

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), 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 (South Deerfield Fire), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Jay Hastings (Westfield PD), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Alexander Rock (EOPSS)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), 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.

**Approval of Minutes**

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

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023 meeting as submitted. Matt Barstow seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Anthony Gentile, Matt Barstow, Rob VanZandt, Aaron Budine, Nina Barszcz, Kurt Seaman, Dennis Nazzaro, Tom Grady, Nate Crowther voted in favor. Bob Garriepy abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
---

Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC & SIEC Update** – Alexander Rock had no updates to report.

**Project Updates**

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

**Berkshire Repeater, Cradlepoint and Duplexer** – The duplexer arrived at the end of December, and the project is now complete.

**Berkshire Mobile Command Video Downlink** – The downlink was installed and the project is now complete.

**Pelham Police 800** – Some items should be coming in soon, but others are on backorder.

**FC40 Comms Upgrade** – This is coming together in pieces. When we ran the first round of bids, we got only one piece of equipment. We conducted another round and received quotes for almost

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 12:30pm**

everything, except for one item on the Cradlepoint. Raine is now going back and forth with vendors and the IMT to get questions answered. Hopefully all questions will be resolved soon.

***Berkshire Mobile Command Center Satellite Phone*** – This was approved by EOPSS and does not need SIEC approval. Raine will move forward with procurement.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

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

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

***Hampshire County*** – Lindsay Stromgren 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. He spoke with Steve Kozloski about a significant outage in the Springfield area. It has been repaired. On the MSP side, the weather has impacted their project schedule a bit, but they are still moving ahead.

***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. WMRIC has \$2,806 in FFY21 and just over \$78,000 in FFY22. FFY23 funding is now available, with \$150,000 for WMRIC.

**Requests**

None.

**Old Business**

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

This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

**New Business**

***SIEC request for information on identified communication gaps in region*** – Raine reported that Jason Breault had asked for this to be on the agenda, saying that SIEC wanted groups to identify communication gaps. Alexander Rock corroborated, and added that it could be any gaps you are having, e.g. via two way radio, First Net coverage, etc.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair**

Aaron Budine reported that he looked into the Harris radio cache in Franklin County and determined they have reached end-of-life. He is in the process of writing up a proposal to update the cache. The radios are currently with MSP to get some upgrades, but they won't be able to upgrade them enough.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for January 16, 2024
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from December 19, 2023 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 1/12/24
- WMRIC FFY22 Budget Report through 1/12/24

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, February 20, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Kurt Seaman (S. Deerfield FD), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

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

**Subcommittee members absent:** Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst 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 January 16, 2024 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024 meeting as submitted. Kurt Seaman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Bob Garriepy, Nina Barszcz, Aaron Budine, Tom Grady, Nate Crowther, Rob VanZandt, Kurt Seaman, and Matt Barstow voted in favor. Steve Kozloski abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
--

Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC & SIEC Update** – Rich Fiske reported that SIEC met several weeks ago. Alex Rock is chairing the Policy and Programs Committee. Matt Barstow has indicated his desire to step down as the chair of the RF Committee on the SIEC. Please contact Rich if you are interested in replacing him. The SCIP plan drafted at the end of 2023 is under review by EOPSS leadership. It will be circulated widely as the SCIP plan for the next 3 years. The MIFOG update is next; if anyone wants to be part of the update working groups reach out to him or Alex. Alex Rock added that there will be a joint communication exercise with CISA on May 1 at the MEMA location in Franklin, MA. This is a great opportunity for COMU personnel to get task books signed. Email [alex.rock@mass.gov](mailto:alex.rock@mass.gov) if interested. He will also send information out to the group.

**Project Updates**

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

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 12:30pm**

***Pelham Police 800*** – Radios arrived in Pelham last week. Pittsfield Communications will be doing the installation over the next month or so.

***FC40 Comms Upgrade*** – We finally received full quotes for all items, but now the project is over budget. The estimated labor was originally \$2,008, but the people who put in the original quote did not bid on it. The actual labor cost following procurement is \$7,500. There is a total of \$56,000 allocated for the project, and the new cost is \$59,188.14.

**Motion:** Kurt Seaman moved to approve an additional \$3,199.14 for the FC40 Comms Upgrade project. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Bob Garriepy, Nina Barszcz, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Nate Crowther, Rob VanZandt, Kurt Seaman, and Matt Barstow voted in favor. Aaron Budine abstained. The motion was approved.

***Berkshire Mobile Command Center Satellite Phone*** – We received a quote, but the pre-paid minutes weren't included. We will hopefully be receiving an updated quote today.

### **Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

***Berkshire County*** – Tom Grady reported that they finally received the ISA from State 911 for this year's project. They will add additional DC plants to replace some battery backups at mountaintops, and they will do some antenna work as well. They were invited to a meeting with CoMIRS to talk about the core connected PSAPs currently using the system and the future requirements to be able to operate under the upgraded system. They also provided the requirements for radios to be used on the system. If you have any interest in moving to 800, it is very helpful to know what the expectations are.

Scott Flebotte asked if there was any discussion about Kenwood radios in use going forward, as he has heard that might not be an option. Tom replied that they did not get specifically into subscriber unit vendors, but anecdotally he has heard that there can be some challenges with other vendors. Matt Barstow clarified that the system is a P25 based system, so anyone offering P25 compliant subscriber units should be able to work with the system. There are some Kenwoods out in use now in Franklin County that are working with the new system. There can indeed be some complications such as using the Future Com digital vehicle repeaters, as that is a proprietary repeater system for Motorola, but there is a way to make it work with Kenwood.

***Franklin County*** – Kurt Seaman reported that MSP is now carrying the Great Hill to Toby link after the failure of their microwave. It is up and running.

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

***WMLEC*** – Steve Kozloski reported that the link between Mt. Tom North and Mt. Tom South had been dropping. They took some steps to get it back to a more reliable level, but they will also revisit it in nicer weather to determine if it needs more attention. WMLEC has been struggling

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 12:30pm**

with its EIN and 501c3 status. They want to make sure they can transfer all of their funds to a sheltered 501c3. Their attorneys are now working to get existing WMLEC accounts brought in as a separate and unique account under the Western Mass Chiefs of Police EIN.

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

**MSP** – Matt Barstow reported. The project is moving forward with construction, with Western Mass getting some of the first upgrades in the State. They are working to minimize disruptions and will do a flash cut of current FDMA digital to TDMA digital at some point. They are notifying partner agencies regarding anticipated outages. Engineers have been able to minimize downtime. They are also replacing the generator out at GHQ as they had been renting one. This should not have any impacts to operations.

**911/Dispatch** – Nina Barszcz reported that development grant applications are due March 7. This impacts regional communications centers.

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

**Other** – None.

### **Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. The additional funds approved for the FC40 project uses up FFY21. Over \$77,000 remains in FFY22, and \$150,000 in FFY23.

### **Requests**

**Franklin County Multiband Cache and Laptops** – Aaron Budine reported that the Harris radios they have are not capable with TDMA. They would like to replace them with eight APX8000 portables and a bank charger, plus three Dell laptops to replace the current ones in the region that are not capable of upgrading to the newest platform. Anthony asked if they got a Kenwood quote; Aaron replied that he did, but that Motorola allows them to use the DVRS if needed. Steve added that we purchased Motorolas for the other regional caches, so it would be good for consistency to continue with those. Rich asked what would happen with the radios being replaced. Aaron replied that although they cannot be upgraded, they are still good for VHF and UHF, so they will keep them on hand until they are completely dead.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Kurt Seaman moved to approve \$84,500 for the Franklin County multiband radio cache project. Nina Barszcz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Anthony Gentile, Bob Garriepy, Nina Barszcz, Steve Kozloski, Tom Grady, Nate Crowther, Rob VanZandt, Kurt Seaman, and Matt Barstow voted in favor. Aaron Budine abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
---

### **Old Business**

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

This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 12:30pm**

***SIEC request for information on identified communication gaps in region***

Rich Fiske explained that during the SIEC meetings, he requested that regional reps go back to stakeholders in their region and discuss communication gaps. Both carriers, Verizon and AT&T/First Net, are interested in identifying areas of concern. First Net will be expanding to full 5G in the next ten years and will add capacity where necessary. Public Safety should be telling them where there are problems. First Net wants to have a working group with public safety reps at the State level. Send Rich anything that gets identified, or report directly back to the carriers.

**New Business:** None.

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

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Kurt Seaman moved to adjourn. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Nina Barszcz, Matt Barstow, Anthony Gentile, Bob Garriepy, Tom Grady, Nate Crowther, Rob VanZandt, Kurt Seaman, Steve Kozloski, and Aaron Budine 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 February 20, 2024
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2024 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 2/16/24
- WMRIC FFY22 Budget Report through 2/16/24
- Project Justification for Franklin County Multiband Radio Cache Update

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, March 19, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Kurt Seaman (S. Deerfield FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Jay Hastings (Westfield PD), Nick Licata (FRCOG/HMCC), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Alexander Rock (EOPSS)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS)

*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 February 20, 2024 meeting.

**Motion:** Dennis Nazzaro moved to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2024 meeting as submitted. Aaron Budine seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Rob VanZandt, Dennis Nazzaro, Anthony Gentile, Aaron Budine, Steve Kozloski, and Kurt Seaman voted in favor. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC & SIEC Update** – Alex Rock reported. The SCIP update is complete and copies are available. If anyone has upcoming events in April that require interop resources, get those requests in ASAP so there are no conflicts with the marathon. Please summarize and send along gaps with carriers. They are looking to convene working groups for the MIFOG update.

**Project Updates**

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

**Pelham Police 800** – The radios are in. They are waiting for the DVRs. Raine asked Motorola for a status update but has not heard anything yet.

**FC40 Comms Upgrade** – Everything has been run through procurement. We are still waiting on a couple of purchase orders from MAPC.

**Berkshire Mobile Command Center Satellite Phone** – The purchase order is in progress.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Franklin County Multiband Cache and COML Computers** – This project was approved by the Council this morning. Raine will send it to EOPSS and SIEC for review.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

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

**Franklin County** – Kurt Seaman reported. The UHF system is holding its own, but no one really uses it. There are no issues on either system. They are getting closer to decommissioning. Pagers funded off an earmark from the Department of Agriculture have arrived at Goosetown. They will be brought up, programmed, and distributed. They will do west-to-east decommissioning as they wait for the State to do upgrades. Lindsay Stromgren asked about the policy for mutual aid as UHF gets decommissioned. Kurt replied that it's being worked on. WMLEC equipment will still be up on the Shelburne, Grace, and Borden towers. They still need to figure out how good that coverage will be. The other component is fire-ground communication. Discussion is ongoing. Steve Kozloski reported that WMLEC will continue its long-standing partnership with FCECS. They will be included in any repurposing of decommissioned equipment. Alex Rock asked that the SWIC office be included if there is any procedural policy using UTACs or VTACs.

**Hampshire County** – Dennis Nazzaro reported. He met with Franklin County about mutual aid.

**WMLEC** – Steve Kozloski reported. It appears that all of the GPS clocks have begun to fail. He will likely present a proposal for an across-the-board replacement of the GPS clocks. They are also open to repurposing any equipment that is compatible. There are now a few sites without any redundancy.

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

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

**911/Dispatch** – Anthony Gentile reported. The development grant was due. The support and incentive grant is open for applications, through the end of the calendar year.

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

**Other** – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. There is just over \$2,000 left in FFY21. About \$78,000 remains in FFY22, and \$150,000 in FFY23. FFY21 and FFY22 will be extended through next June. We will begin the FFY24 investment planning process soon. This subcommittee generally just asks for a \$150,000 allocation, unless there is something more specific or bigger that we want to include in the plan. Anthony replied that asking for the usual \$150,000 is fine.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Requests**

None.

**Old Business**

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

This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

**New Business:** Lindsay Stromgren reported having a positive experience with FirstNet push-to-talk at the Barney Blowout. Anyone who had Verizon was dead in the water, as the system was overwhelmed. FirstNet running over LMR worked throughout the event. They also brought the drone and used FirstNet the whole time and never lost the link.

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

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

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

**Motion:** Aaron Budine moved to adjourn. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Rob VanZandt, Aaron Budine, Anthony Gentile, Dennis Nazzaro, Steve Kozloski, and Kurt Seaman voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for March 19, 2024
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2024 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 3/15/24
- WMRIC FFY22 Budget Report through 3/15/24
- WMRIC FFY23 Budget Report through 3/15/24

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, April 16, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD/BCSO), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Kurt Seaman (S. Deerfield FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Alexander Rock (EOPSS)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), 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 March 19, 2024 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Aaron Budine moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024 meeting as submitted. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Dennis Nazzaro, Rob VanZandt, Kurt Seaman, Jason Breault, Anthony Gentile, and Aaron Budine voted in favor. Tom Grady abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
---

Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC & SIEC Update** – Alex Rock reported that they will be holding a communications exercise on May 1 at the MEMA location in Franklin. Rich Fiske notified the committee that if there projects that need to go before SIEC, you must have a regional rep at the meeting to present the project. Also, there was a cyber attack in a different part of the country that took down a countywide trunk radio system for over a week before they could physically rebuild it. The vendor had assured them their system couldn't be compromised, but they were wrong. This is the first attack but there will likely be more. If you operate a LMR system connected to a network, and you use a log-in and password, you need at least 2-factor authentication to keep it secure.

**Project Updates**

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

**Pelham Police 800** – They are still waiting for the DVRs.

**FC40 Comms Upgrade** – Everything has been ordered. Aaron reported that they have received the Cradlepoint, and everything else will be coming with the installer.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 12:30pm**

***Berkshire Mobile Command Center Satellite Phone*** – Jason Breault reported that he talked to them on Friday. They are trying to test the phone. It has already been installed.

***Franklin County Multiband Cache and COML Computers*** – Raine sent the specs to Aaron for review.

***Berkshire Duplexer*** – Raine filled in committee members on an issue with the duplexer project. Motorola had inexplicably canceled the order, but Pittsfield Communications stepped in and supplied it. However, we cannot pay the invoice because it is not from Motorola. Jason reported that Dave is looking for the packing slip. He will circle back.

### **Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

***Berkshire County*** – Jason Breault reported. They installed the new recorder system for the radio system. They are going into training probably at end of this month or beginning of May. Radios are being installed at sites. There have been some antenna issues that are being resolved.

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

***Hampshire County*** – Dennis Nazzaro reported. On the fire side, they are still planning for the future with regard to the statewide system. Pelham PD is still using portables until the DVRs are in and the mobiles can be installed.

***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 support and incentive grant is open for applications, through the end of the calendar year.

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

***Other*** – None.

### **Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. WMRIC is now working off FFY23. The committee has \$143,524 available through July, 2025.

### **Requests**

***FCSRT Toughbook Tablet*** – This was tabled because no one was there to present the request.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Old Business**

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

This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

**New Business:** Tom reported that as they are upgrading the console systems under the State 911 development grant, he and Jason and other core connected PSAPs have had meetings with CoMIRS. They had not realized how much system upgrading had to be done to prepare to operate on the new system that is coming. If anyone is core connected or planning to be core connected, make sure to touch base with the CoMIRS group on the specifications to be compatible with the system when it rolls out.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair:** Anthony reported that Wilbraham will start dispatching for Belchertown as of June 17, with full cut over on July 1. He will talk offline with Lindsay and Dennis about additional details.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Jason Breault moved to adjourn. Kurt Seaman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held. Lindsay Stromgren, Tom Grady, Dennis Nazzaro, Rob VanZandt, Kurt Seaman, Jason Breault, Anthony Gentile, and Aaron Budine voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for April 16, 2024
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2024 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 4/12/24
- WMRIC FFY22 Budget Report through 4/12/24
- WMRIC FFY23 Budget Report through 4/12/24
- Request from Jay Butynski/FCRSRT for Toughbook Tablet

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, May 21, 2024, 12:30pm**

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

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Jay Butynski (Greenfield PD), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Rich Fiske (EOPSS), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Ben St. Amand (PVPA)

**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), Kurt Seaman (S. Deerfield FD), 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 April 16, 2024 meeting.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024 meeting as submitted. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, Dennis Nazzaro, Anthony Gentile, and Aaron Budine voted in favor. Nate Crowther abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC & SIEC Update** – Rich Fiske reported. The statewide comm exercise went well, with good participation from the Western Region. He will share feedback when he gets the AAR. SIEC is currently scheduled to meet the first week in June, but the date might be changed.

**Project Updates**

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

**Pelham Police 800** –Dennis Nazzaro reported that they are still waiting on the DVRs.

**FC40 Comms Upgrade** – This project is in process. Equipment is coming in. They are coordinating logistics for installation.

**Berkshire Mobile Command Center Satellite Phone** – The project is complete.

**Franklin County Multiband Cache and COML Computers** – Purchase Orders have been issued for the laptops and are in process for the multibands.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

**Berkshire County** – Tom Grady reported that they are waiting to hear on this year’s development grants. There will be a large scale training/drill for all of the regional dive teams on June 12 at Otis Reservoir, with a communications component. Tom will send info to Rich.

**Franklin County** – Aaron Budine reported that he talked with Kurt Seaman and learned that the new Unication G5 pagers are rolling in for the 800 system. They have had them in Bernardston for over a year; they work well, but battery life is not the best.

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

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

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

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

**911/Dispatch** – Nina Barszcz reported that grant application guidelines are out. It is compliance time; make sure you’re getting your 2024 Certifications of Compliance in by July 31. Review COOPs for PSAPs and send them in by the end of the fiscal year to the State911 systems director. Westfield PD is looking to encrypt their radios. Discussion ensued about the challenges this creates for communication among different agencies. Dennis noted that Northampton is also dealing with this and has found a solution by creating “incident channels” that both PD and fire can switch to as needed. Rich added that encrypting a main channel is not considered best practice. SWAT missions are different.

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

**Other** – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. WMRIC has \$143,524 on the books in FFY23, to spend through July, 2025. There was a shift in the FFY24 proposed budget because the allocation was less than anticipated. The final amount for WMRIC is about \$130,000, rather than the \$150,000 discussed.

**Requests**

**FCSRT Toughbook Tablet** – Jay Butynski presented a request for a Toughbook tablet. The FCSRT formed about ten years ago and now includes 5 or 6 agencies. This would be a resource for everyone on the team to use.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to approve \$4,300 for the Toughbook Tablet. Aaron Budine seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, Dennis Nazzaro, Anthony Gentile, Aaron Budine, and Nate Crowther voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Old Business**

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

This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

**New Business:** None.

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

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Tom Grady, Nina Barszcz, Dennis Nazzaro, Anthony Gentile, Aaron Budine, and Nate Crowther 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 May 21, 2024
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2024 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 5/17/24
- WMRIC FFY22 Budget Report through 5/17/24
- WMRIC FFY23 Budget Report through 5/17/24
- Request from Jay Butynski/F CRSRT for Toughbook Tablet

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, June 18, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Kurt Seaman (S. Deerfield FD), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Alex Rock (EOPSS)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD)

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

Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 21, 2024 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Kurt Seaman moved to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2024 meeting as submitted. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Dennis Nazzaro, Nate Crowther, Kurt Seaman, Aaron Budine, and Robert Garriepy voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
--

Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC & SIEC Update** – Alex Rock reported. They are working on the MIFOG update.

**Project Updates**

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

**Pelham Police 800** – They are still waiting on the DVRs. There have been delays related to Motorola's integration with Futurecom, but hopefully they will be here soon.

**FC40 Comms Upgrade** – Aaron Budine reported that a bunch of stuff has arrived. They are now waiting on dates for the installation.

**Franklin County Multiband Cache and COML Computers** – The rugged laptops have been delivered to Franklin, Berkshire, and Hampden counties. We are still waiting on the multibands.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 12:30pm**

***FCSRT Toughbook Tablet*** – This was approved at the Council meeting today. It does not require SIEC approval.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

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

***Franklin County*** – Kurt Seaman reported. The 800 pagers ordered through the McGovern’s office earmark have arrived and been programmed and mostly distributed. They will soon start decommissioning the 450 in a reasonable manner.

***Hampshire County*** – Dennis Nazzaro and Bob Garriepy 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*** – No one was present to give an update.

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

***Other*** – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. WMRIC has \$139,224 available.

**Requests**

***Franklin County Patch Panels*** – Kurt Seaman presented a request for four mobile patch panels. This follows discussions with Lindsay, Aaron, Dennis, and John Taylor to solve the fireground communication issues between bands. They are focused on the ACU-M patch panel, which is the same one that Dennis has installed in his vehicle. Tom Grady made a motion to approve in order to open discussion. Nate Crowther seconded it. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of portable units versus vehicle-mounted units, and whether or not there was a need to buy new radios to go with these. Also discussed was whether a trunking system would be necessary if this was only to be used for fireground communications, and whether there were alternate viable options such as asking MSP to create patches on mountaintops (this was deemed insufficient to meet the need). Tom asked if the SWIC could weigh in, especially as others are looking to come onto CoMIRS and will need a solution that is not piecemeal. Alex agreed to push the issue up to Rich Fiske. There was consensus that the topic needs more research and discussion before a decision can be made. Tom withdrew his motion to approve.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to table the request until next month's meeting. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Dennis Nazzaro, Nate Crowther, Aaron Budine, Bob Garriepy, and Rob VanZandt voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Old Business**

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

This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

**New Business:** None.

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

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

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

**Motion:** Kurt Seaman moved to adjourn. Aaron Budine seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Dennis Nazzaro, Nate Crowther, Kurt Seaman, Aaron Budine, Bob Garriepy, and Rob VanZandt 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 June 18, 2024
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2024 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 6/14/24
- WMRIC FFY22 Budget Report through 6/14/24
- WMRIC FFY23 Budget Report through 6/14/24
- Request from Kurt Seaman / FCECS for patch panels

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, July 16, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Nate Crowther (WESTCOMM), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Kurt Seaman (S. Deerfield FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Nick Licata (HMCC/FRCOG), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Alex Rock (EOPSS)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), 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 12:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the June 18, 2024 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Tom Grady moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2024 meeting as submitted. Kurt Seaman seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Kurt Seaman, Nina Barszcz, Tom Grady, Matt Barstow, Nate Crowther, and Rob VanZandt voted in favor. Anthony Gentile abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
---

Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – Anthony Gentile thanked Tom Grady for chairing the meeting last month as he was dealing with a double murder/suicide.

**SWIC & SIEC Update** – Alex Rock had nothing to report.

**Project Updates**

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

**Pelham Police 800** – They are still waiting on the DVRs. There has not been any further notice from Motorola.

**FC40 Comms Upgrade** – All of the equipment has been delivered. Installation is in process.

**Franklin County Multiband Cache and COML Computers** – They are still waiting for the multibands.

**FCSRT Toughbook Tablet** – We got a quote, but the team member working on the project is on vacation this week. The quote was for a slightly different model, so it needs their approval.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

**Berkshire County** – Tom Grady reported. They just completed upgrades to GTRs for all of their mountaintop units, and they have a new camera system working on the mountaintops as well.

**Franklin County** – Kurt Seaman reported that things are holding steady. Lindsay Stromgren asked when Simulcast 1 will go off the air. Kurt responded that it will probably be a little less than a year for it to go completely off the air, but they will begin the decommissioning in about 60-90 days, starting in the west end of county and heading east. Three or four sites will stay up for about a year, pending other upgrades. Lindsay noted that they are only about 25-30% on 800 for their vehicles. He will let departments know about the timeline. Kurt noted that the WMLEC system will still be up at the Shelburne towers, so there are other options for UHF to 800.

**Hampshire 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** – Matt Barstow reported that they have been doing a lot of work on CoMIRS sites, starting some of the microwave link activation and installing security cameras. The engineering team has been diligent in minimizing outages and informing people of when and where they will be. They are also still securing agreements and lease extensions for tower sites. The Wachusett tower got a direct lightning hit. They had a preliminary meeting with stakeholders on programming radios. Every user should keep in mind that every radio will need to be re-programmed. They are expecting to do that over the next 12-18 months. Anthony asked if the Quabbin site in Belchertown will be decommissioned. Matt responded that that is the plan, but there is no time frame yet. Digital Phase 2 will happen simultaneously. In the rest of the State, analog and digital systems will co-exist for some time.

**911/Dispatch** – Nina Barszcz reported that she spoke at the full Council meeting about the 911 outage that occurred last month. There should be interop capabilities in each department. When things were coming back online, 911 calls were being routed to different PSAPs. It is a good idea to have Reverse 911 already set up with numbers people should be calling. There was a press release about the cause: a firewall detected potentially malicious activity and stopped all calls.

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

**Other** – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. WMRIC has \$139,244 in FFY23, which runs through July, 2025.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Requests**

**Franklin County Patch Panels** – Kurt Seaman presented the request. Hampshire and Franklin County representatives have a small working group looking at fireground interoperability and how to address the issues they are running into now that Franklin County has gone to 800. They identified portable patch panels as the best solution to allow interoperability between UHF, VHF, and 800. Lindsay Stromgren added that the group also discussed the need for SOG/policy re fireground channels. The patch panels that they are proposing would enable a VHF fireground channel to be paired with an 800 tac channel. This would be good for getting us through the next 5 years of transition. Raine clarified that the proposal is for \$110,000, but that \$76,000 of that would be for multibands to go with each patch panel. Anthony Gentile made a motion to move the project forward. Tom Grady seconded the motion. Discussion ensued about the cost of the project, whether or not the radios were needed, the feasibility of using less expensive Kenwood radios, the challenges that would be presented by trying to use the old Harris radios, and the logistics of using the new cache radios. The four panels would be hosted by South Deerfield, Bernardston, FC40, and someone in the eastern part of Franklin County. The field comm unit is currently managing the Franklin County cache radios. After further discussion, there was agreement that the project should be limited to the panels, with the intention to use existing radios. The topic of additional radio purchases can be revisited in the future if a gap is identified. Anthony and Tom withdrew the initial motion, and Nina entered a new motion to proceed without the radios.

**Motion:** Nina Barszcz moved to approve \$34,000 for the four patch panels. Tom Grady seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Nina Barszcz, Tom Grady, Matt Barstow, Anthony Gentile, and Rob VanZandt voted in favor. Kurt Seaman and Nate Crowther abstained. The motion was approved.

**Old Business**

**Interoperability using the State's P25 system talkgroups LPS9 and LPS10**  
This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

**New Business:** None.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair:** Nate Crowther announced that today is his last day with WMRIC, as he is taking a position in a new field.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

Following tradition, WMRIC will not meet in August. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Nina Barszcz moved to adjourn. Tom Grady seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Kurt Seaman, Matt Barstow, Nina Barszcz, Tom Grady, Nate Crowther, Anthony Gentile, and Rob VanZandt voted in favor. The motion was approved.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 12:30pm**

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for July 16, 2024
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2024 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 7/12/24
- WMRIC FFY22 Budget Report through 7/12/24
- WMRIC FFY23 Budget Report through 7/12/24
- Request from Kurt Seaman / FCECS for patch panels and radios

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 17, 2024, 12:30pm**

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

**Non-members present:** Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Alex Rock (EOPSS), Ben St. Amand (PVTA)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

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

Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the July 16, 2024 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Dennis Nazzaro moved to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2024 meeting as submitted. Matt Barstow seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Tom Grady, Kurt Seaman, Dennis Nazzaro, and Matt Barstow voted in favor. Aaron Budine abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
---

Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC & SIEC Update** – Alex Rock reported. SIEC has not met in the last two months. MiFOG working groups will get going in October. They need input from the Western region, as there have been numerous changes here. He will get dates out when he can.

**Project Updates**

Rachel Mason reported on the status of current projects unless otherwise noted.

**FC40 Comms Upgrade** – Aaron Budine reported that they are working to find installation dates.

**Franklin County Multiband Cache and COML Computers** – The radios arrived last week.

**FCSRT Toughbook Tablet** – The tablet has been delivered and the project is complete.

**Franklin County Patch Panels** – This was approved at the special Council meeting in July. The RFQ is due on September 19.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

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

*Franklin County* – Kurt Seaman reported that the pagers have been out for two months and they are moving into the decommissioning phase of the project. They are doing this as a west-to-east process, starting with smaller and less used sites, Plainfield and Buckland, then Charlemont, which will remove them from all State Police facilities. Then they will proceed further east.

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

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

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

*MSP* – Matt Barstow reported. They are continuing to work on the upgrades, with a lot of construction activity and equipment installs across the region.

*911/Dispatch* – Nina Barszcz reported. There was a message from the State 911 director regarding the outage in June. The system supposedly acted as it was developed to, but State 911 and NextGen have now put in place a “fail over” system that will redirect 911 calls to a Viiz call center in the event of a future outage. The call center is located somewhere in the US and staffed with APCO certified 911 operators, who would transfer calls to local agencies’ business lines. The department is working with the call center to develop 911 procedures that meet State criteria. There is an interop training tomorrow in Westborough hosted by FCAM.

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

*Other* – None.

**Budget Review**

Rachel Mason reported. WMRIC has \$1,514 remaining in FFY21; \$518 in FFY22, and \$105,224 in FFY23. The patch panels are not reflected in the budget.

**Requests**

None.

**Old Business**

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

This remains on the agenda as a placeholder. Tom will check with Anthony to see if should stay on Agenda.

***SIEC Representative and Participation***

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 12:30pm**

Tom Grady explained that an email came from Rich Fiske about the sporadic representation of the region at SIEC meetings. We need more consistency. Lack of representation can delay the business of the subcommittee because cannot move projects forward. Jason Breault is the current representative, but his participation has been inconsistent. Following discussion, there was agreement to choose Dennis Nazzaro as the primary rep and keep Jason as alternate.

**Motion:** Kurt Seaman moved to appoint Dennis Nazzaro as the primary WMRIC representative to the SIEC and Jason Breault as the alternate. Aaron Budine seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Tom Grady, Kurt Seaman, Matt Barstow, Aaron Budine, and Nina Barszcz voted in favor. Dennis Nazzaro abstained. The motion was approved.

**New Business**

**WMRIC At-large open seat** – Rachel Mason explained that with Nate Crowther’s departure last month, there is now an open at-large seat on the committee. The WMRIC bylaws say that the Chair can appoint someone. However, it will be a short term as the every-two-year elections for all of the at-large seats are due to take place later this year. Jay Hastings expressed interest. Acting Chair Tom Grady appointed him to fill out balance of the term.

**WMRIC At-large seats** – Rachel reminded the committee that elections occur in even years. Nominations are due in November, elections are held in December, and new terms begin in January. There are six at-large seats, currently held by Nina Barszcz, Lindsay Stromgren, Bob Garriepy, Aaron Budine, Rob VanZandt, and, as of today, Jay Hastings. Incumbents should consider if they want to remain in those seats, and others who are interested should send Raine a resume and letter of interest sometime before the November meeting.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair:** Tom reported that they are moving forward with State 911 taking over the Berkshire Regional RECC. They are hoping this will be accomplished by the end of calendar year. There will need to be conversation moving forward regarding who will be the systems owner, as it will no longer be Tom or Jason. Tom will keep everyone informed as that moves forward over the next few months.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Kurt Seaman moved to adjourn. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Jay Hastings, Tom Grady, Kurt Seaman, Nina Barszcz, Matt Barstow, Dennis Nazzaro, and Aaron Budine voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for September 17, 2024
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2024 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 9/9/24

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 12:30pm**

- WMRIC FFY22 Budget Report through 9/9/24
- WMRIC FFY23 Budget Report through 9/9/24

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  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Kurt Seaman (S. Deerfield FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Scott Flebotte (MEMA), Sam Lemanski (Westfield State), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Alex Rock (EOPSS), Alan Sirois (Agawam FD)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD)

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

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

**Approval of Minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the September 17, 2024 meeting.

**Motion:** Kurt Seaman moved to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 meeting as submitted. Aaron Budine seconded the motion. Jay Hastings, Lindsay Stromgren, Tom Grady, Kurt Seaman, Robert VanZandt, Jason Breault, and Aaron Budine voted in favor. Bob Garriepy abstained. The motion was approved.

Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC & SIEC Update** – Alex Rock reported. They are going to hold a hybrid MIFOG update. The Western Region meeting will be held November 13 at the MPTC facility in Holyoke. The office received word that there was a sizeable WMLEC outage recently, repaired through MSP and Motorola. A good portion was down. The office is looking for updates with the LPS project.

**Project Updates**

**FC40 Comms Upgrade** – Aaron Budine reported that they requested more info for the installation, but he is not sure what the current status is. The primary contact is John Taylor. They are coming up from Virginia with most of the equipment. Raine will follow up.

**Franklin County Multiband Cache and COML Computers** – Aaron Budine reported that everything is in and accounted for. Kurt added that the radios are programmed and sitting in his office. Following wish of committee, he was going to distribute them with the patch panels. But FRCOG doesn't have custody of those, as they are with the Shelburne control. John Taylor was on board with transferring custody of radios from the IMT to the COG to be managed and distributed with the patch panels. Raine questioned this, seeing that the FCECS is going away.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 12:30pm**

Kurt will discuss with FRCOG whether South Deerfield should take possession. Then JT will write a letter formally transferring it. Alex Rock asked for clarification about the patch panels. Kurt, Aaron, and Lindsay answered questions about the intent for the panels and how they will be used differently than WMLEC Sim 2.

*Franklin County Patch Panels* – Discussed above.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

*Berkshire County* – Jason Breault reported that the system is status quo. State911 is taking over dispatch, most likely by the end of the year. There was an issue with the Pittsfield Police that affects the primary channel; they are now on the secondary channel. Tom Grady added that State 911 has assigned an interim director for the takeover. Jason and Tom will work with that person during the transition, then that person will become the systems owner.

*Franklin County* – Kurt Seaman reported that the system is status quo. He pitched the decommissioning to the Fire Chiefs and the reaction was as anticipated. They want to keep the system up and going until the towers rot out. They are having internal conversations on how to proceed, but will ultimately continue down the path.

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

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

*Other* – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. WMRIC has just over \$100,000 in FFY23. FFY24 funds will be coming online in January, with almost \$131,000 for the subcommittee.

**Requests**

None.

**Old Business**

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

Tom will reach out to Anthony to get an update on this.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 12:30pm**

*WMRIC At-large seats* – Tom reminded everyone that nominations are due in November, elections are held in December, and new terms begin in January.

**New Business**

Alan Sirois introduced himself. He is looking to get more involved with the interops subcommittee. He has been involved in radio and communications for his entire career.

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

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Nov 19, 2024, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Kurt Seaman moved to adjourn. Aaron Budine seconded the motion. Jay Hastings, Bob Garriepy, Lindsay Stromgren, Kurt Seaman, Robert VanZandt, Jason Breault, Tom Grady, and Aaron Budine 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 October 15, 2024
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from September 17, 2024 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY21 Budget Report through 10/10/24
- WMRIC FFY22 Budget Report through 10/10/24
- WMRIC FFY23 Budget Report through 10/10/24

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 19, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham Dispatch), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC), Dennis Nazzaro (Northampton FD/Pelham FD), Lindsay Stromgren (Amherst FD)

**Non-members present:** Raine Brown (FRCOG), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Alex Rock (EOPSS)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Thomas Grady (BCSO/BCECS), Kurt Seaman (S. Deerfield FD), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

*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 October 15, 2024 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Nina Barszcz moved to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2024 meeting as submitted. Jay Hastings seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Nina Barszcz, Jay Hastings, and Dennis Nazzaro voted in favor. Anthony Gentile abstained. The motion was approved.</p>
---

Introductions followed.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC & SIEC Update** – Alex Rock reported. There have been some issues with interoperable fire communications. There have been a lot of deployments recently, and some are having trouble due to inaccurate programming with the Mass Tactical Channel Plan. Anthony Gentile added that the MIFOG is being updated. There is a workshop tomorrow that he plans to attend.

**Project Updates**

**FC40 Comms Upgrade** – Raine Brown reported that there have been challenges with getting the vendor to come up and do the installations. A couple of items were acquired by a different vendor, and the vendor who is supplying the rest of it will not do the installation for those items. Aaron Budine plans to do it. But now there has been enough of a delay that they do not know if the subcontractor can still honor the quote. They need to, because that's what they bid and got the purchase order for; if not, it may have to go back out to bid. Raine will reach out again.

**Franklin County Multiband Cache and COML Computers** – Raine reported that the project is complete. The radios are now at South Deerfield and will be attached to the patch panels. Kurt Seaman will distribute them with the panels, which have also arrived.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 12:30pm**

*Franklin County Patch Panels* – See above.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

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

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

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

*WMLEC* – Steve Kozloski reported that they are still having difficulty with the microwave path between Mt. Tom north and Mt. Tom south. Agencies in the pioneer valley will hear through outlying sites. The issue is related to a connector that is on backorder through November, but the vendor was able to find alternate stock and should have Mt Tom South back up soon.

*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 but asked if there was anything that anyone wants the delegation to bring back from the conference in Oklahoma. She also asked if anyone has experience with LB Comms, which she saw in a newsletter. Nina is not thoroughly happy with Goosetown and is looking for a company that can do licensing, programming, etc. Dennis wondered if this might be Mark Cady's operation out of Worcester.

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

*Other* – None.

**Budget Review**

Raine Brown reported. WMRIC has just over \$106,000 in FFY23. The committee will have over \$130,000 when FFY24 comes on, which should be by January. We could use some projects.

**Requests**

None.

**Old Business**

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

This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

*WMRIC At-large seats* – Voting for the six at-large seats will take place at the December meeting. Raine has received interest from three current members (Aaron Budine, Lindsay Stromgren, and Rob VanZandt) and one non-member (Alan Sirois). Nina Barszcz will also be in the running since she is comms rep to WRHSAC. Bob Garriepy and Jay Hastings are

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 12:30pm**

the other two who currently hold seats. Jay noted that he was taking the seat to fill a vacancy, and he will check in with Bob Garriepy to see if he intends to continue in the role.

**New Business:** Steve Kozloski reported that he has had success at coordinating with LifeFlight, but recently there was a communications issue with LifeStar. He asked if they are under the same umbrella as Air Methods. Lindsay replied that going through Air Methods should get info out to all branches. Issues sometimes come down to who is on the crew. Dennis noted that he had that issue last year; depending on who the pilot is, they might not know what they have programmed. Lindsay suggested reaching out to LifeStar about the incident. Anthony clarified that Air Methods owns the aircrafts and they all work together.

**Business Unforeseen by the Chair:** Raine announced that they will be on leave in December and early January. Rachel Mason and Bob Dean will fill in during that time.

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Nina Barszcz moved to adjourn. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Nina Barszcz, Jay Hastings, Anthony Gentile, Dennis Nazzaro, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for November 19, 2024
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from October 15, 2024 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY22 Budget Report through 11/15/24
- WMRIC FFY23 Budget Report through 11/15/24
- Letter of interest from Alan Sirois, Agawam Fire
- Letter of interest from Lindsay Stromgren, Amherst Fire
- Letter of interest from Aaron Budine, Bernardston Fire

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 17, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Subcommittee members present:** Matt Barstow (MSP), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), 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:** Bob Dean (FRCOG), Jake Liebrock (Rangeland Communications), Rachel Mason (FRCOG), Alan Sirois (Agawam FD)

**Subcommittee members absent:** Nina Barszcz (Westfield Dispatch), Jason Breault (Pittsfield PD), Aaron Budine (Bernardston FD), Tyrone Denson (CMED/Springfield FD), Jay Hastings (Westfield State PD), Kurt Seaman (S. Deerfield FD), Robert VanZandt (Belchertown FD)

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

Tom Grady called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the November 19, 2024 meeting.

<p><b>Motion:</b> Steve Kozloki moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024 meeting as submitted. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Tom Grady, Dennis Nazzaro, and Steve Kozloski voted in favor. The motion was approved.</p>
---

Introductions followed.

**Presentation from Rangeland Communications**

Jake Liebrock introduced himself and his company, Rangeland Communications, which is based out of Needham. They specialize in 2-way communication for emergency and security response teams. They have developed a field deployable mobile repeater which gives you the ability to set up a battery operated radio repeater in the field, with no dedicated power. In deployment it is giving over 8 miles of coverage. They also provide 2 way radios and accessories. Their specialty is in encryption. They are working with National Grid in North Carolina, deploying these repeaters for some of the helicopter teams doing recovery work there. Dennis Nazzaro asked if they are on pre-designated frequencies or national tac channels or something else. Jake replied that they can program them to work with whatever frequencies are needed. Dennis asked about P25 compliance. Jake replied that these are not P25 compliant, they are UHF, so these are intended for auxiliary emergency responses rather than for main emergency response. Jake can be reached at [Jake@rangelandcomms.com](mailto:Jake@rangelandcomms.com) if there are additional questions.

**Updates from the Chair** – None.

**SWIC & SIEC Update** – The SWIC was not present to give an update. Dennis reported that the SIEC meeting this month was cancelled.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Project Updates**

***FC40 Comms Upgrade*** – Rachel Mason reported that she was left off some emails between the vendor and John Taylor and Aaron Budine, so without their updates it is unclear where things stand with regard to the incomplete portions of the project.

***Franklin County Multiband Cache and COML Computers*** – The project is complete.

***Franklin County Patch Panels*** – The project is complete.

Steve Kozloski reported that with regard to the COML computers, he noticed that his account access is no longer functioning. Anthony offered that has credentials that he can forward. Steve further explained that that WMLEC was accessing the software under a MAPC parent account, but his credentials no longer work. Rachel contacted MAPC about this but has not heard back yet. Dennis noted that he is still using the MAPC credentials successfully. He contacted Motorola about a year ago to get updated when they switched platforms. Steve will try this.

**Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update**

***Berkshire County*** – Tom Grady reported that on Dec 4, Governor Healy enacted the legislation they had been waiting for to transfer the Berkshire County REC to State 911. Peter Kinnas was appointed interim director. All of the staff now became employees of State 911. They have posted for a permanent director and other new staff. As we move into the new year we will have to talk about how that fits in with WMRIC, as they are no longer the systems owners.

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

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

***WMLEC*** – Steve Kozloski reported that they had been experiencing difficulties with Mt. Tom North to Mt. Tom South for a few months. The backordered parts finally arrived and technicians are on site today, so Mt. Tom North should be back on the air soon.

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

***MSP*** – Matt Barstow reported that they are continuing to work on the CoMIRS project. They are getting the western part ready for upgrades at the end of 2025 or early 2026.

***911/Dispatch*** – Anthony Gentile reported that the development grant is now open for all RECs, closing March 5. Check the application because there have been a few changes this year.

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

***Other*** – None.

**Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council  
Western Massachusetts Regional Interoperability Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 12:30pm**

**Budget Review**

Rachel Mason reported. WMRIC has just under \$106,000 in FFY23, plus over \$130,000 in FFY24, which will be active soon. We could use some projects.

**Requests**

None. Steve Kozloski noted that he may come with a request soon, as some of their equipment is aging out.

**Old Business**

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

This remains on the agenda as a placeholder.

***WMRIC At-large seats*** – Five current members have expressed their interest in the at-large seats (Aaron Budine, Lindsay Stromgren, Rob VanZandt, Nina Barszcz, and Bob Garriepy), as has Alan Sirois, who would be a new member of WMRIC.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to accept the slate of six candidates. Dennis Nazzaro seconded the motion. Tom Grady, Dennis Nazzaro, Steve Kozloski, Anthony Gentile, Steve Kozloski, and Matt Barstow voted in favor. Lindsay Stromgren abstained. The motion was approved.

**New Business:** None.

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

**Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 12:30 pm, as a virtual meeting.

**Motion:** Tom Grady moved to adjourn. Steve Kozloski seconded the motion. Lindsay Stromgren, Dennis Nazzaro, Steve Kozloski, Anthony Gentile, Tom Grady, Matt Barstow, and Bob Garriepy voted in favor. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 pm.

**List of Documents Reviewed at the Meeting**

- WMRIC Meeting Agenda for December 17, 2024
- WMRIC Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2024 (draft)
- WMRIC FFY22 Budget Report through 12/13/24
- WMRIC FFY23 Budget Report through 12/13/24

Respectfully submitted by:

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