

Washington SECC Meeting

November 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by new Chair Ted Buehner with the roll call. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. There were no additions to the agenda.

The 2022 SECC meeting schedule is posted on the WA-Paws website as Tab B5. It is also attached at the end of these minutes.

The FCC ARS database deadline for populating our information is July 1, 2022. Clay will take care of the monitoring assignments. The rest of the data will be assigned early in 2022.

Simone requested that we have an in-person meeting in May 2022 if at all possible. This would especially benefit the folks in Eastern Washington. The meeting would likely be a hybrid event also using Zoom, depending on the pandemic status at that time.

The new Washington Public Alert and Warning System (WA-PAWS) plan website was launched in September, replacing the State EAS Plan. WA-PAWS is hosted by Washington Emergency Management at <https://mil.wa.gov/wa-paws>. Stakeholders are encouraged to bookmark it and use it. Selected tabs remain in draft and will be posted once completed with notification via the remailer.

The 2022 RMT (Required Monthly Test) schedule has been posted on the WA-PAWS website as approved at the September meeting. Roland Robinson has resumed sending out monthly reminders again for the RMT's. Has this been helpful? Simone says yes. Even though it is on their calendars, things get hectic sometimes and it helps to have another reminder. Phil and others agreed. More reminders help ensure the RMTs are conducted.

In new business, what do we call Clay? He led the SECC since 1996. Phil Johnson suggested Chair Emeritus. Clay said he would be OK with whatever we decided to do. After some discussion, Clay was elected Chair Emeritus. The SECC membership roster posted on the WA-PAWS will reflect that title change.

The Jefferson County false Civil Alert was discussed. Every originator is encouraged to test and practice. Sometimes these practice efforts go awry and we want to learn from these errors. If tests are made in the IPAWS lab test environment, they will not go out to the public, particularly if a recent IPAWS software update might have changed something.

Reid Wolcott talked about the National Weather Service's shift to Non-Weather Emergency Messages (NWEM). It was implemented November 1st at the Seattle office and their Sage ENDEC was disconnected resulting in no longer automatically relaying EAS messages. All warnings will be from IPAWS. The other NWS offices serving Washington state are planning on implementing NWEM on or about December 1. They are still working on how to include AMBER Alerts. Phil expressed concern about there being no analog backup for emergency messages. Reid explained that if the internet is down, they do not have a way of feeding the NOAA Weather Radios anyway. They are aware of this issue and he expects it will be addressed at some point in the future.

RMT's are not possible in NWEM at the present time. There is interest in doing them at the NWS Headquarters, but it will take a while to be implemented due to other priorities. NWS can only do DMO's.

The Technical Committee reports that it was discovered during the October RMT that several stations did not have acceptable reception of NOAA Weather Radio. Sometimes reception has degraded due to increases in the electrical noise floor, especially in equipment rooms. There will be some information disseminated in an upcoming WSAB newsletter.

In training, Ted had nothing new to report. He's still communicating with FEMA.

Operational Area Reports

In the Coastal area, Grays Harbor County has changed their IPAWS provider. They are practicing with the new system in preparation for their December RMT. Pacific County has also changed providers. They have tested with the new system but still had technical problems with the November RMT. They had a LECC Meeting recently and are getting ready to update their local plan.

The Columbia Basin Local Area has been having some audio issues. They are working on it. Walla Walla County has the next RMT.

In the Inland Northwest, Simone recently met with local broadcasters to go over a draft of their revised local plan. She made some revisions and sent it out to local emergency managers. She will be meeting with them and broadcasters in January. Presently the plan is only for EAS, but it could be expanding to WEA in the future.

In North Central, there were no known issues with the October NWS originated RMT. Rivercom is ready to do the November RMT.

North Puget no longer has a LRN (Local Rely Network). The license was held by KVOS but the license was cancelled and the equipment is gone from the Mt. Constitution transmitter site. Their LECC has not met in quite some time.

Committee Reports

At Washington State Emergency Management, the wildfire season ended on October 15. Chris Utzinger has officially retired and is moving to Montana. Kevin Wickersham is Chris's replacement. Technician Bob Purdum is retiring and he maintained the coastal warning sirens. Jack-of-all-trades Rich Hall is also retiring.

Keith Shipman from WSAB reported that there is an effort to be put forth for the upcoming legislative session addressing missing and murdered indigenous women and people. He proposes this effort be similar to Silver Alerts with such information distributed by news organizations rather than EAS Alerts. The WSAB is working with legislators and the Governor's office on this issue.

The National Weather Service will be implementing the ability to relay polygon non-weather emergency messages over their dissemination systems. Messages will also be able to be mixed-case instead of all caps. The NWS really appreciates it when counties, such as Grays Harbor, work with and coordinate with them to implement this new process. Any county is more than welcome to contact and work with them.

Andy Laneweaver from State 911 reports that South Sound 911 has relocated to their new facility, Cowlitz 911 is building a new facility outside of the flood plain and Lowell Porter is now director of Rivercom. Andy and State 911 are willing to help in any way they can.

If you are not on the state EAS remailer, you probably should be. Instructions are on TAB F8.

The meeting ended at 10:31 AM.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 9:30 AM, most likely on Zoom.

WA-PAWS – Tab B5	SECC 2022 Schedule	9.14.21
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2022 SECC MEETING DATES	LOCATION
Tuesday Jan 11	Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic - Most SECC Meetings will be virtual via Zoom until further notice.
Tuesday Mar 8	
Tuesday May 10	
Tuesday July 12	
Tuesday Sept 13	
Tuesday Nov 8	

Notes –

- The above schedule can be altered by the SECC as needed.
- The SECC may hold special meetings as required.

SECC MEETING ROLL CALL – NOVEMBER 9, 2021

POSITION	NAME	PRESENT
Chair Emeritus	Clay Freinwald	X
Chair	Ted Buehner	X
WEMD Chair	Kevin Wickersham	
WEMD A&W	Tony Clark	X
NWS	Reid Wolcott	X
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
Administrative Assistant	Scott Sipes	X
Amateur Radio		X
Test Coordinator	Roland Robinson	
WSAB	Keith Shipman	X

LECC Chairs

OPERATIONAL AREA	NAME	PRESENT
Central Puget	Phil Johnson	X
Clallam	Anne Chastain	X
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	X
No. Puget Sound	Dave Halloran	X
Okanogan	Maurice Goodall John Andrist	
Yakima	Mike McMullen	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Doug Blangsted	Kitsap Co. DEM	
Jerry Olson	KBPX Spokane	X
Arthur Willetts	KWDK	
Jarrold 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	
Jason Shirron	King County OEM	
Hannah Cleverly	Grays Harbor EM	X
Sharon Point	E. Whatcom	
Zac	Pierce County EM	
Dave Turnmire	Idaho SECC Chair	X
Hannah Eison	Quinault Nation	
Theresa Rothweiler	Clallam County	
Vickie Fontaine	Skagit County DEM	
Cindy Braunheim	KOMO	
Barry Mishkind		
Jordon Hanes	Columbia County	X
Andy Laneweaver	State 911	X
Justine Chorley	Clallam County	X
Carl Lunak	City Of Bellevue	X