

Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM by Chair Ted Buehner followed by the roll call. There was a correction to the minutes. Rich Langsford is from KSQM in Sequim. Also corrected was the spelling of his name. The minutes with corrections from the previous meeting were approved and have been posted [here](#). There were no additions to the agenda.

Announcements

In Sioux City, Iowa, an erroneous boil water advisory was sent out accidentally. This was relayed by local media, which is how the system is supposed to work. Per the 2018 rule changes, erroneous activations need to be reported to the FCC within 24 hours. Local authorities need to report the erroneous activation to FEMA. We train to try and prevent these mistakes from happening.

Old Business

This is the meeting schedule for 2024. The May meeting is planned for Eastern Washington, probably in Ellensburg.

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 again. There is now a link to the Inland Northwest plan. Several local plans are still missing. The local plans can either be hosted locally or by the state EMD. Please send your updated plans to Lowell and Ted and they will arrange for them to be posted on the state website. If the local plan is to be hosted by the state, they will create a link that will be included to TAB D-3.

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

The National Periodic Test (NPT) in early October went well. There were a few reports of duplicate receptions and also being received in the wrong language.

The National Weather Service had some problems getting NWEM alerts from the Washington State Patrol during a recent test. A COG issue has been fixed. They will be testing the process again early in 2024. The eventual goal is to relay AMBER alerts from the state patrol over NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). The Great Shakeout and the associated Required Monthly Test (RMT) statewide via NWR went well.

The State Relay Network (SRN) remains out of service and Lowell will follow up with state EMD technicians soon.

FEMA's - When Minutes Matter: Alert and Warning Technical Assistance – is done several times a year. This training is mostly geared for the alert originators.

The 2024 Washington St Emergency Management Assn (WSEMA) conference has been scheduled for the second week in September, and creates a conflict with that month's SECC Meeting. A decision on where to move SECC meeting will be made soon.

New Business

The 2024 Required Monthly Test (RMT) Schedule has been approved and posted on the [WA-PAWS](#) website.

Committee Reports

Tech: The firmware upgrade for the SAGE EAS units is still not done. The FCC has granted an extension for those stations using SAGE boxes. There is some hardware problem that needs to be solved. For the latest information from Sage, click [here](#).

Training: Ted is still gathering input for the new WA-PAWS tab on this topic, and he has received some good information. All Input is welcome.

RMT: The old 2023 schedule will be removed after the December test.

Local Area Reports

In the Central Puget Sound Local Area, Phil is soliciting a replacement for himself. Contact Phil and let him know why you would like the job and what you could

bring to it. We will also need a new mail administrator. Lowell will either take that over or find a volunteer. We will also need to transition off Phil's Zoom account used for the SECC meetings.

In the Clallam County local area, their contract with Code Red expires in January. They have been having presentations from other providers. There are issues with changing providers, but they are having issues with Code Red.

The Coastal area is working on updating their local plan. They are still waiting to hear something from the State Relay Network (SRN).

In the Columbia Basin, the Great Shakeout went well. Some people got the test, some didn't on WEA. For those who did not receive the test on their phones, contact their phone provider.

Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties are working on their plan update. The Great Shakeout went well.

The Inland Northwest is still recovering from their fires over the summer. Their updated plan is now on the state website. Their plan was edited to strip sensitive information for the on-line edition. Their next LECC meeting is in January. They now meet quarterly.

In Mason/Thurston, Thurston County was recently made aware that they need a MOU with Mason County in order to send emergency messages for them. They are looking for someone who has an MOU that they can use as a template. Phil will be sending them some forms and information.

In the North Central area, there were no problems with the Great Shakeout, NPT or November RMT. Chelan County has been added to the test originator list. The reasoning is that if an organization originates actual alerts, they should also be originating tests. They are working to update their plan. They are now in the signature gathering phase and should have it posted early in 2024.

In the North Puget local area, they conducted a public survey of the NPT reception and had a good response. The Whatcom County Emergency Manager will be retiring soon.

Stakeholder Reports

Anyone who is waiting for a signature from WAEMD, please contact Chris. There was a hangup with their system, so he did not receive the requests. The state is now live with Everbridge. There are a lot of smaller entities that are showing

interest or applying to originate WEA alerts. They are encouraged to coordinate with their county. They should be in the LECC plan and participate in it.

Keith Shipman of the Washington State Association of Broadcasters facilitated his counterpart in Hawaii to come to the Partner’s Conference in April 2024, and give a presentation on the Maui firestorm. Registration for the conference should open after the first of the year.

Amateur radio has become part of the alerting process in Cowlitz County.

Other Business

Lloyd is retiring and leaving FEMA by the end of the year.

The meeting ended at 10:38 AM.

Please share future agenda items with SECC Administration Assistant Scott Sipe at 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, January 9, 2024, at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

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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	
WAEMD Chair	Kevin Wickersham	
WAEMD A&W	Chris Phillips	X
WAEMD Multilingual	Lewis Lujan	
NWS	Reid Wolcott	X
WEA	Bill Peters	
Amber Coordinator	Carri Gordon	
Eastern WA Leaders	Sandi Duffey	X
	Charlie Osgood	X
Data Base Manager	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
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	Ferry 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	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	X
Yakima	Angela Brown Mike McMullen	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Jason Shirron	King County OEM	X
Barry Mishkind		X
John Ebner	Jefferson County	X
Rich Langsford	KSQM Sequim	X
Laurie Caswell	Okanagan EM	X
Patio Patiel	KSPS Spokane	X
Arthur RD Grunbaum	KGHI-KGHE	X
Scott Neves	Cowlitz County DEM	X
Butch Lytle	Cowlitz County Aux. Communications	X
Ralph Roggenback	Cowlitz County Aux. Communications	X
Adenea Sellars	Stevens County DEM	X

SIRIUS/XM EAS TEST SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time (ET)</u>	<u>EAS Test Type</u>
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