



# State Interoperability Executive Committee

## Minutes December 17, 2015

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

### 1. Call to order, welcome, announcements, and introductions

Chair Bill Schrier called the meeting to order at 1:48 p.m.

- There were round-robin introductions of everyone present in the room.
- Members in attendance: Robert Ezelle, Al Compaan, Matt Modarelli for Daugherty, Keith Flewelling, Randell Harris, Jennifer Gregerson, John Nisbet, Bob Schwent for Batiste, Chuck Duffy, Anton Damm for Johnson, Jim Sharp, Bill Schrier. Via Phone: Stephanie Fritts, Patti Kelly
- Schrier introduced a new ex-officio member, Keith Flewelling (of TCOMM911 in Thurston County) representing Washington State APCO-NENA. The State APCO-NENA Executive Committee had requested an ex-officio member and proposed Flewelling. State Chief Information Officer (CIO) agreed and made the appointment.

### 2. News and Information Roundtable

- Member Kelly reported that Whitcom experienced a several day event with power outages and storm damage in Asotin and Whitman counties as well as in Moscow, Idaho. The Whitcom facility had no issues with phone communications, however, but experienced a 2,000% increase in call volume over a few hours.
- Anton Damm reported for Bob Johnson that DNR is expanding coverage in and around Montesano for Fish and Wildlife and is also putting up a new site in Lincoln County. DNR will submit a supplemental budget request for this legislative session which will include radio support. DNR is also conducting an internal reexamination of radio funding. [Governor Inslee's budget proposed to the legislature includes some funding for DNR radio system upgrades, which had been endorsed by the SIEC last year.]
- Chief Compaan announced that Snohomish County went live with a new county-wide CAD system in late October. New World is the vendor. This was a six year effort to move towards improved reliability of dispatch. The expanded capabilities of the system presented a learning curve for users but Chief Compaan and users are very satisfied. Beginning in January the two Snohomish County PSAPs, SNOCOM and SNOAC will begin talks to merge. SERS performed well in the recent windstorm despite a lost antenna. Jon "Wiz" Wiswell was recently named interim director of SERS.
- Robert Ezelle stated that Military has been heavily engaged with this past year's record fire season. A Presidential emergency declaration helped bring direct emergency assistance and the Military department continues working with Federal representatives to build radio capabilities and wireless vendors to bring in COWs (cell on wheels). During fire season a windstorm qualified the state for another Presidential disaster declaration. Working with FEMA now accessing November and December storms for possible 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> disaster declarations this year.
- Mayor Gregerson reported that the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) is looking at local infrastructure investments and barriers and how to increase infrastructure. They are continuing research into the impacts of public records request for city staff including frequent and extensive requestors. Also there are many new city and county council members across the state that AWC will assist with training.
- Bob Schwent reported for Chief Batiste that the beginning of legislative session has an impact for troopers who will be providing security. Recent storms caused minor outages with partner systems but that systems performed well in general.
- Chief Duffy explained that record setting fire mobilization period with 30 requests, triple normal of 8-10 requests. When the Fire Protection Bureau ran out of fire resources they expanded hiring practices and

called in resources from as far as New Zealand and Australia. Limited resources present a challenge to protect everything so they have to prioritize people, houses, and then land. It is estimated that Fire Protection Bureau spent \$32 million and that DNR spent over \$100 million on Fire efforts this season. Our state has received 12 Federal Fire Mobilization grants (a normal year is up to three). These grants reimburse the state for up to 75% of all expenses for fires which involved a town.

- Chief Jim Sharp stated that after an extreme fire season for both the East and West sides of the state they are now moving onto response for flood and storm season.
- Keith Flewelling reported that APCO-NENA is focused on the upcoming Legislative session. APCO-NENA plans to ask for supplemental funds for E911 state office and has several initiatives for 2017.
- John Nisbet stated that DOT has also been working on storms. As a member of the Association of State Transportation Officials, Nisbet participated in the Traffic Incident Management Executive Leadership Team which has members from national associations of Fire, EMS, Law enforcement, and public works. Traffic Incident Management training is a large focus of the group. WSDOT participated in the National “Train the Trainer” effort and is rolling this training out to its own staff. Member Nisbet wanted to raise awareness of this initiative and possibly work with the SIEC further as communications and coordination is the foundation of the training, followed by focus on safety for responders and the public, then getting roads clear.
- Randell Harris had several meetings in October including the FirstNet Tribal working group and the PSAC (Public Safety Advisory Committee). Tribes hoping to deploy community broadband project and tie in Police and Fire with system. Harris would like to replicate this project throughout the 29 federally recognized tribes in Washington State. Schrier noted that Washington has 2 representative on the PSAC including Tony Anderson, Deputy Major of SeaTac, and Chris Lombard of Seattle Fire.
- Chief Matt Modarelli reported for General Daugherty and updated the group on the developing TICFOG, a joint project with SIEC, DSHS OEC, Military, and Washington OneNet to develop a Tactical Interoperable Communications Field Operations Guide for Washington State. The kickoff happened in December and he is looking forward to reporting more on this in the future.

### **3. SIEC Business**

- Meeting agenda proposed, no objections.
- October 15, 2015 meeting minutes approved with no changes.
- No public comment.

### **4. Update on Communications Order Model Practice for Radio Communications**

Chief Jim Sharp and Wayne Senter, Executive Director of the Washington Fire Chiefs, introduced and discussed this topic, and proposed language for an SIEC best practice. The topic of a unified communications order model for radio communications was brought to SIEC earlier this year. Different communication models are (generally) used by Fire Chiefs (using Receiver–Sender) and Law Enforcement (using Sender-Receiver). NIMS (National Incident Management System) and ICS (Incident Command System) suggest standardizing on a single one, but do not dictate which standard to use. This is not just a local issue, but includes Federal government agencies, as well as training curricula of DHS and FEMA. Each model has legitimate and logical reasons for its use. Instead of providing a recommendation for one model or the other, the suggestion is to acknowledge the two different models and recommend that each discipline unify to one order model and maintain an open dialogue with communications center. Some PSAPs have a model preference, but a unified model in each discipline, Law Enforcement and Fire, will make communication easier, especially in the case of mutual aid.

- The topic was discussed at length and a modification of the draft language for best practice was proposed: *Washington State fire and law enforcement agencies have differing needs relating to this issue. Fire agencies predominately use the “Receiver-Sender” communications model and fire to fire communications should use the same model especially during large mutual aid events. It is recommended that fire agencies work with their respective PSAP’s to implement the Receiver-Sender model for fire agencies. Law enforcement agencies predominately use the “Sender-Receiver” communications model and that works well for law agencies. Overall, the SIEC is committed to standardizing radio communications procedures where it makes sense to do so. In this case, standardizing the radio*

*communications model within each discipline meets their respective needs and on-going interests related to first responder safety and interaction with mutual aid partners.*

- No opposed, motion carries.
- In prior years, this issue was cause for the SIEC to halt adoption of a “Best Practices” document. Bill Schrier asked the SAW to review the larger document of best practices and identify where this recommendation came from. The SAW will re-review and revise the complete Best Practices document for possible recommendation for adoption by the SIEC.

## **5. Washington OneNet (WON) Status**

Shelley Westall provided an update on OneNet efforts including:

- FirstNet 101, as well as FirstNet 201 and coverage workshops were completed in December including Omak and Colville.
- Washington State University (WSU) performed a statistically valid survey of 173 responder agencies to obtain data for the FirstNet RFP. The collected data was reported to FirstNet on September 30<sup>th</sup> and the survey is still open for other agencies to respond.
- OneNet plans to collect and map 911 call data.
- A Webinar and Stakeholder meetings were conducted in October and more are planned for future.
- OneNet staff attended several meetings including FirstNet Applications Workshop, WASPC, County Leaders Conference, and NW Tribal Technical Assistance Workshop.
- The “After Oso” Video featuring General Daugherty was played for the group and can be found [here](#). A video about the wildfires is in early planning stages.
- Creating an “active shooter in school” video has been approved by Governor’s office and OneNet will be working with that office.
- OneNet statistics for outreach and education about FirstNet are second in the nation including: 179 meetings, over 10,000 attendees, over 5,000 handouts, over 52,000 loads on our videos.
- OneNet provided briefings at two House Committee meetings. The House General Government and Information Technology (GGIT) Committee presentation was focused on the SIEC and interoperability. OneNet also presented to the House Public Safety Committee regarding FirstNet. SIEC members Jim Sharp and Stephanie Fritts attended and spoke at the GGIT meetings.

## **6. Phased Deployment of FirstNet, State Plan Approval Process**

Schrier presented a guestimate of FirstNet’s timeline which includes the Sept 30<sup>th</sup> data collection. The FirstNet RFP is slated for release in January and potentially requiring responses by May. State plan discussions are expected in 2017. [FirstNet issued the RFP on January 13, 2016, with responses from vendors due on April 29.] OneNet plans to continue to accept data collection from public safety agencies and will begin adding 911 and vendor coverage maps. OneNet is requesting coverage feedback from stakeholders which can be mapped [here](#). OneNet is waiting for more info on FirstNet’s chosen vendor before submitting a full response to FirstNet’s request for input on deployment strategy but has said entire state needs coverage as quickly as possible. OneNet further stated the FirstNet State Plan should include a robust deployables strategy and coverage on every state highway. The current phased deployment proposal from FirstNet includes 5 phases, starting with urban areas to build user base and then will expand. Rural coverage in each phase is required by law. FirstNet staff have requested to meet with the SIEC this year, and SIEC members agreed they would welcome such a meeting. When the FirstNet State Plan is complete, probably in 2017, the SIEC will review it and send recommendations to the Governor.

### **Data collection response**

Christina Saunders and Dr. Season Hoard of WSU joined Bill Schrier for this portion of the presentation. The survey was conducted with help from WSU Division of Governmental Studies and Services (DGSS) under contract to OneNet. OneNet submitted the first round of data collection to FirstNet on September 30, 2015. Draft analysis of data collection is not public but will be provided to SIEC members upon request.

An overview of the results include:

- 923 survey invitations, 173 agency responses;
- Agencies identified cost, budget and coverage as the main problems preventing wider use of wireless data;
- There were few responses from rural agencies possibly due to firefighting efforts during the period of the survey, WSU and OneNet will continue encouraging survey responses;
- 71% of agencies allow use of personally owned devices but 72% don't provide a stipend for such use;
- 91% of those responding use wireless data;
- Firefighting agencies are more likely to use personal devices and paging systems rather than Law Enforcement, however law enforcement uses more automatic vehicle location.

Next steps for OneNet will be to encourage more participation in urban and rural areas (including tribes), finalize analysis report for distribution, and socialize data results with associations and stakeholders. Future surveys may drill down into use of apps. A cut-off date for data collection has not been announced by FirstNet or set for OneNet's survey.

## **7. Ongoing Projects**

### **WSP Narrowbanding**

Bob Schwent reported that current efforts are on region 1; Region 6 is still pending and is expected to be a challenge. Regions 2-5 and 7 are completed. The region 8 cutover has been delayed because coverage was not sufficient and WSP is working to improve, including relocation of sites and site additions. Budget availability, schedule stability, and scope management have moved to "yellow" status but the project continues to move forward slated with a mid- August completion and compliance with FCC narrowbanding requirements.

### **800 MHz Rebanding**

Michael Marusich reported that rebanding continues to move forward and should be completed by early 2016, with reconciliation taking approximately six months thereafter. Final project closure is expected in late 2016.

### **SAW Committee Report**

TIC FOG - Washington State Tactical Interoperable Communications (TIC) Field Operations Guide (FOG) development has begun and will be preliminarily available in an electronic/app version. DHS will provide one hard copy and a Microsoft Word document. Washington's homeland security regions will supply regional FOG's in order to build a statewide TICFOG. The Military Department and WSP will identify resources required to complete this effort - including interns.

## **8. Good of the order and Information Sharing**

No future agenda items were identified.

The Emergency Services Division will be reviewing replacement proposals for its emergencies services internet protocol (ESI) network. The RFP closes 12/18, with three proposals received or expected.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 pm.

Next meeting is February 18, 2016, 1:30 PM, at Camp Murray.