



State Interoperability Executive Committee Minutes

October 15, 2020

1:30 – 2:45 pm

Virtual Only via WebEx

1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees:

Robert Connal (Chair/WaTech)

Charles LeBlanc (WSP/FPB)

Angela Knight (OCIO)

Spencer Bahner (City of Seattle)

Scott Loerts (LNI)

Cece Zenker (OCIO)

Tom Wallace for Chief Batiste (WSP) Anton Damm for Chuck Turley (DNR)

Sheriff Blakeslee (WASPC)

Bill Tensfeld

Robert Ezelle (MIL)

Jose Zuniga (DOC)

Keith Flewelling (APCO-NENA)

Comm. Bobby Jackson (WSAC)

Captain Phillip Johnson (DFW)

Review of August 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: Approve August 20, 2020, meeting minutes with no corrections. This motion was moved, seconded and passed. Effective date October 15, 2020.

2. NEWS AND INFORMATION ROUNDTABLE

Connal (Chair/WaTech) – Robert will be validating with our AAG if the SWIC needs to be a state employee. Still looking for volunteers to replace Jose Zuniga as chair of the SIEC Advisory Workgroup (SAW Group) and current SWIC, as he is retiring end of February.

Bahner (Seattle) – Working to prepare for contingency communications needs for the time around the November elections, and immediately after which include working with a National Guard, as well as other state and local entities.

Flewelling (APCO-NENA) – Watching several federal legislation items: HR2 Invest in America could free up about 12B dollars in grant programs, some of which will be available for 9-1-1 usage; HR 5918 Emergency Reporting Act relates to disaster information reporting systems; HR451 is don't break up the T band act of 2019 that has rules that affect 9-1-1 fees in states and actually talks to the issue of diverting 9-1-1 fees for other purposes; SB2661 addressing national suicide hotline designation act as 9-8-8, so watching that primarily for a interoperability or interconnectivity with 9-1-1, if the case is warranted. Also, watching several FCC initiatives. Thurston county is moving ahead with 700 megahertz p25 system and expect cutover in a couple years.

Ezelle (MIL) – EMD has dealt with the second worst fire season on record in state history, creating significant damages and impacts to communities. Huge shout out to everyone who participates in ESF 2, our wireless carriers and everyone who helped address the communications challenges. A tremendous success in terms of interagency and private sector partnerships.

Jackson (WSAC) – Looking for funding for a microwave system in Lewis County. Curious if NR2 Invest in America bill that Keith mentioned has any infrastructure possibilities.

LeBlanc (WSP/FPB) – Echoes Robert’s comments regarding unprecedented fire season since 2015. Ended up with 24 mobilizations costing at least 13M dollars.

Anton Damm for Turley (DNR) – DNR still assisting with fires in Oregon and possibly Colorado. Hoping that fire season is winding down.

3. FCC Approval - 4.9 GHz Spectrum Leasing

- Nearly two decades ago, the FCC designated the 4.9 GHz (4940-4990 MHz) band for use in support of public safety. Today, the 4.9 GHz band remains underused outside of major metropolitan areas, with stakeholders citing high equipment costs and limited availability of broadband equipment, among several barriers to its use. Currently, access to the 4.9 GHz band is restricted to certain entities and use of the spectrum is limited to public safety purposes. Licensees do not receive exclusive use licenses for the spectrum but rather operate pursuant to a coordination framework for shared use of the band. Although nearly 90,000 public safety entities are eligible under our rules to obtain licenses in the band, there are only 3,559 licenses currently issued to 2,090 individual licensees.
- On September 30, 2020 at their open meeting, the FCC approved a report and order that would allow states to lease 4.9 GHz spectrum to commercial entities despite strong opposition from public safety. Each state that chooses to lease spectrum will designate a single statewide 4.9 GHz licensee as the state lessor. The state lessor would then have the ability to lease the spectrum to entities for non-public-safety operations. The proposal grandfathers existing public-safety licensees into the band, but those licensees cannot modify their licenses if it would expand their operations.
- The SAW Group recommends the SIEC immediately accept the role of 4.9 GHz Spectrum Licensee and the statewide public safety purview of this spectrum.
 - Motion was made for SIEC to accept responsibility for the 4.9 GHz spectrum. This motion was moved, seconded and passed.
- The SAW Group further recommends SIEC establish a 4.9 GHz review committee, similar to the existing FCC structured Region 43 RPC to review and approve spectrum applications.
 - Motion was made that pending positive legal response, the SAW Group would work on a recommendation for creating a committee, charter and structure for administering the spectrum leasing. This motion was moved, seconded and passed.

4. Verizon 5G for Enhanced Public Services

- Verizon team presented on the 5G bands and solutions available for public safety.

5. GOOD OF THE ORDER/PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Bruce Richter shared information on a free webinar on cybersecurity.
- Robert shared that the Office of Cybersecurity has designated an individual to join the SAW Group, Daniel Hypes, to provide security updates on a regular basis, possibly as a standing agenda item.
- Angela reviewed ideas for future agenda topics, and will try to get some consensus on ideas before the next meeting.

- Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.