



State Interoperability Executive Committee Minutes

December 15, 2016

1:30 – 3:30 pm
Camp Murray Building 92

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Announcements, and Introductions

Attendees:

Rob St. John (Chair / OCIO) Robert “Bob” Schwent – for Batiste (WSP) John Nesbitt (WSDOT)
Bob Johnson (DNR) Matt Modarelli – for Ezelle (MIL) Chuck Duffy (Fire Chiefs)

Via Teleconference:

Jennifer Gregerson (AWC) Al Compaan (WASPC) Keith Flewelling (WA APCO/NENA)

Staff:

Shelley Westall, Michael Marusich, Angela Knight, Minette Knotts

Others via teleconference:

Katie Myers (CRESA) Steve Leach Shawn Douglas (King CO)

Call to Order:

Rob St. John called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. St. John introduced himself to the group and announced his appointment as Chair and representative member of the OCIO.

News and information roundtable:

Marusich: Rebanding: Reconfiguration activities are complete; equipment reconciliation continues; Financial reconciliation to be completed in 90 days. No barriers to address or approval required of SIEC.

Schwent: WSP Narrowbanding project complete. The project status is current on the OCIO Dash Board. Engineering study investment packet submitted to SAW for review and concurrence; will be submitted for SIEC approval later in this meeting. Financial request is reflected in Governor’s budget.

Nisbet: WSDOT’s land mobile radio procurement going well; update to be provided later by McDowell. WSDOT is involved AASHTO State highway special task force on wireless communications. Will be bringing the wireless communications systems taskforce into the System Operations Committee. Technology is coming together from a WSDOT standpoint.

Johnson: DNR has challenges with current weather; Causing delays in travel to, accessing and maintaining sites. Agency specifically working through transition with newly elected Commissioner of Public Lands.

Modarelli: Ziggy Dahl’s (retired) successor was hired – Adam Wasserman. Wasserman: Washington communications working group to provide briefing to SIEC at upcoming meeting. Good turnout at last WAECG meeting. Contact Modarelli to get on distribution list. WA Emergency Communications Group meeting on February 2, 2017 – invitation going out today.

Westall: Welcomes the Governor’s new policy advisor for public safety, Sonja Hallum.

Compaan: Snohomish County continues work on the consolidation of two Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). Task force efforts are continuing on options for a consolidated countywide PSAP. Governance model development is still in process.

Gregerson: Cities are getting ready for legislative session, shared state revenues are protected. Interested to see how session goes.

Flewelling: Insufficient support for PSAP telecommunicator certification program in WA. Will move effort to approve telecommunicator certification to a different legislative committee. Meeting with OFM and review of the 911 Fund did not indicate any raiding of the fund.

2. Review of August 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes:

Motion made to adopt minutes as presented moved and seconded (Duffy/Johnson) – none opposed.

3. SIEC Legislative Changes:

Marusich: Legislative changes to RCW “Increasing membership of the SIEC in order to foster interoperability.” This item was previously provided to SIEC members via email. This change in RCW is presented to the SIEC for ratification by the members and to be formally noted in the minutes. Duffy: What will this do to the need for a quorum? St. John/Marusich: Still requires a simple majority; also, requires all members actively participate in future meetings. A motion to acknowledge the change and enter it into the minutes (as ratified by the committee) was moved, seconded (Duffy/Nisbet) and unanimously approved – none opposed. Ref: Bill Request – Code Reviser’s Office; Bill Req. # Z-0091.2/17 2nd Draft).

4. WSDOT Radio Procurement Update:

Tim McDowell: Provided a review of past initiatives leading to the current Request for Proposals (RFP) for a replacement statewide radio system for WSDOT. Identified prior Request for Information (RFI) that provided foundational information for development of the current RFP. WSDOT used alternate methods (eBay, other public safety agencies, etc.) to keep the existing system operating. Rebanding process completed and can now replace the system. Selected RFP solution must operate two systems until migration to new system is completed in 4 years. McDowell identified challenges including: Rebanding; spectrum congestion in Puget Sound; and, support of existing system operations during system replacement project. Additional repeaters are required to support control channel frequencies at all sites. 134 frequencies needed statewide. An engineering study determined 700MHz spectrum is the most viable for a replacement system. The ISSI component is listed as an option in the RFP so that proposals can be evaluated and scored equally. Spectrum along Oregon border is also congested. Idaho is also deploying 700 MHz, but did not coordinate with WA. WSDOT is requesting use of County 700 MHz spectrum along Idaho border and in other regions of WA. Frequency request methodology is to use State held spectrum first, and then use county held spectrum for further voice channel assignments. Proposed approach leaves State allocated interoperability spectrum assigned to WA State Patrol intact. Others will need to coordinate specific requests within counties as needed. Goal of this deployment is to provide 96% coverage by WSDOT Region. Sites will have 3 channels - 1 control and 2 voice. WSDOT has committed to up to 39 interoperability repeaters installed at State-owned site locations without incurring any additional costs. The RFP approach will move WSDOT away from 800 to 700 MHz, while maintaining a few necessary 800 MHz frequencies in support of statewide emergency response and operations. WSDOT will return 232 800 MHz frequencies back to Region 43 (WA) Regional Planning Committee (RPC) for relicensing by others. WSDOT will continue to work with Blue Wing Services (engineering consultant) and RPC to identify alternatives and recommendations. Motion requested of SIEC to approve the licensing of the 281 unique 700 MHz frequencies. Questions were solicited from attendees.

Marusich: Several questions were submitted in advance of the SIEC meeting pertaining to the WSDOT presentation –

- 1) How can other state agencies request use of state allocated 700 MHz spectrum?
 - a. **Schwent/McDowell:** the State-allocated 700 MHz frequencies were originally licensed under the WSP. An allocation agreement was reached between WSP and WSDOT to assign specific portions of the State-allocated spectrum to these agencies. Other agencies can make a request directly to WSP or WSDOT for use of these frequencies.

- 2) Were other State agencies or entities contacted regarding the use of this system or offered the opportunity to partner with WDOT in its deployment?
 - a. **McDowell:** WSDOT reached out to other agencies using the legacy system, but needs to confirm; however, it has been well known that WSDOT is in the process of developing an RFP for the procurement of a new statewide radio system.
- 3) Is a P25 ISSI component included in the requirements of the RFP?
 - a. **McDowell:** The procurement process is designed so as not to provide an unfair advantage to any responding entity. Therefore, the ISSI interface is listed as an “option”. The justification for this action is that a responding vendor requested to provide an ISSI interface to their own system could do so at no charge, while other vendors would have to provide an interface to a disparate system, which would require an additional cost.
- 4) Will WSDOT’s request for use of the majority of the 700 MHz spectrum impact the ability for other State, regional, county or local entities to expand their systems in support of their growing operational needs?
 - a. **McDowell/Bahner:** McDowell answered he doesn’t think so, but deferred to 700 MHz RPC Chair - Spencer Bahner. Bahner indicated that all 700 MHz spectrum (State, County or other) is treated equally within the 700 MHz Plan, and – although he is aware of other interests, no other applications/requests for use of the spectrum have been received by the RPC. He further stated that licensee needs for 700 spectrum will be met regionally.

Duffy: Not familiar with scope of the spectrum. Answer: The Region 43 (WA) RPC 700 MHz Committee is the statewide 700 MHz frequency coordinator - members are the state agencies, cities and counties that use this spectrum. They verify the coordination and approve the licensing of particular frequencies within this spectrum.

Flewelling: How does the authority work between Region 43 RPC and the SIEC with frequency allocation? Specifically the frequencies that are being utilized in the 700 MHz plan? **McDowell:** Permission for State agencies to license State interoperability frequencies needs SIEC approval. For engineering purposes, county allocations will remain in the 700 MHz Plan to facilitate coordination activities, which provides equal opportunity for all licensees to be eligible to apply for county-allocated spectrum through the RPC. The Region 43 RPC elected to keep the original Plan intact. **Flewelling** expressed concern that he will have to await the completion of the WSDOT project to ascertain what spectrum remains to be licensed by others – himself included. **McDowell/Flewelling:** Agreed to meet offline to discuss.

St. John: Will this impact other County’s ability to license spectrum in the 700 MHz band or to expand their systems as needed? Answer: **McDowell** indicated the project will be initiated on a region by region basis, and spectrum clearing – except for statewide emergency response frequencies, will be released as regions are completed, which will eliminate the extended wait for full completion of the project. He also reiterated the 700 MHz Plan treats County and City frequency applications equally – on a “first come, first served” process. WSDOT has submitted their request to the RPC. Pierce CO is preparing a request, but has yet to submit. By the numbers – 480 channels to be licensed statewide. Major county systems have their systems deployed. WSDOT anticipates about 11 frequencies (average) will be needed per county. Asking to license 281 unique frequencies. Not asking for much more than they already have today. WSDOT will be using Plan-coordinated (pre-coordinated) frequencies. Others requesting frequencies subsequently may have to other coordination options outside of the pre-coordinated frequencies listed in the Plan.

Schwent: Speaking on behalf of the RPC 700 MHz Technical Review Committee, WSDOT has changed their application to address concerns raised by the RPC members. It’s a statewide system and issues will arise as the project progresses. WSDOT has and will continue to mitigate concerns as issues arise.

Marusich: The SIEC delegated its coordination authority for State 700 MHz interoperability spectrum to the RPC. However, the SIEC retains its authority to authorize the licensing of State allocated spectrum by State agencies.

Flewelling: How long will the 700 and 800 MHz frequencies be tied up during this project? Answer: McDowell – WSDOT will be deploying one to two regions per season. As they deploy the 700 MHz system, and have it operational in a region, subscriber units will be replaced and the majority of the 800 MHz frequencies will be turned down and returned to the RPC for reuse; however, 800 MHz emergency operation channels will remain operational until all WSDOT regions migrate to 700 MHz.

No other questions were raised regarding the WSDOT replacement radio system.

A motion was made and seconded (Duffy/Nesbit) - and unanimously ratified, to approve the 700 MHz State frequency allocations for use in the deployment of a statewide 700 MHz WSDOT radio system, conditioned upon the region-by-region return of the majority of the replaced 800 MHz frequencies (ref: WSDOT PowerPoint slides for details). No additional comments or opposition were noted.

5. Washington OneNet Status Update:

Westall: Good news – Minette Knotts was hired as the Administrative Assistant to the WA OneNet (WON) program office. She will serve as a shared resource with the OCIO Oversight Consultants. Bad news - FirstNet has received a bidder protest against their RFP vendor selection process, which will add delays to the process and future program timelines. The protest may delay award of a contract out to March 2017. The protest provides some insight into the selection process and it appears AT&T is the prospective awardee. The protest equates to an estimated 3-6 in awarding the contract which may affect delivery of the state plan. Contingency planning is under way in the event of a significant delay.

In an effort to prepare the successful vendor for conversations regarding the (yet-to-be-received) State Plan, WA OneNet provided FirstNet with a preliminary set of expectations for the state plan. OneNet hopes that the Expectations document will establish the baseline for State Plan and serve the comparison document for review and discussion when FirstNet delivers the state plan. This document addresses coverage issues, rural and tribal concerns, and phased deployment issues raised by WA stakeholders. Please email Shelley with any additional concerns or requested inclusions. The WON program office is also involved in a consortium of State Point of Contacts (SPOCs) with AK, OR and ID, looking for ways to consolidate limited SLIGP Grant budget resources by creating shared, regional outreach and education opportunities.

WSDOT (McDowell) needs help in contacting and working with Idaho – through their military department. Westall will work with McDowell to provide contacts and introductions.

6. SIEC Advisory Workgroup (SAW) Update:

Ongoing Projects (Narrowbanding/Rebanding)

Marusich: SAW Update – Statewide 800MHz system/equipment reconfiguration is completed. WSDOT and WADOC 800 MHz systems are operational. Equipment reconciliation through Sprint is in process. Marusich explained the equipment reconciliation process is followed by a financial reconciliation process – both with Sprint. Anticipating equipment reconciliation completion the first weeks of Jan 2017 and finalizing the financial reconciliation within 90 days thereafter.

Expanded SAW Role to Address Radio Interoperability

Through the course of interaction with OneNet, FirstNet and Rebanding, several inquiries were received from tribal, regional, county, and local entities requesting assistance with the review, specification, recommendation, best practices and/or sharing related to interoperable systems. Many of these entities do not have technical resources. They are requesting the use of the SAW as a venue for shared technical and system opportunities. Marusich requested all interested parties contact Minette Knotts regarding attendance at the next SAW meeting. An invitation was also extended to the WA SPOC (Westall) to represent identified rural and tribal matters related to interoperable communications and systems sharing. The SAW will review the requests for assistance and present a recommendation to the SIEC at the next meeting.

WSP Engineering Study Approval

Schwent: A presentation was made outlining the scope and completion of WSP's Narrowbanding project. Schwent expressed gratitude for its end. The project met the FCC mandate, reused as much equipment as possible, and was mindful of their financial responsibilities. WSP handles security for Capitol Campus community. A big gain can be leveraged for a low cost investment by making improvements that will provide four agencies with operable and interoperable communications. WSP also provides or proposes microwave to Ethernet connectivity for efficiency with partners (digital connectivity). A final report conducted by an outside agency identified all objectives were met. Remaining Narrowband funds will be used for system upkeep. No additional staff was employed to accommodate the Narrowbanding project. Each of the eight WSP districts were unique. Much of the cost reduction was achieved through shared costs with user base and leveraging an exchange of services programs with other/shared users on the system. (Ref: PowerPoint slides)

Duffy: What other issues remain to be addressed? Answer: Schwent - Moving network to Quincy center and catching up on maintenance that was postponed while resources were reassigned to Narrowbanding.

McDowell: Commented on the continuing working relationship with WSP and the sharing and use of resources allocated to the state agencies.

Schwent: Identified that where they can partner with state/local agencies to share cost, WSP has been doing so. Examples include WSP/WSDOT shared use of East Tiger site and partnering with IWN, OPSCAN, Clallam County, Pierce County, etc.

St. John: OCIO will be convening a multi-agency meetings – to include WSDOT, WSP and other agencies as required, to establish a set of agreed principles on what radio system components can be shared to better leverage public funds, partnerships, sharing and reuse. The outcome of these meetings will be shared with our authorizing boards/authorities to show we are seriously addressing these issues.

Schwent: WSP presented a funding request for an engineering study conducted to identify coverage and service issues identified during the recently completed Narrowbanding project. This matter was previously reviewed by the SAW and a favorable recommendation was made for its presentation to the SIEC. Aside from addressing the coverage and service issues identified during deployment of the Narrowbanding project, this study would also identify opportunities for improved coverage and shared service opportunities statewide. A motion was made (Duffy), seconded (Nesbitt) and unanimously approved. No opposition was noted and the motion carried.

7. **2017 SIEC Meeting Schedule:**

The following proposed 2017 SIEC meeting schedule dates and locations were presented and accepted by the SIEC:

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| February 16, 2017: | <i>1500 Jefferson SW, Olympia, First Floor Presentation Room</i> |
| April 20, 2017: | Camp Murray, Bldg. 92, Rooms 1 & 3 |
| June 15, 2017: | Camp Murray, Bldg. 92, Rooms 1 & 3 |
| August 17, 2017: | Camp Murray, Bldg. 92, Rooms 1 & 3 |
| October 19, 2017: | Camp Murray, Bldg. 92, Rooms 1 & 3 |
| December 21, 2017: | Camp Murray, Bldg. 92, Rooms 1 & 3 |

8. **Good of the Order:**

No new matters were presented.

9. **Special Screening:**

A special presentation of the video produced by Washington OneNet on interoperability during an active school shooting event, **Shots Fired**, was presented.