

# SECC Meeting

July 13, 2021

The meeting started at 9:30 AM with the roll call. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

The National EAS Test (NPT) will be held August 11. It will come from KIRO-AM, and possibly NPR. Supposedly, it will not be distributed by Sirius/XM, CAP, etc. The primary distribution point in Washington will be the State Relay Network (SRN), which is monitored by KNKX, KPBX and Northwest Public Broadcasting.

Chris Utzinger is retiring. Kevin Wickersham is his replacement. Our amateur radio representative, Monte Simpson is no longer with the EMD. No replacement has been named, yet.

The fire season is well under way. As of the meeting date, there had been 30 days without rain. And a late June heat wave accelerated the summer drying out process, not just in Eastern Washington, but throughout the entire Northwest. There have been many fires. Be prepared for EAS and WEA activations. Grant County is doing OK. Spokane has found that their fires have been moving quickly, so staying on top of the situation is mandatory. During the recent heatwave, over 30% of the snowpack on Mount Rainier melted. In Franklin County they have increased the number of responders to fires because of the heat. They must rotate people in and out more frequently. They are stock-piling large amounts of water.

In old business, the plan revision Committee continues to meet. The overall plan is to adjust and update the state plan to best meet the FCC's new just implemented Alert Reporting System (ARS) and create the Washington Public Alert and Warning System (WA-PAWS) plan to replace the current State EAS Plan. ARS will become the new State EAS Plan, and WA-PAWS will include ARS elements and other guidelines to better satisfy statewide stakeholder needs in a more organized format. Over 60 percent of the WA-PAWS tabs have been completed

with the reminder in progress. WA-PAWS is planned to make its debut in September and co-exist with the current State EAS Plan for a period of time during the transition.

The SECC has filed comments for the recent FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM). The feds do not necessarily take into consideration the comments when they make their decision. Contractors are involved in the design and implementation of the new website. Once the state plans are uploaded, the FCC will send out notices when it's time to recertify, but the state plans can be updated at any time. There is no manual yet, that will come later. We will be one of the first to utilize the system. Some bugs are expected. Why is this happening? It is legislation driven. Some states are completely missing from the process. Now the governors will oversee the process. This will give a push to those states that do not have an active SECC. There will probably not be any changes in Washington. In Idaho, they have been working on entering the data into ARS. They have found some bugs but are working with the FCC to fix them.

In new business, returning to in-person meetings was discussed. Maybe have them occasionally, possibly a couple times a year in Tacoma and Central Washington. Busy times, such as fire or winter storm seasons, should be avoided. Overall, Zoom works well.

There is going to be a change in the leadership of the SECC. Clay is resigning. He has chaired this committee since 1996. The recommendation is that Ted Buehner take over as chair. Clay will continue to help. This is a good time for the change, as the transition to ARS wraps up. There are several people who could take a more active role. Idaho reported that their transition did not go that well. Bylaws would have been helpful. Washington has bylaws, but they are outdated and in the process of being revised.

The Technical Committee reports that the new security certificate for the Sage is available. This is a yearly update originating with FEMA. Jerry Olson of KPBX has designed a cool AM antenna. He will build one for you for \$250. This is significantly less than what a commercial antenna would cost. Jerry can be contacted on the remailer.

Ted is still working on his training program. This was part of the response to the NPRM. The need for training was noted in the response filing and the training was shown as an example. So far, no response. This was created for those who send emergency messages, those who relay the messages and those who receive them. It includes tabletop exercises that can be taken online from anywhere. They can be adapted and customized for local needs and situations. They would be shared with the FCC and FEMA.

In the Central Puget Sound area, the new plan is still a work in progress. Not much will change in WA-PAWS except the name. The local area plans will be known as, for example, Central Puget Sound PAWS.

The Columbia Basin has activated their new VHF frequency for the Local Relay Network. It works well.

Spokane is updating their local plan. They are still waiting to see how PAWS works. They are keeping EAS separate for now. Anyway, it is on hold during the fire season.

EAS and WEA (phone alerts) are all apart of WA-PAWS, but they are different systems. The FCC is only interested in EAS.

Mason-Thurston is working on their leadership transition and restarting their LECC meetings. Their local plan has been updated.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 14, at 9:30 AM, most likely on Zoom.

The meeting ended at 10:49 AM.

**SECC MEETING ROLL CALL – JULY 14, 2020**

POSITION	NAME	PRESENT
Chair	Clay Freinwald	X
Vice Chair	Ted Buehner	X
WEMD Chair	Chis Utzinger	
WEMD A&W	Tony Clark	
WEMD Multilingual	Lewis Lujan	
NWS	Reid Wolcott	
WEA -	Bill Peters	
Amber Coordinator	Carri Gordon	
Eastern WA Leaders	Sandi Duffy	X
	Charlie Osgood	X
Data Base Mgr	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
FEMA Reg 10	Laura Goodreau	
	Lloyd Kimball	X
Technical Committee	Lowell Kiesow	X
Comm Systems Chair	Phil Johnson	X
Cable TV - Comcast		
Recording Secretary	Terry Spring	X
Amateur Radio		
Test Coordinator	Roland Robinson	
WSAB	Keith Shipman	

## LECC Chairs

OPERATIONAL AREA	NAME	PRESENT
Central Puget	Phil Johnson	X
Clallam	Anne Chastain	
Coastal	Pat Anderson	
Columbia Basin	Sean Davis	X
Cowlitz/Wahkiakum	John Mackey Beau Renfro	
Inland N.W.	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
Kittitas	Brad Tacher Bob Johnson	
Lewis	Larry Minor Scott Mattoon Andy Caldwell	
Mason/Thurston	John Price Tammy Wright	X X
North Central	Charlie Osgood Sandi Duffy	X X
No. Puget Sound	- Open -	
Okanogan	Maurice Goodall John Andrist	
Yakima	Jason Clapp	

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Doug Blangsted	Kitsap Co. DEM	
Jerry Olson	KBPX Spokane	
Arthur Willetts	KWDK	X
Jarrod Dibble	Snohomish Co. EM	
Jim House	Coalition On Inclusive Emergency Planning	
Brady Aldrich	Northwest Public Broadcasting	X
Jesse Spurgeon	Cherry Creek Wenatchee	
Joshua Adkins	Pierce County DEM	X
Francis Barkhart	Whatcom Co.	X
Jason Shirron	King County OEM	X
Hannah	Grays Harbor EM	X
Sharon Point	E. Whatcom	X
Zac	Pierce County EM	X
Dave Turnmire	Idaho Office of Emergency Management	X