

# Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM by Chair Ted Buehner. The previous minutes were approved. There were no adjustments to the previous minutes nor additions to the agenda.

## Announcements

There is a new missing persons EAS missing person MEP code being proposed by the FCC. This is being driven by the US Congress. Some legislators looked at what is being done here and in a few other states. Feedback was given by the WSAB and other state broadcaster associations that having the information distributed by news outlets gives better penetration. This was ignored by the commission due to politics.

They are trying to make it like the AMBER Alerts so they can be lit up at any time. Broadcasters are looking for a happy medium. When Washington State started the Silver Alerts, the legislators who were driving it realized that having too many alerts would make them ineffective. As it now stands, this new MEP event the code will be mandatory. It is now in the NPRM stage at the FCC but is almost certain to happen. The commission is trying to get this done before the election.

AMBER Coordinator Carri Gorden explained that currently AMBER Alerts are voluntary between law enforcement and the media. These alerts are only issued if there is some level of immediacy and a life or death scenario. That would also apply to the new code.

Broadcasters are concerned because the FCC can monitor them remotely and concentrate on things that are required and/or are important to them. The commission is using this data for enforcement actions and even holding up license renewals. Broadcasters see this new code as another way for the feds to go after them. In summation there are many positives to this and a few negatives that broadcasters are trying to mitigate. This is a sensitive political conversation because of the communities involved. It is not likely that there will be a financial cost for updating the EAS boxes to implement this.

There will not be a national EAS test this year. However, the FCC is requiring that all stations file their 2024 ETRS Form One by October 4, 2024.

## Old Business

There is one more SECC Meeting scheduled this year. The proposed 2025 schedule continues the usual second Tuesday pattern with one exception. The November meeting will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> as the second Tuesday is the Veterans Day holiday.

The new amateur radio TAB is still being edited but close to completion. Revisions are being made to more clearly inform emergency managers of amateur radio's capabilities.

Simone brought up that, with several local areas being re-activated, it might be helpful if the LECC TAB was updated. She is willing to take the lead this on but needs some help. Several people volunteered.

## New Business

The draft for the 2025 RMT Schedule was discussed. Roland has talked to all the local areas except one. The Cowlitz/Wahkiakum chair is no longer there. Austin from Wahkiakum County gave preliminary approval. The schedule was approved with the proviso that Cowlitz/Wahkiakum could be modified if needed.

Ted has been talking with the EM leadership in Cowlitz/Wahkiakum to get the LECC back up and running. He proposes a remote meeting with as many stakeholders as possible.

The September Coastal RMT leaked into Jefferson County which meant that the Central Puget Sound local area received two RMT's this month. Also, Pacific County was deleted and did not receive the test. This was due to an error by the originator. Operational changes have been made to prevent this happening in the future. This is why we test.

The North Puget LECC still needs to be revived.

## Committee Reports

Technical: Scott has updated the SAGE information. He is now also working on the DASDEC FAQ. He should have a TAB 4 update soon.

Training: Ted is still looking for any tabletop exercise scenarios. Please share on the remailer.

RMT: Ted thanked Roland for the RMT reminders. They have been very helpful.

## Local Area Reports

In Clallam County, they are still transitioning to their new IPAWS software.

In the Coastal area, they are having a LECC meeting later in September.

In the Columbia Basin, they are planning for the Great Shakeout in October. The Shakeout is also used for a test for their Hanford warning sirens.

Austin Smith from Wahkiakum County is working with Cowlitz and Pacific counties to get the Cowlitz/Wahkiakum area LECC back up and running.

The Inland Northwest LECC will be meeting in October at the Spokane public radio facility. They aim for one in-person meeting a year and the rest virtual.

In Kittitas County they are still working on being able to originate EAS messages. Right now it is in legal review.

The Mason/Thurston LECC will be having a meeting in September at their 911 Center. There will be a tour and testing of their ENDEC. They have acquired some radios through a FEMA grant that will be used to communicate between EM and broadcasters in case other forms of communications are not working.

In the North Central area Douglas County will now be issuing test alerts. The LECC will be meeting in October.

## Stakeholder Reports

The state EM is available to help with alerting. The State Relay Network (SRN) is still inoperable. There is a link missing between the ENDEC and the radio. Lowell will work with Chris to meet and address the issue in person at EMD soon.

The National Weather Service will be originating the RMT in conjunction with the annual Great Shakeout on October 17. Currently, Washington is the only state that does Tsunami Watches. The weather service is coordinating with the local EM managers to see if they want to change that to conform with the rest of the west coast. They are also reconfiguring the zones for public forecasts. It was supposed to happen in September but it has been delayed until further notice.

## Other Business

None.

The meeting ended at 10:41 PM.

Please share future agenda items with SECC Administration Assistant Scott Sipe at [scott.sipe@alphamediausa.com](mailto: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, November 12, 2024, at 9:30 AM PT.

## CHATBOX

09:36:16 From Jason Shirron (King County OEM) : Apologies for being late, I was having Zoom issues.

09:37:05 From Keith Shipman : Keith Shipman, WSAB

09:37:24 From Stacie Roundtree : Stacie Roundtree, Grays Harbor County EM

09:37:32 From Deanna Davis, Benton County EM - WA : Deanna Davis, Columbia Basin Area alternate

09:37:51 From Meredith McClurkan : Meredith McClurkan State Emergency Management

09:38:13 From Sean Davis, Franklin County EM, WA : Sean Davis, Franklin County, Columbia Basin Operational Area

09:38:35 From Christopher Phillips - WAEMD AWC Supervisor : Christopher Phillips, WA EMD

10:00:08 From Scott McDougall : My apologies to the group. I had a conflicting meeting with my County Commissioners until now.

10:12:19 From Dave Halloran : Which alerting platform are you using?

10:12:47 From Dave Halloran : I missed what you said,repeat please?

10:13:06 From Dave Halloran : Thank you Scott

10:16:58 From John EbnerJeffCo DEM : I need to go to another meeting at 1030. See you aty next meeting.

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	

2025 SECC MEETING DATES	LOCATION
Tuesday Jan 7	Anticipate SECC Meetings will remain virtual via Zoom until further notice, apart from perhaps a few well-advertised exceptions.
Tuesday Mar 11	
Tuesday May 13	
Tuesday July 8	
Tuesday Sept 17	
Tuesday Nov 9	

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 remainder, follow this [link](#).

## SECC Members

POSITION	NAME	PRESENT
Chair	Ted Buehner	X
Vice Chair	Lowell Kiesow	
Chair Emeritus	Clay Freinwald	
WAEMD Chair	Kevin Wickersham	
WAEMD A&W	Chris Phillips	X
WAEMD Multilingual	Lewis Lujan	
NWS	Reid Wolcott	X
WEA	Bill Peters	
Amber Coordinator	Carri Gordon	X
Eastern WA Leaders	Sandi Duffey	
	Charlie Osgood	X
Data Base Manager	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
FEMA Reg 10		
Technical Committee	Lowell Kiesow	X
Comm Systems Chair		
Cable TV - Comcast	James Casson	
Administrative Assistant	Scott Sipe	X
Recording Secretary	Ferry 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	
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
Scott McDougall	Pacific County EMA	X
Hans Kahl	Skagit DEM	X
Hannah Cleverly	Grays Harbor EM	X
John Ebner	Jefferson County DEM	X
Deanna Davis	Benton Co. EM	X
Meredith McClurkan	WA State EM	X
Stacie Roundtree	Grays Harbor EM	X

# SIRIUS/XM EAS TEST SCHEDULE

## 2024 SIRIUS/XM RMT SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Originator
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