State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Meeting Minutes

Date: November 16, 2023

Time: 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Committee Member Attendance:

Bill Kehoe, Chair (WaTech)
Spencer Bahner (City of Seattle)
Sheriff Glenn Blakeslee
Dongho Chang (WSDOT)
Anton Damm (DNR)
Zack Hudgins, Vice Chair (WaTech)
Ralph Johnson (State CISO)
Captain Phil Johnson (DFW)
Katy Myers (APCO-NENA)
Bill Tensfeld (WSAC)
Tom Wallace (WSP)
Adam Wasserman (MIL/EMD)
Angela Knight (WaTech)

Welcome, News and Information Roundtable, Approval of 8/8/23 Minutes

News and Information Roundtable:
Angela combined roll call with roundtable.

Tom Wallace (for WSP) - Provided updates on three ongoing initiatives: the replacement of mobile and portable radios funded this biennium, the integration of cellular technology in pursuit vehicles through FirstNet and LMR, and the progress of their LMR strategic planning process. The LMR strategic plan's details were not presented but will be brought to a future meeting.

Dongho Chang (WSDOT) - Announced the staffing of their wireless centralized group and their pursuit of a decision package for 2025-2027 to secure funding for ongoing maintenance of their existing LMR system.

Anton Damm (DNR) – Shared a new law, referred to as 1498, that streamlines the use of fire aviation assets for initial attack, allowing for broader access to DNR aircraft beyond DNR fires, which poses interoperability challenges related to frequency use and agreements. He mentioned the acquisition of two additional air-to-air channels for interagency use on the west side of the state and shared insights from a FirstNet Public Safety Advisory Committee meeting, highlighting the integration of Starlink into rapid deployables and the lack of consistency in purchasing Starlink service across agencies. He also indicated that any findings from the Attorney General's office regarding Starlink service procurement would be shared to facilitate easier access for agencies.

Adam Wasserman (for MIL/EMD) – Reported the end of the fire season and the transition into flooding season, with the current activation at level 3 indicating no major events. He announced the hiring of Jon Lee as SWIC, his upcoming participation in the SAFECOM meeting in Florida, and discussions on preparations for the World Cup 2026 in Seattle, along with the initiation of a Regional

Resilience Assessment Program by CISA to evaluate the convergence of next-generation 911, LTE (like 5G), and LMR for vulnerabilities.

Zack Hudgins (WaTech) - Mentioned that that the State Local Cybersecurity Grant Program has successfully funded numerous 9-1-1 centers, with the next application round opening early 2024 and the state cyber plan and all recommended projects approved by CISA, leading to the release of funding to communities.

Captain Phil Johnson (DFW) - Announced that they are in the process of procuring body-worn cameras, aiming for all officers to be equipped by July 2024. Additionally, they secured two compact rapid deployables from FirstNet to support their UAV program and are collaborating with DNR radio technicians and Skagit County on installing a repeater to improve coverage in remote areas east of Marble Mountain.

Katy Myers (APCO-NENA) - Reported on their recent state conference held in Wenatchee, where they hosted several technology-related classes, including three focused on radio and interoperability. She expressed interest in gathering more training resources for their next forum in March, particularly for leadership or PSAP 9-1-1 director/coordinator tracks.

Bil reviewed the agenda. Angela confirmed quorum.

June 13 and August 8 Meeting Minutes:
Bill briefly reviewed the minutes from the June 13 August 8 meetings. The minutes were approved for both meetings.

FirstNet Update – Brett Johnson

Brett Johnson, Public Safety Advisor for Region 10, introduced himself and discussed his role in supporting tribal matters and enhancing public safety through FirstNet. He emphasized the importance of stakeholder input for FirstNet's success and outlined the ongoing process of reinvestment, including a focus on expanding network coverage and integrating 5G capabilities. The discussion highlighted the significance of feedback from public safety agencies to guide FirstNet's priorities and the anticipation of further collaboration to improve interoperability and leverage FirstNet's capabilities in Washington state.

SAW Group Updates – Anton Damm

Anton Damm, SAW Group Chair, reviewed discussions from their Sept. meeting, including the significance of the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) and the potential expansion of subcommittees within the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) to enhance efficiency and achieve more targeted results, inspired by Oregon's model. He highlighted the ongoing efforts to address cybersecurity, promote P25 system adoption among public safety agencies, and the necessity of inventorying communication systems statewide to identify and address interoperability challenges. He also touched on the integration of emerging technologies like electric vehicles and Starlink into public safety operations, noting the importance of understanding their impact on communications infrastructure. Bill Kehoe added emphasis on the alignment of state markers with the Statewide Interoperability Communications Plan (SCIP) goals and objectives, suggesting that updates to the SCIP should reflect advancements and align with national standards and objectives.

There was further discussion on the challenges and potential for establishing an enterprise contract with Starlink for state use, noting the difficulty in negotiating terms and the need to become comfortable with minor risks in the terms of service. They acknowledged the effectiveness of Starlink technology for remote connectivity and discussed the current consumer-oriented acquisition process, expressing a desire to standardize service plans and management for state agencies and share finding to benefit broader public sector use.

SCIP Document Update Review – Bill Kehoe

Bill led a discussion on the Statewide Interoperability Communications Plan (SCIP), emphasizing the need to focus on and update various areas including governance, technology, cybersecurity, and regional collaboration. He proposed establishing subcommittees to address specific objectives, highlighted the importance of securing funding through grants, and would like to plan another full-day SCIP convening in the first quarter of 2024 to refine goals, assign ownership, and develop an action plan. He also stressed the significance of aligning SCIP markers with objectives for clearer progress tracking and updating the SCIP to reflect current priorities and timelines. Further updates could include the consideration of new objectives such as FirstNet integration, updates the CASM system and implementing an electronic field operations guide (eFOG) to enhance field usability and interoperability.

SIEC Subcommittee Recommendations – Bill Kehoe

Bill led the discussion and William Chapman, the Oregon SWIC, shared insights on their robust committee structure, highlighting the benefits of having diverse subcommittees for technical, strategic planning, partnership, and public safety broadband, which informed discussions on improving Washington's SCIP committee structure and interoperability efforts.

Request Legislation to move SIEC to Washington Military Department – Zack Hudgins

Zack Hudgins, Vice Chair, outlined a 90-page bill proposing updates to WaTech policy and standard development, modifications for consistent statutory references, and a significant shift in the support and administration of the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) from WaTech to the Military Department, with implementation anticipated no earlier than July 2024 if approved.

Good of the Order/Public Comment

Daniel Hypes, Chelan PUD and a member of the SAW Group, mentioned that the FCC is actively seeking comments on a notice of proposed rulemaking regarding reestablishing open Internet protections, which may include provisions on cybersecurity, highlighting the relevance of this development to the discussions on subcommittees.

Bill adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Action Items

Topic	Action	Assigned to	Deadline

Next Meeting

February 13, 2024, 10-11:00 a.m.