/Hampden** – Raine reported. This was fully approved at the Council today and Raine just sent the Project Justification and ICIP for EOPSS and SIEC approval. We had approved up to \$120,000, but the updated quote came to only \$112,000.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

**Berkshire County** – Tom Grady reported. The Motorola state contract process has been worked out. Some equipment that was on hold is now being processed.

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**Franklin County** – Walter Tibbetts reported. They have not seem many trouble tickets on UHF recently because it is not being used much anymore, as most are now on 800. FRCOG has a contract with CDCG to develop a decommissioning plan. They will be reaching out to different partners, including WMLEC, to touch base about equipment. They expect decommissioning to be at least a three year project. They will have an outline in the next few weeks.

Lindsay Stromgren offered two observations on the operational side of the simulcast transition that occurred on April 1. First, not all personnel fully understand how it is working. An ambulance was sent to Leverett but first responders decided they did not need it; however, they were unable to hail the ambulance on 800 and did not realize it had to be on UHF. Second, Shelburne Control dispatchers do not seem to all be listening to the simulcast. They are not always getting a response right away. Walter mentioned that his agency also had that incident. They have possibly been turning it down when it gets busy. There have been a few issues with SimulSelect, which works a bit differently than how they used to tone out. The dispatching procedure had to change, but this has been resolved.

Bob Garriepy asked whether we could give Amherst the radio cache out of Northampton that is not being used, so they could use them in the ambulances. The cache is Harrises but will work on the system for another 3-5 years. They are already on CoMIRS and would just have to add Franklin County talk groups. Lindsay agreed that this could help. Walter will remind people to try UHF if they are unable to reach ambulances or others through mutual aid. Lindsay added that everyone needs to understand that Hampshire county people are not hearing whatever happens on 800. They are running blind into calls, not getting updates as they drive in. Walter will follow up with Butch Garrity.

Tyrone Denson reported that he got information from Chuck Balbone about the Franklin County CMED microwave link from Roosevelt to Mt. Tom that has been down for a while. The module needs to be replaced for Med-4 and Med-8. They are acquiring vendors to replace the module. Walter noted that that link has not worked for years. Now anyone heading that way waits until they get closer in before contacting CMED. It might not be important to have a link all the way through. The cost of repairing it was not considered worth it.

**Hampshire County** – Lindsay Stromgren had no additional updates to report.

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

**CMED** – Tyrone Denson had no additional updates to report.

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

**911/Dispatch** – Anthony Gentile had no updates to report.

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

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*Other* – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine reported. With \$112,000 going to the multiband radios, \$62,288 remains in FFY20. In FFY21 WMRIC has \$158,744 available.

**Requests**

***Berkshire County Request***

Jason Breault presented a request for a suitcase style mobile VHF repeater for \$17,793.50, as well as a Cradlepoint router for \$1,649.38 to replace the outdated one in FC50, and a notch VHF duplexer for \$2,671.00. They will do the installation themselves.

**Motion:** Bob Garriepy moved to approve \$22,115 for the Berkshire County request. Walter Tibbetts seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Bernie Forgea, Anthony Gentile, Walter Tibbetts, Lindsay Stromgren, Tyrone Denson, and Bob Garriepy voted in favor. Tom Grady and Jason Breault abstained. The motion was approved.

**Old Business** – None.

**New Business** –

***UHF Cache Batteries***

Jason Breault reported that while getting the cache portables ready for the Boston Marathon, they found that the batteries are losing capacity and do not charge properly. He wondered if the Council will support getting new batteries for them. He will get a quote for next month. Raine reported that the Council replaced 165 batteries eight years ago, which included all of the caches. Tom suggested that if they still get regular use, we should replace all of them.

***FFY2022 Investment Planning***

Raine reported. The Council worked on the budget today; after some back and forth they set aside \$150,000 for WMRIC, consistent with the last couple of years.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair** – Tom reported that Chief Strout from Dalton reached out about their communication system. Chief Rathbun will be retiring from Hinsdale in a little over a year. This prompted discussion about combining forces with Dalton. They have disparate communications systems and will have to invest in infrastructure if they go forward. They can apply for a State 911 grant but are also looking at coming to this group. However, it would probably take a lot more than we can spend. There are some other grants they can apply to, and he also suggested they reach out to others to look at other options.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Motion:** Jason Breault moved to adjourn. Tom Grady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Bernie Forgea, Tom Grady, Tyrone Denson, Lindsay Stromgren, Jason Breault, Walter Tibbetts, Anthony Gentile, and Bob Garripey voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for April 19, 2022
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2022 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 4/15/22
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 4/15/22
- Motorola quote for APX8000 multiband radios, dated 4/14/22
- Proposal from Jason Breault, Berkshire County Sheriff's Office, dated 3/15/22

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason  
WRHSAC 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 17, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Walter Tibbetts (NWMIMT/FCECS)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Kurt Seaman (FCECS), Zach Smith (South County EMS), Cameron Spanfelner (Air Methods)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Bernard Forgea (Cummington FD), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD)

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

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 19, 2022 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Walter Tibbetts moved to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2022 meeting as submitted. Tom Grady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Walter Tibbetts, Dennis Nazzaro, Anthony Gentile, Nina Barszcz, Matt Barstow, Tom Grady, Steve Kozloski, and Bob Garriepy voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

***SIEC and SWIC Update*** – Rich Fiske reported. He is working with OGR and MAPC regarding the need to include interops and communications in all full-scale exercises, trainings, and drills. Even if it is not focus of the exercise, there is always a communications component and it is important to include it in all exercises and trainings. MAPC will contact the Councils to make sure that component is included in exercise drills. They can then look for common gaps and struggles across regions. This gives everyone more opportunities to exercise communication plans, and gives COMLs, COMTs, and PSAPS more practice.

The Mass Tactical Channel Plan update is finished and ready to be posted with other documents at EOPSS and on the sharepoint site. Rich will also send it to relevant parties, including this group. Please let him know if you find any errors. Some agencies do not even have the basic interop channels programmed into their equipment. They are pushing hard to get the message out that there is no more tolerance for people who do not have these channels. Going forward, the tactical channel plan will be updated every three years with the MIFOG.

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**Project Updates**

Raine Brown reported on the status of current projects.

*Hinsdale Rehab Bus Radio* – The project is in process.

*Multiband Radio Replacement Berkshire/Hampden* – This project just received approval yesterday from EOPSS and SIEC. Raine will work on putting procurement together. Tom Grady and Steve Kozloski confirmed that the radios will be housed at the BCSO and Monson PD.

*Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer* – This project was approved by the Council this morning, and Raine has now submitted it to EOPSS and SIEC for review.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

*Berkshire County* – Tom Grady reported. They had a glitch with the transfer switch on Lenox Mountain but that has been taken care of. Ordering parts and getting technicians has been hard. There have been a number of large area searches in the Berkshires area recently and communication has gone well. Tom thanked John Ruggerio, MSP, and MEMA for their help. This Saturday there will be a mass casualty drill in Peru, Mass, with a simulated plane crash.

*Franklin County* – Walter Tibbetts reported. Next month will be his last WMRIC meeting before his retirement. Zach Smith will be taking his place. Walter asked Lindsay if the issues with not being able to reach dispatch following the breaking of the patch on fire 1 to simulcast 1 have been resolved. Lindsay replied that he is hearing both sides in the office and has not heard about issues in ambulance recently. Walter noted that at the chiefs meeting he brought up the need for diligent monitoring both systems. Zach Smith reported some growing pains with fire and EMS departments that rely on pagers and are only able to hear the dispatch side. The solution would be switching to 800 mhz, but they need a funding stream.

*Hampshire County* – Lindsay Stromgren had no updates to report. Dennis Nazzaro reported that Pelham fire comes off Mt. Lincoln, and for a couple days it was garbled coming through. They found a phone line problem with several agencies, but technicians worked on it and it seems to be working again.

*WMLEC* – Steve Kozloski reported that the link to Hovey is still down. The problem involves the microwave at the Mt. Tom end. They are working with the vendor to get it back in service. There is also a switch problem in Lenox that they are working on getting restored.

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

*MSP* – Matt Barstow reported. They are still moving along with the CoMIRS project. Teams are out doing site visits this week and last for areas 1A and 1B. They are getting structural analyses ready to approach landlords about leasing spaces. In Western Mass they had an issue in Warwick

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diagnosed to be a failure of the receiving antenna. Motorola has a workaround until it can be replaced. Verizon had issues out of Northampton as Dennis discussed. They are seeing a lot of issues with carriers doing work that affects older lines. Overall things are going well.

**911/Dispatch** – Nina Barszcz reported via chat box text: “1). The State is strongly encouraging communities/PSAPs to be conducting test 911 calls for accurate dispatchable locations and direct call back numbers for any MLTS in their service jurisdictions, making sure that the phone number or address isn’t coming up as where the primary control unit is in the building or on the campus. 2). State 911 Dept is hosting grant reimbursement workshops on May 25th. Sign up link is on their website if interested. 3). Dispatch Centers across the state are extremely short staffed and having great difficulty hiring new employees! Be aware that many centers are having to develop and implement critical staffing plans in order to still provide normal level of service. This may mean dispatch centers asking to have their alternate sites answer their 911 traffic.”

Regarding MLTS requirements, Matt Barstow added that they have been talking with UMass Amherst because they were looking to upgrade an ancient phone system. They were going to implement a VoIP solution but then changed direction, and for staff and buildings will use the voice product of Microsoft Teams. They have engaged with State 911 about this because of concerns about compliance with laws. If a laptop is the phone on Teams and they use it at home, it may still appear as though on campus. They have encouraged UMass to learn more about it. If they go ahead with the plan, they will need to have significant testing to ensure compliance. Lindsay will follow up. Jay Hastings noted that in the Cisco Webex app you can shut off the function to give location for 911 calls. In their dispatch center they use C911, so any office line from Westfield State would go to Nina’s center as the main line, but on campus it would give the extension and location. Walter noted that in Franklin County they have encountered addresses for which info was not transferred properly, so when those numbers called 911 the call went to other dispatches. There is no way to know who is affected until they call 911.

**Air Methods** – Cameron Spanfelner reported. He is looking forward to the MCI event in Peru with the MSP helicopter. If anyone needs anything with helicopters give him a call.

**Other** – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. In FFY20 WMRIC has just over \$40,000. We just heard from EOPSS and MAPC that we received an additional extension on that grant through June, 2023. In FFY21 we have just over \$158,000 available.

**Requests**

**Franklin County Portable Repeaters**

Kurt Seaman presented the request. FCECS is looking for funds for two transportable digital repeater systems, similar to what MSP is carrying in their cruisers. These are condensed versions that fit in a Pelican box and are able to be tactically deployed. Franklin County comprises a

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unique geographical area; some areas are inaccessible by radio and will continue to be so despite best efforts. With these repeaters you can restore communications. They can be used for wide area incidents, or as standalone repeaters. They can also be used for incoming and outgoing mutual aid so nothing gets missed. There was discussion about approving both versus only one, as Greenfield Fire already has one. Matt Barstow noted that the need for these repeaters is most prevalent in Franklin County, and it is not unreasonable for them to request two more.

**Motion:** Steve Kozloski moved to approve \$47,679 for the Franklin County Portable Repeaters. Tom Grady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Dennis Nazzaro, Anthony Gentile, Nina Barszcz, Tom Grady, Steve Kozloski, and Bob Garriepy voted in favor. Walter Tibbetts, Butch Garrity, and Matt Barstow abstained. The motion was approved.

**Old Business –**

***UHF Cache Batteries***

There was nothing new to discuss.

**New Business – None.**

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair –**

Dennis Nazzaro reported that Northampton is moving forward with the switch to an 800 p25 trunk system. They are keeping the VHF system up and patched to it on the fire side. Others including Franklin County will have access to talk groups. PD will be encrypted, but if you need it they can get you the encryption. Due to supply chain issues they are not sure when will get it going, but likely 16-18 months or longer.

Steve Kozloski asked Nate Crowther about progress with Motorola on the updated system keys. The system key came through but the key fobs were configured wrong, so they went back to Motorola for reconfiguration, but there has been no response yet.

Bob Garriepy reported that at a whitewater canoe race, they ran into an issue with batteries and discovered that APX 8000 radios are not compatible with APX 6000 batteries.

Lindsay Stromgren reported that there was a trail race in the Holyoke Range at which they made good use of regional assets and had good communication.

Dennis Nazzaro reported that RISU (the command post in Springfield) just found out that their UHF radios are not capable of doing trunking. They are going to try to get a radio from WESTCOMM. Anthony Gentile reported that he bought three Kenwoods for their fire departments and is waiting to get them programmed. Those are less expensive, and he will hand them out to communities that go to East Longmeadow.

Steve Kozloski congratulated John Ruggerio on a WESTCOMM related interruption with service for which he set up a Zello talk group that worked flawlessly. It is probably

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something he will explore as a backup for the Rapid Comm trailer. Anthony Gentile noted that he also used Zello for about a half hour when they needed backup.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Dennis Nazzaro moved to adjourn. Tom Grady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Walter Tibbetts, Butch Garrity, Anthony Gentile, Dennis Nazzaro, Matt Barstow, Nina Barszcz, Steve Kozloski, Bob Garriepy, and Tom Grady voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for May 17, 2022
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2022 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 5/13/22
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 5/13/22
- Proposal from the Franklin County CoMIRS Advisory Group, dated 4/19/22

Respectfully submitted by:

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

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
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Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Bernard Forgea (Cummington FD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Walter Tibbetts (NWMIMT/FCECS)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC)

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

Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 17, 2022 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Jason Breault moved to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2022 meeting as submitted. Bob Garriepy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Tom Grady, Jason Breault, Bob Garriepy, Dennis Nazzaro, and Matt Barstow voted in favor. Bernie Forgea abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SIEC Update** – Jason Breault had no updates to report.

**SWIC Update** – No one was present to give an update.

**Project Updates**

Raine Brown reported on the status of current projects.

**Hinsdale Rehab Bus Radio** – Delivery has been delayed, likely due to supply chain challenges.

**Multiband Radio Replacement Berkshire/Hampden** – Purchase Orders were issued and we should hopefully see them come in soon.

**Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer** – This was approved by the full Council, but SIEC did not meet last month so it was bumped to their July meeting.

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**Franklin County Portable DVRs** – This project was approved today at the full Council meeting. Raine will send the project justification to EOPSS and SIEC.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

**Berkshire County** – Tom Grady reported. They are finishing out the recent round of development grant projects and submitted for the next round of grant funding. Tom attended the State 911 executive meeting. They hope to have guidance and awards out by the end of June.

**Franklin County** – Walter Tibbetts reported. The UHF system is not in use much but is holding steady. The report on the decommissioning plan was not ready in time, raising some concern. They had a meeting with EOTSS and the State Police. They are running into supply issues as well, so Phase 1A of the project—bringing Franklin County all on digital—is being pushed back to December, 2023, then they will look at decommissioning the rest of the UHF system.

Butch Garrity added updates about two recent incidents involving interoperability challenges: a major fire in Orange and a mass casualty incident in Northfield. In Orange there was lots of heavy traffic and three task forces, but overall the communication system handled it well. In Northfield, they used DART, UMass Life Flight and Boston Med Flight copters. DART did not have 8TAC91D. Boston and UMass landed on hand signals. We need to get this resolved. Walter noted that we were told that they all had 8TAC, UTAC, and VTAC, but even if they do, if the end user is not familiar with it, it is a problem.

**Hampshire County** – Lindsay Stromgren had no updates to report on Hampshire County, but added to the conversation about the Franklin County incidents. Regarding the aircraft issues, we have discussed this for years so it is an end user issue at this point. We have gotten the word out. The issue may be with the pilots and/or dispatchers. He asked about follow-up. Butch responded that he contacted Kevin Clark and Bill Stubba. Tom asked that it be forwarded to Raine so we can send it on to the SWIC with a narrative of what the subcommittee has done to get everyone notified. The SWIC should be directly involved.

Regarding the Orange fire, Lindsay noted that it revealed issues with the new system and interops, but ultimately it went well. Amherst got there on UHF sim 1 on mutual aid, and once they got there they were initially dead in the water because incident commanders were operating on UTAC and Amherst had no ability to be on their TAC channels and had no 800 portables. ISU arrived, run by Dennis, who connected them to the 8TAC. When the Hampshire County Task Force arrived they continued to use that. It shows the value of our assets, and that the standard for future purchases should be all-band radios.

**Hampden County** – No one was present to give an update.

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

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

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**MSP** – Matt Barstow reported. In the last couple weeks they supported the US Open in Brookline. For the CoMIRS project, EOTSS is working with FRCOG regarding the decommissioning plan to make sure there is coverage available, and also so that if the Commonwealth can continue to leverage the assets at favorable lease conditions they will try to do that even if FRCOG is no longer the owner. The engineering team is looking at Geotech, foundation, and tower mapping in sites where they will be expanding, trying to find historic Geotech data to make sure can provide accurate structural analysis before approaching landlords.

**911/Dispatch** – Tom Grady reported. Development grants should be awarded by the end of June. We are approaching the end of the fiscal year with State 911, so everything will be due. They want to reminded everyone about multiline telephone systems. PSAPs have an obligation to notify anyone in their communities using MLTS that have to comply with Carrie’s law. It is important to get them to test call 911 so they can see where the calls are originating.

The 988 number will roll out July 15. This was a federal mandate to more or less replace the ten digit suicide hotline number and provide other mental health services. He and others have concerns. The State needs to decide how to manage mental health responses. There is no way to transfer a caller to the 988 number yet. A 988 call goes to a fully staffed 24 hour call center where people are trained in suicide prevention and mental health awareness to get callers connected to resources. Matt Barstow added that 988 was a hot topic at the 911 conference. If you dial 988, the call will be routed to the Samaritans number or to a veteran’s center. But 988 does not have routing behind it like 911 does, which means it will route by area code, not location, which is problematic. Area codes 413 and 508 will be covered by a New York call center. Some other concerns include: what does a PSAP do with a call if someone calls 911 to reach 988, and what happens when 988 gets a call that needs 911 response? 988 is anonymous; what happens when that goes to a call center and response needs a location? State 911 is working on this. Federally, this has been doled out to DPH, but 911 has been involved because of the interface. 14 states spoke at the conference about how they are implementing it. It is a work in progress, but with the federal mandate it is going live July 15 whether or not the states are ready.

**Air Methods** – No one was present to give a report.

**Other** – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. We have utilized all FFY20 funds with the approval of the DVR project. We will now work with FFY21 funds, with just over \$151,000 to spend through July, 2023.

**Requests** – None.

**Old Business** –

**UHF Cache Batteries**

Jason Breault reported that the UHF cache radio batteries are beginning to wear, and some are failing. He asked if there is interest in replacing them. They use the radios quite a bit in

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Berkshire County, and MSP uses them for the Marathon. They have about 120 batteries. Raine noted that the last time we purchased batteries we did so for all UHF caches, but she has not had requests from any other departments that manage the other caches, so she is not sure if they are being used and if they need new batteries. Tom requested that subcommittee members aware of UHF cache radios look into this so that next month we can do a final count for battery replacement. Jason will reach out to Motorola to get a quote.

**New Business** – Bob Garriepy noted that numbers of voting members have been dwindling, and nominated Jay Hastings. Raine noted that this year WMRIC needs to reconsider the at-large seats. She will put it together for review at next month’s meeting. Westcomm has also been participating on a regular basis. We need to decide if we should add them as a participating entity or ask them to take an at-large seat.

Jason Breault noted that if we are looking to expend any funding, a Vislink receiver and decoder would be a nice addition to the command center.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair** – Tom reported that the Fusion Center wants to be notified when you have large scale events so they can provide threat assessments, and also so they can log preplanned events and emergency events. Secretary Benincasa is trying to put together a proposal to advocate for more federal funding for the Commonwealth.

Walter reported that he is retiring in ten days. Joe Cuneo is taking over as chair of FCECS committee, but he will remain as ex-officio for now.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 12:30 pm; format/location TBD.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Jason Breault moved to adjourn. Walter Tibbetts seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Bernie Forgea, Tom Grady, Jason Breault, Walter Tibbetts, Butch Garrity, Bob Garriepy, Dennis Nazzaro, and Matt Barstow voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 1:08 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for June 21, 2022
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from May 17, 2022 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 6/17/22
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 6/17/22

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

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
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**Subcommittee members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Bernard Forgea (Cummington FD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Z Smith (South Country EMS), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rob Crouse (Air Methods), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Kurt Seaman (FCECS/FRCOG)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD)

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

Anthony Gentile called the meeting to order at 12:36 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the June 21, 2022 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Butch Garrity moved to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2022 meeting as submitted. Anthony Gentile seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Z Smith, Butch Garrity, Anthony Gentile, and Bob Garriepy voted in favor. Bernie Forgea and Nina Barszcz abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SEIC and SWIC Update** – Rich Fiske reported. The SIEC meeting for July was postponed until August 3. There have been some communications back and forth around air methods. Rich established an SIEC presence on the mass.gov public facing website to post SIEC documents. Funding for a COML and COMT class has been secured, with tentative dates at the end of October. Classes will be in person.

**Project Updates**

Raine Brown reported on the status of current projects.

**Hinsdale Rehab Bus Radio** – We are still waiting on the radio. Motorola anticipates it coming through the supply chain soon.

**Multiband Radio Replacement Berkshire/Hampden** – Radios will be going to Jason Breault and Steve Kozloski.

**Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer** – This will go before SIEC in August.

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*Franklin County Portable DVRs* – This will go before SIEC in August.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

*Berkshire County* – No one was present to give an update.

*Franklin County* – Z Smith reported. Digital roll out for the rest of Franklin County has been pushed back. They will be doing a pager inventory study for Fire and EMS as they switch from UHF to 800, and seeing if there is State money to help that migration. When we switched to 800, most departments went with Motorola but a few wanted to stick with Kenwood. They are now dealing with some challenges related to vehicle repeaters on the Kenwoods. John Ruggerio worked out a solution and they will be working with those departments.

*Hampshire County* – Lindsay Stromgren had no updates to report.

*Hampden County* – No one was present to give an update.

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

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

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

*911/Dispatch* – Nina Barszcz reported. 988 went live July 16, as discussed at the last meeting. The TERT program (emergency response task force) is looking for agencies to fill out surveys about agency needs.

*Air Methods* – Rob Crouse reported. He has replaced Cameron Spanfelner as area manager, overseeing three LifeStar bases and the UMass base in Worcester. Please use him as a resource, or reach out with questions or issues. They will be starting to work with Holyoke hospital. His cell number is 845-376-7861, email Robert.crouse@airmethods.com.

*Other* – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. In FFY21 we have just over \$151,000 to spend through the end of July, 2023. We have had no requests for those funds yet.

**Requests** – None.

**Old Business** –

***UHF Cache Batteries***

No one was present to give an update.

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**New Business – WMRIC seats and upcoming nominations**

Raine explained that the way WMRIC works is different than the other subcommittees. There is a specific number of seats available; nominations are supposed to happen in even years. The current lineup is in today's packet. System reps are put in place by the systems. At-large reps can be nominated and are usually people who are coming. Nina took one by default since she is the communications rep to the Council. We have not seen Peter Cowles in a while and he has not responded to Raine's emails, so that seat is up for consideration. WESTCOMM has been regularly attending meetings. Should they come on as a system, or serve in an at-large seat? All at-large seats are up for grabs this year. People need to attend at least 6 meetings a year. In September or October we should make nominations, with the vote taking place November or December so seats are active by January. If anyone currently in an at-large seat does not want it anymore, or if you have interest in serving, let us know.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair** – None.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The committee decided to continue the tradition of not meeting in August.

**Motion:** Anthony Gentile moved to defer the August WMRIC meeting. Z Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Z Smith, Butch Garrity, Bernie Forgea, Anthony Gentile, Nina Barszcz, and Bob Garriepy voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Anthony Gentile moved to adjourn. Z Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Z Smith, Butch Garrity, Bernie Forgea, Anthony Gentile, Nina Barszcz, and Bob Garriepy 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 July 19, 2022
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2022 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 7/14/22
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 7/14/22
- WMRIC Organization Chart and Decision Process Tree

Respectfully submitted by:  
Rachel Mason, WRHSAC 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 20, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Bernard Forgea (Cummington FD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Z Smith (South Country EMS), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rob Crouse (Air Methods), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD) Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC)

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

Anthony Gentile called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the July 19, 2022 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Jason Breault moved to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2022 meeting as submitted. Z Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Lindsay Stromgren, Jason Breault, Dennis Nazzaro, Bob Garriepy, Z Smith, and Butch Garrity voted in favor. Tom Grady abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC Update** – No one was present to give an update.

**SEIC Update** – Jason Breault reported. COML and COMT courses are scheduled for October and November. MPTC programming compliance continues to be a challenge. The statewide radio project is on schedule for completion in 2026.

**Project Updates**

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

**Hinsdale Rehab Bus Radio** – The project is complete. There is a thank you in today's packet.

**Multiband Radio Replacement Berkshire/Hampden** – Some radios have been delivered. Jason reported that the other items, including chargers and mics, are on back order.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
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Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 12:30pm**

***Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer*** – Purchase orders have been issued for the repeater and duplexer. Raine is in contact with the vendor to see if we can purchase the cradlepoint off the State contract or whether we need to run an RFQ.

***Franklin County Portable DVRs*** – These are on order and will hopefully arrive soon.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

***Berkshire County*** – Tom Grady reported. They are finishing out the project they have been working on for two years.

***Franklin County*** – Z Smith reported that with the switch to CoMIRS, FCECS is coming offline. Questions need to be addressed including what happens to the CMED8 repeater on top of Greenfield Mountain when FCECS turns off. FRCOG is coordinating with the hospital to make sure everything stays connected. Lindsay asked when the 400mHz will be shut down, as fire chiefs will need advance notification. Z and Butch explained that there is no date set yet and it is still at least a few months out, maybe as much as 18 months.

Butch Garrity reported that the Tech Rescue Team had a drill on August 2 with 3 patches going with the Field Comm Unit that went well. They are making progress with Franklin County Fire CQI Committee specific to communications. They have done two trainings with fire depts. They are scheduling more for the fall and will be doing a presentation about the program at the APCO Conference in NH. Butch did a report for today tracking the usage of regional towers for mutual aid. Franklin County is starting its decommissioning plan, with a vendor looking at what can be taken off now and what in future and where the equipment will go.

Bob Garriepy reported that the regional schools are on 450 band and looking for equipment, including 10-15 portables, if anyone is decommissioning anything that is usable.

***Hampshire County*** – Lindsay Stromgren, Bernie Forgea, and Dennis Nazzaro had no updates.

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

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

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

***911/Dispatch*** – Anthony Gentile reported. The State 911 Commission meeting is this Thursday.

***Air Methods*** – Rob Crouse reported. Regarding Nero's Law, they are looking at conducting trainings at UMass and Worcester with LifeStar. The most likely drop off location for Western Mass would be South Deerfield. UMass would likely take a K-9 to their facility near Worcester.

***Other*** – None.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. In FFY20 we have just over \$1,300 remaining. In FFY21 we have just over \$150,000.

**Requests**

***WMLEC Microwave Link***

Steve Kozloski was not in attendance to present the request, but Anthony noted that several links have gone down and suggested that the proposal be discussed anyway. Tom explained that the equipment is aging out and is a vital link for communities. We have supported this in the past. Raine noted that an EHP will be required and will need to go to a consultant..

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve up to \$50,000 for the WMLEC Microwave Link project. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Lindsay Stromgren, Jason Breault, Dennis Nazzaro, Tom Grady, Bob Garriepy, Z Smith, and Butch Garrity voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Old Business**

***UHF Cache Batteries***

Jason reported that he is still working on getting a quote.

***WMRIC seats and upcoming nominations/elections***

Raine reported that we should hold elections for WMRIC at-large seats in November. Nina will take one by default as a member of the Council, but the others open. Nate Crowther expressed interest. If others besides those already in the seats are interested, please contact Raine.

**New Business**

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

Anthony reported that he spoke with Rich Fiske, who asked if it would be a good idea for dispatch centers to start using LPS9 and 10 for side communications among PSAPs, similar to what LPS7 does in Central Mass. Each PSAP would need an APX radio on the desk or integrated into the console. Anthony thinks it is a good idea. Dennis agreed, as WMLEC is getting used less and less and it makes sense to transition into an alternative. Northampton dispatch is monitoring LPS9 and 10, and it sounds like Big E is using LPS10. Anthony noted that according to Rich, with regard to LPS7 an agency purchased radios for PSAPs for that. We will discuss it further with Rich next month.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair** – Lindsay reported that he got an email that Motorola is seeking MTUG input on advanced system key replacement and is looking to get customer input. He wondered if anyone knows more or if it was something we should be concerned with. Dennis thought that it is something for a higher level, those who own trunk systems. Lindsay will forward the email to the group.

Butch – There will be a TERT update tomorrow at the MCSA Meeting.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for September 20, 2022
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from July 19, 2022 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 9/16/22
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 9/16/22
- Letter of Appreciation from Raymond Bolduc / Town of Hinsdale, dated 8/22/22
- Proposal from Chief Stephen Kozloski / WMLEC, dated 7/29/22
- WMRIC Organization Chart and Decision Process Tree

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason  
WRHSAC 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, October 18, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Bernard Forgea (Cummington FD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Tom Kettle (Westfield State EMD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Kurt Seaman (FCECS)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Z Smith (South Country EMS)

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

Anthony Gentile called the meeting to order at 12:29 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 20, 2022 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2022 meeting as submitted. Bob Garriepy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Bernie Forgea, Lindsay Stromgren, Anthony Gentile, Butch Garrity, Nina Barszcz, Bob Garriepy, Tom Grady, and Tyrone Denson voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC Update** – No one was present to give an update.

**SIEC Update** – No one was present to give an update.

**Project Updates**

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

**Hinsdale Rehab Bus Radio** – The project is complete.

**Multiband Radio Replacement Berkshire/Hampden** – Radios have been delivered to Hampden County, but Berkshire County is still waiting for them, and we are still waiting for the mics and other items.

**Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer** – Everything has been ordered.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Franklin County Portable DVRs** – A few pieces are arriving.

**WMELC Microwave Link** – Anthony Gentile reported that he spoke with Chief Kozloski. State Police are checking the tower at the Hovey Hill site and are not sure if they will keep it or replace it, so it is not prudent to buy a new microwave link at this time. At the Council meeting this morning, Anthony presented a motion for the GPS clock replacement only, which passed.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

**Berkshire County** – Tom Grady reported. They are still working through the development grant project, trying to finish before the end of fall. They had preliminary meetings with the CoMIRS group about bringing Berkshire County into the 800 system. There will be ongoing meetings.

**Franklin County** – Butch Garrity reported. They are having staffing issues at Shelburne, not getting resumes. The dispatch centers in Northampton and New Braintree are bringing in people to cross-train. Smith High School has some interns looking for dispatch jobs starting in November. They will be rotating in and out with school, one week at a time. They are hoping that a dispatch center would also introduce them to others, get them police ride-alongs, etc.

**Hampshire County** – Lindsay Stromgren had no updates.

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

**CMED** – Tyrone Denson reported. Chuck Balboni is dealing with some CMED problems. Goosetown is putting in some new equipment through Baystate. They have been having communication problems that Goosetown is trying to rectify.

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

**911/Dispatch** – Nina Barszcz reported, echoing Butch's update about staffing concerns. The State is still pushing MLTS compliance.

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

**Other** – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. We have a little over \$1,000 left in FFY20 and about \$144,000 in FFY21. The FFY21 funds need to be expended by the end of July, 2023.

**Requests** – None.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Old Business**

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

Anthony Gentile asked to table this until the next meeting when the SWIC can be here.

***UHF Cache Batteries***

Raine reported that she is waiting to hear more from Jason Breault on this.

***WMRIC seats and upcoming nominations/elections***

Raine suggested that we hold elections next month. She asked that people in at-large seats let her know if they are interested in maintaining that position. We have one open seat vacated by Peter Cowles. Nate Crowther has expressed interest.

**New Business**

None.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair** – None.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Bernie Forgea, Lindsay Stromgren, Butch Garrity, Nina Barszcz, Anthony Gentile, Tyrone Denson, Bob Garriepy, and Tom Grady voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 12:42 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for October 18, 2022
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2022 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 10/13/22
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 10/13/22

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason  
WRHSAC 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, November 18, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Bernard Forgea (Cummington FD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Erin Hastings (WESTCOMM), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Kurt Seaman (FCECS)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Z Smith (South Country EMS)

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

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 18, 2022 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Jason Breault moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting as submitted. Anthony Gentile seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Bernie Forgea, Lindsay Stromgren, Anthony Gentile, Dennis Nazzaro, Tom Grady, and Jason Breault voted in favor. Steve Kozloski abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC Update** – No one was present to give an update.

**SIEC Update** – Jason Breault reported that last month's meeting was cancelled. Dennis noted that there were a few COML and COMT trainings last month that just wrapped up.

**Project Updates**

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

**Multiband Radio Replacement Berkshire/Hampden** – Everything has been received in Hampden County except the extra batteries; Berkshire County has yet to receive any supplies.

**Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer** – All items have been ordered.

**Franklin County Portable DVRs** – All items have been ordered, and some pieces are arriving.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
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Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 18, 2022, 12:30pm**

*WMLEC GPS Module* – This project will be reviewed at the next SIEC meeting in December.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

*Berkshire County* – Tom Grady had no updates to report. Jason Breault reported that he had to bring a generator up to Brody Mountain to restore power.

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

*Hampshire County* – Lindsay Stromgren and Bernie Forgea had no updates to report.

*WMLEC* – Steve Kozloski reported that WMLEC was down for about 5 days as the result of a switch failure. They thought they were back on line, but he just learned from MSP that while the Hovey site is back up for Peru to Hovey, Mt. Tom and Lenox still seem to be down. They are not sure yet if this is due to additional hardware issues or switch configuration.

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

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

*911/Dispatch* – Anthony Gentile reported that the State 911 Commission meeting is tomorrow.

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

*Other* – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. The budget stands as it was last month, with about \$1,300 remaining in FFY20, which runs through June 2023. WMRIC has about \$145,000 in FFY21, which concludes at the end of July. We need additional projects on which to spend this money.

**Requests** – None.

**Old Business**

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

Anthony Gentile asked to table this until the next meeting when the SWIC can be here.

***UHF Cache Batteries***

There are no updates at this time.

***WMRIC seats and upcoming nominations/elections***

Voting was held for the six at-large seats. The five sitting members retained their positions, and were joined by one new member, Nate Crowther. The seats are now held by Nina Barszcz, Lindsay Stromgren, Bob Garriepy, Butch Garrity, Dennis Nazzaro, and Nate Crowther.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 18, 2022, 12:30pm**

**New Business**

None.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair**

Raine informed the committee that there is a strong likelihood that she will be taking medical leave starting next week, returning Dec 19. Rachel Mason and Bob Dean at FRCOG will cover for her in her absence.

Jay Hastings asked if anyone has experience with BDA (bi-directional amplifier), as they are putting one in at Westfield. Lindsay replied that he does and will talk with Jay offline.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Jason Breault moved to adjourn. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Bernie Forgea, Lindsay Stromgren, Anthony Gentile, Steve Kozloski, Dennis Nazzaro, Tom Grady, and Jason Breault voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 12:48 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for November 15, 2022
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from October 18, 2022 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 11/9/22
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 11/9/22

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason  
WRHSAC 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 20, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Bernard Forgea (Cummington FD), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Z Smith (South Country EMS)

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

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 15, 2022 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2022 meeting as submitted. Lindsay Stromgren seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Butch Garrity, Anthony Gentile, Tom Grady, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC Update** – No one was present to give an update.

**SIEC Update** – No one was present to give an update.

**Project Updates**

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

**Multiband Radio Replacement Berkshire/Hampden** – Hampden County has received most of the items. Berkshire has received some.

**Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer** – All items have been ordered. We are still waiting on delivery due to supply chain issues.

**Franklin County Portable DVRs** – Some pieces have arrived; we are waiting on others.

**WMLEC GPS Module** – Raine has not heard if the project was approved at the SIEC meeting.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 20, 2022, 12:30pm**

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

*Berkshire County* – Tom Grady reported that Jason Breault is now running the 911 center day-to-day operations.

*Franklin County* – Butch Garrity had no updates to report.

*Hampshire County* – Lindsay Stromgren had no updates to report.

*WMLEC* – Steve Kozloski reported. At a previous meeting they had requested GPS modules and also a microwave from Hovey to Mt Tom, but then they put the brakes on the latter because MSP was going through an expansion study and did not know the fate of Hovey tower. In the meantime, MSP has had an alternative up and running for the past few weeks.

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

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

*911/Dispatch* – Anthony Gentile reported that TERT (Telecommunicator Emergency Response Task Force) started December 1. If you have any issues with PSAPs, you can reach out for TERT deployment.

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

*Other* – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. WMRIC has almost \$144,000 remaining in FFY21. The current end date is the end of July, 2023, so we need to come up with projects. FFY22 grant funds are now on the books. WMIRC has just over \$145,000 there, with an end date at the end of July, 2024.

**Requests** – None.

**Old Business**

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

Anthony asked that we defer this discussion until Rich Fiske can be at a meeting.

***UHF Cache Batteries***

Raine has not heard from Jason Breault about this.

***WMRIC seats***

Voting took place last month. The new lineup will begin with voting privileges in January. The only change is Nate Crowther in place of Peter Cowles.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 20, 2022, 12:30pm**

**New Business**

None.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair**

Lindsay Stromgren asked to revisit the topic of LPS9 and LPS10 talkgroups because they need to put an 800 MHz system in their dispatch, and they are holding off on spending money on that equipment if there might be another source. Anthony replied that the idea would be for WMRIC to pay for it.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Anthony Gentile, Steve Kozloski, Bob Garriepy, Butch Garrity, and Tom Grady voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 12:41 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for December 20, 2022
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2022 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 12/16/22
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 12/16/22

Respectfully submitted by:

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