

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 9, 2024

Time: 9 – 11:00 a.m.

Committee Member Attendance:

Bill Kehoe, Chair (WaTech)

Spencer Bahner (City of Seattle)

Chief John Batiste, (WSP)

Anton Damm (DNR)

Mike Grant (for DFW)

Andrew Johnson (for APCO-NENA)

Ralph Johnson (State CISO)

Tim McDowell (for WSDOT)

Brandon McKinney (WA Fire Chiefs)

Adam Wasserman (for MIL-EMD)

Staff:

Angela Knight (WaTech)

Jon Lee (MIL)

Welcome, News and Information Roundtable, Approval of 2/13/24 Minutes

News and Information Roundtable:

Angela combined roll call with roundtable updates.

Anton Damm (DNR) - announced the release of the 2024 cooperator frequency guide; mentioned that there are no changes for 2024; those interested can request a frequency sharing agreement [here](#).

Adam Wasserman (for MIL/EMD) – confirmed that as of June 6 MIL/EMD will take over administrative control of the SIEC and start updating the bylaws and other administrative details.

Ralph Johnson, (State CISO) – received information on a 2026 World Cup Emergency Communications Planning Workshop in Dallas, TX, May 14-15. Adam W. confirmed he will be attending along with Jon Lee, Chris Lombard (Seattle Fire Chief) and various Seattle city planners.
Action: follow up needed on Office of Cybersecurity (OCS) involvement, if any.

Andrew Johnson (APCO-NENA) – no specific APCO updates, but asked for any statewide equipment, personnel or resources to add to the Central Area Puget Sound Region Tactical Interoperability Communications Plan (TICP), which is currently being updated.

Bill reviewed the agenda. Angela confirmed quorum.

Feb. 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Bill briefly reviewed the minutes from the Feb. meeting. The minutes were approved.

WSP LMR Strategic Plan Presentation – Tom Wallace

Tom Wallace, CIO at the Washington State Patrol (WSP) presented a detailed strategic plan focused on enhancing their Land Mobile Radio (LMR) environment over the next 5-10 years. The plan, developed in collaboration with Federal partners and supported by legislative funding, aims to align technological advancements with WSP's business needs.

Key elements of the strategy include:

Increasing Statewide Coverage: Expanding radio coverage, particularly in under-served areas, to enhance connectivity for dispatch and other users across different districts.

Improving System Reliability: Enhancing the resilience of the communication system to withstand large-scale disasters through updates and a sustainable life cycle approach for equipment.

Simplifying Usability: Streamlining operations by adopting standard nomenclature for channels and a uniform design for user interfaces, making the system easier to manage and operate.

Adopting New Technologies: Integrating emerging technologies like LTE and Wi-Fi to complement the existing LMR system, including implementing Wi-Fi in vehicles to facilitate real-time data upload from new body cams being deployed to troopers.

The plan also emphasizes training personnel, updating dispatch console designs, and establishing interoperability across various jurisdictions and agencies to ensure a cohesive response capability. These strategic directions are underpinned by the necessity to develop, test, and implement these improvements while considering financial feasibility and system complexity.

Jon Lee from MIL emphasized the need for national interoperability standards to prevent system silos and complexity, advocating for standards-based systems like P25 for radio and CAD systems. Vendors should ensure interoperability as a condition of national contracts. Tom agreed, highlighting the ongoing challenge with vendors' proprietary technologies and the necessity for vendor collaboration to enhance system compatibility and simplify technology integration. Tom also confirmed that standardizing channels and talk groups would apply both within WSP and across partner networks, including local government, to streamline operations and improve coordination.

Tom then highlighted two key priority areas for enhancing interoperability across state communication systems:

1. **Pursuing Advanced Technology:** emphasized the need for technology solutions that integrate seamlessly at a lower cost, promoting the sharing of infrastructure to reduce expenses.
2. **Vendor Partnerships:** focused on leveraging technology partnerships to foster simplified interoperability.

Bill Kehoe, SIEC Chair, also stressed the importance of including the SIEC in legislative communications to present a cohesive front when discussing the budget and technology needs with lawmakers to facilitate better understanding and support from legislative bodies.

A future meeting will include discussion about plans to review outreach strategies developed by WaTech's legislative director. These strategies include crafting one-pagers and arranging meetings with key House and Senate staffers to discuss investment strategies. It's recommended to include the SIEC in these efforts to enhance communication and include these initiatives as a tracked objective in the Statewide Interoperability Communication Plan (SCIP) strategic plan updates.

Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) – Bill Kehoe, Jon Lee

The discussion focused on refreshing the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) strategic plan. Key actions and strategies include:

- Schedule a half-day session, facilitated by CISA, to thoroughly update the SCIP, incorporating additions, deletions, and clearer definitions of goals.
- Prioritize incremental actions on the SCIP's goals and objectives to transform plans into actions.
- Introduce a new column for prioritizing objectives within the SCIP.
- Evaluate and possibly refine or remove outdated objectives to align with current needs and better ideas.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities, particularly what it means to be an owner of an objective.
- Focus on increasing regional representation in SIEC work groups as a key objective to enhance overall functionality and responsiveness.
- Expand Regional Collaboration: Focus on the Columbia River Gorge area to enhance interoperability across the Washington-Oregon border and establishing governance policies.
- Establish and Convene Subcommittees: Prioritize the formation of the Strategic Planning Committee and explore forming additional committees such as cybersecurity.
- Formalize Communication with the State Broadband Office: Address the office's recent changes and their focus on federal broadband programs, defining how they can support the mission and vision of the SIEC.
- Enhance Information Sharing with Cybersecurity Office: Clarify the role of the Office of Cybersecurity in supporting the SIEC, defining specific information sharing templates and communication best practices.
- Ensure Regular Meetings and Updates: Schedule regular updates and meetings for the committees to maintain momentum on current initiatives and ensure continuous progress.
- Map Interoperability Statewide: Identify and map current interoperability capabilities and gaps across the state, using this data to guide future projects and funding decisions.

SWIC Updates – Jon Lee

Jon provided an update on the initiatives involving the Strategic Planning Committee and the Bridge4 Public Safety communication platform. Key actions discussed:

- **Recruitment for the Strategic Planning Committee:** Jon is actively seeking members for this committee. Interested individuals should reach out to him directly via email at jon.lee@mil.wa.gov.
- **Promotion of Bridge4 Public Safety:** Jon discussed the platform's capabilities and its successful implementation in other states. This system enhances interoperable communications across various platforms and agencies, crucial for handling public safety operations efficiently.
- **Demonstration and Adoption of Bridge for Public Safety:**
 - Schedule a demonstration of the Bridge4 Public Safety to illustrate its functionalities and benefits.
 - Discuss the platform's costs and logistical details to prepare for a formal decision.

- Aim for a formal adoption or vote on the use of the platform at the next SIEC meeting.
- **Integration with Existing Systems:**
 - Ensure the platform is hosted in the Gov Cloud to comply with CJIS standards.
 - Allow users to attach their own retention policies within the administration portal.

Carrier Updates

Armada - Abby Eastman presented Armada's role as an authorized reseller of Starlink and its specialized platform designed to manage Starlink assets. Here are the key highlights and actions from her discussion about Armada:

- **Introduction of Armada:** Abby introduced Armada as a new company, founded in December 2022, which partners closely with SpaceX to extend the Starlink offerings to more tailored commercial and government applications.
- **Armada's Platform:** Armada has developed a management platform built on top of Starlink's technology that allows organizations to manage their fleets of Starlink devices efficiently. This platform is particularly aimed at enabling government and commercial entities to leverage Starlink's connectivity solutions.
- **NASPO Contract Accessibility:** Abby mentioned that Armada's services, including the hardware and service plans of Starlink, are available through the NASPO contract, simplifying procurement processes for government customers.
- **Use Cases for Government Entities:**
 - Armada's solutions are ideal for emergency responses where traditional communication infrastructures are unavailable or unreliable.
 - Departments can benefit from real-time data connectivity in remote locations.
 - Public safety applications where connectivity is crucial for operations in remote or critical infrastructure areas.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Dept. of Natural Resources and NORCOM expressed interest in discussing ways to use this platform, so Abby will follow up with those teams.

FirstNet - Kyle Abernethy provided an update on the significant reinvestment in the FirstNet program. Here are the key highlights and actions from his discussion:

- **FirstNet Reinvestment:** The authority has committed to a ten-year reinvestment plan in FirstNet, amounting to \$8 billion. This includes a \$6.3 billion network contract with AT&T and an additional \$2 billion allocated for enhancements in public safety coverage.
- **Expansion and Evolution of FirstNet:**
 - Deploy preemption across all AT&T 5G commercial spectrum.
 - Develop a standalone 5G core to improve 5G functionalities specifically for public safety needs.

- Plan the transition of band 14 spectrum from LTE to 5G, ensuring modernization and enhanced service delivery.

Verizon - Devin McCoy reported they are actively discussing Jon Lee's requests with their leadership and ensuring leaders from both Washington and Oregon are involved. The team also expressed their willingness to engage in discussions about interoperability, either individually or through comprehensive sessions during their SWIC tour.

Bill emphasized to all carriers that what is most helpful is to bring specific use cases and suggestions on how they can help the state increase interoperability.

Good of the Order/Public Comment

Bruce Richter of CISA mentioned FEMA Region 10 Regional Emergency Communications Working Group meeting. He also reported a recent successful cyber-attack on a public safety communication system in the Midwest due to lack of multifactor authentication.

Brandon Smith of CISA provided an update on completion of phase one on a project to do assessments at various PSAPs across Washington, focusing on NG911 and LMR LTE convergence and interoperability. He also requested to discuss with the SAW Group an interoperability repeater request from the Tulalip tribe.

Daniel Hypes: Shared information related to a possible FCC vote on whether or not to reclassify broadband Internet access service as a telecommunications service - [April 2024 Open Commission Meeting | Federal Communications Commission \(fcc.gov\)](#).

Bill adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Action Items

Topic	Action	Assigned to	Deadline

Next Meeting

June 10, 2024, 9-10:30 a.m., Olympia