

SECC Meeting

May 11, 2016

Present:

Terry Spring-KWPX

Arlene Hand-TAB 2

Keith Shipman-WSAB

Jaye Compton-WSEMD

Roy Benavente-Military Dept.

Clay Freinwald-SECC

Sandi Duffy-Grant Co. DEM

Scott Miller-Yakima Valley OEM

Dennis Hull-NOAA Weather Pendleton

Don Eckis-WSU

Charlie Osgood-Alpha Media

Phone:

John McDaniel-WSU

John Kasprick-SBE

Tom Saylor-WSU

Alan Rule-Comcast

Arthur Willets-KWDK

Lowell Kiesow-KPLU

Dave Holloran-San Juan County

Don White-Tribune

Clay Freinwald called the meeting to order and introductions were made. The previous minutes were approved with one correction. The Pendleton Office of the National Weather Service is in the process of implementing their new, internet based, transmitter monitoring system. It is not on line yet.

The EAS Notice of Proposed Rule Making from the FCC will have considerable impact. It proposes an expanded role for the SECC's which will require changes in the state plan. It will also have a big impact on FCC licensees such as broadcasters and cable systems. The due date for comments has been extended until June 8.

The EAS Handbook is being revised and updated by a CSRIC committee. There will now be only one version for everyone. It will use a different approach that is more user friendly.

The Emergency Public Information System (EPIS) had another meeting on April 27. Under the direction of Phil Johnson, this group is planning for how emergency messages will be disseminated to the public after a major disaster. The next meeting will be soon after the Cascadia Rising exercise. Details will be on the remailer.

Minutes from previous SECC meetings are now on the state EAS web site at <http://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division/state-emergency-communication-committee>. Minutes from prior to 2013 will no longer be available.

The Mason/Thurston LECC has a new chair, John Price. John was involved with the SECC when it started, and has recently retired from ENTERCOM.

Scott Miller is now in Yakima. He is working on restarting the local LECC which has not been active for a while. They are moving toward Everbridge for mass notifications and EAS. See <http://www.everbridge.com>. Emergency Management and the 911 Center now share EAS Test origination duties. Their local plan was approved in the year 2000. They are working on updating it.

Clay has been doing outreach to some amateur radio clubs. He found Arlene Hand, who has volunteered to administer TAB 2.

A regional IPAWS Test is coming June 9. Nine states, including Washington, will take part. Watch for further details on the remailer. FEMA is presenting Webinars on the test. Information can be found on the FEMA web site at www.fema.gov and the remailer. The Webinars will be archived. UPDATE: The test has been postponed, possibly until June 15, due to the Cascadia Rising exercise. Watch the remailer for more information.

In old business, the committee working on the response to the FCC's EAS Notice of Proposed Rule Making has been going through the NPRM line by line. They have chosen to not respond to every proposal. This is a project of the SECC, not Washington State. The economic impact to broadcasters should be minimal, but are unknown until the FCC issues its final ruling. The reporting system that is proposed could be used for enforcement purposes. The topics most debated were cable over-ride, live code testing and multi-lingual alerts. There was no objection raised to having the response filed with the FCC.

The order from the FCC pertaining to multi-lingual alerts was discussed. See https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-16-32A1.pdf. The Commission will require the SECC's to include in their state plans an explanation of how multi-lingual alerts are made available to non-English speakers. Originators will make this information available to the SECC's upon their request. Multi-lingual alerts are not yet possible with the present EAS architecture. Originators are in the best position to handle this. It is OK to translate EAS messages into another language. It was proposed, and passed, that TAB 27 be reserved for this purpose. It will be divided into geographic sections similar to the way that TAB 10 is set up. Yakima County is participating in a pilot program for multi-lingual alerts, but is not using EAS for it.

Updates to the state plans are coming. They will be posted to the remailer and then be put on the state web site. TAB's 13 (Text to Speech and Lexicon Information) and 23 (Approvals and Concurrences) have been eliminated. TAB's 17 (Event Codes) and 25 (Recommended ENDEC Programming) have been consolidated into TAB 8 (Formerly Non Weather Event Codes). TAB 28 will be added for the ETRS reporting system. TAB 19 (Cable TV) will be modified to have a separate section for each cable operator.

In New Business, the ETRS (EAS Test Reporting System) was discussed. See http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0418/DA-16-419A1.pdf. It is supposed to be up and running by the next national test. Reporting is done on-line. There is a short period of time to file the report, 2 days. This conflicts with unattended operation. The detailed report is due in 60 days. It uses facility numbers, not call signs which tend to change. Information collected includes sources of messages and what is monitored. Results will be shared with the SECC's. It is not known if it will be up in time for the June regional test.

Lowell Kiesow will be putting out information on the remailer about the upcoming regional EAS Test.

The recent AMBER Alerts were discussed. There has been a delay at WEMD in getting AMBER Alerts out on EAS as compared to WEA. They are working on it. There is a problem with getting information to the state duty officers. The messages need to be rewritten and recorded, both of which take time. The state Emergency Management is working with Washington State Patrol to improve the process.

Carri Gordon was elected chair of the state AMBER Committee.

NWS Pendleton issue a tornado warning on May 4. It was not on the weather radio transmitter serving the Tri Cities media so it was not broadcast on the local TV stations. This was because the tornado was in an area covered by a different weather radio transmitter. A solution to this problem is being sought.

Some stations receive multiple RMT's from different areas during months when the tests are originated locally. Some EAS boxes can be programmed to only relay RMT's from specific areas.

The CSRIC EAS work group has recommended to the FCC that someone be designated at each facility as responsible for EAS.

If you are not already on the Washington State EAS Remailer, please consider joining it. Go to <http://sea.sbe16.org/mailman/listinfo/eas-wa>. It is self-administered. There is an abundance of good information and problem solving. It is also the preferred method of distributing updates to the state plan. If you sign up for the digest version you will receive only one email a day.

The Next meeting will be July 21, 2016, at 9:30 AM at WEMD at Camp Murray.