

Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM by Chair Ted Buehner followed by roll call. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Minutes from previous minutes are posted [here](#). There were no additions to the agenda.

Announcements

The FCC has issued a call for volunteers for WEA testing. There is a meeting for the entities they have selected on July 14. The testing will take place during the third quarter of this year. Grays Harbor, Adams and Franklin Counties are currently participating.

The deadline to upload SECC information to the new FCC ARS (Alert Reporting System) was July 5th. Our info was submitted June 27. Many people were involved in this project. The committee has been working on this for the last 3 years or so. The information that was uploaded came from the WA-PAWS webpage. ARS is to be updated every year, and given the bulk of the work is done, just things that have changed will be uploaded next year.

The WA-PAWS state plan is nearing completion. The Letter of Promulgation is waiting for a signature from the director of Washington State Emergency Management. There were a few topics raised with the SECC bylaws draft at the January SECC meeting will be addressed. With ARS submitted, this task will be worked on soon. Technical questions for TAB F-4 (Technical FAQ's) are still sought.

Recent articles on EAS in Radio World include Richard Rudman on California starting over on their state EAS plan and Ted being interviewed for an article about Washington. Mr. Rudman calls Washington State (and Nevada) the gold standard for EAS. See [this](#) and [this](#).

Old Business

The discussion on alerts for West and East Jefferson County FIPS Codes was addressed since the last SECC meeting. The issue is complicated given how

different EAS boxes (mainly Sage and DASDEC) handle fractional counties in their filters. It would also be a challenge to get all the broadcasters on the same page for programming their boxes. To avoid having multiple RMT's for the same county, it was proposed the Coastal area not include Western Jefferson County in their RMT - the simplest solution. Multiple alerts for actual emergency messages are not an issue. Grays Harbor expressed concern about not being able to test with Jefferson County. A log-only code such as RWT or DMO event codes can be used to test Jefferson County without disrupting broadcaster programming. The SECC directs that Grays Harbor not include Jefferson County in their RMT.

TAB D-2, LECC Chairs & County EMD Officials – This WA-PAWS tab is challenging to keep up to date given ongoing personnel changes in local areas. Please send changes to Simone Ramel-McKay anytime. Her email is in TAB B-2 or she can be reached on the remailer. Columbia County has a director vacancy. In Lincoln County, Gabe Gants is the now the interim Sherriff/EM Director.

WA-PAWS TAB B-4, SECC Governance, is up to date and posted on the webpage.

New Business

NWEM (Non-Weather Emergency Messages) has been implemented statewide by all four NWS forecast offices serving the state. The June 7 DMO test with Grays Harbor County was successful following an unsuccessful test on May 16. The problem was traced to updated COG information from FEMA for Grays Harbor that was not shared with the NWS. On July 26 they will be doing a similar DMO test with Mason County. Contact your local National Weather Service Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) to establish your own local DMO Test with the NWS.

Committee Reports

Technical: If you don't know if your RWT or DMO was sent successfully in the western half of the state, contact Lowell Kiesow. His equipment is set up to log those tests from within his extensive coverage area.

Training: Ted was interviewed for an article in Radio World. He mentions the necessity of training and the training outline the SECC developed, and shared with FEMA. See it [here](#).

RMT's: The 2023 RMT schedule will be started soon. Please send suggestions and requests for adjustments to Roland Robinson.

Local Area Reports

In Clallam County, their new LRN will be operative soon as they await installation of their ENDEC. Their local plan is also on track to finish this summer.

The Central Puget Sound area is working on their EAS plan revision. There is information in the plan that should not be made public, such as email addresses, cell phone numbers and critical frequencies. There will be a confidential appendix with critical information distributed separately.

The Coastal area is also revising their local plan.

In the Columbia Basin, the WCM position at NWS Pendleton is vacant.

In the Inland area, their revised EAS plan is almost done and now includes 5 tribal entities. They hope to be done by September.

The Okanagan area had a missed RMT. The local LECC has never met, but it works. They will be testing their Local Relay Network soon.

In Yakima, they have been working on technical issues. They were successful in running an RMT. They are attempting to get their LECC going again. They are working with their local 911 call center.

Stakeholder Reports

WEA (Wireless Emergency Alerts): There is a committee at CSRIC (The Communications, Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council-see more information [here](#)) that is looking at possible enhancements that would allow the data that is being passed to be used by other applications on a phone. This might include linking to a mapping program that would include the exact location of an event. The current FCC NPRM is looking at performance info. WEA 3.0 is out there but needs a new generation phone to be used. Currently, about 30% of the phones in use can utilize WEA 3.0, and will increase as handsets are replaced with new ones. The ADDISW Standards group has a "practical hints" document for alert originators, and will be distributed on the remailer.

AMBER: The new AMBER plan should be ready real soon. Legislation for the new Indigenous missing person alerts including funding for an alerting software upgrade (Everbridge) became effective on July 1st. The state patrol will now have a FEMA COG. According to the new revised plan, the WSP Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit will be handling all missing persons alerts across the state. They will be doing WEA alerts locally. The state will continue to originate all the EAS alerts. The state has been split in half (east and west) for purposes of origination, although an alert will be issued for both sides of the state if circumstances warrant. More detailed information is now possible. They are not sure of all the capabilities, yet. The Washington State Patrol is in touch with the National Weather Service.

Please share future agenda items with SECC Administration Assistant Scott Sipe at scott.sipe@alphamediausa.com. Scott compiles the agenda.

The meeting ended at 11:21 AM.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 9:30 AM. Most likely the meeting will be via 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

SECC Members

POSITION	NAME	PRESENT
Chair	Ted Buehner	X
Vice Chair	Lowell Kiesow	X
Chair Emeritus	Clay Freinwald	
WEMD Chair	Kevin Wickersham	
WEMD A&W	Chris Phillips	X
WEMD Multilingual	Lewis Lujan	
NWS	Reid Wolcott	
WEA	Bill Peters	
Amber Coordinator	Carri Gordon	X
Eastern WA Leaders	Sandi Duffy	
	Charlie Osgood	
Data Base Manager	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
FEMA Reg 10	Laura Goodreau	
	Lloyd Kimball	
Technical Committee	Lowell Kiesow	X
Comm Systems Chair	Phil Johnson	X
Cable TV - Comcast	James Casson	
Administrative Assistant	Scott Sipe	
Recording Secretary	Terry Spring	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	
Coastal	Pat Anderson	
Columbia Basin	Sean Davis	X
Cowlitz/Wahkiakum	John Mackey Beau Renfro	
Inland N.W.	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
Kittitas	Brad Tacher	
Lewis	Larry Minor Scott Mattoon Andy Caldwell	
Mason/Thurston	Tammy Wright	
North Central	Charlie Osgood	
No. Puget Sound	Dave Halloran	
Okanogan	Maurice Goodall John Andrist	X
Yakima	Mike McMullen	X

OTHERS IN PREVIOUS 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	X
Francis Burkhart	Whatcom Co. EM	
Jason Shirron	King County OEM	
Hannah Cleverly	Grays Harbor EM	X
Sharon Point	E. Whatcom	
Dave Turnmire	Idaho Office of Emergency Management	
Theresa Rothweiler	Clallam CEM	X
Deanna Davis	Benton County E. M.	X
Brian Daly	A. T. & T.	X
Julie Winkler	City Of Tacoma E. M.	X
Lori	Cowlitz	X