

SIEC Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2025

Call to Order: 0902

Chair: Robert Ezelle

A quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the April 8, 2025, meeting were reviewed and approved.

- Motion: Bill Kehoe (WaTech)
- Second: Anton Damm (DNR)
- Approved by negative affirmation; no objections.

Member Updates:

- Robert Ezelle (MIL): Federal-level concerns including reduced funding and shifting responsibilities to states. The Military Department remains without a CIO; Adam Wasserman is temporarily filling the role. He highlighted the complexity of adapting to new federal grant requirements, some of which shift responsibilities and funding burdens to state agencies. Also noted the challenges posed by fire season beginning early and the temporary leadership structure at the Military Department while a permanent CIO is being sought.
- Andrew Johnson (NORCOM for WA APCO/NENA): Ongoing 911 education and recruitment via digital and streaming ads. WA APCO hosted a training forum that week in Vancouver. Emphasized the importance of public education regarding appropriate 911 use and attracting qualified dispatchers, especially during a time of staffing challenges in PSAPs statewide.
- Bill Kehoe (WaTech): Third-year application for the SLCGP submitted despite funding uncertainties. Expressed cautious optimism about the continuity of cybersecurity funding. He acknowledged the need to align technical committee work with strategic cybersecurity planning.
- Richard Huisingsh (WSP): Testing SmartConnect; pursuing supplemental funding for the LMR system.
- Tim McDowell (WSDOT): Funding request submitted for P25 SLA costs. Budget planning for the next biennium.
- Chris Welch (DOC): Reported that the Department of Corrections received decision package funding to upgrade radio systems within state prisons. They are currently evaluating how to implement the improvements and determine the extent of spending and project scope over the next two years.
- Anton Damm (DNR): DNR is adding a parallel repeater on Big Butte in Asotin County to enhance coverage. This will be included in next year's Cooperative Guide. They are also testing a Boise-made device called 'RIX' that provides internet backhaul for portable

repeaters. The system allows users to connect easily via a QR code, offering a low-barrier solution for field communications. Further updates will follow.

- Brandon McKinney (WA Fire Chiefs): Early fire season with state mobilizations; interoperability actively tested.
- Bill Tensfeld (WSEMA)- Nothing to report.
- Tom Handy (Counties)- Nothing to report.
- Jonathan Brock (EMD): Statewide CAD-to-CAD RFP closed May 29; evaluation underway.
- Michael Grant (DFW)- Nothing to report.

Subcommittee Updates:

Technical Subcommittee (Jon Lee):

- The Technical Committee met last month. Washington hosted its first state-sponsored in-person COML course in Snohomish County, producing several DHS-qualified instructors, including Jon Lee and Scott Honecker. A draft ICT Branch Credentialing Guide was introduced, outlining the credentialing path for Communications, IT, and Cyber roles. The guide will be reviewed by both the Technical Committee and SIEC before a vote.
- RIC Updates:
- CAPSI (Andrew Johnson): Completed and revised their TICP and released regional mutual aid dispatch guidelines. Encryption deployment is expanding in Snohomish and King Counties, with more expected in 2026.
- WORJIC (Jay Atwood): Working to reinvigorate participation and update strategic planning. Exploring the use of Bridge 4PS for cross-border comms between Washington and Oregon dispatch centers.
- Eastern WA Region (Nick Bacon): No updates provided.

Old Business:

- 4.9 GHz Licensing: WSDOT submitted 420+ applications; about one-third returned for waivers. Utah now leads in licenses.
- World Cup 2026: Planning ongoing; Club Cup 2025 used as test. Bridge 4PS and HSIN Connect being utilized.
- CASM: Emphasis on accurate data and user validation. Continuing updates.
- Joint Meeting with Oregon: Tentatively planned for Fall 2025.

Discussion:

- ICT Credentialing Process: Draft guidance created; peer-reviewed credentialing plan in development.
- Bylaws: Clarifying quorum and voting definitions. Minor revisions underway.
- Vacant Positions: Tribal rep identified. Proposal to allocate at-large seat to AUXCOMM pending bylaws review.

Carrier and Guest Updates:

- Armada (Tamiko Sianen): Starlink mini kits with battery and SD-WAN. AI use in emergency ops centers.
- FirstNet/AT&T (Amber Blackman): Event support via uplift and optimization tools. Encouraging proactive planning.
- Verizon (Devan McCoy, HP Lee): AST satellite beta tests; public safety network slicing; recent Fleet Week interop support.
- T-Mobile (Josh Bossie): Satellite SMS testing successful; full data/voice services forthcoming. Launch date is June 1st

Good of the Order / Public Comments:

No public comments or additional items were raised.

Adjournment:

- Motion: Bill Tensfeld
- Second: Bill Kehoe
- Time: 1010 hours
- Approved, meeting adjourned.
- Next Meeting: August 12, 2025, at 0900 (Virtual)