

Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Chair Ted Buehner followed by the roll call. The meeting was delayed a week because of the election. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Minutes from previous minutes are posted [here](#). There were no additions to the agenda.

Announcements

There was a conference call at the beginning of October to resolve the differences between the Washington and Idaho plans. Both plans have been resubmitted to ARS and are awaiting approval. Nationally, only 5 out of 54 plans have been approved, so far.

The FCC EAS Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was released. It promotes and encourages increased security for the whole system. Security and other upgrades are not always done voluntarily. There have been a number of stations that have not done the manufacturers' security upgrades. This makes their ENDECs more vulnerable to intruders. The FCC has decided to wield a bigger hammer to encourage this work to be done. See the FCC Press Release [here](#). Look [here](#) to see a Youtube video on a discussion of the NPRM. [Here](#) is another video on EAS and net security. DASDEC's with software version V4 and above comply. Make sure your EAS boxes software is up to date. Emergency managers should also make sure their equipment has the latest updates, even though they are not under FCC jurisdiction. Some offices use ENDECs as backup to their internet-based systems.

Old Business

Updates to [WA-PAWS](#), the new state Emergency Alerting plan continues. This is a living document that is subject to frequent updates.

TAB B5 – Meeting Schedule: A note has been added for exceptions to the regular meeting date.

TAB C7 – Cable Systems - It has been updated and posted.

TAB D1 – LECC Guidelines: Being updated.

TAB E1 – AMBER Alert Guidelines: Updated and posted.

TAB C6 – Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA): Updated and posted. It was extensively revised.

TAB D2 – LECC Chairs/County EMD Officials: Ongoing due to changes in personnel. A revision was posted recently. If you are aware of updates and/or changes, please share them with Simone.

TAB B2 – SECC Membership Roster: Needs to be updated.

Under Additional Resources, Non-Weather Emergency Messages (from the National Weather Service) has been added.

New Business

The NWEM (Non-Weather Emergency Messages) testing continues. The test with Mason County went well. There was a test with Thurston County that was scheduled but had to be postponed.

On October 16 there was a mis-coded Wireless Emergency Alert. The Washington State Patrol is still adjusting to the Everbridge software for non-AMBER alerts. It went out as an Eminent Threat Alert instead of a Public Safety Warning.

Committee Reports

Technical: The new rules for EAS will take effect on December 10, 2023. Sage will have an upgrade. Cost is not known at this time.

Training: Ted proposed creating a series of Tabletop Exercises. He has met with some emergency managers to discuss topics they would like to see. For flexibility there would be generic topics that can be customized for local conditions. It will be a future TAB. The concept has been well received.

Ted addressed the state Homeland Security Coordinators Quarterly Meeting in October about what is going on with public alert and warning in this state. He covered the transition from EAS to WA-PAWS and why it is occurring. It was well received.

RMT: The 2023 schedule needs to be finalized so it can be posted.

Local Area Reports

When Pacific County tried to send the November RMT, they discovered that their software could not remove Jefferson County. They had the Grays Harbor EM send it instead. This will be addressed.

Clallam County is still working on the update to their local plan. A Draft was sent to Ted who made some suggestions.

The Inland Northwest LECC met recently. The change in FCC requirements was discussed. They will be meeting again in January.

In the Mason/Thurston local area, there has not been any issues with recent monthly tests. Thurston County is rescheduling their WNEM test with the National Weather Service.

In the North Central local area, there was a problem with the state-wide October RMT. It was not coded for the counties in that local area. Usually, RMT's issued by the Spokane National Weather Service Office are coded for the Inland Northwest local area. When the test is part of a state-wide alert the North Central and Okanogan areas need to be added. In November, Rivercom did not run it for an unknown reason. The LECC is hoping to meet in February.

Stakeholder Reports

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: They will be meeting with the Washington State Patrol to discuss AMBER Alerts. They will issue a WEA Flash Flood Alert if mud flows develop in a burn scar area. They have started monthly coordination meetings with Washington State Emergency Management to get everyone on the same page regarding alert, warning and other issues.

MULTI-LINGUAL: It is a TAB and state law. There are languages other than Spanish and English. Some require special characters. Different systems handle translation differently. There are several translations options. Live translation is not perfect. Spokane has been translating documents and doing outreach to let people know about the different options to receive emergency messages in languages other than English.

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

The meeting ended at 10:37 AM.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

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	X
WEMD Multilingual	Lewis Lujan	X
NWS	Reid Wolcott	X
WEA	Bill Peters	
Amber Coordinator	Carri Gordon	X
Eastern WA Leaders	Sandi Duffy	X
	Charlie Osgood	X
Data Base Manager	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
FEMA Reg 10	Lloyd Kimball	X
Technical Committee	Lowell Kiesow	X
Comm Systems Chair	Phil Johnson	
Cable TV - Comcast	James Casson	
Administrative Assistant	Scott Sipe	X
Recording Secretary	Terry Spring	X
Amateur Radio	Monte Simpson	X
Test Coordinator	Roland Robinson	
WSAB	Keith Shipman	X

LECC Chairs

OPERATIONAL AREA	NAME	PRESENT
Central Puget	Phil Johnson	
Clallam	Anne Chastain	
Coastal	Pat Anderson	
Columbia Basin	Sean Davis	
Cowlitz/Wahkiakum	John Mackey Beau Renfro	
Inland N.W.	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
Kittitas	Brad Tacher	
Lewis	Ross McDowell	
Mason/Thurston	Tammy Wright	
North Central	Charlie Osgood	X
No. Puget Sound	Dave Halloran	
Okanogan	Maurice Goodall John Andrist	
Yakima	Angela Brown Mike McMullen	

OTHERS IN PREVIOUS ATTENDANCE

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Doug Blangsted	Kitsap Co. DEM	
Jerry Olson	KBPX Spokane	
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	
Frances Burkhart	Whatcom Co. EM	
Jason Shirron	King County OEM	
Hannah Cleverly	Grays Harbor EM	
Sharon Point	E. Whatcom	
Zac	Pierce County EM	
Dave Turnmire	Idaho SECC	
Barry Mishkind		X
John Ebner	Jefferson County EM	X
T. Chris Lee	Franklin County EM	X
Sonya Kroese	Mason/Thurston	X
Steve Bonner	Ferry County	X
Arthur Grunbaum	KGHI KGHE	X