

SIEC Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2025

Call to Order: 0900 hours

Chair: Robert Ezelle

A quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Minutes:

Previous meeting minutes approved.

Member Updates:

- Dongho Chang (WSDOT): Reported \$8.4M is included in the state Senate budget to support transportation planning for the 2026 World Cup.
- David Mendel (WaTech): No updates at this time.
- Captain Philip Johnson (WDFW): Announced his retirement and introduced his successor, Jennifer Meyer, who will now oversee radio operations.
- Chief John Batiste (WSP): Actively monitoring statewide public safety planning efforts related to the World Cup.
- Adam Wasserman (EMD): Ongoing challenges due to uncertainty around FEMA funding; several federal grants are frozen or at risk. EMD remains focused on preparing for the 2026 World Cup.
- Spencer Bahner (Seattle/City Government): The region is implementing encryption capabilities for PSERN. Coordination and system upgrades are also underway for World Cup preparedness.
- Brandon McKinney (Fire Chiefs): Transmit PL tone rollout on REDNET is progressing. New shared frequency agreements are signed. Raised a question about the HEAR (also known as V-Med 28) specifically regarding which agency is responsible for managing it and who has the authority to approve its use. It is believed that the DOH may be responsible, but more clarification is needed. Additionally, an agreement with US Forest Service was established for use of Air Guard frequency to use during wildfires.
- Anton Damm (DNR): Shared that the 2025 frequency guide has been published with minor changes, including renaming of Air-to-Ground 3. There has been a large influx of new requests for the guide and the agreement that goes with it, primarily from SIEC members getting the word out. RCW 1498, which allows for rapid deployment of an aircraft to support initial attack operations, which highlights the importance of having the appropriate radio frequencies pre-programmed to ensure effective communication with incoming aircraft. Thanks to WaTech for expediting NetCloud backhaul security review.
- Chris Welch (DOC): Awaiting budget outcomes from the legislature which will affect radio system package fares.

Updates:

4.9 GHz Licensing:

- The deadline for compliance is June 9. APCO's national batch filing tool has increased state licenses from 130 to 400.

- Agencies should verify filings for accuracy to avoid fees.
- Spencer Bahner and Tim McDowell offered their assistance to smaller agencies.

Subcommittees:

- The Technical Subcommittee and Strategic Planning Subcommittee are active.
- Strategic Planning will help shape interoperability goals under budget constraints.
- Education and Engagement Subcommittee are on hold due to low participation. Volunteers are still needed.

Federal and State Impacts:

- Federal funding (FEMA, CISA, TA programs) is uncertain due to the national budget issues.
- EMI is not currently providing training.
- State facing budget shortfalls. Agencies should monitor grant statuses and plan accordingly.

Discussion:

SCIP Goals Review:

- Several goals (e.g., CASM updates, planning) are in progress. Others (like statewide operations assessment) are delayed due to paused TA.
- Development of a simplified operational communications form is underway to replace suspended TA tasks.
- SWIC to circulate draft forms and request input.

SWIC Update (Jon Lee):

- CASM: Agencies asked to confirm/update records and POCs.
- COML training scheduled for May 19 with 30 seats. The focus is on building deployable expertise.
- Spectrum Cyclone exercise is set for July 14-18. Registration closes April 15.
- PSAP self-assessment tool is being finalized to evaluate readiness for disasters.

Regional Interoperability Updates:

- WORJIC: Working to rebuild regional participation and update strategic documents.
- CAPSI: Finalized TICP. Beginning work on encryption plans and shared system links.
- HSR3 RIEC: Updating plans and coordinating on REDNET PL tone rollout.
- NBCWG: Supporting World Cup efforts and northern border interoperability.

Carrier Updates:

- AT&T/FirstNet: Retiring legacy email-to-text gateway on June 17. FirstNet platform remains active and working on integrating the ESChat features.
- T-Mobile: Investing \$162M in new towers. Low-data push-to-talk coming soon.
- Verizon: Supporting cost-reduction plans with agencies. Offering prioritized network access (network slicing) for public safety.
- Armada: Supporting public connectivity solutions.

Good of the Order / Public Comments:

- Pacific County tower collapse raised concerns. Coordination calls helped address outage.
- Concern raised over tower safety inspections and oversight. Requests were made for state agencies to evaluate their role.
- World Cup communications planning is underway. The Communications workgroup meets bi-weekly. Agencies are encouraged to participate.

Next Meeting: June 10, 2025, at 0900 (Virtual)

Attendance:

- Anton Damm (DNR)
- Brandon McKinney (WFC)
- Michael Grant (DFW)
- Dongho Chang (WSDOT)
- Jimmy Nguyen (DFW)
- Tim McDowell (WSDOT)
- Steven Brown (WSP)
- Richard Huisingh (WSP)
- Marc Biundo (WSP)
- David Mendel (WaTech)
- Zack Hudgins (WaTech)
- Philip Johnson (WDFW)
- Jennifer Meyer (WDFW)
- Tom Wallace (WSP)
- Jay Atwood (Benton County)
- Christopher Welch (DOC)
- Spencer Bahner (City of Seattle)
- Chief John Batiste (WSP)
- Tom Handy (Whitman County)
- Adam Wasserman (MIL-EMD)
- Jon Lee (MIL-EMD)
- Jonathan Brock (EMD)
- Brandon McKinney (WSF)
- Brandon Smith (CISA)
- Bruce Richter (CISA)
- Sharon Wallace (EMD)
- Kyle Abernethy (ATT)
- Melissa Gannie (WSP)
- Robert Sharpe (WSP)
- Josh Gonzales (WSP)
- Chris Barnes (Spokane)
- Braden Mathews (Spokane)
- Nick Falley (Grays Harbor)
- Josh Bossie (TMobile)
- Brad Steiner (ATT)
- Tamiko Sianen (Armada)
- Aisha Davis (Verizon)
- Devan McCoy (Verizon)
- Laura Paolini (ATT)
- Erica Snuth (L3 Harris)