

SECC Meeting

September 11, 2018

Present:

Terry Spring-KWPX TV

Sandi Duffey-Grant Co. EM

Chris Utzinger-WA MIL EMD

Ted Buehner-Vice Chair

Clay Freinwald-CFTS

Lowell Kiesow-KNKX

Alex Brewster-Entercom

Carri Gorton-WSP (AMBER)

Reid Wolcutt-NWS Seattle

Phone:

Jon Kasprick-SBE

Phil Johnson-Central Puget Sound LECC

Arthur Willitts-KWDK TV

Simone Ramel-McKay-Greater Spokane EM

Cindy Birnbaum-Sinclair

Dave Holloran-San Juan County

Doug ten Hoopen-Skagit County

Clay called the meeting to order and introductions were made. A Skype connection was set up so documents from the meeting could be viewed. The previous minutes were approved. There were no requests to add items to the agenda.

30 The FCC was planning a test of the DIRS system, but it was cancelled
31 due to hurricane Florence. The FCC will be having a national EAS test
32 on September 20 at 11)) AM Pacific Time. It will be the first time EAS
33 and WEA have been tested together. (UPDATE: It has been postponed
34 to October 3rd.)

35
36 Reid Wolcott is the new WCM (Warning Meteorologist Coordinator) at
37 the National Weather Service in Seattle. He came here from Las Vegas
38 but is originally from the northwest. He will be continuing Ted's work.

39
40 The West Coast Earthquake Warning System is progressing. It is
41 starting to be integrated into the current EAS and WEA systems.

42
43 Security certificate updates for the SAGE and ENDEC EAS units need to
44 be done by September 24 when the current certificate expires. These
45 are issued by the federal government and have random expiration
46 dates. The new one expires next year.

47
48 The Oregon Interoperating Committee wants to set up an analog
49 distribution system similar to Washington's. The purpose is to have a
50 backup for the internet. It will be using a new product from SAGE.
51 There would be local relay nets similar to those in some of our local
52 areas.

53
54 FEMA's Laura Gouldreau puts out a Region 10 newsletter with lots of
55 information on upcoming meetings and other information of interest to
56 anyone involved in any aspect of emergency communications. To get
57 on the mailing list contact her at Laura.Gouldreau@fema.dhs.gov.

58
59 The Department of Homeland Security is considering mandatory IPAWS
60 monthly tests. If an entity misses 3 in a row their Memorandum of
61 Understanding could be revoked.

62

63 AlertSense has made some changes to their EAS interface. Their text to
64 speech converter is built in and much improved. An originator can
65 listen to a playback before the alert is issued. Mispronunciations can
66 be fixed without changing the text message that is seen on video
67 crawls.

68
69 In old business, TAB updates have been distributed on the remailer
70 recently. They are also on the EAS website,
71 [https://www.mil.wa.gov/other-links/emergency-alert-system-eas-](https://www.mil.wa.gov/other-links/emergency-alert-system-eas-state-plan)
72 [state-plan](https://www.mil.wa.gov/other-links/emergency-alert-system-eas-state-plan).

73
74 The survey for whether the cross-posting between the SECC and EAS
75 mailing lists should continue was almost evenly split. No changes will be
76 made.

77
78 In new business, the 2019 RMT Schedule has been approved. It was
79 put on the remailer for comments and changes were made.

80
81 The August RMT in the Yakima local area did not happen. RMT's are
82 required by the FCC. If they are not received there needs to be a log
83 entry explaining why not. We do not do make goods in Washington.

84
85 It has been reported that there have been no alerts received from the
86 analog system in Lewis County. Testing needs to be done. It would be
87 needed if the internet was down.

88
89 How do we make more connections with emergency managers?
90 Maybe personal visits are in order. The new emergency coordinator for
91 Clallam County will be paid a visit soon.

92
93 Where should the originator EAS boxes go, Emergency Management or
94 911 Centers? It is ultimately a decision for the local counties. There is a
95 challenge in having a very busy organization issuing alerts. However,

96 911 Centers are usually staffed 24/7 while EM offices can be very small.
97 Scheduled alerts can be covered, but unscheduled alerts can be
98 challenging. The state emergency operations center is always willing
99 and ready to provide backup to the local organizations. There is a real
100 need for training. Emergencies don't necessarily happen during
101 business hours. Don't hesitate to run tests such as RWT's or DMO's
102 which do not interrupt programming on broadcast stations.

103

104 Awareness needs to be raised with law enforcement agencies as to the
105 availability of EAS and WEA for law enforcement emergencies.

106

107 There is a possibility that the SECC will need to get an IRS designation as
108 a non-profit. King County might be providing funds to maintain the
109 Central Puget Sound LRN.

110

111 The technical committee reminds anyone still using one of the old gray
112 SAGE ENDEC's that they do not set the time automatically. They need
113 an accurate timestamp to function. Lowell will put out info before the
114 DST time change. Hopefully, the audio issue with the SRN has been
115 fixed.

116

117 Ted's presentation on changes at the SECC is not on the schedule for
118 the WSEMA conference this year. It occurs September 17-19 near
119 Spokane. See <https://www.facebook.com/WAStateEMA>.

120

121 Some monitoring assignments have been published recently. Some
122 more are in the works. This is TAB 10 in the state plan.

123

124 There have been some changes in AMBER alerts. Alerting will now be
125 done only by the Washington State Patrol. This was a unanimous
126 decision by the state AMBER Advisory Council. The change has been
127 documented in the state AMBER plan. It will go out after approval by
128 management. Four people will be authorized to send alerts with

129 someone available 24/7. It will take a few months to implement. The
130 new AMBER plan will be much shorter.

131

132 Silver Alerts will now require a vehicle description. There were way too
133 many alerts that were not useful or effective. These alerts do not use
134 EAS.

135

136 Remember to use the remailer. See
137 <http://sea.sbe16.org/mailman/listinfo/eas-wa> to subscribe.

138

139 The next meeting will be on November 13 at 9:30 AM at Clover Park.
140 Directions will be on the remailer.