

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**

Approved by the

Federal Communications Commission, March 3, 1997

Minutes of the State Emergency Communication Committee Meeting

September 17, 2014

Present Terry Spring-KWPX TV; Lowell; Kiesow-KPLU; Sandi Duffey- Grant County DEM; Jaye Compton-WSEMD; Clay Freinwald-WSU; Jim Dalke-DBS; Ted Buehner-NWS Seattle; Bob Purdom-WMD/EMD

Phone: Marlin Jackson-KXLY; Charlie Osgood-Columbia River Media Group; Scott Miller-Okanogan County DEM; Don White-Tribune; Matt Green-Bicoastal Media; Andy Brown-NWS Spokane; Dennis Hull-NWS Pendleton; Chris Foltz-NWS Great Falls

Clay Freinwald called the meeting to order. The start was delayed due to issues with the phone system. Updated phone call-in information was put out on the remailer. Our apologies to anyone who did not receive it in a timely manner. Introductions were made.

Did anyone file comments on the recent FCC NPRM? Please respond on the remailer.

The new, updated, Washington State EAS Plan is now up on the new web site hosted by the state EMD. Tab 2 has been updated, but someone needs to volunteer to administer it. It has been improved with more useful information. But there is a need for someone to step up and keep track of changes and put out updates from time to time. Please contact Clay if you can do it. The Cowlitz/Wahkiakum area is updating their plan. This will update info and monitoring assignments. For Tab 10, the Inland area monitoring assignments are the only ones on the web so far. The remaining areas also need to be done.

Okanogan County has solved their technical issues and successfully sent an RMT. A LACC is also forming there.

There are still people who aren't on the EAS remailer that should be. Spread the word! To sign up, go to <http://sea.sbe16.org/mailman/listinfo/eas-wa>. It is available in digest form, which cuts down on the number of emails received.

The new Tab 24 for LACC guidelines was discussed. Clay has created a draft. He has added a section on how to choose a LP. The best choice is a station that has good back up facilities that are is best able to survive a disaster. Phil Johnson will edit for language and typos.

The EAS archives, such as meeting minutes, will still be hosted on the WSAB web site.

Increasing participation in the SECC was discussed. Creation of a SECC FAQ was discussed. Recruitment from and by the LACC's was suggested. We need broadcasters who are not engineers. Some issues require executive authority. We also need more people from local emergency management.

Should more meetings be held away from Camp Murray? Suggestions are welcome. Next May we will meet again in Ellensburg.

Cable participation in the SECC is a perennial problem. Anyone have any ideas? Jim Dalke is going to contact some cable organizations again.

Social Media was discussed. It is not used much for emergency warnings. There are policy issues and public record request issues. Pacific County is doing it. IPAWS is supposed to work with "all available means".

TAB 9, the SECC Bylaws, was approved with a typo. The correction was approved.

Grant County requested a change in operational area, a move from Inland to North Central (Chelan and Douglas counties). They had changed to the Inland area several years ago. The Inland area covers a large area. They feel they would do better in a smaller area and that they have more synergy with North Central. The target date is January 1. It will require changes in TABs 12, 3, 6, 4, and 10. The move was approved.

The 2015 RMT schedule was presented. There was a revision from the schedule that was distributed on the remailer. It does not take into account the Grant County move to North Central. That will be corrected. Otherwise, the schedule was approved.

The National Weather Service in Spokane is considering installing the equipment needed to relay EAS messages originated elsewhere. This will be similar to the system in Seattle. There are some concerns about cyber security that have been raised there. Lowell Kiesow is researching the security holes and will report the fixes to the parties involved.

TAB 25 has some inconsistencies. The TOE (911 Telephone Outage Emergency) code is missing from the High Priority Alerts section. It was approved that it be added. There are also other inconsistencies that are being discussed on the remailer.

The Technical Committee reminds anyone that has a SAGE box that updates are now available. They can be downloaded from their web site. It is important to keep the firmware current for proper security and operation.

The National Weather Service (NWS) NOAA Weather Radio transmitter at Mount Octopus near Forks will be getting a new transmitter in October. The US Navy site has a generator, but no fuel. The Navy, NWS and Wash State Emergency Management will need to get together to determine the generator fuel solution before the winter storm season. The NWS conducts the October RMT for the annual Great Shakeout statewide earthquake drill and coastal tsunami warning communications test. The RMT script was reviewed by the SECC with some minor suggestions. The NWS will be giving a presentation at the Washington State Emergency Management Association Conference next week with the latest winter weather outlook and what's new or revised from the NWS for this winter including use of all 17 non-weather related EAS event codes. Canada is making their NAAD program mandatory instead of voluntary. It is similar to EAS in the U.S. Spokane had a Hazmat situation on September 14. A truck was leaking an ammonia derivative gas. I-90 was closed for more than 24 hours. Two EAS alerts were issued. This was a successful use of EAS.

The NWS in Pendleton reports that some unintelligible alerts from Benton County have been received in Oregon. This will be investigated. A possible cause could be EAS boxes that are not set up correctly to receive CAP messages. Training will be offered when appropriate.

Marlin reports from the Inland Northwest area that the RMT from Southern Idaho went well.

The next meeting will be on November 13 at 9:30 AM at Camp Murray.

Terry Spring