

Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 AM by Chair Ted Buehner. This is the only in-person meeting of the year, in Ellensburg, at [KITTCOM](#). The people present introduced themselves. The previous minutes were approved. There were no additions to the agenda.

Phil Johnson passed away on March 19. His obituary is [here](#). There will be services on June 9 at [Evergreen Washelli](#) at 2 PM. A moment of silence in honor of Phil was held.

Announcements

Jason Shirron is the new Central Puget Sound LECC Chair. He is Technical Operations Manager at the King County Office of Emergency Management. He would like to hear from anyone in the CPS Area. Shoot him an email (jason.shirron@kingcounty.gov). He would like to have a meeting soon.

The SAGE updates should be completed by now. The units must be connected to the internet in order to do the update. Spokane and Lewis County had some issues that may or may not have been connected to the upgrade.

Congress recently approved \$535 Million in funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The funding has been allocated.

Old Business

The September SECC meeting has been moved to the third Tuesday, the 17th, due to a conflict with the [WSEMA](#) conference.

The Technical FAQ TAB is still being worked on. The draft for the DASDEC section should be posted on the remailer for comments soon. Lowell is working on the SECC By-Laws draft update.

New Business

The new Kittitas LECC Chair is George Long. He is working on having Emergency Management originate alerts and tests, rather than one of the local radio stations – a best practice statewide.

Brady requested that local LECC meetings be announced on the remailer. [Northwest Public Broadcasting](#), for one, has stations in many local areas and

being aware of upcoming LECC meetings allows for NPB to potentially participate.

ACTION: LECC Chairs – Place upcoming LECC meeting announcements on the state EAS remailer.

The FCC is requesting comments on multi-lingual alerts to gather additional information and feedback. The National Weather Service thinks it's a good idea, but not easily implemented. WEA would be easier to implement rather than with NWEM. Ted pointed out that automated systems that translate from English to another language cannot offer perfect translation. Translation would be better done by the user rather than the originator.

There has been some problems with accessing the upgraded Message Design Dashboard [Message Design Dashboard](#) Training. They are working on it. The FEMA version is live and active.

There are constant changes in the [WA-PAWS](#) plan [TAB B2](#) SECC roster as personnel change positions or retire. There should be a revision out soon.

Committee Reports

Training: Here are some great resource sites. The Message Design Dashboard is [here](#). Click [here](#) for the Warn Room. If you are an emergency message originator it would be beneficial to check these sites out. They are great sources of information. [Partners in Emergency Preparedness](#) held a webinar with FEMA on IPAWS. They have webinars periodically on various subjects related to emergency preparedness. Most of the webinars are archived on the PIEPC [site](#).

Ted was asked to do a commentary on the situation with the Tolt Dam in Carnation for KIRO-FM focused on not being dependent on just one source of emergency warning information. Many downstream from the Tolt River Dam are focused on the outdoor siren system in place by Seattle Public Utilities. But the National Weather Service is involved with a flash flood program for the area. There is also EAS Alerts from the broadcasters. King County also has opt-in resources. If there is an actual emergency, the information is going to be disseminated in as many ways as possible.

RMT: With some recent personnel changes, Roland will work with Simone to make sure he, and the [RMT SCHEDULE](#), have the correct contact information. He will put together the 2025 draft schedule soon and place it on the remailer. Roland's expects he will hear back from all LECC chairs and once revisions have been made and consensus has been reached, he will put it before the SECC.

Local Area Reports

In Clallam County, this is the last meeting for Anne Chastain. She is retiring on June 1. Justine Chorley will be her replacement. They are updating their plan to show the switch to Everbridge. She is looking for LECC By-Laws. Please share if you have some. Hans at Skagit County is also interested in any By-Laws.

In the Coastal area, they had their first LECC Meeting in a while and will meet again in June. Grays Harbor did the RMT in place of Pacific County so they could test their ENDEC. Apparently, there have been issues with it for some time. The audio quality was not what it should be, so they did the RMT using IPAWS. They are working on getting everybody on their Local Relay Network and have them test it regularly. They are also working to expand their Local Relay Network to Pacific County.

The Washington State EMD reports that there is nothing new on the State Relay Network. Lowell is invited to reach out with support to resolve the SRN issues.

In the Inland Northwest LECC, Spokane County is working with local fire departments and the National Weather Service to prepare for the upcoming fire season. They will be issuing fire warnings through EAS as appropriate. Their goal is to be more specific in the fire warnings and specify actions that they expect the public to take. In preparation, they will be doing an NWEM test with the National Weather Service and distribute PSA's to the local media. Spokane County has commissioned surveys that have shown that, even though social media is important, traditional media is where many people get their local news.

In the North Central area, Chelan County originated a RMT for the first time. They figure that if an entity can issue alerts, they should be able to do tests. They are in the final stages of updating their plan. Mireya Garcia is the new LECC Chair.

The North Puget area will be meeting on May 30 with many participants for planning for the upcoming fire season. Fires have not been that common in their area in the past. Smoke is also becoming a consideration that wasn't that much of an issue in the past. There is an application with the FCC for a new LPFM station on Orcas Island.

In the Okanogan, EAS will be used for fires. Maurice would like to share EAS scripts among the various LECC's. This can be done on the remailer. If you are not on it, sign up instructions are below. Their recent tests have been okay.

Stakeholder Reports

Chris at the state EMD is always willing to help in any way he can. He has a backlog so please be patient with him. They are working with the NWS to update their NAWAS manual to take some of the administrative burden from the weather service.

The National Weather Service has successfully tested the AMBER Alert procedures. They are preparing to issue AMBER Alerts over NOAA Weather Radio starting on June 3 through all four NWS offices that serve the state.

In amateur radio, a TAB is being drafted that will provide information to emergency managers about what amateur radio can do to support public alert and warning. This role referred to as ACS (Auxiliary Communications Systems) because systems other than amateur radio are involved. Look for a draft on the remailer soon.

Other Business

The LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) Conference was discussed. They need participation from broadcasters. Could the LECC's be involved with this? Maybe the LEPC could participate in their LECC.

The meeting ended at 11:02 PM.

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 with Zoom on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

CHATBOX

09:31:17 From John EbnerJefferson county EM : Can you please send me the URL to get the recording of this meeting?

09:46:01 From Ted Buehner : Jason.shirron@kingcounty.gov

09:49:39 From Christopher Phillips - WAEMD AWC Supervisor : Lowell Kiesow <lkiesow@knkx.org>

10:08:42 From Reid Wolcott - NWS Seattle : NWS Comments on the FCC proposal sent to the SECC list serv.

10:08:49 From Christopher Phillips - WAEMD AWC Supervisor : Reacted to "NWS Comments on the ..." with 👍

10:10:57 From Scott N7LOL :
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_message_design-dashboard.pdf

10:11:15 From Scott N7LOL : <https://www.thewarnroom.com/>

10:16:15 From Ted Buehner : George.long@cwu.edu

10:19:49 From Christopher Phillips - WAEMD AWC Supervisor : Congratulations on your impending retirement, Anne!

10:20:01 From Hans Kahl (Skagit Co, WA DEM) : SDend to Skagit as well please

10:20:19 From Hans Kahl (Skagit Co, WA DEM) : send DEM@co.skagit.wa.us

10:22:07 From Anne Chastain : Anne.chastain@clallamcountywa.gov

10:22:27 From Anne Chastain : justine.chorley@clallamcountywa.gov

10:23:12 From Anne Chastain : You are so sweet. Thank you! You've been great neighbors.

10:26:23 From Jonathan Brock WA-EMD 911 Unit : I have a message in to Lowell and will coordinate restoration of connectivity with him.

10:27:28 From Christopher Phillips - WAEMD AWC Supervisor : Reacted to "I have a message in ..." with ❤️

10:27:51 From Scott N7LOL : Reacted to "Anne.chastain@clalla..." with 👍

10:43:48 From Reid Wolcott - NWS Seattle : Hans - we can test the NWEM dissemination portion into the NWS as well

10:47:19 From Larry @ Cowlitz County DEM : Basecamp? to share scripts

10:47:36 From Hans Kahl (Skagit Co, WA DEM) : Great read I will need to speak to you about how that would look I'm not real comfortable about my knowledge.

10:47:47 From Reid Wolcott - NWS Seattle : Reacted to "Great read I will..." with 👍

10:56:53 From Barbara Ayers, Skamania County EM : Barbara Ayers New Emergency Manager in Skamania - ayers@co.skamania.wa.us

10:57:37 From Christopher Phillips - WAEMD AWC Supervisor : Christopher.Phillips@mil.WA.gov, should anyone need to reach me

10:59:11 From Reid Wolcott - NWS Seattle : Gotta hop to the next call. Thanks all. reid.wolcott@noaa.gov if you need anything.

10:59:35 From Joshua Atkins - Pierce County DEM : Thanks folks. Gotta go

11:00:16 From Simone Ramel-McKay, Spokane County EM : Thanks Barbara!

11:01:41 From Christopher Phillips - WAEMD AWC Supervisor : Thanks all!

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](#).

*Attended in person. All others via Zoom.

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		
Technical Committee	Lowell Kiesow	
Comm Systems Chair		
Cable TV - Comcast	James Casson	
Administrative Assistant	Scott Sipe	X
Recording Secretary	Ferry Spring	X*
Amateur Radio	Monte Simpson	
Test Coordinator	Roland Robinson	X
WSAB	Keith Shipman	X

LECC Chairs

OPERATIONAL AREA	NAME	PRESENT
Central Puget	Jason Shirron	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	George Long	X*
Lewis	Ross McDowell	X
Mason/Thurston	Sonya Kroese	
North Central	Charlie Osgood Brady Aldrich	X* X*
No. Puget Sound	Dan McDermott Dave Halloran	X
Okanogan	Maurice Goodall John Andrist	X
Yakima	Angela Brown (SunComm) Mike McMullen	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Arthur Willetts	KWDK	X
Keith Neely	KIRO-TV	X
Justine Chorley	Clallam County EM	X
Nick Falley	Grays Harbor County EM	X
John Ebner	Jefferson County DEM	X
Arthur RD Grunbaum	KGHI-KGHE	X
Claudia Self	KXLE	X*
Austin Smith	Wahkiakum County DEM	X
Jonathan Brock	WA EMD 911	X
Wayne Rankin	Orcas Island AEC	X
Jesse Spurgeon	KPQ	X
Barbara Ayers	Skamania County EM	X
Amanda Keverkamp	Mercer Island	X
Brian Clark	KITTCOM	X*
Holly Woll-Salkeld	Whatcom County DEM	X
Jarrold Dibble	Snohomish County DEM	X
Joshua Adkins	Pierce CountyDEM	X
Justin Henriksen	Stephen's Media Group (KRSE)	X

SIRIUS/XM EAS TEST SCHEDULE

2024 SIRIUS/XM RMT SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Originator
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