

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 11, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 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)
Anton Damm (DNR)
Zack Hudgins, Vice Chair (WaTech)
Captain Phillip Johnson (DFW)
Brandon McKinney, Fire Chiefs/RedNet
Dan Myer, ATNI
Katy Myers (APCO-NENA)
Jerrod Nordloh (DNR)
Bill Tensfeld
Adam Wasserman (MIL/EMD)
Dennis Weber (WSAC)
Chris Welch (DOC)
Angela Knight (WaTech)

Welcome, News and Information Roundtable, Approval of 10/20/22 and 2/14/23 Minutes

Welcome:

Bill welcomed everyone. He reviewed the agenda.

News and Information Roundtable:

Angela combined roll call with roundtable.

Adam Wasserman (for MIL/EMD) – EMD is monitoring legislation and hopes to get funding for the positions in the Emergency Operations Center, which includes the position that will have Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) duties.

Dan Myer (ATNI) - there will be a tribal conference held May 8-11 and hosted by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. He will update the tribes on SIEC activities.

Katy Myers (APCO-NENA) – She announced a 911 PSAT Director Training Forum in May at the Capital Events Center. They are still seeking training or presentation materials that would be relevant to their audience of statewide leadership.

Dennis Weber (WSAC) – He supports funding efforts, and is willing to reach out to folks in Olympia if needed.

Tom Wallace (WSP) - provided updates on various aspects related to their Land Mobile Radio system; discussed their legislative requests, mentioning they received funding for communications infrastructure and mobile and portable radio replacements.

10/20/22 and 2/14/23 Meeting Minutes:

Bill reviewed the minutes from the October 2022 and February 2023 meetings. Motions to approve and second, all present members approved. Minutes were approved effective April 11, 2023.

Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) – David Mendel

David Mendel gave a presentation on PSERN, also known as the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network. The project was initiated around 2008 and started implementation in 2015. PSERN aimed to replace and upgrade the existing radio systems in King County, including equipment, dispatch centers, and towers. The project involved building new infrastructure and installing approximately 18,000 end-user radios. The governance of the project was a joint effort, with regional representation ensuring that the needs of all users in and around King County were met.

The scope of PSERN included the deployment of a turnkey P-25 network, replacing outdated equipment, and establishing 20 different sites, including dispatch centers. The project involved constructing new towers and shelters to house the equipment. The focus was on ensuring interoperability between agencies and improving emergency communication capabilities throughout the county.

David highlighted the establishment of a new governmental entity for operating the system in King County. The nonprofit agency was incorporated three years ago, and it now has an executive director and a board of directors. The project has successfully delivered a fully independent radio system that covers the county, exceeding the coverage and audio quality requirements. The system is designed to have 97% reliability and has been tested to surpass those standards. The project has also focused on subscriber programming and cross-programming with existing networks and agencies in King County and surrounding areas.

He also discussed the status of the project, highlighting the completion of radio infrastructure and the transition of various agencies to the PSERN network. Around 9,000 radios have been deployed, including major agencies such as Seattle Fire, Seattle Police, Sound Transit, Seattle Public Utilities, and King County Sheriff. The project is in the process of transitioning all users and plans to complete the deployments and transitions by midsummer. The project is expected to conclude in the first half of 2024.

Spencer Bahner from the City of Seattle provided further insight. He emphasized the positive results and benefits of the project, such as improved coverage, audio quality, and seismic resilience. He also mentioned the ongoing efforts to fine-tune the system and address interoperability challenges during the transition phase. Neighboring counties have not shown substantial interest in expanding the network further, but he highlighted the potential benefits of a unified system for enhanced interoperability and connection among agencies.

SCIP Document Review – Bill Kehoe

Bill Kehoe, SIEC Chair, discussed the importance of the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) document, which is the strategic plan for improving emergency communications and interoperability. He emphasized that the SCIP should not be a static document but a dynamic guide that is actively used in meetings. His intention is to have the SCIP at every meeting and to engage in discussions around the objectives and goals outlined in the document.

Bill also introduced Ralph Johnson, the State Chief Information Security Officer, and confirmed his appointment to the committee.

Bill highlighted the mission of the SCIP, which is to support public safety practitioners and improve communication and interoperability across jurisdictions. He stressed the need to focus on interoperability and increase engagement and progress in this area.

The SCIP includes goals related to governance, technology, cybersecurity, and funding. He emphasized the importance of communication, both within the committee and with external partners. He mentioned the need to develop and execute a communications plan to improve information sharing and participation across the state. He also discussed the possibility of forming subcommittees, such as a cybersecurity subcommittee, to focus on specific domains and disciplines.

The implementation plan for the SCIP includes objectives with designated owners and initial completion dates. Bill highlighted some upcoming dates in 2023 that require action, such as developing a communication plan and discussing the formation of subcommittees. He emphasized the role of the SIEC and its responsibility to move these goals forward. He also mentioned the need to increase communication and coordination with state broadband office and other organizations.

With the completion of this updated document, a motion was made to approve, there was a second, all present members approved.

SAW Group Updates – Daniel Hypes

Daniel Hypes, the Cybersecurity lead for the fiber and telecom group at Chelan County PUD and SAW Group member, provided a few updates from this team's March 9 meeting. He mentioned the desire to shorten the existing Washington Field Operations Guide (WaFOG) and align it with the format used by Arizona for their interoperable channels plan. They also discussed the development of an electronic WaFOG app, with examples from Texas and South Carolina. Another topic was the revitalization of the Washington Oregon Joint Interoperability Committee (WORJIC) and the search for a representative from Washington. Lastly, the State Patrol presented a pilot project for a mobile network prototype, which they offered to demo in a future meeting,

Cybersecurity Grant Updates – Zack Hudgins

Zack Hudgins, Privacy Manager and SIEC Vice Chair, provided an update on the State Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). The program will provide \$1 billion over four years to support cybersecurity needs of local governments in all 50 states. In Washington State, the grant amount for the first year is approximately \$3.4 million. To meet the requirements of the grant, a planning committee was formed with representatives from various sectors, including health, education, and law enforcement. The committee aims to leverage existing organizations and expertise to address cybersecurity challenges.

The plan developed by the planning committee consists of 16 elements grouped into five areas: infrastructure preparation, vulnerability assessment, incident response, best practices, and workforce development. These elements align with the objectives of the grant and the Federal Government's Notice of Funding Opportunity (Nofo). The plan is still in the draft stage and is being circulated among the committee members for feedback and approval. The ultimate goal is to have the plan adopted and submitted to CISA by June 30th and receive approval from CISA by September 1st.

There is strong interest from cities and counties in the grant program. Larger jurisdictions expressed their support for providing funding to smaller and less funded jurisdictions, recognizing the importance of ensuring equal access to cybersecurity resources. There is also a recognition that smaller jurisdictions may need assistance in the application process and implementation of cybersecurity measures. Collaboration among jurisdictions and sharing of best practices will strengthen the overall cybersecurity posture at the state and local levels.

Overall, the grant program aims to enhance cybersecurity capabilities, develop partnerships, and effectively utilize existing funds. It seeks to address the specific needs of local governments and foster collaboration among stakeholders in the state of Washington.

Good of the Order/Public Comment

Bill talked about taking advantage of the opportunities presented by FirstNet. Our region's new manager, Brett Johnson, will join future meetings.

No public comment.

Bill adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Action Items

Topic	Action	Assigned to	Deadline

Next Meeting

June 13, 2023, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.