



State Interoperability Executive Committee Minutes

June 17, 2021

1:30 – 3:30 pm

Virtual Only via WebEx

ATTENDEES:

Spencer Bahner (City of Seattle)
Tom Wallace for Chief Batiste (WSP)
Sheriff Glenn Blakeslee (WASPC)
Robert Ezelle (MIL/EMD)
Katy Myers for Keith Flewelling (APCO-NENA)
Captain Phillip Johnson (DFW)
Scott Loerts (LNI)
Dan Meyer (ATNI)
Bill Tensfeld
Chuck Turley (DNR)
Sue Langen (OCIO)
Angela Knight (OCIO)
Cece Zenker (OCIO)

Review of October 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: Approve October 15, 2020, meeting minutes as written. This motion was moved, seconded and passed. Effective date June 17, 2021.

NEWS AND INFORMATION ROUNDTABLE

Sue Langen (OCIO) – Governor announced the appointment of Bill Kehoe as State CIO, effective August 1.

Spencer Bahner (Seattle) – Conducted a regional aviation communications exercise in the Puget Sound that included military, air lift, law enforcement, helicopter and fixed wing entities to test communications capabilities from air to ground. It went well but there were some lessons learned. He is tasked with making some recommendations for additional capabilities and minimum configurations in local, state and federal aviation resources that have newer radios. He will circulate some recommendations for feedback.

Tom Wallace (WSP) – WSP received funding for four initiatives including maintenance and replacement of aging equipment, replacement of in-vehicle and portable radios, strategic planning for LMR system, and establishing a six-year term for upgrading radio core hardware and software.

Robert Ezelle (MIL) – EMD continues to support Dept. of Health in the COVID response. Beginning preparation for Cascadia Rising 22 exercise. The legislature tasked them with running a comprehensive pandemic after action report that includes a large interagency task force to review lessons learned and propose solutions for improvement in the future. They invested in microwave relay upgrade. They are also looking at ways to create new capabilities around emergency communications.

Katy Myers (APCO-NENA) – Working on a six-month 911 interoperability project called SERI to test voice over radio IP, to prove that the 911 centers, while they might have connections locally on their radio systems with each other, they don't have quick and easy connectivity across the state. Contact her with volunteers to participate.

Dan Meyer (ATNI) – New tribal member replacing Crystal Hottowe. He is CIO of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe.

Phillip Johnson (DFW) – Dispatch center successfully completed a satellite phone project that provides fallback communications in the event the two primaries go down. Finalizing a project to improve communications gap for rural hatcheries. Dispatch center also completed a furniture upgrade replacing consoles that were over 10 years old. They are replacing legacy Motorola radios for field officers. Started a feasibility study to replace all legacy hardware across the state. Researching ideas for mobile routers in all patrol vehicles and large vessels in Puget Sound and Columbia River. He may have some feedback for Katy on the SERI project.

Chuck Turley (DNR) – They started implementing HB 1168 which provides funds for additional wildfire and forest health resources, including new staff positions and new equipment. Anton Damm reported they published their frequency guide for communications operators. ES Chat is being deployed statewide and looking for partners to host a donor radio for interoperability. Hope to finish deployment by 2024.

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY COORDINATOR (SWIC) POSITION

Mark Glenn, CIO at Military, provided a review of the proposal to fund and establish a new SWIC coordinator within the Military Department. This was for review and feedback only and not a decision for this meeting. This will be brought back to the next meeting for approval. Initially, a temporary position for the first 12 to 18 months. They are also looking for agency partners to help fund this position.

Mark reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the SWIC, such as:

- Collaborate with state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal governments and emergency response groups (including those designated as Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), in long-term strategic planning
- Communicate regularly with all interoperability stakeholders and partners on the development of projects, plans, policies, standards, priorities, and guidelines, ensuring transparency and information sharing
- Coordinate governing body activities to maximize integration and collaboration across the emergency communications landscape
- Serve as the point of contact for the Federal Government and industry on issues concerning statewide interoperable communications
- Seek guidance, input, and recommendations from state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal agencies on the SCIP
- Drive the development, implementation, and regular update of the SCIP
- Coordinate interstate, intrastate, and regional public safety communications interoperability

The temporary SWIC position will be under Mark's supervision.

The funding request of seven agency stakeholders (DOC, DFW, DNR, ECY, MIL, WSDOT, and WSP) is \$180,000 for salary and benefits. This temporary position and funding will enable time to plan for a long-term funding solution and ask from the legislature.

It could be challenging to find a mechanism for the local government partners to contribute, but could be a possibility.

It will be important for all state, local and tribal partners to come together to request and fully support longer term funding at the next long legislative session.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bruce Richter – 911 center system was compromised with ransomware attack. Affected a Motorola server. The threat is real. If you get a software patch from the vendor, use it. Posted info for some ransomware best practices, checklists and guides: <https://www.cisa.gov/ransomware>.

Bill Schrier weighed in on importance of funding SWIC.

Shelly Westall, joined Verizon Wireless for government sector and supports SWIC proposal.

Executive Session for Members and Select Staff Only – Closed to public

The committee went into executive session to discuss the Washington Field Operations Guide (WAFOG).

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.