

# Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM by Chair Ted Buehner followed by the 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

FCC is starting to approve the recently submitted state plans. They had a few questions about ours. Lowell is taking care of the minor adjustments. Ted is supposed to have a conference call with the FCC, Dave Turnmire of Idaho, Simone from Spokane, Lowell and maybe a few others. The main problem is some differences in monitoring assignments between what we and Idaho have in our plans.

There has been discussion about EAS box vulnerabilities. The best defense is to keep current with software updates. Information has been posted on the remailer.

End-To-End WEA testing using IPAWS was scheduled for today (9/13). Pierce and Adams Counties DEM were scheduled to participate.

San Juan County is scheduled to originate the RMT for December 8, 2023. They requested a time change from 7:20 PM to 3:00 PM. However, this is supposed to be a nighttime test so Roland will schedule it right after local sunset.

## Old Business

Updates to WA-PAWS, the new state Emergency Alerting plan continues.

TAB C7 – Cable System Information: It has been completed and will be posted soon.

TAB F4 – Technical FAQ's: Still being worked on. This is being designed to be a constantly changing document.

TAB D2 – LECC Chairs/County EMD Officials: There was an update in July.

TAB C6 – Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA): It is under review. It will be posted soon.

TAB B5 – SECC Meeting Schedule: It has been updated for 2023. The 2022 schedule will be removed after the first of the year.

All of Jefferson County is now in the Central Puget Sound local area. The issue was dual RMT's in the Central Puget Sound Area because Jefferson County was split between that area and the Coastal area. The map in TAB B9 needs to be redrawn.

### New Business

The NWEM (Non-Weather Emergency Messages) implementation continues. On or about November 7 they will start passing polygons with up to 20 vertices. If they can't display the polygon, the weather service map will display the whole county.

The NWS has been trying to set up a NWEM Test with Thurston County. There was a problem with their COG which did not allow them to send DMO codes. They are trying to resolve this issue with IPAWS.

The NWS Pendleton Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) was promoted to another NWS office. Edward Townsend is filling in until a new WCM is hired, currently expected by the end of this year.

The 2023 RMT Schedule was discussed. Feedback and/or suggestions were received from the different local areas. There was no response from Yakima. There was some confusion about contacts in the local areas. Simone will help with this. It is best if the person who actually does the test provides feedback to Roland. It was noted that the Inland Northwest area has some RMT's that are originated by the National Weather Service. There are two NWS offices that have weather radio transmitters there, Spokane and Pendleton. In the past only Spokane has originated. Simone will be contacting the Pendleton office to see if they want to participate. The schedule was approved. There may still be some minor adjustments. Any changes will be posted on the remailer.

Thurston County participated in WEA Testing with the FCC, along with 23 other entities. It went well.

### Committee Reports

Training: Ted proposed creating a series of Tabletop Exercises. They could be both weather and non-weather related. They would be simple and flexible and provide practice using real-life situations. It would be up to the local jurisdictions to decide when, how or other details of their utilization. It would be offered as a

tool. Possibly, it could be a new TAB in WA-PAWS. Smaller counties would especially benefit.

### Local Area Reports

The Central Puget Sound had a successful RMT. There was an anomaly during a WEA alert in Snohomish County for the Bolt Creek Wildfire and it is being investigated. Due to a software change a step was missed and the alert was sent to the entire county instead of the intended area. It was an evacuation notice for the Bolt Creek fire.

Lowell cautioned that WEA messages have a habit of “escaping” from their intended distribution areas, so it is good practice to have something in the text that says where the intended action is to take place.

In Clallam County, their local plan revision is almost done. Their ENDEC is being reinstalled.

The Coastal area is also revising their local plan. They are working on it and hope to have it completed by January. They are expanding the number of local stations connected to their LRN (Local Relay Network). There have been some new radio and TV stations coming on air. The LECC is working with them to get them integrated into the local network.

In the Inland area, their revised EAS plan is almost done. They are in the signature gathering stage.

The Mason/Thurston LECC will be meeting soon.

The North Central LECC has had numerous alerts. They include fire warnings, evacuation alerts, haz-mat alert, dust storm alert and an AMBER alert. There was extraneous text in the AMBER Alert that was part of the originating template. This will be brought to the attention of the originator so steps can be taken to prevent this from happening in the future.

### Stakeholder Reports

AMBER: Everbridge is the new software provider. The state patrol is only using it for WEA alerts at this time as the state EMD is still originating EAS Alerts. There hasn't been a reason to issue a WEA yet. The last AMBER did not have a license plate associated with the missing child, so no WEA Alert was issued. Hyperlinks can be included in WEA Alerts, also, but there has not been an opportunity to do it, yet. Geo-Targeting is possible. WEA Alerts are only to be used when there is

an immediate need for a public response. The revised AMBER Plan is done and will be posted on WA-PAWS soon.

Amateur Radio: Working with Lowell and Ted to define the role of amateur radio in WA-PAWS.

Please share future agenda items with SECC Administration Assistant Scott Sipe at [scott.sipe@alphamediausa.com](mailto:scott.sipe@alphamediausa.com). Scott compiles the agenda.

The meeting ended at 10:47 AM.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 9:30 AM. Note that this is the third Tuesday instead of the second to avoid having the meeting on Election Day. The meeting will be via Zoom.

WA-PAWS – Tab B5	<b>SECC 2022 Schedule</b>	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 15	

WA-PAWS – Tab B5	<b>SECC 2023 Schedule</b>	9.13.22
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2023 SECC MEETING DATES	LOCATION
Tuesday Jan 10	Anticipate SECC Meetings will remain virtual via Zoom until further notice, apart from perhaps a few well advertised exceptions.
Tuesday Mar 7	
Tuesday May 9	
Tuesday July 11	
Tuesday Sept 12	
Tuesday Nov 14	

Notes –

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

## 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	
WEMD Multilingual	Lewis Lujan	
NWS	Reid Wolcott	X
WEA	Bill Peters	
Amber Coordinator	Carri Gordon	X
Eastern WA Leaders	Sandi Duffy	
	Charlie Osgood	X
Data Base Manager	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
FEMA Reg 10	Lloyd Kimball	
Technical Committee	Lowell Kiesow	X
Comm Systems Chair	Phil Johnson	X
Cable TV - Comcast	James Casson	
Administrative Assistant	Scott Sipe	X
Recording Secretary	Terry Spring	X
Amateur Radio	Monte Simpson	X
Test Coordinator	Roland Robinson	X
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	
Cowlitz/Wahkiakum	John Mackey	
	Beau Renfro	X
Inland N.W.	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
Kittitas	Brad Tacher	
Lewis	Ross McDowell	
Mason/Thurston	Sonya "Bonnie" Kroese	X
North Central	Charlie Osgood	
No. Puget Sound	Dave Halloran	X
Okanogan	Maurice Goodall	
	John Andrist	
Yakima	Mike McMullen	
	Angela Brown-Suncomm	

**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	
Frances Burkhart	Whatcom Co. EM	
Jason Shirron	King County OEM	
Hannah Cleverly	Grays Harbor EM	X
Sharon Point	E. Whatcom	
Zac	Pierce County EM	
Dave Turnmire	Idaho Office of Emergency Management	X
Andrew Stevens	Eastside Fire & Rescue	X
Jeff Choke	Nisqually Tribe	X
Ed Taylor	City of Lacey	X
Eric Brooks	Island County	X
Justine Chorley	Clallam County EM	X
Nick Miller	Pt. Gamble Clallam Tribe	X
Nick Falley	Grays Harbor County	X
Hans Kahl	Skagit County	X
John Ebner	Jefferson County EM	X
Liz Coogan		X