

Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022

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

Announcements

Previous SECC minutes will only be on the state WA-PAWS website for two years. Terry Spring has a collection of hard copies going back several years. Charlie Osgood has some electronic copies in his email. Minutes older than 2 years will be available on the SECC's Google drive and available on request.

Old Business

Work continues on the new WA-PAWS plan. On the WA-PAWS website (click [here](#)), there are selected tab's without links. Most tabs have been completed and the rest are in draft and review.

- A2 Letter of Promulgation-(Definition: An official order or proclamation issued by a person in authority Support for an idea or cause. A definite or clear expression of something in speech or writing.) This will be circulated at WMED and signed by the director.
- A4 Guide to the Washington State Plan - Just about ready for final review.
- B1 By-Laws – An updated version was sent on the remailer last week. Clay would like to see WA-PAWS have more mention of some kind of term limit for office holders. He would also like to have a specified period to have an election to replace a departed/resigned officer. And he suggested that it should be specified who is considered a member for the purposes of voting. John Price noted that IPAWS is mentioned in the bylaws, but is not defined.
- B4 SECC Governance - Needs review. It is important because it is one of the requirements for the FCC ARS.
- B6 Alerting Procedures - This tab has been completed and will be on the remailer and WA-PAWS website shortly.

- C7 Cable System Information - It has been brought up to date and will be distributed soon.
- C6 Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) - It is being reviewed and edited to make it more useful. Also, recent WEA enhancements need to be addressed in the tab.
- D2 LECC Chairs/County EMD Officials - Simone maintains and updates personnel changes.
- D3 Operational Area Plan Links – The state EMD website can host the local plans instead of the individual operational areas if needed.
- D4 Multilingual Info By County - A draft will be forwarded to the state for review.
- F2 Emergency Notification Systems - This tab has been completed and will be on the remailer and WA-PAWS website shortly.
- F4 Technical FAQ's - Scott and Lowell are working on it. Suggestions are welcome.

New Business

“Overshoot” of WEA alerts, specifically the recent Kitsap County tornado warning showed up on some phones in North Seattle and Shoreline, was discussed. There are still quite a few phones in use that aren’t capable of using the WEA location features. Cell phone providers tend to have the emergency messages be available to as many phones as possible in the area even if it means some older phones outside the area receive the message. This issue will go away as older phones are replaced by newer ones. The system worked as currently designed.

At times, there are multiple alerts for the same event. There needs to be coordination between originators to prevent this. The weather service is working with originators to enhance coordination in such emergencies.

The FCC has a proposal for improving the dissemination of alerts to the disabled and hearing impaired. It has been shared with Jim House at DSHS for his review. He will give his feedback and the SECC will respond back to the FCC. The NPRM was distributed some time ago on the remailer. The goal is to improve clarity and accessibility of EAS messages. They are focusing on how things are worded and other issues. Originators will need to design text from CAP alerts that can be

presented on TV screens. There should be input from the TV engineering side as to what is possible and will work.

The separation of the eastern and western parts of Jefferson County by the Olympic Mountains was discussed. The western part of the county is in the Coastal local area and the eastern part is in the Central Puget Sound local area. In November, they both originated RMT's for Jefferson County. There is a small population on the west side but they still need to receive alerts. There are limited county services in West Jefferson. A change will be investigate to utilize the sub-areas in the FIPS code for the county. There are several technical considerations in implementing this.

When scheduled RMT's are missed there needs to be an explanation put on the remailer. There are no make up RMTs per WA-PAWS Tab B10A. The affected operational area LECC Chair should follow up with the entity that missed the test to identify any problems or issues so it doesn't happen in the future.

The Boulder County wildfires were discussed. Franklin County went through a similar event a couple of years ago. It was a scary situation with so much wind-blown smoke and dust that their first responders couldn't respond. They used EAS and Code Red to inform the public. Sandi added that you use the tools you have available to do the best you can. WEA messages are now expected by the public. They were not used in Boulder County. They used Code Red. In many cases, the fire moved faster than the alerts.

It pays to have exercises for training purposes. It helps to be trained in the use of multiple tools. It is also helpful to have pre-written scripts for various scenarios to save time during an actual emergency. Also, there needs to be an awareness that infrastructure may be made inoperative and/or destroyed during a disaster, so having redundancy is important.

Committee Reports

Ted is still talking to FEMA about his training outline. More training for emergency message originators is needed to help all involved.

Roland Robinson has been sending out reminders for the RMT's – a big help.

Stakeholder Reports

Washington State Emergency Management is at Level 1 again, due to flooding and COVID. Roughly 90% of the staff is working remotely.

The National Weather Service has implemented NWEM (Non-Weather Emergency Messages). They are working on adding AMBER alerts. RMT's will probably be added eventually but there is no timeline. Avalanche Warnings involve EAS only under extreme hazard conditions upon notification from the NWAC - Northwest Avalanche Center). These extreme hazard warnings are rare.

There were 9 AMBER Alerts in 2021. This tracks a national trend of vehicle thefts with children in the vehicle. There should be an AMBER Advisory Committee meeting soon.

Please share future agenda items with SECC Administration Assistant Scott Sipes, scott.sipe@alphamediausa.com. He has been compiling the agenda.

The meeting ended at 10:53 AM.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 9:30 AM, via Zoom.

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| WA-PAWS – Tab B5 | SECC 2022 Schedule | 9.14.21 |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------|

| 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 – JANUARY 11, 2022

| POSITION | NAME | PRESENT |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Chair | Ted Buehner | X |
| Vice Chair/Tech Committee | Lowell Kiesow | X |
| Chair Emeritus | Clay Freinwald | X |
| WEMD Chair | Kevin Wickersham | |
| NWS | Reid Wolcott | X |
| WEA - | Bill Peters | |
| Amber Coordinator | Carri Gordon | X |
| Eastern WA Leaders | Sandi Duffy | X |
| | Charlie Osgood | X |
| Data Base Mgr | Simone Ramel-McKay | |
| FEMA Reg 10 | Laura Goodreau | |
| | Lloyd Kimball | X |
| Comm Systems Chair | Phil Johnson | X |
| Cable TV - Comcast | James Casson | X |
| Recording Secretary | Terry Spring | X |
| Administrative Assistant | Scott Sipes | X |
| Amateur Radio | Monte Simpson | |
| Test Coordinator | Roland Robinson | |
| WSAB | Keith Shipman | |

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 | |
| Kittitas | Brad Tacher | |
| Lewis | Larry Minor Scott Mattoon Andy Caldwell | |
| Mason/Thurston | Tammi Wright | 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 | |
| Arthur Willetts | KWDK | X |
| Jarrold Dibble | Snohomish Co. EM | |
| Jim House | Coalition On Inclusive Emergency Planning | |
| Brady Aldrich | Northwest Public Broadcasting | |
| Jesse Spurgeon | Cherry Creek Wenatchee | |
| Joshua Adkins | Pierce County DEM | |
| Jason Schneider | King County OEM | X |
| Hannah Cleverly | Grays Harbor EM | X |
| Sharon Point | E. Whatcom | |
| Zac | Pierce County EM | |
| Dave Turnmire | Idaho SECC Chair | |
| Hannah Eison | Quinault Nation | |
| Theresa Rothweiler | Clallam County | |
| Vickie Fontaine | Skagit County DEM | X |
| Cindy Braunheim | KOMO | |
| Barry Mishkind | | X |
| Jordon Hanes | Columbia County | |
| Andy Laneweaver | State 911 | |
| Justine Chorley | Clallam County | X |
| Carl Lunak | City Of Bellevue | |
| Nichlaus Falley | Grays Harbor County | X |
| Brian Daley | A.T. & T. | X |
| Peter Musgrove | A.T. & T. | X |
| Willie Bence | Jefferson County | X |
| John Price | Mason/Thurston Co. | X |
| Jason Clapp | Franklin County EM | X |
| Chris Lee | Franklin County EM | X |
| Jordan Hanes | Franklin County EM | X |