

May 7, 2015

Present:

Terry Spring-KWPX TV

Marlin Jackson-KXLY

Ted Buehner-NWS Seattle

Roy Benevente-Washington State Emergency Management

Charlie Osgood-Columbia River Media Group

Tim Schall-Townsquare Media

Phone:

Phil Johnson-CPS LACC

Clay Freinwald-WSU

Arthur Willetts-KWDK TV

Luke Meyers-Bellevue EM

Carrie Gordon-Washington State Patrol

Don White-Tribune

David Holloran-San Juan County

The meeting was called to order by Marlin Jackson and introductions were made. The location was KITCOM in Ellensburg. Clay was on the phone because he was under the weather. The minutes for the previous meeting were approved.

The FCC is shuttering most of its regional offices. There is opposition from the SBE and other broadcaster organizations. We will have to see what happens. The return of

FCC participation in EAS would be nice. See <http://tvtechnology.com/article/fcc-to-close--of--field-offices/275143> for more information.

Several AM stations in Western Washington have closed down recently. Some are in the process of being sold. In some cases the transmitter sites have been sold for other uses. In many places the land the AM transmitter sites are on are more valuable than the stations themselves.

Clay has been busy with several major projects lately. EAS has temporarily taken a back seat.

KXLY has made an updated lexicon file for the SAGE. There were problems with the old one that originally came from the state emergency management. The new SAGE firmware will contain a warning if you try to use a faulty lexicon file. The updated file will be on the EAS website. If you are having problems with this contact Marlin for help.

The Communications and Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA) is now in effect. Emergency messages must be broadcast with audio and video on all program and audio streams. EAS complies. The unintended consequence of this is that some station may choose to not run emergency messages.

Canada now has an emergency alert system similar to EAS. See <http://floodlist.com/america/alert-ready-canada-introduces-a-new-emergency-alert-system> and <http://www.theweathernetwork.com/public-alerts/>. The alert tones are different than the US system. Both SAGE and DASDEC make boxes.

Cascadia Rising is a major, regional exercise scheduled for next year. It will simulate a major earthquake, with an emphasis on reestablishing communications. They will look at how to get EAS to the stations that are still standing and how to get information to hard-hit communities. In an event like this the cell networks will likely be down and the internet would probably be inoperative. People most likely would be using their car radios to get information. Broadcasters would have to have a source for information. Amateur radio would be instrumental in the effort to get information flowing.

again. See <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/emergency-blogs/disaster-zone/cszexercise2016cascadiarising.html>.

Oil trains were discussed. Accidents can cause toxic smoke and pollution. The Balkan Crude that the trains carry is very liquid and contains a lot of chemicals. The trains go through Spokane, the Tri-Cities, the Columbia Gorge, Vancouver, and up the I-5 corridor. EAS can be used for incidents and should be included in the plan. Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) is the carrier.

In old business. The Grant County shift from the Inland to North Central local areas is pretty much done.

The TAB 10 (monitoring assignments) updates continue.

Don White sent out the final draft for TAB 2 (local area contacts). It should be done after corrections.

Lowell is continuing with the consolidation of TAB's 8, 17, and 25. The idea is to put all the event codes into one Tab. He is working on the definitions of the codes and when to use them. Suggestions can be put on the remailer.

We still need a new SECC chair, or possibly co-chairs.

In new business, SECC Vice-Chair Mark Allen is retiring. Clay suggested replacing him with a data base manager. This would ease the load on the chair as keeping all the tabs up to date is a large part of the chair's work load. They would crunch and distribute data. Mark is working on a job description.

In AMBER news, the Silver Alert bills did not pass the Washington State Legislature. The AMBER committee is looking for a new chair to replace Mark Allen. The AMBER reviews did not work. They are now working more on education.

At the National Weather Service, the two recent AMBER Alerts went well. The audio was good across the state. Regarding the central Washington stations receiving multiple RMT's from the NWS, monitoring assignments have been changed to eliminate the problem. The annual Great Shakeout RMT will happen on October 15 at 10:45 AM with NWS conducting the RMT statewide again. Washington EMD and the NWS are still working with the Navy on who is responsible for the Mount Octopus backup generator. Everybody involved has a lack of money and looking for funding. The state is working on getting a phone line for the audio verification system

The Pacific Northwest Communications Academy is an organization for volunteer emergency communications teams that are primarily amateur radio. See <http://comacademy.org/index.php?page=about-the-academy>. About two hundred people attended the Academy in April. Ted Buehner was part of a panel discussion involving Washington DNR's tower site funding support issue with the Legislature and users including amateur radio.

In Spokane, they are working on the re-write of their local plan. The State of Idaho is now their back up. They will use WSEM as back up for alerts confined to Washington state. They are still working with the NWS IT department on the SAGE installation at the weather office. They still need final permission from the NWS regional office in Salt Lake City.

In the Central Puget Sound area, the wrong duration on the RMT originated by Pierce County was human error. The lack of audio was an Alert Sense issue. This is supposed to have been corrected.

The Introduction to the Washington State Emergency Management was postponed. A new date will be selected and posted on the remailer.

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

Terry Spring

Chief Engineer