



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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Interim Secretary

SIEC Executive Management Committee (EMC)

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)
50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757
Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 1:30pm

MINUTES

Voting SIEC EMC members present: *Richard Fiske (SWIC-EOPSS), Alexander Rock (ASWIC-EOPSS, Policy & Programs Committee), David Spinosa (Northeast), Dennis Nazzaro (Western), Greg Lynskey (Central), Chris Carleton (Central Alt), Scott Wilder (UASI), Matt Barstow (MSP, RF Committee)*

Others present: *Bruce Fitzgerald (FirstNet), Kerry Collins (EOPSS, US of Forensic Science), Mike Saltzman (EOTSS CoMIRS), Kathryn Latimer (EOPSS OGR), Joe Griffen (BAPER), Jacob Pyra (State 911 Radio),*

Mr. Fiske chaired the meeting on behalf of Secretary Terrey and called the meeting to order at 1:32pm. Roll call was held.

1. Acceptance of Minutes/Notes

- a) September 3, 2025, Minutes. Notation made for minutes approval with corrections. Add Scott Wilder for UASI Report and correct typo in SWIC report from divers to diverse. Motion to approve by Scott Wilder, seconded by Greg Lynskey, Motion carried.

b) PJ-ICIPs and PJ-ICPS Amendments:

- *HSGP24-516 CMED Fire District 7&8 Radio Project – Central. Greg Lynskey spoke on the subject. A couple years back, Fire Districts 7 and 8 procured funds through CRHSAC to install CoMIRS control stations for all PSAPs in both districts. This projects intent allowed the districts to stop using the old end-of-life low-band radio systems. This project was completed and the radios were issued out to all PSAPs. With that completion, it was discovered that the Central Mass EMS, who also serves as Worcester CMED, will require CoMIRS control stations as well, to replace both low-band radios currently still in use. No other comments or questions from the Committee. Motion to approve by David Spinosa, seconded by Scott Wilder, Greg Lynskey abstained. Motion carried.*

- c) Discussion on any other current projects that have been reviewed previously and need action or have pending concerns- N/A
- d) Discussion on any newly submitted projects that require distribution and review prior to action that were not anticipated or included here- N/A

2. Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. **Data Committee-** N/A
- ii. **RF Committee-** *Matt Barstow addressed the Committee with nothing new to report.*
- iii. **Policy / Programs-** *Alex Rock addressed the Committee, the Policy and Programs Sub Committee held a meeting at its new time on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1pm. Work was done on the School Radio Interoperability Best Practices Guidance. This guidance document is based off the document crafted by NERAC with changes made to allow for adaptation and use in every region of the Commonwealth. More to come on this as the subcommittee finalizes this document to bring to full council. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*

b. Councils

- iv. **UASI-Metro Boston** – *Scott Wilder addressed the committee. Nothing new to report at this time. UASI is waiting to see where everything lands. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*
- v. **Northeast-** *David Spinosa addressed the committee. NERAC is continuing with the ongoing planned projects. Essex County Fire Chiefs are installing a few new receivers in Amesbury and Georgetown. Fire districts 5/15 are doing some upgrades to the simulcast both Uhf and Vhf. In addition to getting out the FieldComm portable radios, we also received a cache of Kenwood radios and they are being programmed up. We are also working with MetroFire to upgrade the north district, this includes NERAC region. Lastly, we are working with NEMLEC in a new IMT van as a comms vehicle. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*
- vi. **Southeast-** *NA*
- vii. **Central-** *Greg Lynskey addressed the committee. Nothing to major to report from Central. We are still working on projects such as the district 7 orange project as well as putting together the specs for the college interop project so it can go out to bid. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*
- viii. **Western-** *Dennis Nazzaro addressed the committee. We are continuing on with our regular projects. Some money has been invested into WMLEC recently to replace older equipment. Also, Chief Kozloski of Monson Police has retired and the Deputy Chief from Chicopee will be replacing him as representative for WMLEC. FRCOG and Franklin County has fully switched to CoMIRS and is in process of decommissioning the old Uhf simulcast system as it continues to fail. The RoIP communications gateway is being installed on Mt Lincoln. Meetings are continuing for the Western Mass Communications Team with key players to come up with ideas and best practices as this moves forward. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*

c. State/Federal/Other Agencies

- i. **SWIC:** *Rich Fiske addressed the committee.*

- *As I have mentioned previously, we have had some internal changes here at EOPSS. The SWICs office has been moved under Undersecretary Collins. She and I have worked together on other things such as the State 911 Commission and I am happy to be involved with her as we move forward.*
- *We did have a COMT class that was scheduled for this week at MEMA in Framingham. Unfortunately, due to the Federal Government shutdown this class had to be cancelled. The instructor and related expenses could not be funded. Melissa, the other region SWICs, and I had a conversation and we decided once this is all resolved and the Federal Government is back in line where it should be we will reschedule this class. The personnel that had previously registered will have priority to re-register for the new upcoming class, if those individuals are unable to attend, the class will be opened up to anyone else. More to come on this.*
- *There is a COML class scheduled for the week of 11/12/25. This class has not been cancelled as of this meeting. If anything more is learned about this class, I will send it out.*
- *We held our first FirstNet coverage workshop several weeks ago at MEMA in Franklin. This was a Statewide meeting that was well attended by representatives of the different regions and disciplines of the state. Many of the surveys submitted by stakeholders matched up with the metrics provided by the FirstNet Authority and AT&T. These areas should be top investments as they are a no brainer and make sense. The coverage survey is still open and I will be pushing it out until it closes. We still would like to see more stakeholder input for the regions. Regional meetings will be scheduled, look out for those.*
- *About a week ago the State rolled out the dual SIM pilot program to all state issued EOPSS phones. This program is in line with the Mobile Broadband Carrier Diversity Best Practice Guidance published over a year ago. This program will allow personnel to try the different networks for coverage and capacity and also to see who will need a dual SIM phone moving forward. For those who will not have a dual sim phone this pilot program will give the chance to identify what carrier will work best and diversify your fleet through the different carriers. More to come on this.*
- *We held a high-level FIFA World Cup meeting this week. One of the discussions that was held was making plans based around the mission and the mission has not been identified yet. This puts the comms piece still very much in limbo. Workshops and working group meetings are being held on a regular basis now. This is a largely attended group with over 60 people from different jurisdictions and disciplines. Once this group becomes a little more solidified, we will be able to develop a communications and interop plan to support the FIFA missions well as the other events going on simultaneously such as Tall Ships and Americas 250th celebration.*
- *It was brought to my attention, mostly by folks in Western Mass recently, with those in eastern mass already feeling this pain. Verizon has sent out end of life notice for legacy copper RTNA circuits. This is not new news to anyone in the state. My advice is to connect with your respective Verizon representative to see what other solutions can be offered. There is no easy fix to this problem, as money will be involved and most solutions will be more expensive than what is currently utilized today on this end-of-life technology.*
- *The Municipal Police Training Council has rolled out their communications and interop training to their academies. This includes issuing a recruit a portable radio during their time in the academy. This did not happen previously. Our office and the MPTC have been*

working on this for several months. This project involved procuring radios, developing curriculum and training. This initiative was done academy wide throughout the Commonwealth for all law enforcement recruits. This program is still developing as the curriculum moves forward.

- Massachusetts is floating the idea of an interoperability summit, similar to what other states do throughout the country, sponsored by the Public Safety Broadband Technology association (PSBTA) this summit will occur sometime in early 2026 somewhere centrally located. This will be an in-person interoperability and communications summit to discuss best practices, plans and policies and basically get Massachusetts stakeholders together post Covid to decide how we are going to move forward as a collective group. Any ideas are welcomed from making presentations or if you have something of value pertaining to broadband, LMR, planning, and drills / exercises. Please send these plans to me so I can put the full day together.*

Matt Barstow, with one comment. We were scheduled to have a meeting in person next Wednesday at Gillette Stadium but that meeting has been canceled. We will be having the regular scheduled December meeting in person at Gillette with details to follow.

No other comments or questions from the Committee.

- ii. **State 911 Report:** Jacob Pyra addressed the Committee. Nothing new to report.*
- iii. **FirstNet:** Bruce Fitzgerald addressed the Committee. A new small cell site has gone on air in Westfield, this site is on Springfield Road. This site went on at the end of October. We are pushing hard to get as many sites as possible up before the end of the year. We are also getting good positive feedback about the MegaConnect technology. This is the high-power user equipment. FirstNet authority updates, we did the coverage workshop back in September. This workshop has netted 55 survey responses so far. This is the most responses from any state in the country. We are in the process of reviewing the responses with a little bit of housekeeping and cleanup on the mapping side. On the investment front as of now with the shutdown, everything has ground to a halt in Washington DC. FirstNet is waiting to hear some approvals on the latest investments, nothing much to report on that. We are looking forward to being a part of World Cup planning and want to deliver the best experience. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*
- iv. **Statewide Radio:** Mike Saltzman addressed the committee. Statewide radio continues to march. Phase 1A Western Mass cutover looks like it will happen in mid-2026. Phase 1B looks to go live in later 2026, maybe 2027. Lots of site work going on right now with shelters, antennas, lines, and microwaves. Also, remediation of towers we've come across over the years. One of the larger activities right now is transition of radios so when cutover takes place all eligible radios will have the features necessary to work on the new system. We identified quite a few numbers of radios that were no longer upgradable after September. We were able to get Motorola to extend that deadline through the end of December. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*
- v. **System Owners:**
BAPERN- Joe Griffen addressed the Committee. Some equipment was received through a UASI grant for central district upgrade, we will be doing this over the next few months. Everything else*

is on hold until the government opens up again. No other comments or questions from the Committee.

WMLEC- N/A

vi. **Federal Partners: NA**

Unfinished Business:

- a. Copper
- b. Non-HSGP grant-funded interoperability projects.
- c. Cybersecurity
- d. Continuing updates to interoperable best practices throughout the Commonwealth

Announcements:

None.

Next meeting in April, TBD.

*Motion to adjourn was made at 2:07pm by Alex Rock, seconded by Greg Lynskey.
Carried and adjourned at 2:08pm.*