

SECC Minutes

July 10, 2013

Present:

Clay Freinwald-WSU

Terry Spring-KWPX TV

Mark Allen-WSAB

Carri Gordon-WSP

Roy Benavente-EMD

Marty Grisham-Tukwila EM

Tim Schall-KCTS TV

Jim Dalke-Dalke Broadcast Services

Jim Pace-EMD/Amateur Radio

Tom Sharp-Pierce County OEM

Chris Utzinger-WA MIL GMD

Ted Buehner-NWS Seattle

Via Phone:

Dan Good-ESCA

Arthur Willetts-KWDK TV

Jason McMullen-Kitsap County EM

Marlin Jackson-KXLY Spokane

Ruth Brownstein-KAOS

Jill Kangas-Lewis County DEM

Tyre Wilde-NWS Portland

The meeting was called to order by Clay Freinwald. Introductions were made and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

The next meeting of the State Plan Revision Committee will be on July 19. It will be the last meeting for a while. There are changes coming from the FCC and the committee wants to find out what they are before doing more work. Part 11 mentions state committees but doesn't define them. The commission is being pressed to provide more guidance. CSRIC (The Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council) has a working group for EAS that will make recommendations on how to improve EAS to both the FCC and FEMA. They are also working on reviewing the FCC rules regarding the SECC's and the submission and approval of state plans. Clay is the Co-Chair of the EAS Working Group. The idea is to make the system better.

The EAS binder was discussed. The binders were originally distributed to all stations when we transitioned to EAS. There have been changes over the years, so the binders should be checked to make sure the tabs are current. Pay special attention to Tab 10 (Monitoring Assignments), Tab 12 (Local Area Plan), Tab 29 (Applicable EAS Handbook), and Tab 30 (FCC Rules Part 11). Most Tabs are available at <http://www.wsab.org/eas/eas.html>. Local plans are available from your local area chair. The Tabs will be transitioning to a different web site in the future. FCC Inspectors have been looking closely at Public File and EAS recently. The binders allow you to have the required paper work easily accessible in one place.

The FCC is pondering how AM daytimers with FM translators should handle RMT's.

A FCC waiver is not required for special, out of sequence Required Monthly Tests for special events. The rule citation is 11.61(4). This was run by Greg Cooke at the FCC. This is referring to the October RMT that will be originated by the National Weather Service as part of their Tsunami Awareness efforts.

Chris Utzinger proposed to enhance the role of the SECC to include WEA (Wireless Emergency Alerts), formerly known as CMAS. This included emergency alerts received on cell phones. How would this fit in with the SECC? It would probably be a committee. It should become a part of the state plan as a separate tab. We need to take advantage of new technologies. This has received a positive response. There should be a provision to include future technologies.

The SECC needed someone to look at training. Some Emergency Managers still do not understand EAS. Some stations do not participate for the same reason. Carri Gordon volunteered to take the lead. Ruth Brownstein will also be involved.

The SECC Chair succession issue was discussed again. Nothing has been resolved, yet. Input is needed.

Web Hosting for the state plan was discussed. Changes are coming. It is more appropriate for state emergency management to host the state plan. The state won't do data storage for other entities, so there will be links to the local plans. Some of the local plans are only available on hard copy and will need to be converted to PDF's. The local areas that have not updated their plans need to do so anyway. Tab 12 will include a table of local plans and their location. Local plans are done locally and are a local responsibility.

Premier Satellite Networks now has a dedicated channel for dissemination of EAS messages from FEMA. The reason EAS was established was for the broadcast of Presidential messages. Currently, the main distribution method is by big-signal AM stations. But even KIRO does not cover the whole state. This satellite service, which is used by many radio stations, will provide redundancy and fill-in service. A local example of where this would be beneficial is Cowlitz County. They missed the national test because their radio relay of the SRN failed. This will mean changes to Tab 10 and Tab 14, National Distribution. It should be noted that NPR stations also have access to a audio stream on their satellite system that relays national alerts.

Plans for disaster recovery were discussed. In a major disaster there is no way of knowing which stations would survive, both studio and transmitter plants. There should be agreements among the different stations to share programming if the need arises.

The SECC approved Carri Gordon as a second AMBER plan reviewer. WEA alerts are not supposed to be activated between 10 PM and 7 AM. Any happening over night would be held until 7 AM.

The Inland area already has their local plan on a server. They will be supplying a link to the state emergency management.

Amateur radio is working on a system to back up the State Relay Network to add some redundancy to the distribution of EAS alerts.

The next meeting will be on FRIDAY, September 13 at 9:30 AM at Camp Murray. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY!**