

WSECC Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2013 0930hrs

WEMD Camp Murray, Room 215

Minutes taken by Jim Dalke in the absence of regular secretary, Terry Spring

Present:

Clay Freinwald, SECC Chair

Ted Buehner, NWS Seattle

Mark Allen, WSAB

Roy Benavente, WEMD

Lowell Kiesow, KPLU

Jim Dalke, Dalke Broadcast Services

Telecon participants:

Arthur Willetts, KWDK-TV

Don White, TTNW, Seattle

Krista Salinas, Skagit DEM

Steve Johnson, Comcast

Allen Rule, Comcast

Ruth Brownstein, KAOS

Kerry Gordon, WSP

Terry Spring, KWPX-TV

Marlin Jackson, KXLY Broadcast Group

Tyree Wilde, NWS Portland

Peter White, AT&T

Dan Good, ESCA

Luke Meyer, Bellevue DEM

Vernon Owens, Bellevue DEM

Don Miller, MyStateUSA

Ross McDowell, Lewis County DEM

Jill Kangas, Lewis County DEM

Minutes from the previous meeting

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Freinwald, and the attendees were introduced. Minutes from the previous meeting from November 14 were approved.

Announcements

Mark Allen reports the current State EAS Plan draft is available to anyone requesting it from him by email ( wa-broadcasters@earthlink.net ). Mark estimated that it would be another two or three weeks when the complete draft would be available. Current revisions include CAP distribution systems, testing and clarification procedures. Mark reported a substantial number of tabs are being revised and others were being added.

Allen Rule of Comcast says the revisions to Cable tab 19 are under review by Comcast upper management.

The Lewis County Local Area plans have been approved.

There was a brief discussion related to Tab 10, coastal areas. Ted Buehner will be providing further information.

Clay discussed the ARRL speaker's bureau and interest from the amateur radio community in EAS.

A Mason and Thurston county LECC meeting is scheduled for January 14.

#### Old Business

The updated LECC plans for Lewis County are completed and copies can be obtained by request on the EAS-WA remailer.

It was announced that there would be a meeting on why EAS was not used for the last Summer Wild Fires in central Washington last summer on January 10 and related evacuation orders. Don Eckes is in charge of the meeting.

Related to LECC plans, there was a discussion on PIOs communicating to broadcasters about EAS. The discussion centered on methods and resources that could be used to educate broadcasters and emergency management personnel. Virtual training was suggested for EAS training at the local level and the use of emergency message systems.

There was a discussion about the quality of audio messages incorporated in the EAS messaging and Lowell Kiesow offered to review any EAS audio messages in question if emailed to him (lkiesow@kplu.org).

There was a discussion about coordinating RMT's with Idaho and Oregon, and the need to request a waiver from the FCC to depart from the legally prescribed schedules. Clay said he was coordinating with Oregon through Chris Murray. Mark Allen said he would be working on the FCC waiver process.

There was a discussion about recent technical issues with Comcast EAS messages. Allen Rule said that Comcast was working with their EAS equipment vendor, Trillithic, on implementing CAP messages from MyState and will be testing soon. It was reported that a recent Amber Alert relayed by Comcast was mildly distorted.

Clay Freinwald raised his concern about a successor to the SECC chair in the event he was unable to continue to serve in that capacity. Clay asked anyone interested to contact him.

#### New Business

There was a discussion about a recent Amber Alert that a broadcast had brought into question the participation of the Washington State Patrol and the audio quality of the broadcast alert. Freinwald, Kiesow, and Mark Allen met with the WSP for a discussion with WSP personnel about the EAS process, audio quality and verbiage issues. It was also mentioned that January 13 is National AMBER Alert Awareness Day.

Clay presented a draft plan for Guidelines for the Washington State SECC Technical Committee which will be referenced in the revised state EAS plan. Clay said the goal was to establish the committee to help with non-political EAS technical issues. Clay said he would distribute the plan on the EAS-WA remailer, and is hoping for representatives from radio, television, cable, cellular, state and local government entities, amateur radio, and others with interest in the EAS system. Marlin Jackson offered to represent television broadcasting.

There was a discussion about the recent CMAS "blizzard" warning that was issued from both the Portland and Seattle NWS forecast offices targeting the central Cascades south through the northern Oregon Cascades as well as the Olympics. The mountain zone forecasts were translated to county codes by the IPAWS server and forwarded to cell phone providers, explaining why lowland areas got the blizzard warning well beyond the targeted areas. Apparently, this sequence is how CMAS was created by its organizing committee. That committee planned to meet later in January to discuss how to handle this and other NWS warnings, learning from this experience. A short term solution may be to 'turn off' blizzard warnings from CMAS until a longer term solution is found by this committee. Peter White of AT&T said they were checking the coding. The conclusion was that CMAS is working but needs improvement.

There was a discussion about testing EAS messages targeted for specific county broadcasters and then polling the county wide broadcasters to see if the messages had been properly received.

Mark Allen reported the Amber Alert Advisory committee has developed the state plan for blue alerts and endangered person alerts and was ready for the governor's signature with the hope it could be approved before the newly elected governor took office.

Marlin Jackson said he had been questioned by his programming department about the April 8 RMT which would come during a time of children's programming. Mark Allen said the EAS alert would not count as commercial time for television programs.

There was a brief discussion about the new narrow banding rules for the SRN and potential effects on receiver levels. Roy Benavente said he believed the SRN narrow banding was complete.

Next meeting:

March 13 at Camp Murray, EMD room 215 at 0930 hrs.

Jim Dalke

SECC secretary, pro tem

## Spring, Terry

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**From:** eas-wa-bounces@sea.sbe16.org on behalf of Phil Johnson [p\_johnson58@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2013 5:14 PM  
**To:** 'EAS Washington State'  
**Subject:** Re: [EAS-WA] SECC Minutes for Jan 9 2013 meeting  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

1. I believe signing of the AMBER, Blue, and EMPA plans was to be done by the WSP Chief and not by the Governor (the WSP Chief has since signed those plans).
2. I disagree with the phrasing that "an AMBER Alert relayed by Comcast was mildly distorted." I believe the audio was GROSSLY distorted.

Phil Johnson

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**From:** eas-wa-bounces@sea.sbe16.org [mailto:eas-wa-bounces@sea.sbe16.org] **On Behalf Of** Jim Dalke  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2013 4:53 PM  
**To:** 'EAS Washington'  
**Subject:** [EAS-WA] SECC Minutes for Jan 9 2013 meeting

EAS-WA subscribers

Attached are the minutes from the January 9, 2013 meeting.

If there are any significant errors, blame secretary Terry Spring for not being there.

Jim Dalke

WSECC

\*\*\* ION \*\*\* MIMESweeper scanned this email for known computer viruses. \*\*\*

## Spring, Terry

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**From:** eas-wa-bounces@sea.sbe16.org on behalf of WSAB [wa-broadcasters@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2013 10:11 AM  
**To:** 'EAS Washington State'  
**Subject:** Re: [EAS-WA] SECC Minutes for Jan 9 2013 meeting  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

Phil is correct as to item #1 below.

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[wa-broadcasters@earthlink.net](mailto:wa-broadcasters@earthlink.net)

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