SECC Meeting

March 10, 2020

Attendees:
In Person....
Clay Freinwald – Chair
Ted Buehner – Vice-Chair
Anthony Clark – Wash St Emergency Management
Lloyd ?-FEMA Region 10

On Phone.....
Terry Spring – KWPX TV
Phil Johnson – Central Puget Sound LECC
John Price-Mason/Thurston LECC
Simone Ramal-McKay-Greater Spokane EM
Sean Davis-Franklin County
Rich Hall-WEMD IT
Jill Kangas-Lewis County
Monte Simpson-Amateur Radio

Ted Buehner opened the meeting and introductions were made. He thanked everybody for participating with everything that is going on. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. No additional agenda items were requested.

Clay has been conducting outreach in Spokane and Pullman. He attended the Inland LECC meeting and met with Northwest Public Broadcasting at WSU. Next week he is off to Lewis County and then West Clallam the following week.

In Old business, there have been reports of reception issues for the SRN transmitter at Gold Mountain. Technicians from emergency management and the state patrol checked it out and discovered a power supply problem, which was fixed. It was operating at a greatly reduced power. They went through the whole system and it is now looking good. EM now has a portable test package with an EAS decoder for end to end testing.

There is nothing new on the WAPAWS art- work copyright. This item has been deferred.

In new business, John Price has spent a lot of time working on a revision of TAB 24, WAPAWS LECC Guidelines. It includes explanation of acronyms, links to FCC EAS rules, guidelines for posting of local plans, links to IPAWS information and more. It is a very comprehensive document. John has done his part and the Plan Revision Committee will finalize it at its next meeting. This document has been distributed on the remailer.

43   The Plan Revision Committee has been busy. They have given feedback to the FCC on their new
44   Automatic reporting System (ARS). In the past, the FCC wanted the states to have EAS plans but did not
45   give much guidance or structure. ARS is web-based and will have both structure and guidance. The
46   committee tested the system and provided suggestions to the FCC. They chose Washington because we
47   have been active in commenting on FCC proposals. There will be monitoring assignments for every
48   broadcast station and cable system which will be enforced by the FCC. Stations will use ARS to report
49   results of national tests.
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51   All TABS will now have the "blue box" as a header. The info, such as title and revision date, will now be
52   in a uniform format.
53
54   The old TAB 10's are being replaced. They were complicated. The new TAB 10-A is for the legacy analog
55   sources, as opposed to web-based sources. Section 1 is an overview of sources for national alerts, such
56   as FEMA and Premier Networks. National alerts are also on distribution systems such as the SRN (State
57   Relay Network). These feed the Local Primary (LP) stations. The local stations monitor their assigned
58   sources. This document spells out the requirements for each. Sections 2 through 6 have additional
59   monitoring information for the different levels of participation.
60
61   Distribution systems are not currently recognized by the FCC. These monitoring requirements will be
62   part of ARS. Participants will have some flexibility. Deviations from the plan must be approved by the
63   SECC. The best option is to monitor as close to the point of origination as possible to eliminate points of
64   failure.
65
66   Section 7 is a table of terms and abbreviations. A new feature, Section 8, is antenna recommendations.
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68   TAB 10-B is monitoring assignments and contact info for the LP stations. Currently it is what is being
69   monitored now. The committee will be going through each area to figure out the best choice. The
70   recent survey was a big help. They will be talking to the stations to make it all workable.
71
72   TAB 10-C replaces TABs 5 and 6. It is a simplified matrix for Participating National (PN) stations. For
73   example, the Central Puget Sound (CPS) area may monitor KIRO AM or FM and KNKX. Some areas, such
74   as West Clallam, are difficult due to their isolation. The Inland local area has unique challenges to the
75   large area it covers. There are many counties, including some in three other states. In its original form,
76   ARS would not accommodate multi-state areas. There are other parts of the country that have a similar
77   situation, such as Kansas City. Clark County and others are grayed out because they are administered by
78   Oregon. This will be discussed at the next Plan Revision Committee meeting on March 16. This should
79   be done by the May SECC meeting. Please participate. This process is open to all.
80
81   In training, Ted is still trying to work with FEMA, but is having trouble connecting with the right people.
82   EAS training is something that needs to be done on the national level. He wants to go through the
83   proper channels and could use some financial help.
84
85   The Inland local area had a good meeting. For now, they are keeping their focus on EAS. They will
86   expand later after WAPAWS is in existence. Next month they will meet at the National Weather Service
87   to learn more about what they do.
88

89   The Benton-Franklin area has been working to reactivate ham radio participation.
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91   In the Mason-Thurston area the county commissioners have been briefed on their revised local plan.
92   The emergency managers have signed off on it.   The LECC meets on the third Thursday. They are
93   working on their EPIS plan.
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95   The Washington State Emergency Management (WSEM) went to full activation on January 25. There are
96   50-60 people working in the center daily.
97
98   Amateur radio has been working on updating the information in their database. They are looking for a
99   regional coordinator for the Tri Cities. The yearly Communications Academy has been cancelled. They
100 are looking at alternatives.
101
102 The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 12 at 9:30 AM at KITCOM in Ellensburg. Directions and
103 agenda will be on the remailer.
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