

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 8, 2023

Time: 10 a.m. – Noon

Committee Member Attendance:

Bill Kehoe, Chair (WaTech)

Spencer Bahner (City of Seattle)

Chief Batiste (WSP)

Anton Damm (DNR)

Zack Hudgins, Vice Chair (WaTech)

Tom Wallace (WSP)

Adam Wasserman (MIL/EMD)

Angela Knight (WaTech)

Welcome, News and Information Roundtable, Approval of 6/13/23 Minutes

Welcome:

Bill welcomed everyone. He reviewed the agenda.

News and Information Roundtable:

Angela combined roll call with roundtable.

Tom Wallace (WSP) - Shared they are in the process of replacing outdated LMR base stations, a significant investment. The WSP strategic plan is still in the process of being internally vetted and refined, with a plan to share it as an agenda item at a future SIEC meeting when ready.

Spencer Bahner (City of Seattle) - Announced that King County had successfully transitioned to the new PSERN system. The county decommissioned the old communication infrastructure, which had served first responders for 25 years. He also highlighted the success of interoperability for SeaFair involving various agencies in the Greater Seattle area, but noted some challenges with interoperability with the Washington State Patrol due to the transition, which they were actively addressing at the technician level.

Anton Damm (DNR) – Shared that during the fire season they have deployed technicians and repeater systems in Washington and Oregon, and appreciate FirstNet support. He highlighted an ongoing project to expand radio coverage, their first significant patch with a trunked system operator, aiming to use it as a template for connections to other major systems, including PSERN.

Adam Wasserman (for MIL/EMD) – Provided updates such as progress on establishing the SWIC position, hosting the new FirstNet CEO and Executive Board at Camp Murray in August, the completion of text-to-911 implementation statewide, and plans for tabletop exercises and preparations for the 2026 World Cup event in Seattle. He also mentioned the potential need for assistance with interviews for the SWIC position.

June 13 Meeting Minutes:

Bill briefly reviewed the minutes from the June 13 meeting, but there was no quorum to approve.

Introduction and Brief FirstNet Update

Brett Johnson introduced himself as the new Northwest representative for FirstNet Authority. He shared his extensive law enforcement background. Brett emphasized the need for feedback from public safety professionals regarding the FirstNet responder network's performance and invited participants to provide their input through a survey to help shape future investments. He noted that he is based in Medford and plans to be actively involved in the Northwest region, engaging with the community in person and virtually.

Bill added he would like regular updates and discussions about how to maximize the use of FirstNet in Washington, particularly focusing on opportunities for increasing interoperability, learning from other jurisdictions, and staying informed about new features and functions that could benefit the state's mission and vision.

SAW Group Updates – Daniel Hypes

Daniel Hypes, Chelan County PUD member of the SAW Group, reported on several topics, including the proposed interop channel plan, upcoming FirstNet Board meeting and conversation on Starlink around the intention to create a contract, gather cost estimates, and consider an enterprise level package, with an emphasis on Starlink's flexibility to meet mission-oriented needs. Additionally, Daniel mentioned the successful PSAP cyber security exercise that took place on July 12th, in which he participated as an observer and noted some interesting takeaways.

Cybersecurity Grant Updates – Applications – Zack Hudgins

Zack provided updates on the State Local Service Grant Program (SLSGP), which is a federal funding program under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). He mentioned that the applications for SLSGP were submitted and due on July 18th, with over 140 eligible projects requesting funding. The total requested amount exceeded \$15 million, while the program had approximately \$3 million in grant funding available for distribution. The projects covered a wide range of objectives, including planning, policy development, incident response plans, assessments, firewalls, security hardware, software, and training.

Zack outlined the next steps in the grant process, including the planning committee's review of projects, notification to applicants, revising the investment justification, and executing grant agreements. He also mentioned that the Fiscal Year 2023 NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) had been released, ensuring that those who missed out on the current application cycle would have another opportunity to apply for funding. The State had already secured funding for the match required for the entire four-year grant period, providing stability for the program. The presentation highlighted the diverse range of entities applying for the grant, including cities, counties, tribes, special purpose districts, schools, colleges, and state agencies.

Bill added the committee received a significant number of well-researched applications addressing diverse security needs, including 911 systems and critical infrastructure. The program aims to distribute funds quickly to help close these gaps and enhance cybersecurity across the state, taking a more holistic, whole-state approach to cybersecurity. He encouraged SIEC members to support and promote this initiative within their jurisdictions, as the next funding opportunity is already available for the upcoming year.

SCIP – Bill Kehoe

Bill emphasized the importance of tracking progress on the SCIP objectives and dates. He highlighted the need to focus on the vision and mission of achieving seamless, interoperable, and resilient communications and enabling a statewide interoperable public safety communication strategy. He proposed establishing a communication subcommittee to work on developing a communications plan and also forming a cybersecurity subcommittee. He also discussed the completion of objective 1.5 related to funding for a statewide interoperable communications coordinator (SWIC) position. He mentioned the need to reach out to the State Broadband Office to strengthen collaboration. Additionally, he raised the importance of the SIEC's role in alerts and warnings across the state, seeking input and ideas on how to fulfill this objective. Future agenda topic will be a briefing for members and then regular updates. The SAW Group may be asked to do some preliminary work on listing interoperability gaps for potential future work with a consultant on a more formal assessment, as well as discuss more about establishing subcommittees.

Good of the Order/Public Comment

No public comment.

Bill adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Action Items

Topic	Action	Assigned to	Deadline

Next Meeting

November 16, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.