



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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TERRENCE M. REIDY
Secretary

SIEC Executive Management Committee (EMC)

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)

50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 1:30pm

MINUTES

Voting SIEC EMC members present: *Alexander Rock (ASWIC, Policy & Programs Committee), Scott Wilder (UASI), Dennis Nazzaro (West), Matt Barstow (MSP, RF Committee), Greg Lynskey (Central)*

Others present: *Joe Griffin (BAPERN), Gerry Reardon (Metro Boston, UASI), Mike Saltzman (EOTSS CoMIRS), Chris Carleton (Central Alternate), Lesia Dickson (FirstNet), Chad Snow (FirstNet), Christopher Walsh (Boston Police), Sharon Dottin (Boston Police), Shawn Romanoski (Boston Police), John Surette (Boston Police), Sarah Malloy (OGR)*

Alex Rock chaired the meeting on behalf of Secretary Reidy and called the meeting to order at 1:32pm. Roll call was held.

1. Acceptance of Minutes/Notes

a) November 6, 2024, Minutes. Motion to approve by Greg Lynskey, seconded by Scott Wilder, Motion carried.

b) **PJ-ICIPs and PJ-ICPS Amendments:** NONE

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-** *Nothing to report*
- iii. **Policy / Programs-** *Nothing to report*

b. Councils

- i. **UASI-Metro Boston** – *Gerry Reardon addressed the committee. Metro Boston is working on a number of projects to enhance interoperability in the region. One of the projects' needing help is a project of approximately just under \$600,000 in an ICIP that has not come up at SIEC for the expansion of 800MHz trunk sites. We are seeking assistance as that number is expiring on June 30th and we can't wait until March to determine an outcome. Alex Rock addressed the committee. If the merger between Boston and State does come to fruition, the ICIP can be submitted by articulating those facts clearly and concisely while outlining the planned upgrade along with proposed equipment usage. If the merger fails to come to fruition the ICIP can be submitted articulating the same and maintaining current core connection. Alex Rock also noted a document is in circulation between EOTSS EOPSS and the City of Boston to propose the aforementioned partnership. Mike Saltzman interjected to make known on record that the document is not in circulation and is currently in draft form as an MOA on the state side between EOTSS and EOPSS. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*
- ii. **Northeast-** *N/A*
- iii. **Southeast-** *N/A*
- iv. **Central-** *Greg Lynskey addressed the committee. Central has performed upgrades to the Fire District 7 FIELDCOM 1 by installing a new onboard generator. Also, The procurement and rollout of PSAP phase 2 project. This project provided each PSAP in the district with new CoMIRS compliant 800MHz radios. This project will eventually replace the lowband equipment in the district. Central has also procured throughout the year all band CoMIRS compliant radios for regional assets. This will ensure interoperability for the assets while responding in district and surrounding districts as well. Completed a project to replace the CMed radio console system at Central Mass EMS. Upgrades are coming in 2025 for the Fire District 7 Orange VHF channel. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*
- v. **Western-** *Dennis Nazzaro addressed the committee. In the last year upgrades have been made to WMLEC system. 2 new laptops were purchased to replace the aging programing laptops for the COMLs. Motorola APX8000 radios were purchased to replace the ageing Harris radios. The last remaining police department for the Hampshire Hills project had radios and DVRS purchased and installed. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*

c. State/Federal/Other Agencies

- i. **SWIC:** *Alex Rock addressed the committee.*
 - *Work on the MIFOG is continuing. Looking for responses from Fire Districts 1,3,6,9,10,11,12,14. Deadline for submitting is January 20, 2025.*
 - *Western Mass Interop counsel, Dennis Nazzaro has been elected chair with Jason as alternate. Thanks to Jason and Chief Robert Gariepy for their past work with the western council.*
 - *Gary Mcarraher has retired from FirstNet and his replacement has yet to be announced. Thans to Gary for his work with the FirstNet Authority.*

- *Anthony Fowler with FEMA region 1 has left. Anthony has accepted a job in Washington DC. Thanks to Anthony for all his hard work and best of luck on his future endeavors.*
- *Boston Police Department has announced its intention to encrypt all Police operational channels. This is continuing the unfortunate trend of public safety agencies choosing encryption over maintaining situational awareness and interoperability amongst public safety agencies regionally. While we at the SIEC can do little to stop this as Boston has taken no grant funding to accomplish this goal, the members of the SIEC can, however, advocate best practices, safe practices for continued situational awareness to decision makers at the agencies in the region. The proposed go live date for Boston Police to encrypt is sometime in February but a definitive date and decision has not been made. The floor was opened to members present of the Boston Police Department to speak to this subject. All declined.*
- *Lexington 250th celebration and FIFA World Cup coming up this year. These events will require a number of interoperable resources. Committees have been formed to discuss interoperable communications planning. Please verify programming of your agency radios for proper frequencies and channel nomenclature of the Tactical Interoperable Channel Plan. Especially the non-federal interoperable channels. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*

ii. **State 911 Report:** N/A

iii. **FirstNet:** *Lesia Dickson addressed the committee. Gary Mccarraher has retired from FirstNet and Lesia Dickson will be filling in as interim rep, job announcement will be made soon. A couple of things are coming up this year. Coverage enhancement engagements workshops. These workshops are intended to be a follow up to FirstNet progress updates done last year. These workshops are intended to talk about coverage gaps on the FirstNet network in the region. This program will be ongoing for the next 5 to 10 years as more money is invested in the network. Lesia encourages anyone to reach out. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*

iv. **Statewide Radio:** *Mike Saltzman addressed the committee. CoMIRS sitework is continuing on. A tremendous amount of site work is going on. Western mass as phase 1A with B,C, and D phases being combined into phase 1B+. The 1B+ phase of the combined 3 is being worked on simultaneously as phase 1A. Target date of mid 2026 is still as planned. Work is also ongoing to identify radios that may need upgrading that were not part of the RUP program. Updates may be needed to work with the new system. CoMIRS is working with Motorola / Kenwood to provide pricing on the entitlements / featuresets for updating radios. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*

v. **System Owners:**

BAPERN- *Joe Griffin addressed the committee. BAPERN is moving forward with the expansion of a new southwest district which will encompass all agencies in Bristol County. This has been voted on by the southeast council. This expansion will be somewhat contingent on contributions from agencies in the district as BAPERN had the grant money to buy the equipment for 4 sites, but installation estimate is forthcoming. With BAPERN having already spent \$1,400,000 to update AW3 and AW4. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*

WMLEC- N/A

vi. **Federal Partners:** N/A

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 February, TBD.

*Motion to adjourn was made at 1:58pm by Greg Lynskey, seconded by Alex Rock.
Carried and adjourned at 1:59pm.*