

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 13, 2024

Time: 10 – 11:00 a.m.

Committee Member Attendance:

Bill Kehoe, Chair (WaTech)
Spencer Bahner (City of Seattle)
Sheriff Glenn Blakeslee (WASPC)
Dongho Chang (WSDOT)
Chad Cross (WA Fire Marshall)
Anton Damm (DNR)
Robert Ezelle (MIL-EMD)
Andrew Johnson (APCO-NENA)
Ralph Johnson (State CISO)
Brandon McKinney (WA Fire Chiefs)
Bill Tensfeld (WSAC)
Tom Wallace (WSP)

Staff:

Angela Knight (WaTech)
Jon Lee (MIL)

Welcome, News and Information Roundtable, Approval of 11/16/23 Minutes

News and Information Roundtable:

Angela combined roll call with roundtable updates.

Tom Wallace (for WSP) - reported ongoing efforts to replace mobile, portable radios, and base station equipment; interoperability discussions involving PSERN and King County; will update the committee on WSP's LMR strategic plan in April.

Andrew Johnson (APCO-NENA) – he coordinated the meeting focused on interoperability between King County agencies and Washington State Patrol (WSP), as well as between Snohomish County and WSP.

Dongho Chang (WSDOT) - announced their ongoing efforts to secure a decision package for maintenance funding of their LMR system, with discussions set to begin in May.

Robert Ezelle (MIL/EMD) – shared that the state now has a dedicated Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), Jon Lee, who recently joined the Military Dept. and is actively getting acquainted with ongoing state activities.

Brandon McKinney (Wa Fire Chiefs) - reported highlights of ongoing projects focused on updating their agreement documentation. He mentioned the signing of new agreements with both a private organization and a public entity.

Bill reviewed the agenda. Angela confirmed quorum.

Nov. 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

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

Legislative Update – Angela Kleis

Angela Kleis, the new Director of Policy and External Affairs for Washington Technology Solutions (WaTech), shared her background and provided a legislative update, highlighting that WaTech was tracking about 68 bills on various technology-related issues, with a focus on a specific bill concerning the agency's name and operational responsibilities. The SHB 1947 will clarify Washington Technology Solutions' name alignment, reaffirm its status as the single IT agency for the state, and details the transfer of the SIEC authority to the Military Department. Angela mentioned a scheduled public hearing and addressed minor amendments and questions raised about the bill, emphasizing the unchanged role of the Chief Information Officer.

SIEC Subcommittee Update – Jon Lee

Jon Lee, new State Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), proposed the creation of subcommittees under the SIEC, specifically highlighting the formation of a Strategic Planning Committee to develop the SIEC's strategic plan and ensure the alignment of goals and objectives across the council. Drawing from Oregon's example, he advocated for this committee to help align technical and strategic efforts within the SIEC. The decision was made to move forward with establishing the Strategic Planning Committee after seeking consensus among members, marking a significant step for the committee's organizational structure and strategic direction. A champion is required to lead and members will consist of staff, SMEs,

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) Update – Bill Kehoe

Bill provided updates on the State Local Government Cyber Grants program, a collaborative effort between WaTech and the Military Department. The program successfully created and approved a cyber plan, leading to the approval of 71 grants through a planning committee and its subgroup. These grants aim to address significant cybersecurity gaps in local governments, tribes, education jurisdictions, and municipalities. Of these, 51 agreements have been finalized, with 20 pending signatures, and reimbursements are expected within 3-6 months. The program's success highlighted the importance of cybersecurity across all sectors, especially critical infrastructure and emergency management. For the upcoming fiscal year, over \$5 million is available for grants, up from \$3.7 million in the first year, indicating a significant opportunity for further applications to close security gaps.

Bill also emphasized the requirement for grant recipients to submit a Nationwide Cybersecurity Review (NCSR) annually, a self-attestation of security maturity, to support ongoing funding programs and underscored the unique approach of Washington in directly allocating funds to local jurisdictions, setting it as a model for the country.

SAW Group Updates – Jon Lee

Jon Lee, new State SWIC, assumed the chair position of the SIEC Advisory Work (SAW) Group from Anton Damm on January 9. Key priorities covered included:

- Updating the Communication Assets Survey and Mapping Tool (CASM) and creating a strategic plan for its management and improvement.
- Conducting a PACE workshop to create a replicable framework for other agencies across Washington.
- Developing task book drills to qualify and credential many trainees in Washington, ensuring readiness for events like the World Cup 2026.
- Enhancing membership and stakeholder engagement to improve interoperability and support for local agency projects.
- Forming subcommittees within the saw to address specialty areas and assist local agencies with specific issues was explored.
- Recruitment for both the SAW and the SIEC for involving more participants and improving stewardship of state funds.
- Emphasized a user-updated database through CASM to improve participation and data accuracy at both regional and local levels.

Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) – Jon Lee

Jon discussed the goals and objectives, focusing on establishing regular communications with international and neighboring state partners, and highlighted the importance of networking to avoid first-time meetings during incidents. He mentioned the utilization of the CASM tool, aiming for a user-updated database model to enhance information accuracy and participation. Additionally, he covered the adoption of standard radio equipment for grant-funded purchases, aligning with FEMA and SAFECOM guidelines, and mentioned efforts to develop a framework for PSAP self-assessments across Washington State.

Carrier Updates – Jon Lee

FirstNet - Kyle Abernethy from AT&T's FirstNet team outlined the efforts to enhance interoperability in Washington, highlighting the partnership with the Federal Government and the deployment of two mission-critical push-to-talk solutions to improve communications among multiple agencies and integrate with existing LMR networks. He noted the significant infrastructure expansion, including the launch of 187 new cell sites since January 2018, with 51 specifically for FirstNet, supported by an \$8 billion reinvestment announced for the network's next ten years. Abernethy emphasized ongoing projects aimed at expanding LMR coverage through LTE and enhancing interoperability through mutual aid capabilities, inviting collaboration and partnership with interested parties.

Verizon - Devin McCoy from Verizon, along with colleagues Shy Aguilar and Randy Carnes, presented on Verizon's efforts to support public safety through real-time data sharing across applications and improving network resilience and coverage, especially in rural areas. Randy detailed Verizon's continued investment in extending 5G capabilities, deploying emergency assets during disasters, and acquiring additional resources like snow cat assets to enhance network robustness and responsiveness to jurisdictional requirements, expressing readiness to collaborate with AT&T and ensure effective communication for citizens.

Jon emphasized the crucial need for public safety and government officials to have GETS (Government Emergency Telecommunications Service) and WPS (Wireless Priority Service) cards for

priority communication during emergencies, regardless of carrier claims about built-in priority and preemption services.

Good of the Order/Public Comment

Bill acknowledged John's positive impact as the SWIC, acknowledging his role in advancing projects and pushing forward important goals from the SCIP.

With no public comment, Bill adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Action Items

Topic	Action	Assigned to	Deadline

Next Meeting

April 9, 2024, 9-11:00 a.m., Camp Murray