

# Washington SECC Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 AM by Chair Ted Buehner.

Introductions were made. The previous minutes for the July meeting were approved with one correction. Sean Davis was added to the attendance list.

## Announcements

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regarding the modernization of the nation's alerting systems was recently posted to the Federal Register. Comments are due by September 25 with reply comments due on October 10. They are trying to make some adjustments to EAS, mostly on the digital side. Most broadcasters want everything to stay the same. They want no new equipment, no new costs. It's a NPRM, not a Notice of Inquiry, which means they are serious about doing something. The FCC is throwing broad questions at everybody and saying, how do we reinvent EAS and WEA in 30 days.

Sage has released a [firmware upgrade](#) for the ENDEC. It adds an event code for missing and endangered persons. There are no plans at present to use the new event code here. It is a quick and easy update, and an FCC requirement.

There is not going to be an EAS National Test this year, but ETRS Form 1 still needs to be filled out by October 3. Most of the fields will automatically populate so it should be pretty easy.

FEMA has opened up a new round of warning system grants. Information has been put out on the remailer and is available online.

Roland does a great job of putting together the RMT schedule, but the tests have to be run locally. There are four state-wide RMT's a year and the rest are done locally. There are tests that can be run at any time that won't affect the broadcasters, such as RWT's and DMO's. They are log only and are great for practice and increasing the proficiency of your staff.

The new Auxiliary Communications TAB has been posted to [WA PAWS](#). It clarifies the role of amateur radio with regards to emergency public alert and warning around the state.

## Old Business

Ted sent out an updated version of the bylaws on the remailer. One important change is having term limits on the chair and vice chair. Lowell thought that we don't necessarily need term limits, but it needs to come up for a vote periodically. It would give a chance for the chair to step down or a chance for the collective to have a change in leadership. Possibly the January meeting would be a good time to have a vote. Ted will post an updated version of the bylaws soon. This will be discussed again at the November meeting with the hope of getting to a vote on a final version.

## New Business

Roland Robinson has put together the yearly RMT for many years. He put the 2026 schedule out for comment in July. After verifying with Simone that the local area TAB was up to date, he made contact with all the local areas. He got a thumbs up for every one of them except Coastal. He is waiting for one of the contacts to return to get final approval. He suggested that the schedule be approved anyway with the proviso that if he has to make a change in the Coastal area, he will submit the revised schedule at the November meeting. The main difference from the July draft is a shuffle of the test days in the North Central and Okanagan areas. This was to avoid having multiple tests on the same day in Eastern Washington. The 2026 RMT schedule was approved. It will be posted when final word is received from Coastal. The rest of the areas can consider it done.

Ted will be putting together the 2026 meeting calendar. He plans to have the meetings on the second Tuesday on odd numbered months. This can be revised in any conflicts arise. There were no objections or comments.

## Committee Reports

Technical: Recently there have been some RMT's that have been missed for various reasons. As a reminder, if an RMT originator has technical problems, a scheduling conflict, or some other reason they can't do the RMT, the state duty officers at Washington EMD are available to do it for them. They need to make sure the state duty officer knows which area it is for, so they do not send it to the entire state, and they request at least 3 days' notice if at all possible.

Franklin County has been receiving RMT's from Idaho. Oregon and Montana are on it, too, as well as Washington counties in the Inland Empire local area. They have also received a RMT from Clallam County. These RMT's were in addition to

the one they were scheduled to originate. This caused confusion at broadcast stations. Sid Brown from the Idaho OEM is going to check into what happened on their end. This has not been a problem in the past, but maybe there needs to be better coordination with the test schedules from neighboring states. The problem could be box programming. The situation will be monitored to see if it happens again. Stations should not be put in the position of receiving and retransmitting more than one RMT a month.

RMT's are required by FCC regulations to have a 3-hour window. A station is required to rebroadcast the RMT within an hour after reception. This allows stations down the daisy-chain to transmit the RMT before it expires.

Charlie noted that one of the questions on the FCC ETRS Form 1 was what firmware was being used by your EAS box. As noted above, Sage has issued updated firmware for the ENDEC. He suggested doing the update before filling out the form so the FCC would have the latest info on your decoder.

Training: Ted continues to work on the tabletop exercises.

RMT's: Roland asked if updated RMT Schedules should be posted if originators change during the year. Ted said yes, let's keep it up to date.

### Local Area Reports

In the Central Puget Sound local area, Jason is still planning on having a LECC meeting in the near future. He is also working on the LRN. The county is donating some old hardware to the cause. But it is much newer than the unit that died.

In Lewis County, Erika Katt is getting up to speed and meeting with other members of the committee.

In the North Puget area, Kevin Jackman at Skagit County has changed jobs within the county, and they are looking for his replacement.

In Yakima, they had a LECC meeting last month. The Alert Warning Center from the state EMD presented. They had their first use of in-the-field Starlink during the Wildcat Fire evacuation notifications. It worked beautifully. They now have a second trailer to support responder or amateur radio operations. They have switched from Everbridge to Code Red. Mike is willing to help walk people through Everbridge.

Lowell noted that emergency managers are increasingly dependent on the internet, especially for alerts, as IPAWS is probably the best way to do that. And Starlink is a good source of internet. It's something worth looking at. Mike planned to put some information on the remailer.

In the North Central area, they have a number of wildfires going on. For the first time, the Chelan County Sheriff's Office initiated an alert using an audio file as opposed to the text to speech robot. Big improvement. Douglas County will be originating a RMT for the first time. Previously, RIVERCOMM originated tests and alerts, but that has been shifted to the counties. Charlie had a listener report that one of the local stations had low audio on EAS tests and alerts. He has been in contact with the station and equipment is being checked.

In the Okanagan, EM can now monitor their local stations for alerts. They can verify that their alerts and test are actually making it to air.

In Kittitas County, they have used WEA for some recent fires.

In the Inland Northwest, Simone has updated TAB D2 and posted it on the WA-PAWS website. The TAB lists the LECC chairs and county emergency folks. Personnel changes should be reported to both Simone and state EMD.

In the Columbia Basin, Walla Walla County is experiencing some fires. They are also using Starlink and have been very happy with it. There are many areas with poor to no cell coverage in that part of the state.

### Stakeholder Reports

FEMA: Region 10 is monitoring the fires in the region and flooding in Alaska. They have scheduled the last regional emergency communications coordination meeting for the year on November 5.

NWS: The weather service and the state AMBER coordinator are working together to streamline the alert process over NOAA weather radio. Changes were made to procedures to improve content readability and the issuance process. Some weather radio stations could be offline at times for maintenance with advance notice on the remailer.

WEMD: There is no new info on the SRN. The state will be issuing a RMT for Mason County this month.

## Other Business

Sid Brown of the Idaho OEM noted that Oregon purchased Everbridge for all their counties. Everbridge has a full-time representative in Salem. They would be a good source of help for the entities that use Everbridge. Contact Info is in the chatbox.

The meeting ended at 10:33 AM.

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 remote on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 9:30 AM PST on Zoom. Note that this is on the third Tuesday in order to avoid the holiday.

## CHATBOX

00:26:13 Sandi Duffey, Adams Co. WA, Adams Co Emergency Management:  
read stop  
00:27:25 Kyra Tirey Kittitas Co: Yep!  
00:29:55 Erika Katt: Yes ... First time for me. Took a moment to  
get settled after Ross retired, and we changed to a standalone department.  
00:44:13 Erika Katt: Lewis County has no clue who Lindy Waring  
is, to include dispatch.....  
00:45:04 Sean Davis, Franklin County EM: aye  
00:47:28 Sandi Duffey, Adams Co. WA, Adams Co Emergency Management:  
Veterans day will be on a Wednesday for 2026  
00:48:04 Ted Buehner - SECC Chair: Thank you Sandi!  
00:54:07 Mike YVEM: Keep having tech issues here with no sound.  
If I can not fix, I will have to leave and catch the notes.  
00:55:30 Mike YVEM: ok got captions to work  
00:56:35 Sid Brown Idaho OEM: About Your LECC / SECC  
00:59:21 Sid Brown Idaho OEM: State Emergency Communications  
Committee | Washington State Military Department not sure if this is  
what you were referring to...  
01:00:52 Sid Brown Idaho OEM: EAS This is the 2025 RMT schedule.  
When I get the 2026 version I'll send it to Ted.  
01:01:42 Mike McMullen Yakima Valley Emergency Managment: now can  
hear  
01:08:04 Erika Katt: Erika Katt, Erika.katt@lewiscountywa.gov,  
360-740-1153  
01:08:16 Meredith McClurkan - WAEMD: Reacted to "Erika Katt,  
Erika.ka..." with âði,ð  
01:09:08 Meredith McClurkan - WAEMD: Meredith McClurkan /  
meredith.mcclurkan@mil.wa.gov / 253-888-9952  
01:17:41 Mike McMullen Yakima Valley Emergency Managment:  
mike.mcmullen@co.yakima.wa.us  
01:17:49 Mike McMullen Yakima Valley Emergency Managment:  
5099070249  
01:28:01 Sid Brown Idaho OEM: [william.chapman@das.oregon.gov](mailto:william.chapman@das.oregon.gov)  
(Contact that can direct you to the Everbridge rep in Oregon.)

| 2025 SECC<br>MEETING DATES | LOCATION                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday Nov 18             | Anticipate SECC Meetings will remain virtual via Zoom until further notice, apart from perhaps a few well-advertised exceptions. |
|                            |                                                                                                                                  |
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|                            |                                                                                                                                  |

| 2026 SECC<br>MEETING DATES | LOCATION                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday Jan 13             | Anticipate SECC Meetings will remain virtual via Zoom until further notice, apart from perhaps a few well-advertised exceptions. |
| Tuesday Mar 10             |                                                                                                                                  |
| Tuesday May 12             |                                                                                                                                  |
| Tuesday July 13            |                                                                                                                                  |
| Tuesday Sept 8             |                                                                                                                                  |
| Tuesday Nov 10             |                                                                                                                                  |

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                | Meredith McClurkan | X       |
| WAEMD Multilingual       | Lewis Lujan        |         |
| NWS                      | Reid Wolcott       |         |
| WEA                      | Bill Peters        |         |
| AMBER Coordinator        | Mary Jo Margeson   |         |
| Eastern WA Leaders       | Sandi Duffey       | X       |
|                          | Charlie Osgood     | X       |
| Data Base Manager        | Simone Ramel-McKay |         |
| FEMA Reg 10              | Rebecca Dance      | X       |
| Technical Committee      | Lowell Kiesow      | X       |
| Comm Systems Chair       |                    |         |
| Cable TV - Comcast       | Trevor Nelson      |         |
| Administrative Assistant | Scott Sipe         |         |
| Recording Secretary      | Terry Spring       |         |
| Amateur Radio            | Monte Simpson      | X       |
| Test Coordinator         | Roland Robinson    | X       |
| WSAB                     | Keith Shipman      |         |

## LECC Chairs

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

## OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

| NAME                | AFFILIATION                          | PRESENT |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| John Ebner          | Jefferson County DEM                 | X       |
| Chalice Dew-Johnson | Whatcom Co. Sheriff DEM              | X       |
| Mireya Garcia       | Grant County Sheriff's Office EM     | X       |
| Keith Smeal         | Bonneville Seattle                   | X       |
| Kevin Jackman       | Skagit County                        | X       |
| Kyra Tirey          | Kittitas County                      | X       |
| Nicole Johnson      | King County EM                       | X       |
| Sid Brown           | Idaho DEM                            | X       |
| Vanesa Ochoa        | Skagit County DEM                    | X       |
| Clint Davis         | Chehalis Tribal Emergency Management | X       |