

**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**

*Approved by the*

**Federal Communications Commission, March 3, 1997**

## Minutes of the State Emergency Communication Committee Meeting

**January 14, 2014**

Present: Terry Spring-KWPX; Lowell Kiesow-KPLU; Marty Hadfield-Clear Channel Radio; Tom Sharp-Pierce County EM; Mark Allen-WSAB; Roy Benevente-Washington State Emergency Management Department; Clay Freinwald-WSU; Ted Buehner-NWS Seattle; Don Price-NWS Seattle; Ross McDowell-Lewis County DEM; Jill Kanger-Lewis County DEM; Jim Dalke-Dalke Broadcast Services, Inc.

Via Phone: Mark Sheppard-City of Seattle; Elray Rassmusson-Comcast Spokane; Jamie Acuff-Comcast Seattle; Allen Rule-Comcast Seattle; Dennis Hull-NWS Pendleton; Phil Johnson-Central Puget Sound Local Chair; Marlin Jackson-KXLY; Andrew Kinney-Thurston County; Carrie Gordon-Washington State Patrol; Dan Good-ESCA; Arthur Willetts-KWDK; Ruth Brownstein-KAOS; Dave Holloran-San Juan County; Rick Kemp-KHCV; Don White-Tribune

Clay Freinwald called the meeting to order. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. The call was made for additional agenda items. Clay will continue to use Outlook for meeting notifications. There will be no more Friday meetings! The state plan revision committee has been on hiatus for the holidays. There will be another meeting soon. The web hosting changes for the state plan will happen when the committee is done with the revisions.

Clay brought us up to speed on CSRIC (see <http://transition.fcc.gov/pshs/advisory/csric/>). They meet once a week for an hour and a half. The FCC requires prior approval of state plans, but this is usually not done. The FCC cares about EAN's and not much else. The committee is proposing a matrix similar to what we do here. They are going through Part 11 piece by piece and attempting to clean it up. There are many conflicts and contradictions.

Contrary to rumors, FEMA will not be out-sourcing IPAWS. See <http://www.emergencygmt.com/emergency-blogs/alerts/FEMA-Not-Replacing-or-Outsourcing-IPAWS-Services.html>.

Originators should keep legacy EAS systems in place for back up. This is referring to the analog, pre-CAP Sage units.

In old business, the TAB 12 local plans are slowly being made available on line. Many are still missing. Only the links to the local plans will be on the state server. The plan itself has to be hosted locally. What local plans should be in your state plan binder? This is being addressed by CSRIC.

Regarding Tab 13, Text to Speech (TTS), the converter at Mystate should be used by everybody for consistency. This is because different TTS engines handle pronunciation differently, especially our Indian place names. My State has a better converter. The tab will have a short summary and a lexicon file. The Sage will convert automatically if it does not receive an audio file. This discussion will be continued at a future meeting.

In AMBER news, the Lewis County plan was approved. The AMBER Alert on January 10 was discussed. It was originally sent out as an AMBER Alert because of the information that was available at the time. It was quickly changed to an Endangered Missing Person Alert when further information became available.

The possibility of meeting in other areas was discussed. Ellensburg is a good possibility. This is tentatively scheduled for the May meeting.

More Emergency Managers need to be involved in the SECC. How do we accomplish this? Please give your thoughts on the remailer.

The cable representatives are working on the revision of Tab 19.

The leadership situation in the Columbia Basin and Yakima was discussed. The local SBE chapter is helping out in the Tri Cities. Yakima has been unresponsive. At least part of the problem is the changes that have occurred in broadcasting. There are fewer engineers doing more work.

In new business, the January 10 RMT was discussed. It was originated by Kitsap County. It was too wordy. Phil is working with them.

The revised Lewis County EAS plan is on line at <http://lewiscountywa.gov/attachment/7743/FinalEASPlan2013112513.pdf>. Their AMBER plan is also on line at <http://lewiscountywa.gov/attachment/7745/FinalAMBERAlertPlan2013.pdf>. Only major changes in the local plans need to be approved. "House-keeping" changes do not need to be approved.

The Mt. Octopus weather radio station went off the air in December. It was installed in the early 2000's. Repairs were made and it is now back on the air. It covers a wide area including the town of Forks. There are plans to replace the transmitter.

Cable Franchise Agreements were discussed. EAS is sometimes included in the agreement with the possibility of the cable system being an originator. Does anyone have knowledge of a franchise agreement requiring EAS origination? Please reply on the remailer.

The Technical Committee reported that Wave Broadband had audio problems on the RMT of January 11. They are still working on it.

The recent nation EAS message board activity relating to Sage boxes missing CAP alerts was discussed. It is extremely important and helpful to have details when there is a problem. When reporting a problem on the Washington State remailer please include as many details as possible, such as location, type of EAS box, who is being monitored, and any other details that might help pinpoint the problem.

November's 911 outage in the San Juans was discussed. The phone lines were down for eight days due to damage to the under-water cable. EAS was used to inform the public.

Monte Simpson has taken over for the retired Jim Pace as the Amateur Radio representative.

The National Weather Service Spokane Office is being upgraded to the Seattle EAS system. They need some analog receivers in order to monitor some local broadcast, SRN and LRN sources.

The next meeting will be at the National Weather Service in Seattle on Tuesday March 11 at 9:30 AM. RSVP will be required. Watch for instructions on the remailer.

Terry Spring