

Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Chair Ted Buehner followed by the roll call. There were no additions to the agenda.

Announcements

There has been some discussion on the Oregon EAS remailer about using the weather service's RSS feeds to integrate emergency alert type messages. The Oregon SECC has replied not to do that. The WA-PAWS website has several ways to integrate emergency messages into your ENDEC.

The WA-PAWS website has a lot of useful information. See it [here](#).

The software update for the SAGE has not happened, yet. It looks like it won't happen until March. There is an FCC waiver in effect so anyone that uses that box is not in violation, yet.

The Message Design Dashboard (MDD) is being launched by FEMA. This was created by the University Of Albany and involved years of fantastic research on effective message design and creation. Training on the MDD is getting underway and the current training schedule has shared on the remailer. The details are still being sorted out, but it should be a great tool to use to compose effective emergency alert messaging. For more information look [here](#).

The key author of the MDD will be present a 3-hour training session at the Partners In Emergency Management in April as a part of the overall more than 40 sessions during the conference. More information is [here](#) and registration is set to open any day now.

Ted did a presentation on updates to public alert and warning systems for state homeland security Region 1 that encompasses Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island and San Juan Counties. Feedback was good. Ted hopes that the North Puget LECC becomes operational again as a result of this briefing.

The SECC uses a Google Drive for document storage. Ted went through it recently to make sure it is up to date.

Old Business

The 2024 SECC Meeting Schedule is now on the [WA-PAWS](#) website. There is a conflict with the September meeting. It will be addressed before then.

[WA-PAWS](#) TABS

Tab F-4 Technical FAQ - Because EAS is a mature system, questions about its operation are rare. The technical committee has to try and anticipate what the questions might be.

Tabletop Exercises: This is a proposed new TAB with exercises designed by Ted that can be used for training purposes. He sent out the latest version on the remailer a few weeks ago. He would appreciate feedback on the remailer. Ted is especially interested in feedback on the cover letter/opening page.

[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.

Senator Cantwell has sponsored legislation to provide funding for enhancing and increasing the reliability of the NOAA Weather Radio system nationwide. It has passed the Senate and has been passed onto the House of Representatives.

New Business

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

Committee Reports

Tech: Lowell continues to work with State EMD to solve the technical issues with the State Relay Network (SRN).

My State has changed servers. More information will be on the remailer when and if it becomes available.

Training: Ted is still looking for input. Please put feedback on the remailer.

Local Area Reports

In the Central Puget Sound Local Area, Phil is soliciting a replacement for himself. So far, only one person has expressed interest. He will be sending out another request soon. He would like to know why you would like the job and what you could bring to it.

In the Clallam County local area, Ron Cameron retired as Undersheriff/ Emergency Manager. A replacement is being sought. They are also in the process of switching from CodeRed to Everbridge.

The Inland Northwest LECC is meeting in January. They are still recovering from their fires over the summer. They are working with the National Weather Service to implement the issuance of fire warnings through the NWS.

In Lewis County, they report their CEMNET radio has a loud hum that almost makes it almost unusable.

For the Coastal area, they reported the NWS Blizzard warning for the Olympics was shared throughout the entire county instead of just the small mountain part of the county. The reasoning is that people can be traveling, such as between home and work. It is better to inform people so they are not traveling into dangerous conditions without any warning. They are planning a LECC meeting for 2024.

In Skagit Co, Hans recommended [Speechelo](#) for generating pre-scripted voice messages. It uses AI to generate realistic sounding voice messages.

In the Okanogan, Maurice wanted to know if Sirius/XM broadcasts local alerts. No, they only carry national alerts. Is there a way to know which stations or other entities are monitoring your alerts? Unfortunately, no, yet WA-PAWS does list monitoring assignments for broadcasters.

As a reminder, the RMT reminders go out on the remailer. If you aren't subscribed to the remailer you will not receive them.

As a clarification, Stations are not required to run all the RMT's generated in their coverage area. They are only required to relay one test a month and usually they will air the test that is from the area their studio is in. Also, they have up to one hour to relay the test.

Stakeholder Reports

Carri, from the Washington State Patrol, said that they are still working to get AMBER Alerts on to the NOAA Weather Radio Network. There were a couple of WEA alerts issued to the south sound area for some missing /endangered people. Both were successful with the recoveries attributed to the Alerts.

The WSP previously used Twitter (now X) to send out a hyperlink with a poster, additional information and pictures for an AMBER alert. Due to changes at X this is no longer possible. Everyone across the country is scrambling to find an alternative. The main issue is that the traffic generated by an alert is too much for most websites. No decision has been made in Washington yet.

Carri is planning to have a meeting of the AMBER Advisory Committee. It has been several years since the last meeting. This meeting will be virtual. Look for an announcement on the remailer.

Keith Shipman of the Washington State Association of Broadcasters has posted the 2024 RMT Schedule on the [WSAB](#) website. The First Informer Broadcaster Program has been tabled due to the Business Re-entry program being shut down by state EMD due to limited personnel issues. No word on when it might reopen.

Other Business

Ted will be giving a presentation on use of spot weather forecasts to the state group of search and rescue managers.

The Partners In Emergency Preparedness Conference will be April 2, 3 & 4. See more information [here](#). One of the presentations will be Keith's counterpart from Hawaii talking about the communications (or lack of) during the Maui fire storm.

The meeting ended at 10:39 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, March 12, 2024, at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

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	

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	X
Chair Emeritus	Clay Freinwald	
WAEMD Chair	Kevin Wickersham	
WAEMD A&W	Chris Phillips	
WAEMD Multilingual	Lewis Lujan	
NWS	Reid Wolcott	
WEA	Bill Peters	
Amber Coordinator	Carri Gordon	X
Eastern WA Leaders	Sandi Duffey	
	Charlie Osgood	
Data Base Manager	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
FEMA Reg 10	Lloyd Kimball	
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	
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	
Cowlitz/Wahkiakum	John Mackey Beau Renfro	
Inland N.W.	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
Kittitas	Brad Tacher	
Lewis	Ross McDowell	X
Mason/Thurston	Sonya Kroese	
North Central	Charlie Osgood Brady Aldich	
No. Puget Sound	Dan McDermott Dave Halloran	
Okanogan	Maurice Goodall John Andrist	X
Yakima	Angela Brown Mike McMullen	X

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Arthur Willetts	KWDK	X
Scott McDougall	Pacific County EMA	X
Hans Kahl	Skagit DEM	X
Joshua Atkins	Pierce Co. DEM	X
Jason Shirron	King County OEM	X
Hannah Cleverly	Grays Harbor EM	X
Ed Taylor	City Of Lacey	X
John Ebner	Jefferson County DEM	X
Rich Langsford	KSQM Sequim	X
Frank Hewey	Klickitat County	X
Jeff King	Klickitat County DEM	X
Arthur RD Grunbaum	KGHI-KGHE	X
Joanna Boggs	Pend Oreille County	X
Tina Bobbitt	Columbia County EM	X
Marcelina Medina	Pacific County EMA	X
Chris Arnesen	KATU	X
Siri McLean	Consultant (City of Edmonds)	X
Jon Lee	Washington SWIC	X
Adenea Sellars	Stevens County DEM	X
Jim Sande	City Of Everett	X

SIRIUS/XM EAS TEST SCHEDULE

2024 SIRIUS/XM RMT SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Originator
24-Jan-24	10:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
21-Feb-24	2:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
20-Mar-24	11:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
24-Apr-24	3:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
22-May-24	10:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
19-Jun-24	2:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
24-Jul-24	11:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
21-Aug-24	3:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
18-Sep-24	10:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
23-Oct-24	2:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
20-Nov-24	11:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
18-Dec-24	3:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz