

# Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 AM by Chair Ted Buehner. The previous minutes were approved. There were no additions to the agenda.

## Announcements

The September meeting will be moved to the third Tuesday, the 17<sup>th</sup>, due to a conflict with the [WSEMA](#) conference. The May meeting will be in Ellensburg at [KITTCOM](#).

The newly updated and expanded [Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network](#) (PSERN) has been launched. Multiple agency communication is the focus for this system, permitting them to talk with each other.

The Washington State EAS plan was submitted to the FCC ARS system in June 2022. The original FCC plan was to have an annual update in ARS. However, there has been no further word from the FCC. Less than half of states have completed their original submission. We will continue to keep WA-PAWS up to date and update ARS when informed to do so.

## Old Business

Our May meeting will be in person and at a central location permitting all across the state to attend and will be held at [KITTCOM](#) in Ellensburg. Some commented that the Zoom feed last year from Central Washington University was less than optimal, in part since Scott could not be there with his audio/visual equipment to support the Zoom hybrid meeting.

## WA-PAWS TABS

Tabletop Exercises: Ted sent out an updated version soon after the January meeting.

Bylaws – Nothing new.

Tab F-4 Technical FAQ - Scott has been working on the FAQ for the SAGE unit.

[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 long-awaited SAGE software update was released and was to be installed by March 11th. It was fairly simple for most units. There were some issues with older operating systems, solved by a simple file available from SAGE.

The RMT reminders sent monthly have been quite helpful and sharply reduced missed RMTs by local jurisdictions.

### New Business

A new WEA code for missing endangered persons has been proposed. WSP's Carri has been working with her former counter-part in California (who now works for FEMA). He has been gathering input on how some states are using WEA for missing/endangered persons alerts - a relatively new discussion. This could be part of the [Ashanti](#) Project. Some tribal governments have also proposed something similar to allow for the alerting of missing and endangered tribal members. Their recommendation is going to be that this would be a lower level (or WEA Lite) alert. These could be turned off, be less intrusive, and have fewer people turn them off. See the FCC NPRM [here](#). More information is [here](#).

Dr. Jeannette Sutton, the founder of The Warn Room and an associate professor at the University at Albany,, will be giving presentations on [IPAWS AWARE](#) at the upcoming [Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference](#) in April. She has been working with FEMA to improve IPAWS and WEA messaging. Dr. Sutton will share new developments in alert and warning research and practice, and show the latest technology that will enable risk communicators to design and disseminate effective messages. FEMA IPAWS will also be there as an exhibitor.

Keith Shipman was in Washington DC recently meeting with other broadcaster association executives. They met with Manny Centeno from FEMA to discuss missing and endangered alerts. Keith informed them what Washington State does - accept the messages but do not run them as EAS or WEA alerts. The information is shared with news organizations so that the information is disseminated, very effectively. Nationally, this new proposal is being driven politically by the current FCC Chairman. All 50 states pushed back on this proposal and Manny will take their response back to FEMA and Homeland Security authorities. Keith's position is this process should be carried out nationally as done in Washington, protecting the system so broadcasters will participate. Broadcaster participation is voluntary except for presidential messages. There is also a proposal for multi-language alerts. There is pushback because they are trying to expand EAS way beyond the EAN, putting a burden on

broadcasters. Carri said law enforcement believes WEA should only be used in a serious, life threatening situation so that they don't overwhelm and lose public involvement.

Monte and Simone are working on creating a WA-PAWS tab to provide further guidance for Amateur Radio in public alert and warning. Many counties are expanding their auxiliaries. Many people may not know the capabilities of amateur radio operators and what they do. This tab could be especially helpful for smaller counties. Cities and tribal entities should also be included. The [SHARES](#) program should also be included.

The National Weather Service and the Washington State Patrol had a recent successful NWEM test. Eventually AMBER Alerts will be broadcast over NOAA Weather Radio stations. Past test issues have been addressed and resolved. They are working on implementing the alerts at the four NWS offices that serve the state. This capability is available nation-wide, but it is up to the individual states whether it is actually implemented locally.

The State Relay Network (SRN) is still not operating. The SAGE box at the state is not connected to the system that feeds the network. Has the time come to pull the plug on the SRN? It has been down a long time and there have been few if any complaints about it not working. Also, receivers are hard to find. It is unknown how many stations are actually monitoring it. However, it is important to keep the analog backup systems going. The WSAB will send out a survey to find out how many are monitoring the analog SRN and LRN's (Local Relay Network).

### Committee Reports

Tech: Lowell reports that he has not been receiving RMT's from Lewis County. They stopped about the same time as Alert Sense was dropped at the state. He is wondering if they would be able to get a real alert out if they had to.

### Local Area Reports

For the Coastal area, they missed their March RMT due to another event that took precedence. More stations have started monitoring their LRN.

In the Cowlitz/Wahkiakum area, Wahkiakum County has a new Emergency Management coordinator, Austin Smith.

The Inland Northwest LECC will be meeting in April. They will only be meeting in person once a year.

In Kittitas County, apparently LECC Chair Brad Tacher no longer works for KXLE. George Long will be reaching out to find his replacement.

In the Mason/Thurston local area, they are working to get another meeting going.

The North Puget area successfully sent their monthly test. Their usual Legacy Alertsense interface was gone, but they were able to use the IPAWS interface with no problems.

There is some question whether all the counties in the state have the ability to send IPAWS Alerts. According to FEMA, all the counties in Washington have the capability, but it is unknown if they have been properly set up. They might be sending alerts and not have them go anywhere.

In Skagit Co, they are testing regularly so their people get the chance to run them. It helps with their redundancy and allows different people to be able to do different jobs.

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 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

At the National Weather Service, Andy Brown from their Spokane office has been promoted to Meteorologist-in-Charge and the process of hiring a new Warning Coordination Meteorologist is underway. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Portland office released their new public zones, reconfiguring their alerting areas. Seattle will be doing the same in September. More information is in the chat below.

From the Washington State Association of Broadcasters, the FCC is planning to reinstate the Equal Opportunity Employment Form. This would be part of the public file. Broadcasters are opposed because it would allow special interest groups to scrutinize hiring practices.

### Other Business

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 public alert and warning issues during the Maui fire storm.

The meeting ended at 10:47 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 in person on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 9:30 AM in Ellensburg at [KITTCOM](#). Zoom will be available.

# CHATBOX

10:02:49 From Sid Brown Idaho OEM to Everyone:

Could you provide a link to register for that conference?

10:03:20 From Ted Buehner to Everyone:

Piepc.org to register and obtain more info

10:03:30 From Sid Brown Idaho OEM to Everyone:

Thank you

10:21:49 From Jerry Olson to Everyone:

In Spokane, most of the ISPs feed through a single building downtown. We have been subject to backhoe fade on a few occasions.

10:35:19 From Simone Ramel-McKay, Spokane County EM to Everyone:

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/integrated-public-alert-warning-system/public-safety-officials/alerting-authorities/agencies-organizations>

10:43:17 From Reid Wolcott - NWS Seattle to Everyone:

Seattle: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ad23cf705e754f7ea7c6452e03a7d501>

10:43:26 From Reid Wolcott - NWS Seattle to Everyone:

Portland: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4f96fcc650f340b7a48a86596d4beb93>

10:48:08 From Barry Mishkind to Everyone:

[www.thebdr.net/TLG/](http://www.thebdr.net/TLG/)

10:48:25 From Barry Mishkind to Everyone:

Chuck Kelly talking about retirement... and planning

10:48:36 From Barry Mishkind to Everyone:

11 AM Thursday

10:48:41 From Hans Kahl (Skagit DEM) to Everyone:

thanks everyone

10:49:26 From Scott McDougall to Everyone:

Austin C. Smith

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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 17	
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 remainder, 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	X
WEA	Bill Peters	
Amber Coordinator	Carri Gordon	X
Eastern WA Leaders	Sandi Duffey	X
	Charlie Osgood	
Data Base Manager	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
FEMA Reg 10	Lloyd Kimball	
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	
Test Coordinator	Roland Robinson	X
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	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 (SunComm) Mike McMullen	X

## OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Jerry Olson	KBPX Spokane	X
Scott McDougall	Pacific County EMA	X
Hans Kahl	Skagit DEM	X
Jason Shirron	King County OEM	X
Barry Mishkind		X
Nick Falley	Grays Harbor County EM	X
Arthur RD Grunbaum	KGHI-KGHE	X
Adenea Sellars	Stevens County DEM	X
Chris Arnesen	KATU	X
Julie de Losada	Skagit County EM	X
George Long	Kittitas County Volunteer	X
Rbaca1		X
Sid Brown	Idaho OEM	X



# SIRIUS/XM EAS TEST SCHEDULE

## 2024 SIRIUS/XM RMT SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Originator
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