

Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 AM by Chair Ted Buehner followed by roll call. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved and have been posted [here](#). There were no additions to the agenda.

Announcements

Yakima hosted an Everbridge Limited English Proficiency Workshop. The provider explained how to improve use of the program. The users gave feedback on their needs from an Emergency Management point of view. They also gave feedback to the state EMD. A portal has been created to help with English translation. Beta testing is under way. There is no cost for certain emergency messages. It attracted emergency personnel from both sides of the mountains. The emergency managers who attended have been working with Everbridge to get their issues resolved. The state is pushing for translations to be done at the local level. Most local jurisdictions have a local translation requirement, often with multiple languages. WA-PAWS TAB D-4 (Multilingual Info By County) has been updated.

The second ARS submittal has been made to the FCC. There were some issues with the Inland Empire local area and Northern Idaho which have been resolved. Approval is anticipated soon.

There was an IPAWS CAP outage on April 20. This emphasizes the importance of maintaining, using, and testing the analog backup systems, such as the LRN (Local Relay Network) radio links. Backhoe fades can happen at any time! Local amateur radio groups are often willing to help diagnose or repair radio equipment.

FEMA has designed some symbols to go with IPAWS emergency messaging. They should be helpful to people with disabilities, language barriers, etc. This effort is another tool in the toolbox to help disseminate emergency messages. See documentation [here](#).

A friendly reminder - a revision of the EAS Handbook has been released by the FCC. A copy is required to be available at all broadcast stations. Get it [here](#).

Old Business

The next SECC meeting on July 11 will be virtual. The 2024 schedule will be set in the near future, so if there are any second Tuesday dates that must be avoided, now is the time to bring them to our attention.

Updates to [WA-PAWS](#), the new state Emergency Alerting plan continues. As mentioned earlier TAB D-4 has been updated and should be posted soon. Note some of the data, such as the languages mentioned in the different counties, may not be totally up to date due to a time lag in data and reflect the latest available. If you feel a language is under-represented in your county, contact Lewis Lujan at the state EMD. His email is on the SECC Membership list. [WA-PAWS](#) is a living breathing document subject to frequent updates. If you see something that needs an update, please share that on the remailer.

Still no firm word on updates for Sage ENDECs due later this year. Previously, Sage said something would be released in June.

New Business

Some auto makers, such as Ford, have announced their intention to eliminate AM radio receivers from their vehicles. Nationwide, state broadcasters associations have been pushing back. There have been letters sent from members of Congress to the manufacturers and now a request for the manufacturers to testify before Congress. FEMA, the National Farm Bureau and other organizations, such as religious broadcasters and minority station owners, have been working to inform Congress that 100 million people still use AM radio every week. It is also the backbone of the Emergency Alert system. There is concern that FM will also be dropped in the future so the car manufacturers can go to a “pay for play” system. FEMA is actively engaged in this to make sure that the integrity of their analog backup system remains intact. If we have a major disaster, the internet backbone will most likely be off-line, leaving broadcasting as the only way to reach the population. [Here](#) is an editorial from the Seattle Times on the subject. If electrical systems in electric vehicles are left unshielded, then these vehicles could destroy AM reception in any nearby vehicles. Please share your thoughts on this with your Congressionally elected officials. You can use this [link](#). The form takes less than 60 seconds to complete. The National Association of Broadcasters has prepared a tool kit on the AM Radio issue, which you can find [here](#). This contains a lot of useful tools and information.

EAS virtualization would help keep the system safe from unauthorized tampering at the station level. Read about it [here](#). It must be designed so that the alert system doesn't fail if the internet goes off-line.

The FCC has issued an NPRM for improving Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on smart phones. They propose having alerts translated into 13 additional languages. It is probable that the alerts would be translated in the phone itself. Otherwise, the originators would spend most of their time translating. Once authorized, this translation feature will only be available in new phones. Older models would not have that capability, meaning implementation will take a long time (years) to implement. New York City already does this. They have full staff on duty 24/7 and personnel dedicated to the translation process. They use templates for each language created by an outside contractor. This is an opt-in system for the different languages. There will probably be many comments made to the FCC. See the Radio World article [here](#). If you have any thoughts or input on this subject, please send a message on the remailer. At some point the SECC will file comments on this NPRM with the FCC.

There has been a lot of frustration over the time spent trying to file the FCC required on-line reports and forms on FCC servers. The FCC is aware of the problem and struggling to resolve the issue(s). Barry Mishkind recently talked with the FCC and NAB, and says the best advice he has received is to file a complaint with the Commission. Nothing is going to get done to fix the situation until enough people file complaints about the time it takes to file these reports. Email addresses can be found on the FCC website, fcc.gov.

Committee Reports

Tech: The SRN (State Relay Network) is non-functional at this time. Lowell has talked with EMD and they have passed it on to their communications department. The problem is the link between EMD and the WSP microwave network. Lowell will be working with them. There have been retirements in the EMD communications department and their replacements are working to get up to speed.

Training: Ted has authored a draft of a new TAB, Tabletop Exercise Scenarios. These have different exercises covering different emergency or disaster scenarios that might be encountered in our region. The scenarios are very general and are meant to be customized for a specific community or area. They have general questions that are meant to encourage discussions among local emergency responders. They can be used at an LECC meeting, or other meetings that have different groups represented such as emergency managers, broadcasters, law enforcement, etc. The goal is to become more effective and efficient in our public alerts and warnings. Lloyd suggested that it is important to not just

simulate actions during training exercises. Actually doing different actions, for example pulling up a template, makes it easier to do in an actual emergency. Ted will send the draft out on the remailer for feedback.

RMT: Roland has been sending out reminders to RMT originators. They are appreciated and seem to be helping. We will start working on the 2024 schedule in September with the goal of having it finalized by the November meeting. If you have any comments on the schedule, please share them on the remailer in advance.

Local Area Reports

In the Central Puget Sound Local Area, Phil has completed the local area plan update and will be presenting it when he has signatures from all participants.

The Coastal area will be having another LECC Meeting soon and are focused on updating their local plan and their local relay network.

The Inland Northwest has completed their EAS plan and have collected enough signatures to send it to the state for posting.

Last year, Lewis County was able to use WEA for the first time during the Goat Rock fire. They used two towers to shoot out the evacuation notice. They now understand how far those two towers reach. They have many short-term rentals in the east end of their county. WEA is able to reach people that are in the area temporarily. They discovered that the message needs to be very site-specific. Links to maps can be included. Lloyd cautioned that when you do that, to make sure the server being used has the bandwidth to handle the load.

In Mason/Thurston, they are updating their EAS plan to include IPAWS. Their next LECC meeting is scheduled for July.

The North Central area was supposed to meet in April, but the meeting was moved to May 18. They had a shelter in place alert that went out in early April for all of Chelan County. They soon realized it was causing a lot of concern and sent a revised alert that was more specific – a lesson learned.

In North Puget, Dave pointed out that there is a link that shows all the active WEA Alerts for the entire country. See it [here](#).

Stakeholder Reports

The NWS is doing a non-weather emergency message test on May 17 with the Washington State Patrol. It will be a DMO. The weather service is continuing to

simplify their messaging. They plan to consolidate message headers for flood watches and advisories soon.

Other Business

The LAAWW (Language and Acceptability in Alert and Warning Workgroup) is meeting on May 11. It is connected to the WEA NPRM. If anyone from the group is able to attend there will be a report next meeting.

The meeting ended at 11:14 AM.

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

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 11, 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.

To subscribe to the Washington State EAS remailer, follow this [link](#).

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	
WEA	Bill Peters	
Amber Coordinator	Carri Gordon	
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	X
Cable TV - Comcast	James Casson	
Administrative Assistant	Scott Sipe	X
Recording Secretary	Terry Spring	X
Amateur Radio	Monte Simpson	
Test Coordinator	Roland Robinson	
WSAB	Keith Shipman	X

LECC Chairs

OPERATIONAL AREA	NAME	PRESENT
Central Puget	Phil Johnson	X
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	X
Mason/Thurston	Sonya Kroese	X
North Central	Charlie Osgood Brady Aldich	X
No. Puget Sound	Dan McDermott Dave Halloran	X
Okanogan	Maurice Goodall John Andrist	
Yakima	Angela Brown Mike McMullen	X

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Liz Jessee	Walla Walla Co. EM	
Jerry Olson	KBPX Spokane	
Arthur Willetts	KWDK	X
Bryan Clark	KITCOM	
Jim House	Coalition On Inclusive Emergency Planning	X
Peter Tassoni	TC EM	
Scott McDougall		
Hans Kahl	Skagit DEM	X
Joshua Atkins	Pierce Co. DEM	
Jason Shirron	King County OEM	X
Hannah Cleverly	Grays Harbor EM	
Cindy Braunheim	Sinclair	X
Ed Taylor	City Of Lacey	
Dave Turnmire	Idaho SECC	
Barry Mishkind		X
Pascal Schuback		
Justine Chorley		
Megan Woods		
Patrick Purcell	Walla Walla CTY EM	
Arianna Topbjerg	COTEM	
Whitney Maxwell	Hispanivision	X
Orson Bevins	Hispanivision	X
Andy Labarge	Hispanivision	X
Lisa Figueroa	City Of Redmond EM	
Andrew Bigelow	Yakima Valley EM	
Tyler Heinemann	Bainbridge Prepares/Bainbridge BEARS	
Nick Falley	Grays Harbor County EM	
Anna Piasecki	Jefferson County DEM	
Tammi Wright	Mason County EM	
Brady Aldrich	Northwest Public Broadcasting	
John Ebner	Jefferson County	X
John Price	Mason/Thurston Co.	X
Deanna Davis	Benton Co.	X
Keith Nealy	KIRO-TV	X

SIRIUS/XM EAS TEST SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time (ET)</u>	<u>EAS Test Type</u>
Monday, May 1, 2023	10:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Tuesday, May 9, 2023	11:46 PM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Thursday, May 18, 2023	3:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Wednesday, May 24, 2023	10:46 AM	Monthly / May Monthly Salvo
Saturday, June 3, 2023	2:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Friday, June 9, 2023	10:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Tuesday, June 13, 2023	11:46 PM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Wednesday, June 21, 2023	2:46 AM	Monthly / Jun Monthly Salvo
Thursday, June 29, 2023	3:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Friday, July 7, 2023	2:46 PM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Saturday, July 15, 2023	10:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	11:46 AM	Monthly / Jul Monthly Salvo
Sunday, July 23, 2023	11:46 PM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Tuesday, August 1, 2023	3:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Monday, August 7, 2023	2:46 PM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Tuesday, August 15, 2023	10:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Wednesday, August 23, 2023	3:46 AM	Monthly / Aug Monthly Salvo
Thursday, August 31, 2023	11:46 PM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Friday, September 8, 2023	3:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Saturday, September 16, 2023	2:46 PM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Wednesday, September 20, 2023	10:46 AM	Monthly / Sep Monthly Salvo
Sunday, September 24, 2023	10:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Monday, October 2, 2023	11:46 PM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Tuesday, October 10, 2023	3:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Wednesday, October 18, 2023	2:46 AM	Monthly / Oct Monthly Salvo
Thursday, October 26, 2023	2:46 PM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Friday, November 3, 2023	10:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Saturday, November 11, 2023	2:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Tuesday, November 14, 2023	3:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Wednesday, November 22, 2023	11:46 AM	Monthly / Nov Monthly Salvo
Thursday, November 30, 2023	2:46 PM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Friday, December 8, 2023	10:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Tuesday, December 12, 2023	11:46 PM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Wednesday, December 20, 2023	3:46 AM	Monthly / Dec Monthly Salvo
Thursday, December 28, 2023	10:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo