

# Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2023

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 and have been posted [here](#). There were no additions to the agenda.

## Announcements

There is a webinar for the upcoming national EAS test on September 6. This is presented by the Alabama Broadcasters Association. The BDR also had a discussion on the test. See it [here](#).

The fire on Maui was discussed. Keith pointed out that, in the event of a fire or other catastrophic incident, there is a high probability that there will be a loss of infrastructure and that devices such as cell phones will not work. His counterpart in Hawaii was frustrated by the local emergency management telling the public to go to their website and Facebook page when the internet and cell service was down. At the same time, the local radio stations were still on the air. He urged our emergency managers to keep this in mind. We have become dependent on this new technology, but the old analog backup systems may be the only things that work in an emergency. Keith reminded us that we went through this 40+ years ago when Mt. St. Helens blew up and the state warning system did not work. Both systems need to be tested regularly.

The 2024 Partners In Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held April 2-4 in Tacoma. One goal is to convey the lessons learned in Hawaii and to make sure that we in the Pacific Northwest learn and apply those lessons. We cannot rely on just one method of receiving emergency messages. For more information click [this](#).

September is National Preparedness Month, a great opportunity to get your community better prepared as we come into the fall and winter storm season.

The Partners In Emergency Preparedness September Webinar will be on Advancements In Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) with Brian K. Daly of AT&T. It will cover where WEA has been, where it is and where it's going. It is at 10:30 AM on September 14. For more information and to register, go [here](#). Previous webinars are archived on the website.

FEMA and the FCC are planning to conduct a nationwide EAS Test on October 4 at 11:20 AM Pacific time. They plan to test both EAS and WEA. The press release is [here](#).

Sirius/XM has extended their agreement to provide bandwidth to FEMA for alerting. This is a key element in our monitoring assignments. It adds redundancy to the national distribution of alerts.

Is it us versus them, or is it us together? [This](#) article by Richard Rudman talks about cooperation between public and private organizations for the common good.

### Old Business

It is time to start planning the 2024 SECC Meeting schedule. Ted has sent out a proposed schedule on the remailer. There were no objections.

2024 SECC MEETING DATES	LOCATION
Tuesday Jan 9	Anticipate SECC Meetings will remain virtual via Zoom until further notice, apart from perhaps a few well-advertised exceptions.
Tuesday Mar 12	
Tuesday May 14	
Tuesday July 9	
Tuesday Sept 10	
Tuesday Nov 12	

### [WA-PAWS TABS](#)

TAB D-3 (Local Area Communications Plan) has just been updated. There are a few remaining tabs in draft.

Please check TAB B-2 – the SECC roster - to ensure your contact information is up to date.

[WA-PAWS](#) is a living breathing document subject to frequent updates. If you see something that needs an update, please share it on the remailer.

### New Business

Roland has been working on the 2024 Required Monthly Test (RMT) Schedule. He is still awaiting approval from one county. It should be ready soon. It will be posted on the [WA-PAWS](#) website and on the remailer.

As a reminder, The Great Shakeout is coming on October 19 at 10:19 AM. This is originated by the four National Weather Service offices serving the state as an RMT, and part of the international drop, cover and hold earthquake drill. For more information, see [this](#).

The wrong FIPS code was used (Evacuate All Of Oregon) in Lincoln County, Oregon, in an IPAWS message for a local wildfire. The county had trouble originating the alert so they had the state do it. It is important to test and train so the originators are proficient on the different alerting systems. It was a learning experience for all involved.

During the recent fires in the Spokane area, things worked well but they still had some challenges. They use Code Red for all evacuation levels. In addition, they do WEA alerts for Level 3 (evacuate immediately) to reach more residents and visitors. They also launched an EAS alert for the Medical Lake fire due to the large area involved and the severity. There has been some discussion about whether EAS should have been used for some of the other fires and it will be discussed some more at their next LECC meeting. EAS Alerts can remind people outside of the fire area that fire conditions are such that a fire could easily be in their area, too. The EAS Alerts went out on the Weather Radio, but the NWS does not support WEA alerts at this time.

FEMA has released an IPAWS best practices document. It can be downloaded [here](#). Sandi at Adams County Emergency Mgmt shared this news. If you come across information that would be useful to our community, please share it on the remailer or with Ted or Lowell. FEMA has offered seminars designed for alert originators in the past. If they do it again, Lloyd will put out the information on the remailer.

What will the upcoming National Test mean for broadcasters, the general public and emergency management? For information is coming, but historically, it reaches broadcasters through the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and the public through Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA). Broadcasters must register and confirm participation, and then report their results.

### Committee Reports

Tech: Still waiting for the firmware update for the SAGE units. The upgrade is mandated to be completed by December.

Scott is still working on WA-PAWS TAB F-4 (Technical FAQ's). He plans on sending out a draft before the next meeting and having a completed document by the

next meeting. This document will continue to be refined. Input and suggestions are appreciated.

Training: Ted is still working on a new TAB that includes some tabletop exercise scenarios. These could be anything from earthquakes to hazardous materials. If there are any topics that you would like to see included let Ted know. These scenarios are meant to be tailored for your local area, and intended to bring together the different stakeholders like emergency managers, broadcasters, law enforcement, etc. With the inevitable turnover, these exercises can help integrate new people into the system.

### Local Area Reports

In the Central Puget Sound Local Area, Phil has completed the local area plan update. It took longer than expected. The plan is in two parts, the main plan and appendices with sensitive information that will have limited distribution. He used Clallam County's plan as a template. There was some confusion on how to get the plan posted on the WA-PAWS website. Link information should be sent to Ted and Lowell. They will update the LECC plan TAB D-3 and have it updated on the website. If the plan is not hosted locally there will have to be arrangements made with the state to do it.

In the Clallam County operational area, they used EAS and WEA to issue a warning for a wildfire that was headed to Forks. Fortunately, the wind shifted. They are considering changing their alert provider when their current contract expires. Anne at Clallam County Emergency Mgmt is looking for suggestions and recommendations, either pro or con. Due to their complex geography, alert dissemination is a challenge for them. The public must be aware of what particular system for information is going to work for them to ensure their self-preservation.

The Coastal area will have more LECC meetings before the end of the year and will focus on updating their local plan and their local relay network. They are planning to add their only local TV translator to the network. They now have a receiver monitoring the State Relay Network (SRN) but have not heard anything yet.

The Inland Northwest will have their next LECC Meeting in September at NWS Spokane and will include a tour. Alerting for the recent wildfires will be a discussion topic. Simone will be work on getting their revised LECC plan on the website.

In Mason/Thurston, their LECC is meeting this month. They plan to approve their local plan updates so it can be posted on the website.

The North Central area has had some severe weather and fire related alerts. The LECC is meeting in October to work on their plan revision.

In the Okanogan, they successfully sent their September RMT. Their alert software would not allow them to send an RMT through the National Weather Service. This is probably because the weather service does not relay RMT's at this time. If it is an actual alert, it should be relayed by NWS.

### Stakeholder Reports

On July 20, 2023, the NWS limited the CAP messages disseminated to FEMA IPAWS to only those that would activate Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA). This change was done to mitigate impacts after a FEMA IPAWS Update. See Notification [here](#). When this change was implemented, it resulted in inconsistencies between NWS CAP messages sent via IPAWS and the full suite of NWS CAP messages available from NWS direct sources. Users should be aware that monitoring both could result in duplicate alerting. More information [here](#).

### Other Business

The 2024 RMT Schedule should be out soon. Roland needs one more approval.

The meeting ended at 10:22 AM.

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

For information on joining the SECC remailer, go to [this link](#).

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 14, 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 5	
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Tuesday Nov 12	

Note –

- The above schedule can be altered by the SECC as needed, particularly if that second Tuesday of the month conflicts with a holiday or other special day.
- 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	
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	
	Charlie Osgood	X
Data Base Manager	Simone Ramel-McKay	
FEMA Reg 10	Lloyd Kimball	X
Technical Committee	Lowell Kiesow	
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	X
WSAB	Keith Shipman	X

## 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	X
Inland N.W.	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
Kittitas	Brad Tacher	
Lewis	Ross McDowell	
Mason/Thurston	Sonya Kroese	X
North Central	Charlie Osgood Brady Aldich	
No. Puget Sound	Dan McDermott Dave Halloran	X
Okanogan	Maurice Goodall John Andrist	
Yakima	Angela Brown Mike McMullen	



## OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Rich Lanford	KFQM Sequim	X
Chuck Wallace	City Of Everett	X
Larry Hembreet	Cowlitz County DEM	X
Frank Hewey	Klickitat County	X
Jeff King	Klickitat County DEM	X
Vickie Fontaine		X
Laurie Caswell	Okanagan EM	X
Barry Mishkind		X
Nick Falley	Grays Harbor County EM	X
John Ebner	Jefferson County DEM	X

## SIRIUS/XM EAS TEST SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time (ET)</u>	<u>EAS Test Type</u>
Friday, September 8, 2023	3:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
Saturday, September 16, 2023	2:46 PM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo
<b>Wednesday, September 20, 2023</b>	<b>10:46 AM</b>	<b>Monthly / Sep Monthly Salvo</b>
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
<b>Wednesday, October 18, 2023</b>	<b>2:46 AM</b>	<b>Monthly / Oct Monthly Salvo</b>
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
<b>Wednesday, November 22, 2023</b>	<b>11:46 AM</b>	<b>Monthly / Nov Monthly Salvo</b>
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
<b>Wednesday, December 20, 2023</b>	<b>3:46 AM</b>	<b>Monthly / Dec Monthly Salvo</b>
Thursday, December 28, 2023	10:46 AM	Weekly / Weekly Salvo