

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 12:30pm**

Subcommittee members present: Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Bernard Forgea (Cumington FD), 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), Z Smith (South Country EMS)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Kurt Seaman (FCECS)

Subcommittee members absent: Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD)

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

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

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

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2022 meeting as submitted. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Z Smith, Anthony Gentile, Nate Crowther, Butch Garrity, Jason Breault, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Bob Garriepy, and Matt Barstow voted in favor. Nina Barszcz abstained. The motion was approved.</p>

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair – None.

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

SIEC Update – Jason Breault shared notes from the last SIEC meeting. Contact him for a copy.

Project Updates

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

Multiband Radio Replacement Berkshire/Hampden – Berkshire County is waiting on a few remaining pieces.

Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer – These are on backorder.

Franklin County Portable DVRs – Some items have been received; we are waiting on others.

WMLEC GPS Module – This project is out to bid for quotes.

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Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported. They are continuing to finish the last round of development grant funding. The project was split between two years; the first was equipment and the second is installation. The expected completion date is within development grant timeline. Jason Breault added that there have been challenges with staffing levels, and they asked State 911 and MSP Northampton to take some phone calls this month.

Franklin County – Butch Garrity and Z Smith had no updates to report.

Hampshire County – Lindsay Stromgren and Bernie Forgea had no updates to report. Matt Barstow reported that they had talked about the future of the VHF system, but at present it will remain as it is.

WMLEC – Steve Kozloski reported. As reported last month, they stopped the replacement of the microwave from Hovey to Mt. Tom due to uncertainty about the future of the site. MSP provided an alternate path, but that was interrupted by the storms before Christmas. That has since been repaired and Hovey is back on the air.

CMED – No one was present to give an update.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported. They are continuing to work on the CoMIRS update statewide and have received core equipment at Framingham and Peru. They have been installing equipment including new HVAC units in western Mass, doing a lot of work with site acquisition, and doing structural analysis, foundational mapping, and geo mapping for sites in Central and Western Mass for building out a redundant backhaul system. They had some microwave dish alignment issues due to the storm, but that has been fixed.

911/Dispatch – Nina Barszcz reported. The Standards Committee has been meeting regarding standards for Enhanced 911 / Next Gen 911. They held a meeting Friday for public comments. Communications centers will be hearing more about that in the future. Development grants for regional centers or anyone looking to develop a regional center are due March 2. Nina received an extension on the development grant for FY22 to do a radio overhaul project for Southwick.

Matt Barstow reported that there was discussion in meeting with State 911 about the TERT program. State 911 took the position that TERT was designed to supplement catastrophic staffing failure, not to fill in as temporary staffing when a staffing shortage was due to normal hiring practices. If dispatch centers are thinking they can use TERT to supplement low staffing levels, it might not be approved. Discussion followed, and there was agreement that there might be a gap in understanding the needs of the PSAP community.

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

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Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine Brown reported. This committee has over \$145,000 for FFY21, which currently ends at the end of July but will likely be extended until the end of this calendar year. FFY22 funds are now available, with \$165,000 for WMRIC and 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 will talk with Rich Fiske and report back next meeting.

UHF Cache Batteries

Jason Breault will circle back with Motorola to get a quote.

New Business

None.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

<p>Motion: Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Z Smith seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Z Smith, Matt Barstow, Bernie Forgea, Nina Barszcz, Anthony Gentile, Butch Garrity, Nate Crowther, Jason Breault, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, and Bob Garriepy voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for January 17, 2023
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from December 20, 2022 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 1/13/23
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 12/16/22
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 1/13/23

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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

Subcommittee members absent: Matt Barstow (MSP), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield 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 17, 2023 meeting.

<p>Motion: Jason Breault moved to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023 meeting as submitted. Bob Garriepy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Lindsay Stromgren, Nina Barszcz, Z. Smith, Stephen Kozloski, Jason Breault, Bob Garriepy, Dennis Nazzaro, Nate Crowther, and Tom Grady voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair – None.

SWIC Update and SIEC Update – Rich Fiske reported on a couple of new initiatives for 2023. One is the requirement to include communications and interoperability in all full scale exercises funded by the Council. The communications component can be simple or complex.

The Statewide Interoperability Plan (SCIP) is due to be refreshed this year. The process will begin with a working group. They will be holding a statewide COMEX to exercise assets and capabilities, likely in late spring or early summer.

Rich is working on an initiative for better sharing of data between agencies and PSAPs. The MIFOG and eFOG are also being updated.

Rich attended the State911 National Administrators Conference and will be following up with initiatives on several levels to think outside the box with hands-on scenario trainings. At the regional level, they are working toward access for all PSAPs to the CoMIRS system. In terms of

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data sharing and CAD interoperability, the statewide CAD system is not a viable option, so it will be better to leverage next gen or other systems.

With CISA and a contractor, Rich is in the final stages of coming up with a more comprehensive Massachusetts PSAP COOP template. A short discussion followed about COOP plans and gaps.

Project Updates

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

Multiband Radio Replacement Berkshire/Hampden – Both counties have received all radios and accessories. Raine will touch base with Jason and Steve about getting these into resource guide and the procedure for borrowing. Other than that the project is complete.

Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer – They have received the repeater but are still waiting on the cradlepoint and duplexer.

Franklin County Portable DVRs – Both units were received and inventoried. Raine will be in touch with Kurt and Xander about getting them into the resource guide.

WMLEC GPS Module – This can happen as soon as Goosetown gets the parts and installs them.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported. They are still finalizing last round of development grant funding but should be done soon. There was an issue at the Florida Mountain site when a vendor plugged equipment into a backup system, putting equipment at risk. They have had conversations about how to prevent this in the future.

Franklin County – Z. Smith had no updates to report. Kurt Seaman reported that they had a console failure in Shelburne last Sunday. At one point all four consoles were down and they worked off cache radios.

Hampshire County – Lindsay Stromgren reported that one cache of UHF radios was relocated from Amherst to Belchertown. Dennis Nazzaro noted that the other cache is in Williamsburg.

WMLEC – Steve Kozloski reported that he has had discussions with Kurt regarding the decommissioning of the FCECS system. They plan to maintain contact as the decommissioning project moves along. He also had a discussion with Rich Fiske about the future of WMLEC.

CMED – No one was present to give an update.

MSP – No one was present to give an update.

911/Dispatch – Nina Barszcz reported. Development grants are due March 2.

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

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine Brown reported. For FFY21 WMRIC has just over \$145,000. The current end date is at the end of July, but we anticipate an extension. For FFY22 the subcommittee has just over \$165,000 to spend by the end of July, 2024. The NOFO for FFY23 funds will be issued to the State next week, so we will need to start the next planning process soon.

Requests

Berkshire MSP AirWing Downlink Receiver

Jason Breault reported that they are looking to procure a Vislink receiver. They purchased a tower a few years ago, which is on the back of the command center. The current MSP system does not work in Berkshire County because of the hills and mountains. This would be an addition to the portables. See details in today's meeting packet.

Motion: Dennis Nazzaro moved to approve \$75,000 for the purchase of the Vislink bundle. Bob Garriepy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Z. Smith, Bernie Forgea, Anthony Gentile, Nina Barszcz, Bob Garriepy, Dennis Nazzaro, Nate Crowther, Butch Garrity, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. Jason Breault and Tom Grady abstained. The motion was approved.

Old Business

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

Rich Fiske discussed the proposed initiative for using LPS9 and LPS10 for communication centers to talk to each other. This is a statewide initiative to try to get every agency access to those systems. It is not intended to replace any systems but to augment communication at statewide level. LPS9 already exists as a hailing channel and LPS10 for tactical use. They are already designated for interoperability. If a PSAP has its own tactical channel, they can patch it in to allow interoperability with other State users. Discussion ensued about how to fund this, including the suggestion from Tom that if this is to be a statewide solution there ought to at least be a conversation with State 911, even if they do not currently have a program for this. Rich asserted that most PSAPs would not need any new equipment, but for those that do, solutions could include the purchase of consolette or core connection. Every PSAP will be a little different. There was agreement that the first step would be to query who has 800 capable equipment in dispatch centers, and for those who do not, to find out what they need. Anthony will put together a list of all Western Mass PSAPs and reach out to each one.

UHF Cache Batteries

Jason reported that he sent a request to the radio vendor but is still waiting for a reply. Rich noted that there has been an issue with battery backorders all over the East Coast, but that it is starting to clear up.

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New Business – None.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair – None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting unless notified otherwise.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:19 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for February 21, 2023
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2023 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 2/17/23
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 2/17/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 2/17/23
- Downlink Video Receiver Project proposal from Jason Breault, dated 2/16/23

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, March 21, 2023, 12:30pm**

Subcommittee members present: Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Z Smith (South Country EMS)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Erin Hastings (WESTCOMM), Nick Licata (FRCOG), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Kurt Seaman (FCECS)

Subcommittee members absent: Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Bernard Forgea (Cummington FD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC)

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

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

The committee reviewed the minutes from the February 21, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Jason Breault moved to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 meeting as submitted. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Lindsay Stromgren, Dennis Nazzaro, Bob Garriepy, Jason Breault, Nina Barszcz, Butch Garrity, Tyrone Denson, and Tom Grady voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair – None.

SWIC Update and SIEC Update – Rich Fiske had no updates to report. The next SIEC meeting will be held in May.

Project Updates

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

Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer – The repeater is in, the others are not.

WMLEC GPS Module – We are waiting for this to arrive and be installed.

Berkshire Mobile Command Video Downlink – This project was approved at the Council meeting this morning. Since there is no SIEC meeting in April, it will go before them in May.

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Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady had no updates to report.

Franklin County – Butch Garrity had no updates to report.

Hampshire County – Lindsay Stromgren had no updates to report. Matt Barstow reported that in the storm last week they lost power to Mt. Skinner. Many poles and trees were down and they were worried the generator would run out of fuel before they could get up there. They had contingency plans to use Lincoln, but DCR was able to clear the road in time and they got power restored. Dennis Nazzaro reported that Lincoln also had trees down and was also snowed in.

WMLEC – No one was present to give an update.

CMED – Tyrone Denson had no updates to report.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported that 14 sites lost power in the storm, some for a couple of days. They had to go up to one site with the sno-cat to clear trees and replace a failed generator.

911/Dispatch – Nina Barszcz reported. The Westfield international air show is coming May 13-14. They are doing operational planning for communications with MEMA and other entities.

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

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine Brown reported. The subcommittee has just over \$70,000 remaining in FFY21 and \$165,069 in FFY22.

Requests

None.

Old Business

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

Rich Fiske explained that this is a statewide initiative to combine efforts, but how it will be funded has yet to be decided. The first step is to survey capabilities and needs. Anthony will get together a list for the region. Butch noted that he checked with Montague and Greenfield; neither of them have it in their console, and both would like a consolette if it could be provided.

UHF Cache Batteries

Jason Breault received a quote of \$8,151 for the purchase of 150 batteries. There was discussion about where all of the 150 radios are. Raine noted that there will need to be more coordination on where they will be delivered and who will take charge of them. Dennis

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offered to bring this back to WMFCA. Jason offered to receive them and oversee distribution. Jason will ask Motorola if they will take old batteries back for disposal.

Motion: Butch Garrity moved to approve \$8,151 for the purchase of 150 UHF batteries. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Lindsay Stromgren, Dennis Nazzaro, Matt Barstow, Bob Garriepy, Jason Breault, Nina Barszcz, Butch Garrity, Tyrone Denson, and Tom Grady voted in favor. The motion was approved.

New Business

FFY23 Investment Planning – Raine reported that the investment planning was voted on at the Council meeting this morning, with \$150,000 set aside for WMRIC.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair – Butch Garrity presented a request from NWMIMT and Tri State to replace equipment in FieldComm 40. Rich Fiske added some updates about the Field Comm program in general (6 in the State), and noted that the trucks are getting old. Discussion included some questions about the status of the vehicle in Franklin County, alternative possible funding streams, whether either of the other two states in the tri-state region are willing to put in money to support this, and whether they will need installation for all of the components. There was agreement to table the request until next month and ask for a revised proposal with a real quote and answers to questions that emerged.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Jason Breault moved to adjourn. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Anthony Gentile, Z. Smith, Dennis Nazzaro, Matt Barstow, Ty Denson, Jason Breault, Nina Barszcz, Butch Garrity, and Tom Grady voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for March 21, 2023
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2023 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY20 Budget Report through 2/17/23
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 3/17/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 2/17/23

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachel Mason, WRHSAC Program Assistant

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Franklin Regional Council of Governments

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Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 12:30pm**

Subcommittee members present: Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Bernard Forgea (Cumington FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Z Smith (South Country EMS)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Nick Licata (FRCOG), Kurt Seaman (FRCOG)

Subcommittee members absent: 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 12:30 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 21, 2023 meeting.

<p>Motion: Jason Breault moved to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 meeting as submitted. Tom Grady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Z. Smith, Anthony Gentile, Nina Barszcz, Dennis Nazzaro, Matt Barstow, Jason Breault, Butch Garrity, Bob Garriepy, Tom Grady, and Lindsay Stromgren voted in favor. Bernie Forgea and Nate Crowther abstained. The motion was approved.</p>

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair – None.

SWIC Update and SIEC Update – Rich Fiske had no updates to report. The next SIEC meeting will be held on May 3. The TERT team is fully running with 56 members statewide, but with a lower population in Western Mass. If there are any local PSAPs interested in serving on TERT, please contact Rich. It is not a staff augmentation team, more for disasters and unforeseen events. NICSWIC and SafeComm have had conversations around P25 cap requirements; the AES256 standard is the current standard for compliance, but they will be adding that it has to be multikey.

Project Updates

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

Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer – Jason Breault reported that they have the repeater but are still waiting on the cradlepoint and duplexer.

WMLEC GPS Module – Raine does not have any updates on this project.

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Berkshire Mobile Command Video Downlink – This project will go before SIEC in May.

UHF Cache Batteries – This was approved by the full Council today. Raine will submit it to EOPSS. Batteries do not need SIEC approval.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported that they are waiting for the announcement of State 911 grant awards to see if they can move forward with the next phase of projects and build outs. Jason Breault reported that they have had a lot of issues with calls being transferred from the State of Florida to Florida, MA. It is turning into an issue. There have also been some State of Florida jurisdictions popping up on the 911 “out of state” screen, and it is not clear what they are for or why they are there.

Franklin County – Z. Smith had no updates to report.

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

WMLEC – No one was present to give an update.

CMED – No one was present to give an update.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported. They are continuing to work on upgrading the equipment in Western Mass for Phase 1a of the CoMIRS statewide upgrade project, preparing for going to full TDMA. Local MSP provided support for the brush fires in central Mass and the marathon.

911/Dispatch – Nina Barszcz reiterated Rich’s comments on the TERT program and added that to activate the team you should use the MEMA 508 dispatch number. Also, there are more grants coming out on the website. Matt Barstow noted that State 911 had told him they were not accepting new TERT members until the next fiscal year. Rich clarified that this is because the fiscal piece may be more complicated right now if a new contract is required, but he urged that anyone who wants to be part of the program should apply now. Matt also asked that everyone share with their PSAPs that State911 will be replacing the DLR Equature recorders which record 911 calls and sometimes also 10 digit and radio calls. Going forward, you will no longer be allowed to record radio calls on these recorders, so PSAPs depending on this will need to purchase something different within the next 3 years.

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

Other – None.

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Budget Review

Raine Brown reported. The subcommittee has not quite \$62,000 remaining in FFY21 and just over \$165,000 in FFY22.

Requests – See “Old Business”

Old Business

Interoperability using the State’s P25 system talkgroups LPS9 and LPS10

Anthony Gentile had no updates this month.

Tri-State/NWMIMT FC40 upgrades

Raine noted that the prices in the quotes and proposal do not match. She sent a request to Butch and JT for more clarity. Butch replied that JT is on vacation. A decision was made to table this until next month’s meeting. Tom Grady asked that they provide a report on the condition of the vehicle and if it makes sense to invest large amounts of money into it. Lindsay Stromgren raised a question about going with FirstNet versus Verizon. He and Jason posited that for projects like this a dual carrier option is best way to go.

New Business – None.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair – None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

<p>Motion: Jason Breault moved to adjourn. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Bernie Forgea, Z. Smith, Nina Barszcz, Matt Barstow, Lindsay Stromgren, Anthony Gentile, Dennis Nazzaro, Jason Breault, Nate Crowther, Tom Grady, and Bob Garriepy voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for April 18, 2023
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2023 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 4/14/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 4/14/23

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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Subcommittee members present: Matt Barstow (MSP), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Butch Garrity (Shelburne Control/MSP), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Aaron Budine (IMT and FC40), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Kurt Seaman (FRCOG), John Taylor (Shelburne Fire / Tri State Fire Mutual Aid)

Subcommittee members absent: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst 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 April 18, 2023 meeting.

<p>Motion: Jason Breault moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting as submitted. Butch Garrity seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Dennis Nazzaro, Nate Crowther, Bob Garriepy, Jason Breault, Butch Garrity, and Matt Barstow voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair – None.

SWIC Update – None.

SIEC Update – Jason Breault reported. PSAP coop template work continues for the State. The NextGen911 updated operational standards have been finalized. The CoMIRS modernization project continues.

Project Updates

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

Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer – Jason Breault reported that they received the cradlepoint yesterday. Raine Brown added that the duplexer is on backorder.

WMLEC GPS Module – Goosetown told Chief Kozloski they are waiting for the equipment.

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Berkshire Mobile Command Video Downlink – This was supposed to go before SIEC, but it was left off the agenda. It will be reviewed at the next SIEC meeting.

UHF Cache Batteries – This was approved and the Purchase Order was issued today.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Jason Breault reported that they are still in phase of upgrading radios at sites to GTR8000s. Anthony Gentile shared an update from Tom Grady noting that they found an antenna problem at the Florida Mountain site and are in the process of getting repairs scheduled.

Franklin County – Butch Garrity had no updates to report.

Hampshire County – Dennis Nazzaro reported that they are looking at all the Hampshire County fire sites and trying to come up with long term plans. Bob Garriepy reported that he is working with Pelham PD on the Hampshire Hills project [see “requests,” below].

WMLEC – No one was present to give an update.

CMED – No one was present to give an update.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported that MSP assisted MEMA and Westfield for the Barnes airshow, which went well. There is a water leak in the shelter in Savoy, which is being repaired.

911/Dispatch – Nina Barszcz sent Raine an update to share: State911 grants are on the website; PSAPs are struggling with staffing and recruitment; the Westfield air show went really well.

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

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine Brown reported. In FFY21, WMRIC has just under \$62,000. These funds will be extended through next June. In FFY22 WMRIC has just over \$165,000 to use through next July.

Requests

Pelham Police Radios – Dennis Nazzaro presented the request on behalf of the Pelham Police Chief. In 2016, WMRIC worked on the Hampshire Hills project and switched many towns to 800, but Pelham did not have great coverage so we did not buy those radios at that time. Now the Pelham VHF system is failing, they are missing calls, and there is no interoperability with neighboring Shutesbury. It has become a safety issue. They are requesting \$86,481.09 for three multiband radios, three DVRSSs, and three portable radios to match the rest of the county. In the meantime, MEMA has lent them some 800 portables and Pelham says they work well. Matt Barstow said that MSP supports this request, but suggested that before making the determination

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that Pelham should be going to 800 now, they need to do thorough testing and put the request through ICB because they have a freeze on new users coming on board. Following further discussion about the system improvements underway, there was agreement to move forward. Matt will submit the necessary documents for ICB approval on behalf of the dispatch center.

Motion: Jason Breault moved to approve \$87,000 for the Pelham police radios and DVRs. Bob Garriepy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Nate Crowther, Bob Garriepy, Jason Breault, and Butch Garrity voted in favor. Dennis Nazzaro and Matt Barstow abstained. The motion was approved.

Old Business

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

Anthony Gentile had no updates this month.

Tri-State/NWMIMT FC40 upgrades

John Taylor presented the updated proposal (included in today's meeting packet) which includes cross references so that everything should match up. The intent is still the same, to upgrade FC40 functionality with a Cradlepoint and other hardware. The unit is 20 years old but does not have a lot of mileage on it and it should still have a long life.

Motion: Jason Breault moved to approve \$56,000 for the FC40 upgrades. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Nate Crowther, Bob Garriepy, Jason Breault, Dennis Nazzaro, and Matt Barstow voted in favor. Butch Garrity abstained. The motion was approved.

New Business

Hampshire representative – Raine reported that she received email from Chief Flaherty from Hatfield, the head of Hampshire Fire Chiefs, naming Dennis as the Hampshire WMRIC rep now. Raine spoke to Bernie about taking the at-large seat, but Bernie no longer wants to serve. This leaves the at-large seat open. Send a letter to Raine if interested.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair – Jason congratulated Butch on his retirement.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Jason Breault moved to adjourn. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Dennis Nazzaro, Anthony Gentile, Nate Crowther, Bob Garriepy, Jason Breault, Butch Garrity and Matt Barstow voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for May 16, 2023

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- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from April 18, 2023 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 5/12/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 5/12/23
- Proposal from Gary Thomann / Pelham Police Department, dated 5/4/23
- Updated FC40 funding proposal from John Taylor / NWMIMT, dated 5/16/23

Respectfully submitted by:

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

DRAFT

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
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Subcommittee members present: Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD),

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Brian Nichols, Kurt Seaman (FRCOG)

Subcommittee members absent: Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Z Smith (South Country EMS)

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

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

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 16, 2023 meeting.

<p>Motion: Dennis Nazzaro moved to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2023 meeting as submitted. Jason Breault seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Anthony Gentile, Dennis Nazzaro, Nate Crowther, and Jason Breault voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair – None.

SWIC & SIEC Update – Rich Fiske reported. There is a lot going on July 2-5. If you are doing events that need any interops resources, get that to Rich ASAP. Last month Rich was appointed to Safecom as an at-large SWIC, which is good for MA. SWICs were asked to drive home the Safecom SNS survey, which he sent to stakeholders. It takes about 30 min and it is how the feds drive funding for public safety communications, so they need to hear from Mass stakeholders. MPTC and MDFS now have full time ASHER directors, John Mozza and Scott Cluett respectively. Rich is working closely with them to add communications/interops components to the trainings and TtT curriculum. He is also encouraging Councils to include PSAPs, dispatchers, and interoperability in all exercises and trainings, especially those that involve regional teams or multiple agencies. All incidents start with a PSAP/control center.

Rich is also working with stakeholders on a PSAP coop template. It is in the final review stages. This is not a requirement, just a tool. It is a MA-centric fill-in-the-blank tool. Covid exposed that dispatch centers lacked a viable coop plan. There will be a facilitators guide on how to use it. Later this year Rich will be working with CISA on a full scale communications exercise. It will be centrally located and will involve all regions and disciplines.

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The SCIP and FOG updates are due in 2023; Rich is hoping that people in this group will be involved. Phase 1A of the CoMIRS project is still going on, with site and tower acquisition and remediating old tower sites. The project is still on track for completion in 2026. Rich got feedback about the Westfield air show and the struggles with broadband connectivity. He has taken the feedback back to Verizon and is pushing to get answers about what happened and why. Undersecretary Benincasa has left and is being replaced by Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey. Rich has a meeting with her tomorrow. Lindsay Stromgren asked if there were problems with First Net at the air show or only Verizon. Rich replied that they did not get complaints about First Net. Diversifying connectivity profiles is recommended. Towers were maxed out and they did not have a COW deployable asset, as they had waited too long to request that.

Project Updates

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

Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer – Jason Breault reported. They have not received the duplexer yet. They were sent the wrong model of Cradlepoint. Raine has already been in discussion with the vendor to get it resolved.

WMLEC GPS Module – Raine has not heard any updates.

Berkshire Mobile Command Video Downlink – This was approved. Specs for procurement are with MAPC.

UHF Cache Batteries – Batteries were ordered.

Pelham Police 800 – This project was approved by the Council today and will go to the next SIEC meeting.

FC40 Comms Update – This project was approved by the Council today and will go to the next SIEC meeting.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Jason Breault reported. They are continuing with the tower upgrade and installing a new recording system.

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

Hampshire County – Dennis Nazzaro reported. They still have not had meeting yet on the fire side. On the police side, Pelham has a temporary fix for radios.

WMLEC – No one was present to give an update.

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CMED – No one was present to give an update.

MSP – No one was present to give an update.

911/Dispatch – Anthony Gentile shared a report from Nina Barszcz. With the new fiscal year comes the need for new trainings: 16 hours, plus 2 for mental health. PSAPs are reminded to look co-responder initiatives.

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

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine Brown reported. With the two projects approved today, WMRIC has \$84,000 remaining in FFY22, which runs through the end of July, 2024.

Requests

None.

Old Business

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

Rich Fiske reported that this has been getting more use in the Springfield area.

New Business

Open At-Large Seats – Raine Brown reported. There are two seats open, with Bernie Forgea stepping down and Butch Garrity's retirement. Raine received two letters of interest, one from Aaron Budine of Bernardston and one from Robert VanZandt of Belchertown. Aaron has not yet sent a resume. There was agreement to proceed with the vote for Robert but to table Aaron's candidacy pending receipt of his resume.

Motion: Jason Breault moved to accept Robert VanZandt's candidacy to WMRIC. Lindsay Stromgren seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Anthony Gentile, Dennis Nazzaro, Nate Crowther, and Jason Breault voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Rich announced that the next SIEC meeting will be in August. Regarding Verizon versus First Net, it is not lost on him that broadband connectivity in Western Mass has been challenging. He has been talking with First Net authority, AT&T, and Verizon about what is next for the State. We still have gaps in coverage. Some of the feedback has been that communities say they need broadband but are resistant to building needed infrastructure.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

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Motion: Jason Breault moved to adjourn. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Anthony Gentile, Dennis Nazzaro, Nate Crowther, and Jason Breault voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for June 20, 2023
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from May 16, 2023 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 6/16/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 6/16/23
- Letter of interest and resume from Robert VanZandt
- Letter of interest from Aaron Budine

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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Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 12:30pm**

Subcommittee members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Kurt Seaman (FRCOG), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG)

Subcommittee members absent: Matt Barstow (MSP), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC)

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

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

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the June 20, 2023 meeting.

<p>Motion: Dennis Nazzaro moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 meeting as submitted. Tom Grady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Anthony Gentile, Nate Crowther, and Dennis Nazzaro voted in favor. Nina Barszcz, Kurt Seaman, Tom Grady, Tyrone Denson and Robert VanZandt abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair – None.

SWIC & SIEC Update – No one was present to give an update. Raine Brown reported that SIEC will meet in August and review our projects.

Project Updates

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

Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer – We are still waiting on the duplexer. Raine will reach out to the new Motorola rep. Jason had indicated that the Cradlepoint we received is not cellular capable, but Raine contacted the vendor who says that it is; it just wasn't sent with a SIM card. Raine is trying to coordinate with Jason to get it squared away.

WMLEC GPS Module – The equipment is in, and Goosetown is working on the installation.

Berkshire Mobile Command Video Downlink – Procurement was run but the vendor did not respond. It will be run again, and Raine will reach out to the vendor to make sure they are aware.

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Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 12:30pm

UHF Cache Batteries – These are not in yet.

Pelham Police 800 – This is waiting for SIEC approval.

FC40 Comms Update – This is waiting for SIEC approval.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported. They did not receive development grant funding, but Tom has meeting with State911 to talk about other funds for the next phase of their project.

Franklin County – Kurt Seaman reported. They are in a holding pattern with the current 450 system. The money earmarked for pagers has arrived and they will be ordering 700 pagers. This is the last piece to complete the transition to the 800 system. Then they will decommission the 450 system and will offer some equipment to others. The system is suffering from Great Hill to Toby; they are in discussion with MSP about them taking it over.

Hampshire County – Dennis Nazzaro reported. The Fourth of July was busy. Dennis is planning to meet with Matt Barstow to discuss the Hampshire County Fire System.

WMLEC – No one was present to give an update.

CMED – Tyrone Denson had no updates to report.

MSP – No one was present to give an update.

911/Dispatch – Nina Barszcz reported. The State is switching out all the DLRs, but you can decline having the old one decommissioned for now if you have an in-house system already. They will eventually do it though. Westfield utilized surrounding agencies, the dive team, and DFS for a drowning in Hampden Pond. The A/C at the PSAP has been down for almost a month; DFS brought in a HVAC unit to supplement.

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

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine Brown reported. Including the two projects that are pending SIEC approval, WMRIC has total of just over \$84,000 for new projects.

Requests – None.

Old Business

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

This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

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Open At-Large Seat – Aaron Budine submitted letter and resume. Aaron introduced himself as a member of Bernardston Fire and FieldComm 40. He knows a lot of local depts. and people, and is very interested in communications and interoperability. Dennis Nazzaro and Nate Crowther added that they have worked with him and support his nomination.

Motion: Dennis Nazzaro moved to appoint Aaron Budine to the at-large WMRIC seat. Nate Crowther seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Nina Barszcz, Anthony Gentile, Tyrone Denson, Nate Crowther, Kurt Seaman, Dennis Nazzaro, Tom Grady, and Robert VanZandt voted in favor. The motion was approved.

New Business

New Franklin County Rep – Z. Smith has moved to a new position. Raine received a letter from FRCOG naming Kurt Seaman as the new Franklin County rep.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Tom Grady reported that he was going through the replacement batteries this past week, and when he took them out of the cartons they wouldn't charge. He contacted Motorola; they were purchased a little over a year ago, so they will not honor the warrantee. They ask that the batteries be placed in the charger within 6 weeks of receipt to make sure they are up and charging. Lindsay Stromgren noted that he had a similar issue with a few dozen batteries, but his counterpart has some kind of super conditioner and was able to recover 50-60% of them. Lindsay will send information about it to the group. Robert VanZandt added that the new Motorola batteries are coming out for APX8000. You need to do the firmware update.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Nina Barszcz moved to adjourn. Tom Grady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Nina Barszcz, Anthony Gentile, Tyrone Denson, Nate Crowther, Kurt Seaman, Dennis Nazzaro, Tom Grady, and Robert VanZandt voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for July 18, 2023
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from June 20, 2023 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 7/14/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 7/14/23

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, September 19, 2023, 12:30pm**

Subcommittee members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Kurt Seaman (FRCOG), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD),

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Bob Flaherty (Hatfield Fire), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Alexander J. Rock (EOPSS)

Subcommittee members absent: Matt Barstow (MSP), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

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

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

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the July 18, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Dennis Nazzaro moved to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2023 meeting as submitted. Tom Grady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Dennis Nazzaro, Anthony Gentile, Nate Crowther, Kurt Seaman, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, and Aaron Budine voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair – None.

SWIC & SIEC Update – Rich Fiske reported. The next SIEC meeting will be held in October. They kicked off the planning for the next SCIP update, which will continue through the end of the year with a goal for publication in first quarter of 2024. Rich will send Raine invitations to workshops in advance of the big meeting November 8. Stakeholder input is critical for success of the SCIP. Any gaps in interoperability can be added as topics for discussion in the workshop.

Project Updates

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

Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer – The Cradlepoint and Duplexer were received, and we are still waiting on the repeater. There is an issue with the Cradlepoint. Jason Breault had said it was not cellular capable, but upon review of specs for procurement it said no modem. So the quote in the packet was for a no-modem Cradlepoint. The vendor does not allow returns on hardware, so they are stuck with that unit. Raine has not heard from Jason if they want to submit request for a different unit. When you submit a request, please make sure the quotes you provide are exactly the item you want, as that is what Raine uses. They also send it back to the person

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who submitted the request, so please be certain that you review it. It was \$1,700. Rich was surprised to hear that they will not take it back. He will follow up with Jason and the vendor.

WMLEC GPS Module – Work is in progress. In July Raine heard that the equipment was “close to being delivered,” but they have no update since then.

Berkshire Mobile Command Video Downlink – This has been ordered.

UHF Cache Batteries – These were delivered, so the project is complete. Jason is working to get them deployed to the different caches.

Pelham Police 800 – Purchase Orders are in process.

FC40 Comms Update – Raine is working with the IMT on specs, then it will go out to bid.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady reported. They had an antenna issue at the Florida Mountain tower. It has been replaced. A community was having an issue receiving pages due to old software. The chief did not know they needed to have them upgraded regularly. They are now working with Pittsfield Communications to do that. Regarding the Motorola batteries, if we do not get them into chargers within 30 days we will own them whether they work or not.

Franklin County – Kurt Seaman reported. The tower at Berkshire East has been transferred to MSP. Now that entire complex is theirs.

Hampshire County – Dennis Nazzaro and Lindsay had no updates to report.

WMLEC – No one was present to give an update.

CMED – No one was present to give an update.

MSP – No one was present to give an update.

911/Dispatch – Nina Barszcz had no updates to report.

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

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine Brown reported. In FFY21, which runs through June, 2024, WMRIC has just over \$8,000 remaining. In FFY22 there is just over \$78,000. If you have project ideas, bring them forward.

Requests – None.

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Old Business

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

Rich asked Anthony to get a list of people who do not have access.

New Business – Rich Fiske reported that the FirstNet FOC commitment took place back in March, now the FirstNet folks are looking for feedback from stakeholders about next steps. They will continue to build out the network, but they are looking for feedback relative to the needs in the different regions. They have already invested a lot in the Western Region. Rich is looking for us to assemble areas that still need better coverage in the region. He would like to collect feedback about gaps over the next few months.

Aaron Budine reported that Field Comm 40 acquired an 8TAC repeater for free, but will need funding for some of the associated items. He would appreciate input.

Tom Grady recalled that Rich had mentioned that the State would look at all the Field Comm vehicles. Has that happened? Rich replied that he is doing the same pitch with all regions to make sure they have the technology they need. Aaron's group has been good at keeping it up and running. Other regions have not made the commitment we have. This was initially funded through a specific program. Rich wants to get the feds to agree to a funding model to refresh the program, but he is not sure if it will happen.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

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

<p>Motion: Kurt Seaman moved to adjourn. Tom Grady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Nina Barszcz, Dennis Nazzaro, Anthony Gentile, Aaron Budine, Nate Crowther, Kurt Seaman, and TomGrady voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for September 19, 2023
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from July 18, 2023 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 9/13/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 9/13/23

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: Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Kurt Seaman (FRCOG), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Erin Hastings (WESTCOMM), Tom Kettle (Westfield EMD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Brian Nichols (EOPSS/OGR), Alexander Rock (EOPSS)

Subcommittee members absent: Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

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

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

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 19, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Jason Breault moved to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023 meeting as submitted. Aaron Budine seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Nina Barszcz, Anthony Gentile, Lindsay Stromgren, Jason Breault, Bob Garriepy, Aaron Budine, Nate Crowther, Tom Grady, Dennis Nazzaro, and Kurt Seaman voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair – None.

SWIC & SIEC Update – Alex Rock reported. They will have a hybrid SCIP workshop on November 8, location to be determined.

Project Updates

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

Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer – Jason Breault reported that they have the repeater but are still working with Cradlepoint to get a replacement. They have not received the duplexer. Raine added that she reached out last week to ask when it is coming but hasn't heard anything yet. We need to push this because FFY20 closes at the end of December.

WMLEC GPS Module – Raine has not heard from Chief Kozloski recently, but she believes it's in the process of being installed.

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Berkshire Mobile Command Video Downlink – Jason has been in contact with the vendor. There was a delay with the manufacture of the equipment, but they report that it is now en route.

Pelham Police 800 – The radios were ordered.

FC40 Comms Update – This is getting ready to go out for bid.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Tom Grady and Jason Breault had no updates to report.

Franklin County – Kurt Seaman had no updates to report.

Hampshire County – Dennis Nazzaro had no updates to report.

WMLEC – No one was present to give an update.

CMED – No one was present to give an update.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported that they have a meeting with Motorola this week, finalizing the custom mounts for new antennas. They are also working on renewing lease agreements, applying for building permits for 10 locations, and other related tasks.

911/Dispatch – Nina Barszcz had no updates to report.

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

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine Brown reported. In FFY21, which runs through June, 2024, WMRIC has a little over \$8,000. In FFY22, WMRIC has a little over \$78,000. This currently runs through July, 2024.

Requests – None.

Old Business

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

Anthony is working with Rich Fiske to get a list of people who do not have access.

New Business – None.

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Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Erin Hastings reported that they held a meeting with Mutual Aid partners, fire chiefs, MSP, and the SWIC. They are putting together a committee for short and long term solutions for interops, including looking at the 800 system and CoMIRS.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Jason Breault moved to adjourn. Aaron Budine seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Nina Barszcz, Anthony Gentile, Lindsay Stromgren, Jason Breault, Bob Garriepy, Aaron Budine, Nate Crowther, Tom Grady, Dennis Nazzaro, Kurt Seaman, and Matt Barstow voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for October 17, 2023
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from September 19, 2023 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 10/13/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 10/13/23

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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Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 12:30pm**

Subcommittee members present: Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Kurt Seaman (FRCOG), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Alexander Rock (EOPSS)

Subcommittee members absent: Matt Barstow (MSP), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD)

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

Nina Barszcz called the meeting to order at 12:37 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the October 17, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting as submitted. Jason Breault seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Aaron Budine, Kurt Seaman, Nina Barszcz, Tom Grady, Bob Garriepy, Dennis Nazzaro, Nate Crowther, and Jason Breault voted in favor. Steve Kozloski abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair – None.

SWIC & SIEC Update – Alex Rock and Jason Breault had no updates to report.

Project Updates

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

Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer – Jason Breault reported that the Cradlepoint unit will be swapped out for a cellular model. The duplexer is still on backorder. Raine added that she discovered that Motorola had cancelled the order, but they are now working on getting it. This is a FFY20 project so it needs to be completed promptly.

WMLEC GPS Module – This project is complete.

Berkshire Mobile Command Video Downlink – Jason Breault reported that they are still waiting for this to be installed, hopefully before the end of the calendar year.

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Pelham Police 800 – The radios are on order.

FC40 Comms Upgrade – We only received one quote for one piece of equipment, the LCD monitor. That was awarded, and we are going back out to bid for the remainder of the items.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Jason Breault reported that Adams Ambulance is closing at the end of December and Northern Berkshire EMS will be taking over. They are in the process of getting communications set up. Tom Grady added that they have been in conversations with State 911 to take over Berkshire County dispatch sometime in FY24.

Franklin County – Kurt Seaman had no updates to report.

Hampshire County – Dennis Nazzaro had no updates to report. Bob Garriepy reported that there was a survey for police to see if VHF is something they want to keep operational. They are still gathering information, but will keep the status quo for now.

WMLEC – Steve Kozloski reported that there was an issue with the microwave between Mt. Tom South and Mt. Tom North. They reached out to the vendor; it is likely the wave guide and not the link, so they can probably cover the cost locally.

Steve initiated a discussion about the status of the 800 cache radios. Raine reminded the committee that they deliberately only purchased new radios for Berkshire and Hampden counties because it seemed that they were the only ones using them. There is no current plan to update the Hampshire or Franklin county caches, but if there is a need, they should bring a project justification to the committee. Additional discussion followed about the limitations of the laptops that were purchased with the radios for each county, and the challenges with keeping them updated. There was agreement that the county reps should get together and look at replacing the laptops because of battery issues and because the latest Motorola software is not functioning on the current laptops.

CMED – No one was present to give an update.

MSP – No one was present to give an update.

911/Dispatch – Anthony Gentile had no updates to report. Nina Barszcz reported that the DTC has until Nov 30 to issue an order to decrease the E911 surcharge on phone bills. This would be a huge hit to PSAPs. They have sent letters of support to keep it at \$1.50. Easthampton Public Safety ended up taking on Southampton dispatch. They have a two phase approach going, first taking 911 only, then all dispatch.

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

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Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine Brown reported. In FFY21, WMRIC has a little over \$8,000 to spend by the end of June, 2024. In FFY22 there is a little over \$78,000. We are expecting to see that deadline extended.

Requests

Berkshire Command Vehicle Satellite Phone – Jason Breault presented the request. They are looking to purchase a satellite phone for the command center to enhance communications in areas without phone coverage. The quote of \$5,577 includes equipment, cable, installation, and 500 units of air time. In response to questions from committee members, Jason explained that there are areas of concern in Berkshire County where they need this sort of device, probably about a half dozen times a year. The Sheriff’s Office has committed to paying for the usage after the first year. The phone will not connect to traditional cellular if available. There is no coverage map, but this is a mounted phone and has better coverage than the handheld phones.

Motion: Kurt Seaman moved to approve \$5,577 for the Berkshire Command Vehicle Satellite Phone. Aaron Budine seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Aaron Budine, Kurt Seaman, Nina Barszcz, Tom Grady, Bob Garriepy, Dennis Nazzaro, Steve Kozloski, Nate Crowther, and Anthony Gentile voted in favor. Jason Breault abstained. The motion was approved.

Old Business

Interoperability using the State’s P25 system talkgroups LPS9 and LPS10

Anthony Gentile reported that there has not been movement on this topic, but there is another meeting coming up regarding the State system.

New Business – Tom Grady asked COMLs who have the laptops purchased by the Council to pull together a meeting to discuss what we need to do to get the equipment up to speed. Steve Kozloski will coordinate a meeting with Dennis, Jason, Aaron, and Tom.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

None.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

Motion: Jason Breault moved to adjourn. Tom Grady seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Aaron Budine, Kurt Seaman, Nina Barszcz, Tom Grady, Bob Garriepy, Dennis Nazzaro, Steve Kozloski, Nate Crowther, Anthony Gentile, and Jason Breault voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

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List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for November 21, 2023
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from October 17, 2023 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 11/17/23
- WRHSAC FFY22 Budget Report through 11/17/23
- Proposal from Jason Breault for satellite phone, dated 11/16/23

Respectfully submitted by:

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

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**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee
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Tuesday, December 19, 2023, 12:30pm**

Subcommittee members present: Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Kurt Seaman (FRCOG), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD)

Non-members present: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Jay Hastings (Westfield PD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Alexander Rock (EOPSS)

Subcommittee members absent: Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

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

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

Approval of Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 21, 2023 meeting.

<p>Motion: Jason Breault moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023 meeting as submitted. Kurt Seaman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Nina Barszcz, Dennis Nazzaro, Jason Breault, Kurt Seaman, Aaron Budine, Anthony Gentile, Nate Crowther, and Matt Barstow voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
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Introductions followed.

Updates from the Chair – None.

SWIC & SIEC Update – Jason Breault reported that there was no SIEC meeting this month.

Project Updates

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

Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer – Jason Breault reported that the duplexer order has been confirmed. Delivery is expected by the end of the month. The repeater and Cradlepoint are all set.

Berkshire Mobile Command Video Downlink – Jason Breault reported that they are waiting for installation.

Pelham Police 800 – These have been ordered.

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FC40 Comms Upgrade – This is turning out to be a challenging project because we are not getting full bids. The rack LCD monitor is in. Raine just got bids in today for other items but has not had a chance to see if everything is there.

Berkshire Mobile Command Center Satellite Phone – This was approved by the Council today. Raine will send it to SIEC for review next month.

Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County – Jason Breault reported that they are in the process of transferring the center to State 911. This will probably happen mid-2024.

Franklin County – Kurt Seaman reported status quo. Lindsay Stromgren asked about a Sim1 issue during the storms yesterday. Kurt replied that it was a microwave issue between Shelburne and Toby.

Hampshire County – Lindsay Stromgren had no updates to report. Dennis Nazzaro reported that fire chiefs are exploring options for upgrading the system. Matt Barstow reported that they are working with Pelham on breaking the patch so they don't cause interference in the western part of the county.

WMLEC – No one was present to give an update.

CMED – No one was present to give an update.

MSP – Matt Barstow reported that they are starting to make construction progress for the new system, upgrading sites with new antennas, antenna lines, equipment, HVAC systems, etc. This will be an ongoing process in Western and Central Mass over the next 18 months.

911/Dispatch – Nina Barszcz reported that DTC ruled to keep the 911 surcharge at \$1.50.

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

Other – None.

Budget Review

Raine Brown reported. WMRIC has \$28,000 in FFY21 and just over \$78,000 in FFY22.

Requests

None.

Old Business

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

This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

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New Business – None.

Business Unforeseen by the Chair

Nina Barszcz asked if anyone knew if any State 911 grants could pay for leasing of a cell tower to put radio equipment on. They are also thinking about constructing a tower on the south side of Southwick rather than leasing one, but it will push back their project. Matt Barstow replied that he did not think recurring costs are eligible under any of the grants, but a new tower would be eligible under the development grant, and they are heavily incentivizing regionalization. Nina will talk to Matt further about leasing options offline. Raine noted that WRHSAC funds can pay for towers for regional systems.

Next Steps/Future Meetings

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

<p>Motion: Jason Breault moved to adjourn. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Nina Barszcz, Dennis Nazzaro, Matt Barstow, Jason Breault, Kurt Seaman, Aaron Budine, Anthony Gentile, and Nate Crowther voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for December 19, 2023
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from November 21, 2023 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 12/15/23
- WMRIC FFY22 Budget Report through 12/15/23

Respectfully submitted by:

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