

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**

Approved by the

Federal Communications Commission, March 3, 1997

Minutes of the State Emergency Communication Committee Meeting

September 13, 2013

Present: Terry Spring-KWPX-TV; Jim Dalke-Dalke Broadcast Services; Ted Buehner-NWS Seattle; Chris Utzinger-WA MIL EMD; Lowell Kiesow-KPLU; Roy Benavente-EMD; Roland Robinson-Bates Technical College; Clay Freinwald-WSU

Phone: Arthur Willetts-KWVK-TV; Ruth Brownstein-KAOS; Carrie Gordon-WSP; Marlin Jackson-KXLY; Phil Johnson-CPS Local Chair

Clay Freinwald called the meeting to order. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

The Plan Revision Committee is nearly done revising the state plan.

The CSRIC Working Group 3 has started working. See <http://transition.fcc.gov/pshs/advisory/csric/>. The EAS Plan Sub-committee will be producing a template for state EAS plans. There is also a sub-committee for Cyber-Security. The National Test Sub-committee will look at EAS operational issues. There are a wide variety of participants in this FCC advisory committee.

Each broadcast station is supposed to keep their state and local EAS plans in a binder. These were originally distributed to each station when EAS was implemented, but now you have to make your own. Binders and tab dividers are available at office supply stores. Here are two examples:

<http://www.officedepot.com/a/products/470245/Avery-Ready-Index-30percent-Recycled-Table/> and

http://www.staples.com/Avery-Ready-Index-Multicolor-Table-of-Contents-Monthly-Tab-Dividers-1-31/product_257444. Tab 10, Monitoring Assignments is especially important.

AM Daytimers only have to relay a EAN at sign on. They do not have to transmit other expired tests or alerts received when they are off the air.

The Washington State Emergency Management Association conference will be held on September 17-19. See <http://www.wsema.com/>. Chris Utzinger will moderate a 1 hour panel on IPAWS.

Adjacent area participation was discussed. Participants in adjoining states are encouraged to join our remailer so that they can communicate issues and concerns directly. Adjoining states also have remailers that we can join.

Tab 1, the SECC roster will be revised soon. Please check it for changes and/or corrections.

The FCC has been inspecting stations for EAS compliance. One thing they have been looking at is EAS logs. The station's designated Chief Operator is responsible for making sure they are complete.

The plan to put the Local Area Plans on line is still a work in progress. The revised Tab 12 will be a list of plans with their links. The revised state plan will also be available on line soon. The updated state plan has been on hold while the FCC is updating its rules. However, the feds have cited at least one station for not having a current state plan. The current thought is that the current plan is outdated and that the revised plan should be released, even though it

may need revision at some point in the future. The FCC is being asked for guidance. It may be posted after approvals or with a disclaimer. Tab 13, Text To Speech, is still a work in progress. The suggestion has been made that text be sent to Mystates for conversion to speech as a MP3 file. The thought is that it would be easier to have them do it rather than have it done in each individual box. The problem is the pronunciation of place names. Each brand of EAS box handles it differently. It is a complicated issue.

Tab 21, Wireless Emergency Alerts, was approved by the SECC. This was written by Chris Utzinger, the SECC WEA sub-committee. WEA does not replace EAS. FEMA offers a on-line course for WEA.

The training committee is working on a course outline.

Web hosting for the state plan by the state emergency management should be on line by next month. The plan will be in the PDF format.

There will be many more stations that could be monitored for EAN distribution now that Premier Networks will be distributing them. Tabs 5, 6, 10 and 14 will be revised. Tab 20 will be added.

In new business, there have been complaints about some EAS boxes logging too many CAP alerts. It's all in the programming of the boxes. Most boxes can be programmed to ignore alerts and test that do not pertain to your local area.

The National Weather Service is assigned to conduct the October Required Monthly Test (RMT) statewide on the 17th. This effort will be a part of the state's annual all-hazards preparedness month in October, the October Weather Radio Awareness Month and the west coast Great Shakeout on the 17th at 1017 AM. The RMT will initiate a statewide 'drop, cover and hold' earthquake drill as well as a coastal tsunami warning communications test. The National Tsunami Warning Center will kick off the day's event on the 17th with a test tsunami warning message and the NWS offices will run the RMT with a script the SECC approved based upon what has been done in the past. State EMD will activate the outer coastal outdoor siren systems as well.

The Columbia Basin area is without any leadership at the moment. Please consider volunteering if you are in that area.

There was discussion about the 11 severe thunderstorm warnings issued by NWS Spokane recently, resulting in what some have named - EAS message flooding. The National Weather Service realizes that too many alerts may cause stations to pull the plug on these voluntary alerts. The next Inland Empire LECC meeting will address this issue with NWS Spokane staff.

Other NWS offices in the region are supposed to get the same non-NWS EAS message automatic relay system onto NOAA Weather Radio stations as Seattle has. Discussion noted that NWS Spokane should be first to expand this capability. The Technical Committee is still working on the audio recording software project. The state has purchased Wavepad.

The Test Committee presented the draft RMT schedule for 2014 dated 9/9/13. It was approved. Look for it on the remailer.

The SECC thanks Mike Gilbert for his participation in the North Puget Sound Area.

The next meeting will be on Friday, November 15 at 9:30 AM at Camp Murray.

Terry Spring