



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, February 12, 2025, 1:30pm

MINUTES

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

Others present: *Donald Denning (AT&T), John Hunt (FirstNet), Mike Saltzman (EOTSS CoMIRS), Andrew Bagdonas (MEMA), Carli Harris (CRHSAC), Gary Fleischer (Worcester Fire Department), Kathryn Latimer (EOPSS OGR), Sarah Malloy (EOPSS OGR), Sarah Cook (EOPSS OGR), Seth Peters (CMRPC), Melissa Nazzaro (CISA ECC Reg1), Chad Snow (AT&T)*

Mr. Fiske 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) January 8, 2025, Minutes. Motion to approve by Jason Breault, seconded by Scott Wilder, Motion carried.

b) PJ-ICIPs and PJ-ICPS Amendments:

- *HSGP22-498 BEARCAT Vehicle all band radio – Central. Greg Lynskey spoke on the subject. The BEARCAT armored rescue vehicle is being procured by the central region. Delivery is coming this summer. This project will be purchasing an all band APX8500 radio in order to support the response throughout the region. Mr. Fiske stated that this equipment was reviewed and determined to be in compliance. No comments or questions from the committee. Motion to approve made by Jason Breault and seconded by David Spinosa, Greg Lynskey abstained. Motion carried.*
- *HSGP23-497 Rehab Vehicle Radio – Central. Greg Lynskey spoke on the subject. This is an existing canteen vehicle in the process of being relocated to the Dudley Fire Department from Leominster Emergency Management. Currently the radios in this vehicle belong to the Leominster Emergency Management and they will maintain possession of the radio equipment. This project seeks to purchase an all band APX8500 radio to replace the original equipment in order to support the response throughout the region. Mr. Fiske stated that this*

equipment was reviewed and determined to be in compliance. No comments or questions from the committee. Motion to approve made by Jason Breault and seconded by David Spinosa, Greg Lynskey abstained. Motion carried.

- *HSGP23-499 Worcester area campus interop radio system – Central. Greg Lynskey spoke on the subject. This project will build out a UHF conventional radio channel at Millstone Hill in order to provide an interop resource for the multiple college and hospital campuses throughout Worcester. Gary Fleischer also spoke on the subject. This project will also provide money to perform an EHP and tower climb. This will allow us to include repairs for fire district 7 orange as well as bringing back online the 8TAC at that site. Mr. Fiske stated that he is familiar with this project and that this project has been a long time coming to allow UHF campus users to connect with the 800 trunking users. Also, this project is coming on the heels of discussions regarding school radio interoperability. With the Worcester schools being UHF, the ability to expand this resource to include school access in an emergency might be a good consideration. Furthermore, this project hits multiple marks for interoperability by helping the fire district 7 orange and by bringing back the 8TAC repeater at that location. No comments or questions from the committee. Motion to approve made by Jason Breault and seconded by Alex Rock, 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-** *Nothing to report*
- iii. **Policy / Programs-** *Alex Rock addressed the committee. The policy and programs subcommittee held a meeting last Wednesday on February 5, 2025, to discuss the NERAC School Radio Best Practices Guidance. All subcommittee members provided positive feedback regarding this document. The subcommittee members also feel this document would serve as a good starting point towards creating updated guidance to the statewide best practices moving forward. I commend NERAC for taking the steps to create this document as this topic is often overlooked outside of most major cities. And unfortunately, with the frequency of Active shooter events on the rise and the known disparities in communication platforms among schools and first responder agencies, this topic will not be easily remedied with a one size fits all approach. This document will serve as a great starting point to providing guidance in their region, thus beginning discussions amongst schools and first responders. It is also my recommendation that the other interoperable subcommittees take up this topic for discussion as each region of the state is presented with its own unique communication and interoperable challenges. No comments or questions from the committee.*

b. Councils

- i. **UASI-Metro Boston** – *Nothing to report.*
- ii. **Northeast-** *David Spinosa addressed the committee. After meeting the other day NERAC is going over project priorities to get started in relation to equipment and infrastructure as opposed to things that may take longer to clear up fiscal year budgets. NERAC will also be holding programming classes for Motorola and Kenwood. The Motorola programming class will be on February 21st and February 28th in Lexington at the fire station. The Kenwood programming class will be held in Westford and North Andover in early March. These classes come as a big push from NERAC to meet the interoperability needs of the 250th celebration. Rich Fiske asked if the programming classes have open spots, and would NERAC be open to filling seats from other regions? David replied, the classes only have about 15 seats available and most likely will be filled, but we have no opposition to making unfilled seats available to other regions. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*
- iii. **Southeast- N/A**
- iv. **Central-** *Greg Lynskey addressed the committee. Central is continuing to work on upgrading projects to meet the new CoMIRS radio system requirements. PSAP phase 2 is continuing to roll out and will most likely be completed in the next few months. No other comments or questions from the Committee.*
- v. **Western-** *Nothing to report.*

c. State/Federal/Other Agencies

- i. **SWIC:** *Rich Fiske addressed the committee.*
 - *Discussions regarding World Cup comms planning are ongoing. Last meeting was out of state and even though I couldn't attend, Massachusetts had a strong representation from all agencies. More meetings are forthcoming.*
 - *Concord and Lexington 250th meetings are ongoing as recently as earlier today. There will be 2 or 3 more meetings before the events. I would like to thank David Spinosa from NERAC for developing the draft 205 form for that group and leading the charge.*
 - *The NERAC school interop project discussed earlier this week in the subcommittee meeting will have updates forthcoming from policy and programs committee.*
 - *The next version of MIFOG is 99.9% done and will receive final review before submission to CISA for publishing.*
 - *Behind the MIFOG update will be an update to the MTCP. Last update was in 2022. We are looking to match the cadence of both MTCP and MIFOG so as not to have any discrepancies between these documents.*
 - *Under the MA COMU the TERT team is the largest group with 53 members and another 22 that have applied. TERT had 10 deployments throughout the state in 2024. This is a very active team. TERT takes commitment from the members to meet the COMU and national requirements and guidance. Kudos to the team.*
 - *Mr. Fiske will be representing Region 1 at the NCSWIC executive committee meeting coming up in the beginning of March, location to be determined.*
No other comments or questions from the committee.
- ii. **State 911 Report:** *N/A*

- iii. **FirstNet:** John Hunt addressed the committee. John Hunt will be the interim replacement for Gary McCarraher who had retired at the end of December. If anyone has any questions for the FirstNet authority you can reach out, my contact information is available in the chat. John Hunt, Sr Public Safety Advisor, First Responder Network Authority, (202-430-2168 / john.hunt@firstnet.gov) interim replacement for Gary McCarraher. Donald Denning addressed the committee. The team continues to work with the MA COMU for planning Rev 250, Boston Marathon and 4th of July. Work is also ongoing to build in extra redundancy to the network and should be completed by the next 60 days. No other comments or questions from the Committee.
- iv. **Statewide Radio:** Mike Saltzman addressed the committee. CoMIRS sitework is continuing on. Western site work has been particularly tough due to the weather conditions, this was anticipated. Contemporaneously site work is continuing throughout the rest of the state including preliminary site acquisition among other work at 40 plus sites. The projected completion target of mid-April 2026 is still planned. Also, we are working on 2 major projects. The largely technical integration of the Boston 800 trunk digital system and the Commonwealth 800 trunk digital system are still underway. This system integration has not been finalized yet and we are hoping that this will come to fruition but have not received a solid answer yet. RUP radio transition plans to upgrade all operable users that were on CoMIRS prior to the radio system upgrade. CoMIRS is also trying to identify any interoperable radios that were not eligible as part of the RUP upgrade so they may transition to the new digital system and receive better pricing for the necessary featuresets upgrades needed. Pricing something similar to the RUP subscribers. Greg Lynskey added that Central region is actively working to collect a list of the interoperable CoMIRS users that will require these upgrades. No other comments or questions from the Committee.
- v. **System Owners:**
BAPERN- N/A
WMLEC- N/A
- vi. **Federal Partners:** Melissa Nazzaro addressed the committee. Status of Technical Assistance offerings through CISA programs have experienced some pullback from external efforts with the current presidential administration. That being said, support to the regions and their states shouldn't change over what was seen last year. Melissa will be working with the team to get some additional TAs approved for Massachusetts and hopefully partnering with Rhode Island and Connecticut as regional TAs can be funded separately from state TAs. Mr. Fiske commented that the regional effort TA has support from the other SWICs in region 1. Andy Bagdonas commented, The Northeast Management and Training Education Center NEMTEC is poised and ready to support any kinds of events like this. NEMTEC works with the EM directors in all the New England states for regional trainings. This could be a vehicle to coordinate events like regional trainings. No other comments or questions from the Committee.

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 March, TBD.

*Motion to adjourn was made at 2:08pm by Jason Breault, seconded by Rich Fiske.
Carried and adjourned at 2:09pm.*