

Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Chair Ted Buehner. The previous minutes were approved. There were no additions to the agenda.

Announcements

The FCC is considering new rules regarding cyber-attacks. They want to keep “bad actors” from accessing the alerting systems. Broadcasters should already have their EAS gear behind a firewall with solid passwords.

The FCC has launched a rule-making proceeding to improve communications during disasters. They are looking for comments. They are interested in emergency power backup availability at key communications sites and enhancing communications between communications providers and power companies. This is more likely meant for cellular providers than broadcasters.

The FCC has released the results of the last national EAS test. It was a joint effort between the FCC and FEMA for both EAS and WEA. Most respondents reported successful reception of the WEA messages and highlighted areas where WEA delivery could be improved. Reception and re-transmission of the EAS National Test by TV, radio and cable was also mostly successful.

Bill Steele is retiring from the University of Washington and the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network as of early August.

Old Business

The September SECC meeting has been moved to the third Tuesday, the 17th, due to a conflict with the [WSEMA](#) conference.

A draft of the 2025 RMT Schedule has been posted on the remailer. Please direct any comments or suggestions to Roland on the remailer.

Regarding [WA-PAWS](#) TAB updates, there is nothing new on the bylaws TAB. Ted has posted the Tabletop Exercise TAB on the remailer. He is still looking for more scenarios. Please share on the remailer.

New Business

Gabriel Lotto of the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network (PNSN) gave a presentation on ShakeAlert. It is the publicly funded Earthquake Early Warning

system for the US West Coast. It currently covers Washington, Oregon and California. There are no immediate plans to expand it to other states, but it could happen in the future. It is managed by the US Geological Service in conjunction with several universities and state emergency management agencies. ShakeAlert is not earthquake prediction, but rapid detection. The idea is to give people at least some warning that an earthquake is coming. This could be 10-15 seconds or even a bit longer depending on distance. There has not been an earthquake big enough to trigger the system here in Washington since it was rolled out in 2021. When an alert is generated, a WEA Alert will be sent out to the public via their smart phones. Another possibility is using ShakeAlert to trigger “Customized Automated Actions”. Possible actions include slowing trains, recalling elevators, opening firehouse doors, activating generators or many other possibilities. ShakeAlert generates a XML file which is used to originate the WEA alert and any other actions by their technical partners. Is EAS a viable option for delivering ShakeAlert messages? What are the latencies in the system? What sort of messaging and training would be involved? Who are the right people and organizations that ShakeAlert should be connecting with? Keith made the observation that the internet backbone would be the first thing to fail in an earthquake and that the Emergency Alert System is going to be essential. Broadcasters are there 24/7 and they have redundancy. One obstacle is that EAS gets its alerts by polling a server which adds latency to the process. In a major event there will likely be multiple alerts from different sources. Will this get the public’s attention and convince them that the event is for real? It is not good to have conflicting messages.

Committee Reports

Technical: Scott has updated the SAGE information. The new SAGE ENDEC Settings Editor allows you to change the input labels. The current version is 2.6.

Training: Ted has been working on the exercise TAB to assist originators.

RMT: Roland has released the draft of the 2025 schedule on the remailer. Please review and post any changes, corrections or comments to the remailer. This will be discussed further at the September meeting.

Local Area Reports

The Central Puget Sound local area is reorganizing.

In Clallam County, Anne Chastain retired on June 1. Justine Chorley is her replacement.

In the Coastal area, they recently had a LECC meeting.

In the Columbia Basin, Steve Williams has retired. He was employed by EMD and helped out with EAS matters. His replacement is Mary Naply. Chris Lee is the new EM director in Walla Walla County.

Austin Smith reports from Wahkiakum County that they no longer have a SAGE. He is working on getting back in the program. Beau has a new position with the sheriff's department. They have a new sheriff who is also the emergency management director.

The North Central area will be meeting in October.

In the North Puget area, there is an application with the FCC for a new LPFM station on Orcas Island. It will cover a good portion of the island.

Stakeholder Reports

The Washington State Association of Broadcasters is working on the AM radio legislation.

In amateur radio, Simone and Monte are working on a TAB that will provide information to emergency managers about what amateur radio can do to support public alert and warning.

Other Business

None.

The meeting ended at 10:37 PM.

Please share future agenda items with SECC Administration Assistant Scott Sipe at scott.sipe@alphamediausa.com who compiles the agenda.

For information on joining the SECC remailer, go to [this link](#).

The next meeting will be with Zoom on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 9:30 AM. Note that this is one week later than usual.

CHATBOX

09:35:17 From Chalice | Whatcom County DEM : Chalice Dew-Johnson, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management

09:35:41 From Dave Halloran - San Juan DEM : No changes

09:53:19 From Bill Steele, UW-PNSN : For more information about ShakeAlert contact Gabriel Lotto, glotto@uw.edu.

10:00:55 From Reid Wolcott - NWS Seattle : Hey all - I have to log out. I don't have anything specific to report from the NWS for this meeting. The one comment I have on ShakeAlert is just hoping there is a discussion on the WEA messaging. I know there are concerns about WEA in the event of a Cascadia type event where there could be WEAs from ShakeAlert, NTCW, WA EMD, and local jurisdictions in the event of an earthquake and tsunami.

10:10:33 From Lowell Kiesow : lkiesow@knkx.org

10:11:30 From Brady Aldrich : Gotta jump off - sorry I missed the checkin at the beginning. Here is the update from NCW: Meeting held on 6/13/24; plan complete with all signatures; major Chelan County fire activity w/ EAS alerts over past few days


10:20:56 From Ted Buehner - Wash SECC Chair

: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_message_design-dashboard.pdf

10:22:04 From Jason Shirron (King County OEM) : The MDD is now in inside the IPAS Assistive Tool Platform, <https://atp.aws.fema.gov/>.

10:22:05 From Ted Buehner - Wash SECC Chair : <https://jeannettesutton.com/current-projects-1>

10:29:32 From Austin Smith Wahkiakum DEM : As a former 911 Dispatcher of 9 years, I agree! No use of

the "Q" word. 

10:30:02 From Mason County DEM : Need to go to another meeting. Stay cool!

2024 SECC MEETING DATES	LOCATION
Tuesday Jan 9	Anticipate SECC Meetings will remain virtual via Zoom until further notice, apart from perhaps a few well-advertised exceptions.
Tuesday Mar 12	
Tuesday May 14	
Tuesday July 9	
Tuesday Sept 17	
Tuesday Nov 12	

Note –

- The above schedule can be altered by the SECC as needed, particularly if that second Tuesday of the month conflicts with a holiday or other special day.
- The SECC may hold special meetings as required.

To subscribe to the Washington State EAS remailer, follow this [link](#).

SECC Members

POSITION	NAME	PRESENT
Chair	Ted Buehner	X
Vice Chair	Lowell Kiesow	X
Chair Emeritus	Clay Freinwald	
WAEMD Chair	Kevin Wickersham	
WAEMD A&W	Chris Phillips	
WAEMD Multilingual	Lewis Lujan	
NWS	Reid Wolcott	X
WEA	Bill Peters	
Amber Coordinator	Carri Gordon	X
Eastern WA Leaders	Sandi Duffey	X
	Charlie Osgood	X
Data Base Manager	Simone Ramel-McKay	
FEMA Reg 10		
Technical Committee	Lowell Kiesow	X
Comm Systems Chair		
Cable TV - Comcast	James Casson	
Administrative Assistant	Scott Sipe	X
Recording Secretary	Terry Spring	X
Amateur Radio	Monte Simpson	
Test Coordinator	Roland Robinson	
WSAB	Keith Shipman	X

LECC Chairs

OPERATIONAL AREA	NAME	PRESENT
Central Puget	Jason Shirron	X
Clallam	Justine Chorley	X
Coastal	Pat Anderson	
Columbia Basin	Sean Davis	X
Cowlitz/Wahkiakum	John Mackey Austin Smith	X
Inland N.W.	Simone Ramel-McKay	
Kittitas	George Long	
Lewis	Ross McDowell	
Mason/Thurston	Sonya Kroese	
North Central	Charlie Osgood Brady Aldrich	X X
No. Puget Sound	Dan McDermott Dave Halloran	X
Okanogan	Maurice Goodall John Andrist	
Yakima	Angela Brown (SunComm) Mike McMullen	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Ed Taylor	City Of Lacey	X
Dave Turnmire	Idaho SECC	X
Tammi Wright	Mason County EM	X
John Ebner	Jefferson County DEM	X
Arthur RD Grunbaum	KGHI-KGHE	X
Jesse Spurgeon	KPQ	X
Gabriel Lotto	UW-PNSN (Pacific Northwest Seismic Network)	X
Loi Dawkins	Edmonds PD	X
Bill Steele	UW-PNSN	X
Jordan Hanes	Franklin Co. EM	X
Connrt Crookshank	KBTC-TV	X
Chalice Dew-Johnson	Whatcom Co. Sheriff DEM	X
Loraine Shore	Clallam Co. EM	X
Wayne WA6MPG	Orcas Island AEC (amateur radio)	X

SIRIUS/XM EAS TEST SCHEDULE

2024 SIRIUS/XM RMT SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Originator
24-Jul-24	11:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
21-Aug-24	3:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
18-Sep-24	10:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
23-Oct-24	2:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
20-Nov-24	11:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz
18-Dec-24	3:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz