

Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Chair Ted Buehner. The previous minutes were approved. There were no adjustments to the previous minutes nor additions to the agenda.

Announcements

The Government Accounting Office has issued a nationwide request for documents relating to the SECC's. This includes state EAS plans. It is pretty routine, and we will send them the information that has been submitted to the FCC. This has been requested by some members of congress and is related to public warning failures in other parts of the country. We aren't perfect but we are doing pretty good.

Old Business

The 2025 meeting schedule was published in September. Meetings are usually on the second Tuesday on odd-numbered months at 9:30 AM. November is an exception next year due to a conflict with Veteran's Day. We plan to, once again, have an in-person meeting in May in Kittitas County.

Ted is always looking for more Tabletop Exercises to add to [WA PAWS](#) TAB F9.

The new amateur radio TAB is almost ready to post. Revisions are being made to more clearly inform emergency managers of amateur radio capabilities. It should be ready to be discussed at the next meeting.

The LECC TAB D1 revision working group has already met once. They are meeting again soon with the goal of having the revision done by the January meeting. Simone is the lead.

New Business

The 2025 RMT Schedule was approved at the September meeting, even though there were some questions about the Cowlitz/Wahkiakum area. The issues have been resolved and the final version has been posted.

Ted expressed appreciation to Roland for the RMT Test reminders that he sends out monthly. Roland said they are automated, but he appreciates feedback from recipients to let him know they have been received. He reported that this year's

process of creating the schedule went very well. The cooperation from the EM people was much appreciated and made his job a lot easier.

The October Great Shakeout went well with all four National Weather Service offices originating the accompanying RMT for their areas without issue.

From the state emergency management point of view, it was the best Shakeout yet. A few sirens didn't go off, but that is why they test. They only have this one chance every year to do a full equipment test. KSQM mentioned that neither they nor KONP received the test. This will be investigated.

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

Upon further discussion, it became apparent that there are other issues with alerts in the Sequim/Port Angeles area that involve several radio stations, Clallam County EM and Everbridge.

In the North Central area, Rivercom was supposed to originate the RMT. They had an issue with Everbridge so Grant County did the RMT at the last minute.

Note that a test other than a RMT can be used for testing. A RWT or DMO will not (or should not) be rebroadcast on a broadcast station.

Austin Smith from Wahkiakum County is working on being able to originate a RMT in December. Skamania and Cowlitz counties should be included, as well.

NWS Seattle is still working on the Tsunami Watch EAS activations. Washington is the only state that issues EAS Alerts for watches. EAS is not activated for Tsunami Advisories, which are at a higher level. So, logically, it makes sense to not do it. This change is supported by emergency management. EAS could still be activated locally. This change will cut down on the number of alerts and, if it happens in the middle of the night for instance, not wake people up for a non-event. This should be implemented soon.

John Mackey mentioned that he has been dealing with EAS issues in other states and that we in Washington are more organized and have our act together.

Committee Reports

Technical: Scott is still working on the DASDEC FAQ. It will be posted on the remailer for comments and posted on the [WA PAWS](#) website in December.

Training: Ted is still looking for any tabletop exercise scenarios. Please share on the remailer. Be sure to bookmark the [WA PAWS](#) website. There is a lot of information there.

Local Area Reports

In the Central Puget Sound local area, the LRN repeater is not working correctly. The King County OEM radio cannot access it. Jason is working with Lowell to diagnose the problem so it can be fixed. Jason is also looking into what it would take to replace it.

The Coastal area had a LECC meeting. There will be another one on January 23rd. There will be a notice sent out on the remailer before the meeting. They are still waiting for the SRN to come back up. Chris at the WSEM is still working on that.

In the Columbia Basin, Sean had a query about which counties were in the operational area turn into a public records request. The querying party was directed to the website and that seems to be the end of it.

The Inland Northwest had a successful and interesting LECC meeting at Spokane Public Radio.

Kittitas County recently held an LECC meeting. George posted the minutes on the remailer. Posting is a best practice that gives others a feel for what is going on outside their areas.

In the Mason/Thurston local area, Thurston County has purchased some radios with FEMA funding. These will be used to communicate between emergency management and local media if other forms of communication go down.

In the North Central area, EAS got quite a bit of use during the wildfire season.

Stakeholder Reports

Chris from WSEM is happy to answer questions and help any way he can. But sometimes it takes a while for him to get back to you.

Other Business

Marty reported that the radio station owned by the City Of Ocean Shores has devised a system that can be used by local emergency services agencies, such as

fire and police chiefs, to interrupt programming with live emergency messages. They call a secret phone number and enter a code and they are on the air. There are some similar things being considered elsewhere, but they are in the very early stages.

The meeting ended at 10:32 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, January 14, 2025, at 9:30 AM PST.

CHATBOX

01:15:07 Simone Ramel-McKay, Spokane County EM: Didn't know schools were required to do those drills--good to know!

01:15:17 Reid Wolcott - NWS Seattle: Reacted to "Didn't know school..." with 👍

01:19:27 Mireya Garcia GCSO EM: Where could I locate the 2025 RMT schedule? Thank you!

01:25:13 Roland: Replying to "Where could I locate..."

I'm not sure where it was posted. The DEM website has the 2024 schedule, since we're not done with it. If needed, I can send one directly to you by email.

01:25:13 Christopher Phillips- WA EMD: REDACTED

01:26:11 Reid Wolcott - NWS Seattle: @Christopher Phillips- WA EMD you've got a hot mic

01:26:17 Roland: Replying to "Where could I locate..."

OK, Ted gave an update, but I can still send one to you if you want.

01:26:25 Christopher Phillips- WA EMD: Reacted to "@Christopher Phill..." with 👍

01:27:00 Mireya Garcia GCSO EM: Replying to "Where could I locate..."

Yes that would be great!

01:27:25 Roland: Replying to "Where could I locate..."

@Mireya Garcia GCSO EM What's your email address?

01:27:54 Mireya Garcia GCSO EM: Replying to "Where could I locate..."

mxgarcia@grantcountywa.gov

01:31:10 Austin Smith Wahkiakum DEM: Apologies, I was getting a call from our 911 Dispatch Center. I'm back now.

01:34:36 Justine Chorley: We are all for the change. The argument was compelling.

01:34:44 Reid Wolcott - NWS Seattle: Reacted to "We are all for the..." with 👍

01:35:32 Roland: Replying to "Where could I locate..."

It's on the way.

01:38:23 Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County EM, Washington: Okanogan County needs to step off. All is good with our EAS tests. We use Everbridge. Thanks Maurice Goodall

01:39:28 Nicklaus Falley: Thank you Reid, EMD Tsunami Team, and all those who worked hard on this!! We truly appreciate the work that has gone into making these alerts smoother for all of us!

01:39:53 Maximilian Dixon: Reacted to "Thank you Reid, EMD ..." with 👍

01:39:56 Reid Wolcott - NWS Seattle: Reacted to "Thank you Reid, EM..." with 👍

01:40:12 Christopher Phillips- WA EMD: Reacted to "Thank you Reid, EM..." with 👍

01:41:58 Christopher Phillips- WA EMD: Just to echo that, thank you SECC for all your hard work! Very much appreciated.

01:53:21 Christopher Phillips- WA EMD: "classified"

01:59:10 Reid Wolcott - NWS Seattle: I've got to hop off for another meeting. Thanks all!

02:02:06 Christopher Phillips- WA EMD: Very cool use case!

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 18	
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 remailer, 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	
Eastern WA Leaders	Sandi Duffey	X
	Charlie Osgood	X
Data Base Manager	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
FEMA Reg 10		
Technical Committee	Lowell Kiesow	
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	X
WSAB	Keith Shipman	

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	X
	Austin Smith	X
Inland N.W.	Simone Ramel-McKay	X
Kittitas	George Long	
Lewis	Ross McDowell	
Mason/Thurston	Sonya Kroese	X
North Central	Charlie Osgood	X
	Brady Aldrich	
No. Puget Sound	Dan McDermott	
	Dave Halloran	
Okanogan	Maurice Goodall	X
	John Andrist	
Yakima	Angela Brown	
	(SunComm)	
	Mike McMullen	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

NAME	AFFILIATION	PRESENT
Nick Falley	Grays Harbor County EM	X
John Ebner	Jefferson County DEM	X
Deanna Davis	Benton Co. EM	X
Rich Langsford	KSQM Sequim	X
Chris Arnesen	KATU	X
Jarrold Dibble	Snohomish County DEM	X
Jordan Hanes	Franklin Co. EM	X
Conner Crookshank	KBTC-TV	X
Marty Hadfield	KOSW	X
Maxmillian Dixon	WSEM	X
Carrie Corder	WA Dept. Of Health	X
Chris Lee	Walla Walla Co. EM	X
Mireya Garcia	Grant County EM	X

SIRIUS/XM EAS TEST SCHEDULE

2024 SIRIUS/XM RMT SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Originator
18-Dec-24	3:47 AM	WTOP(FM) 103.5 MHz