

SECC Meeting

January 14, 2019

Attendees:

In Person....

Clay Freinwald – Chair

Ted Buehner – Vice-Chair

Anthony Clark – Wash St Emergency Management

Lowell Kiesow-KNKX

Rich Hall-WMD IT

Carri Gordon-WSP

On Phone.....

Terry Spring – KWPX TV

Phil Johnson – Central Puget Sound LECC

Doug Blangsteb-Kitsap County DEM

Dave Holloran – San Juan County

John Price-Mason/Thurston LECC

Simone Ramal-McKay-Greater Spokane EM

Charlie Osgood-Alpha Media Wenatchee

Sean Davis-Franklin County

Larry Moore

Keith Shipman-WSAB

Introductions were made and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved. There were no additions to the agenda.

Monty Simpson is out of action for a while. The SECC is looking for someone to represent amateur radio in the interim.

Washington received a good participation score from the FCC for the last NPT (National Periodic Test). There have been some fines lately for FCC violations regarding EAS. The Yakima EM is now sending RWT's.

Please continue to send the local area plan revisions to Chris Utzinger at Washington State Emergency Management. He recently received one from Pacific County.

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The next WECCWG (The Washington Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group) conference is on February 20th at Camp Murray. The theme is Public and Private Coordination during a disaster. For further information, and to register, see <http://mil.wa.gov/weccwg>. This will be the debut of the Fred and Wilma play.

If a RMT (Required Monthly Test) is not sent, the originator involved must send an explanation to the remailer. It is an FCC requirement that the receiving stations must either log a successful test or provide an explanation as to why not. The same is true for the local primary (LP) stations that send RWT's (Required Weekly Tests) to stations downstream. Stations have been fined for not properly logging the required tests.

The North Sound LECC is planning a meeting at the FEMA Conference in Burlington.

More TAB updates are coming!

In old business, is there something wrong with the SRN (State Relay Network). There have been reports of sporadic reception in some areas. The SECC has no idea who is monitoring it and whether receivers are connected to EAS boxes. Clay is giving an old SAGE unit to the state to aid in monitoring it. Due to a FCC mandate, the State Patrol (owner of the SRN) had to switch to narrow band FM. If your receiver is not set up for narrow band reception you could be feeding a noisy signal with low audio into your EAS decoder. Just because you hear audio does not mean your box will decode it. The boxes are somewhat picky in what they will encode.

Larry @ WSP in Wenatchee....found 3 local broadcasters that had antenna and receiver problems monitoring Birch Mt. SRN. Rich Hall may put the state's SAGE Endec in a mini-rack in his rig giving him the ability to drive around the state and monitor the different SRN sites. The question is which SRN sites are operating properly. A RWT is sent over the SRN around 11:05 each Tuesday, about 5 minutes after the state sends the CAP RWT. They are sent to all SRN sites, although the state can also send a test message to specific transmitter sites as well. The goal is to make the SRN functional and reliable.

Jim Dalke is planning to copywrite the WA-PAWS logo. Chris Utzinger was not on hand to address this issue after approaching legal.

72 Simone has sent the update for Tab 2, the Roster of LECC chairs and Emergency Managers, out
73 for review. The final version to be sent out soon

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75 Plan Revision Committee has been meeting regularly by conference call. The next calls are on
76 January 27 and February 3. The Monitoring matrix, which shows who monitors what, will be
77 the topic of discussion. Think of it as a tree with the originators on top, the LPs below them and
78 the stations on the bottom. A bunch of situations were found that were less than ideal. The
79 matrix has not been revised to reflect changes that have happened over the years. There were
80 some situations where a markets LP's were monitoring each other. There were also other
81 single point of failures found. There also new ways to get national alerts from FEMA. The
82 Sirius/XM barker channel is available 24/7 and is directly connected to FEMA. All you need is a
83 cheap consumer receiver. You do not need to have a subscription to receive the barker
84 channel. Premier Networks, a major syndicator, has a channel directly connected to FEMA.
85 Many stations already receive programming through Premier. The local LP stations will be
86 contacted to update their contact person and find out what sources they are monitoring. The
87 committee will analyze and make changes as necessary. The goal is to eliminate single points of
88 failure, as required by the FCC rules.

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90 The use of WEA (cell phone alerts) by a county for a missing persons advisory was discussed.
91 The Washington State Patrol thought that would not happen. Spokane has used it successfully.
92 They use geo-tracking so the alert only goes to a small area. They have had a good response
93 from citizens and have been able to quickly locate several Alzheimer's patients. A state-wide
94 policy is needed. Is WEA regulated and who has control? There should be time of day
95 restrictions (not when people are trying to sleep). Also, some cities straddle two counties.
96 There are also legal ramifications for having different policies in different areas.

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98 Make sure your EAS firmware has been updated. If you haven't, you are probably not receiving
99 CAP messages from FEMA.

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101 Ted has still not heard back from FEMA on his training proposal. His goal is to training on a
102 national level with short videos on different subjects.

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104 The correct RMT schedule is now on the state EMD website. See
105 <https://mil.wa.gov/emergency-alert-system-eas-state-plan>. The original posting was wrong.

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107 In the Mason/Thurston local area, the local plan revision is done. It is waiting for signatures.

108 Mason County sent a successful RMT. The TAB 24, LECC Guidelines, is done.

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110 The Inland Empire LECC met last week for an excellent and productive meeting.

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112 In the Columbia Basin LECC, there have been meetings with local broadcasters. Because of
113 Hanford, WEA regular WEA tests have been mandated. When parts of their 911 system went
114 down, WEA was used to inform the public in the affected areas. It worked well. It was not
115 done late at night.

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117 On January 22, AT&T will host an interoptibility demonstration in Olympia. The FirstNet and
118 NDR Showcase is designed for: Legislators and Legislative Staff, State & Local Public Safety
119 Officials, First Responders.

120 The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10 at 9:30 AM at Clover Park. Directions and
121 agenda will be on the remailer.

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123 The May SECC meeting will be in Ellensburg on May 12.