



Date: June 13, 2023

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Committee Member Attendance:

Bill Kehoe, Chair (WaTech)
Spencer Bahner (City of Seattle)
Chief John Batiste (WSP)
Sheriff Glenn Blakeslee (WASPC)
Dongho Chang (WSDOT)
Chad Cross (State Fire Marshall)
Anton Damm (DNR)
Robert Ezelle (MIL/EMD)
Zack Hudgins, Vice Chair (WaTech)
Captain Phillip Johnson (DFW)
Ralph Johnson (WaTech)
Brandon McKinney (Fire Chiefs/RedNet)
Dan Myer (ATNI)
Katy Myers (APCO-NENA)
Tom Wallace (WSP)
Adam Wasserman (MIL/EMD)
Angela Knight (WaTech)

Welcome, News and Information Roundtable, Approval of 4/11/23 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 refining their final strategic plan. The core focus areas include their people, processes, and technology, with a vision set for the next 5 to 10 years. A crucial aspect of the plan is its interoperability component, maintaining strong partnerships with various agencies within the community for seamless interoperability. WSP plans to share the final plan with this committee to gather feedback to ensure a comprehensive approach to achieving interoperability across agencies.

Spencer Bahner (City of Seattle) - Spencer provided a quick update on the PSERN program in King County. The west portion has already transitioned, and the south portion is set to transition soon, with minor pending issues. The northeast portion will fully transition in late July or early August, completing the migration to the new system.

Dongho Chang (WSDOT) announced that the wireless decision package, funded in the previous legislative session, will be implemented in July. The wireless team will transition from regional-based to a statewide service.

Anton Damm (DNR) – renewed State repeater agreement, which is also used by Fish and Wildlife and Parks; early negotiations with Crescent are underway for the first interagency LMR, LTE interoperability channel.

Robert Ezelle (MIL/EMD) - reported that the required cyber security plan to qualify for the cyber security grant was completed and thanked members of WaTech, EMD and planning committee. The plan was emailed on June 12. They are currently working on the process of scoring grant applications and determining how to award the funding. They have received a significant number of applications, three times more than the available funds.

Adam Wasserman (for MIL/EMD) – shared news about the availability of funding for a full-time SWIC position. They have developed a position description and will share it with the members for feedback by June 20. Once they gather feedback and make any necessary edits, they will release the position for continuous applications until filled, likely in mid to late July.

Phillip Johnson (DFW) - refurbishing hardware at 27 base stations; radio upgrades; installing routers in fleet vehicles; experimenting with Telex RDC for better communication; requesting unit IDs from PSERN; expanding dispatch center staffing to 7; investing in 37 new setphones.

April 11 Meeting Minutes:

Bill reviewed the minutes from the April 11 meeting. Motions to approve and second, all present members approved. Minutes were approved effective June 13, 2023.

NIFC/NIICD Capabilities Briefing – Kirk Maskalick, US Forest Service

Kirk presented information on The National Communications Division (NCD). NCD provides communication support for all incidents, nationally and internationally, issuing repeater systems, frequencies, and Type 3 caches. They have their own aircraft with infrared operations for mapping fires. NCD manages a wide range of incidents, including natural disasters and law enforcement operations. They offer various communication equipment, including radios and satellite phones, free of charge for incidents. Frequencies are available for 30 days and can be extended, but there may be limitations in some cases. NCD conducts training courses for communication leaders and technicians, aiming to update and enhance their skills. They operate in rotation within Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs) and are ready to assist incidents with communication needs. For more information or questions, individuals can contact the CDO office at the provided number.

SAW Group Updates – Anton Damm

Anton Damm, SAW Group chair, shared the next technical assistance request involves developing the interoperability channel plan for WA state, which will be called the WaFOG. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) acquired 16 FirstNet compact rapid deployables, available for use outside of DNR, and can be deployed across the state.

Anton attended the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (SWICs) meeting and expressed excitement about getting a full-time SWIC. There was a discussion about the varying effectiveness of different states in their work, with Oregon being considered highly effective.

He reminded everyone about the emergency response capabilities of all carriers, such as T-Mobile and Verizon, who provide LTE solutions for communication during incidents. He offered assistance in connecting with carrier contacts if needed.

Anton closed with comments about the great work in Curry County, OR to recover from their ransomware attack.

Cybersecurity Grant Updates – Zack Hudgins

Zack provided an update on the State Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, which is part of the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act. The planning committee worked on the plan, addressing the 16 required elements, which was completed and adopted on June 6 and submitted to FEMA and CISA. The application process is almost complete, with a meeting scheduled to finalize it. Applications will be accepted at the end of the month for about four weeks.

The notice of intent response so far has been overwhelming, with over a hundred interested local jurisdictions submitting projects amounting to over \$15M in requests, while only \$3M is available. The selection of projects for the first year will happen by the end of July, and the applicants will be notified. The funding is a reimbursement program, where local jurisdictions need to put the money up front, and the state legislature covers all the matching funds. Funding should be released by the end of October if all requirements are met.

Overall, the program has been successful and has garnered significant interest, though there is a concern that the demand in the first year may outweigh the available funds.

SIEC members were encouraged to review applications, if interested.

Next meeting will include a report of actual applications.

Legislative Session Update – Bill Kehoe

Bill discussed legislation that recently passed, Substitute Senate Bill 5518, which focuses on cybersecurity and affects various entities, including the Military Department and the Technology Services Board (TSB). The bill created a Cybersecurity Advisory Committee under the Emergency Management Council (MIL), aimed at strengthening cybersecurity in critical infrastructure sectors. The committee includes representatives from local governments, tribes, state agencies, higher education, the technology sector, and first responders. Activities include incident response exercises, quarterly meetings, annual joint meetings with the TSB Security Subcommittee, and a joint annual report. The TSB Security Subcommittee already exists, but is now codified and will be open to the public to address proposed security policies and standards, activities such as tabletop exercises and reviewing emergent cyber security threats, and reports up to the TSB. Bill invited interested SIEC members to serve on the TSB subcommittee.

Adam Wasserman from MIL-EMD shared they are in the process of hiring a position to run the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee and hope to have that up and running by September.

SCIP Goals Workshop

Bill discussed portions of the State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) document. He stressed the need for a comprehensive action plan associated with each objective in the plan. These action plans should outline the specific steps, responsibilities, and timelines required to achieve the stated goals, and include regular progress reporting with measurable results to ensure transparency and accountability.

He then reviewed examples of objectives from the plan and their current status. For instance, under the goal of enhancing and expanding interoperable communications and governance throughout the state, an objective was to develop and execute a Communications Plan. Bill pointed out that this objective was due for completion in September 2023, just three months away, and suggested that a group of members could come together to work on this plan.

Bill proposed the idea of a hybrid workshop for the next SIEC meeting, where members could meet in person and virtually. The main focus of the workshop would be to review and update the objectives, ensure clarity, assign ownership to each objective, and create action plans for the incomplete objectives. He highlighted the need for a more action-oriented approach to make tangible progress towards achieving the SIEC's mission and vision of increased interoperability. The workshop could also include discussion on the formation of subcommittees, such as one for cybersecurity, to foster better communication and collaboration on specific focus areas.

Good of the Order/Public Comment

Safecom National Survey is open through September. They need as much data as possible. It takes about 30 minutes to complete. Contact Anton.Damm@dnr.wa.gov for the URL for your version of the survey.

No public comment.

Bill adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

Action Items

| Topic | Action | Assigned to | Deadline |
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Next Meeting

August 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.