

SIEC Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2025

Call to Order:

Meeting convened at 0900. Quorum confirmed.

Welcome Remarks:

Adam Wasserman (acting Chair) welcomed participants and acknowledged Robert Ezelle's absence due to travel.

Introductions:

- Member introductions and agency representation confirmed.

Approval of Minutes (June 10, 2025):

Motion to approve was made by Anton Damm and seconded by Chris Welch. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speaker – Jared VandenHeuvel, Texas DPS:

Team Awareness Kit (TAK) and Lessons from Current Deployments: – Jared shared a presentation

- Key benefits: open-source, government-developed, device-to-device functionality without internet, plugins for drone feeds/RF mapping, federal adoption.
- Use cases: law enforcement, fire, SAR, border operations, major events.
- WA interest in state-hosted TAK server for interoperability.
- Issues noted: iOS limitations, training needs, onboarding, public disclosure/union concerns, radio integration.
- WaTech & EMD to explore hosting options and potential pilot use for World Cup 2026. TAK demo video link (Colorado COTAK demo) shared in Teams. <https://cotak.gov/pages/cotak-overview>

Member Updates:

- Tom Wallace (WSP) Budget requests for equipment; beginning discussions with King County on PSERN interoperability.
- Dongho Chang (WSDOT): \$8.4M requested for World Cup ops; \$4M received for signage, equipment, staffing.
- David Mendel (WaTech): Updates provided under Strategic Planning Subcommittee.
- Anton Damm (DNR): Developing custom broadcast feeds; heavy fire activity.
- Jennifer Meyer (DFW): Budget constraints; working with TCOM.
- Chris Welch (DOC): Radio upgrades needed; interop priority for field officers.
- Tom Handy (Whitman County): No updates.
- (Fire Chiefs): No updates.
- Glenn Blakeslee (WASPC): Nothing to report.
- Adam Wasserman (SECO): Current challenge is meeting strict federal grant criteria. While many NOFOs have been released, we are working with attorneys to confirm which can realistically be executed.

- Katy Myers (NORCOM): Provided update on APCO/NENA - October conference; statewide 911 strategic plan development.
- Zack Hudgins (WaTech): Cybersecurity grant program, 130 applications, scoring underway, volunteers needed.
- Braden Mathews (Spokane County): No update; out on active duty until January.

SIEC Subcommittee Updates:

- David Mendel met with Strategic Planning Committee in June 18 (Bill chaired).
- Discussed developing a charter using Oregon's Strategic Planning Committee as a model. Charter to define mission, purpose, outcomes, and goals.
- Goals include updating the SCIP, aligning with Technical Committee and RICs, advancing statewide interoperability, and considering impacts of "10/4 Day."
- Meetings now set monthly on the third Wednesday; next meeting August 20.
- Members encouraged to send topic suggestions to David Mendel or Zack Hudgins.
david.mendel@watech.wa.gov and zack.hudgins@watech.wa.gov

Technical Committee (Jon Lee)

- Reviewed SCIP items in alignment with the (TAK) platform.
- Draft ICT guidance (roles, credentialing) is in progress; delayed due to Spectrum Cyclone exercise.
- Spectrum Cyclone Exercise: Held recently with 120+ participants nationwide; identified strong need for coordinated large-scale communications. TAK highlighted as a useful coordination tool.

Regional Interoperability Committee (RIC) Updates

- WA-OR Joint Committee: Efforts underway to restart and re-engage members; next meeting September 23.
- Preparing a white paper outlining committee purpose, plans, and strategies to attract participation despite limited federal funding.
- Other RICs updating plans, coordination activities.

Old Business:

- **4.9 GHz:** FCC has not made progress; many pending applications remain unprocessed due to lack of a band manager.
- **World Cup 2026:** HSIN Connect and bridge channels available; agencies urged to participate. Daniel shared a link in the chat. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1766/all-actions>
- **CASM:** Updates ongoing; agencies must verify data and POCs.
- Joint Meeting with Oregon: Planning underway for syncing up meeting for October.
- **Bylaws Changes:** Proposed updates were shared in advance; edits were shown in red for review.
Key Changes:
 - o Broke membership paragraph into a numbered list for clarity.
 - o Allowed primary and alternate representatives for each voting member organization.

- Revised quorum requirement now requires 50% + 1 of active member organizations (vacancies not counted), replacing the ineffective “60% of members present” rule.
- Clarified meeting frequency: “at least quarterly” (instead of strictly quarterly).
- Clarified amendments language, replacing references to “Charter” with “Bylaws.”
- A motion was made by David Mendel and seconded by Tom Handy to approve the bylaw changes as presented.
- Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion:

- **Membership Updates**
- Tribal seat: Filled and pending TAG signature.
- Vacancies: Department of Health (DOH) and Labor & Industries (L&I) remain unfilled. Awaiting confirmation from L&I.
- DOH has expressed interest (Carrie Corder, Communications).
- **Auxiliary Communications (AuxComm) Proposal:**
 - A proposal was presented to designate one of the open member seats for an AuxComm liaison to represent the amateur radio community and support integration with local emergency managers.
 - Discussion emphasized the value of having a knowledgeable liaison to bridge amateur radio and emergency management, but concerns were raised about whether local emergency managers support this role.
 - The committee agreed to gather input from local emergency managers and have a presentation at the next meeting before making a decision.

Carrier and Guest Updates:

- **Armada:** provided updates on ongoing emergency response and public safety support:
 - Washington DNR fire teams onboarded to Starlink kits for wildfire response.
 - Deployment of 1,300 vehicles to CAL FIRE for emergency backup.
 - Integration work on TAK mapping and incident reporting, with options to push data to Slack, Teams, ServiceNow, etc.
 - Offered one-on-one sessions for agencies interested in platform updates.
- **AT&T/FirstNet:** reported:
 - Three new sites are activated with Band 14 LTE and 5G in Mount Vernon (Skagit County), Winlock (Lewis County), and Pasco (Tri-Cities Airport).
 - Participation in the Spectrum Cycling Exercise with focus on interagency interoperability and asset deployment.
 - Emphasized importance of including cellular in emergency and large-event planning (e.g., FIFA host cities, fan zones).
- **Verizon:** Engaged in World Cup planning meetings; supporting state agencies with special projects (e.g., Fish & Wildlife, ferries).
 - Network team participated in Spectrum’s backbone program with positive results.
 - Apple has shown strong interest in TAK integration, continuing coordination.
 - Adjusted pricing to help agencies with budget challenges and added no-cost roaming for Canada and Mexico on public safety and non-public safety plans.

- Verizon Crisis Response has supported 23 deployments, primarily providing Wi-Fi, phones, and devices.
- **T-Mobile:** Satellite-to-phone service with Starlink is now live, supported by over 650 satellites. Full data capability is expected to launch on October 1. The system prioritizes ground towers but can serve as a reliable failover during outages.
- T-Mobile completed its purchase of US Cellular. By year's end, all acquired towers will be upgraded to T-Mobile 5G service.
- Network slicing is showing improved upload speeds. Field tests, including with WSP teams, demonstrated strong performance even in challenging environments (forests, rural areas)

Good of the Order & Public Comment:

- No additional public comments.

Next Meeting:

- October 14, 2025, at 0900 (will update on location- in-person/virtual)

Adjourn:

- Meeting adjourned at approximately 1100.

ATTENDANCE:

Katy Myers
Dongho Chang
Spencer Bahner
Glenn Blakeslee
Anton Damm
Jennifer Meyer
Chris Welch
Tom Handy

Adam Wasserman
Jon Lee
Jonathan Brock
Amanda Webster
Regenal Grant
Tom Wallace
Marc Biundo
Daniel Hypes
Jimmy Nguyen
Richard Huisingsh
Steve Brown
Matt Moderalli
David Mendel
Zack Hudgins
Chris Barnes
Nick Bacon
Braden Mathews
Jay Atwood
Bruce Richter
Ian Moore
Rebecca Dance
Brandon Smith
Devan McCoy
Jared Vandenheuvel