**State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC)**

Briefing Paper - SIEC Advisory Workgroup

Meeting of March 29, 2016

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

* WON / SLIGP / FirstNet / SIEC Update and Discussion (Schrier)
  + FirstNet President TJ Kennedy and other FirstNet representatives will be attending the April 21st SIEC meeting to report on the status of FirstNet, the RFP, State consultations, and delivery of the WA State Plan.
  + A FirstNet Consultation Task Team is tentatively scheduled to convene in WA on April 22. Topics to be addressed include quality of service (QOS), priority, and pre-emption (collectively “QPP”) to be employed within the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN or FirstNet). Washington is the second state to be chosen for such an event. WA OneNet will send out a notice regarding the need for a limited number of Subject Matter Experts to attend this session. WA input will help define how local controls, QPP, and implementation/administration will be employed on NPSBN in WA.
  + The FirstNet RFP to procure initial nationwide NPSBN services was issued on January 13, 2016. Vendor responses are due May 13th. FirstNet anticipates selection of a vendor and contract execution by the end of 2016 – possibly as early as November. Drafting of “on-line” State Plans is anticipated to be completed immediately following selection and award of a vendor. A very short timeframe (6 to 8 weeks?) stakeholder review of the proposed WA State Plan is anticipated to occur in the Spring of 2017. Shortly thereafter, the WA State Plan is anticipated to be delivered to the Governor for an opt-in/opt-out decision, which decision is – according to the Act, to occur within 90 days of receiving the Plan.
* Communications Order Protocol Subcommittee (McDowell)
  + SAW efforts towards the communications order protocol are deemed complete.
* Best Practices Document (Zuniga)
  + Zuniga is actively recruiting “Best Practices Subcommittee” members.
  + The group has yet to meet.
  + A determination needs to be made whether to further research, revise, and adopt the proposed “Best Practices” document or retire this effort.
  + Upon convening, the subcommittee will review and submit a recommendation.
* Tactical Interoperability Communications/Field Operations Guide - TIC/FOG (Benavente)
  + Benavente is collecting contact info and data/content (i.e. regional homeland security contacts, city/county emergency managers, frequencies, etc.
  + Members suggested each homeland security regional contact might appoint a COML to work on the Washington TICFOG.
  + TICFOG team is developing an on-line form for submitted and verifying frequency/channel information obtained from resources.
* Operational Core Capabilities / State Preparedness Report - SPR /

Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment – THIRA (All)

* + A handout was provided describing the MIL/EMD-administered SPR/THIRA report, which Schwent has participated in preparing in past years.
  + Marusich has been recruited to participate with Schwent in the review and development of a revised report.
  + Recommendation was made that this report be presented to the SIEC by the assigned MIL/EMD representative as it provides insight in to the State’s emergency communications interoperability capabilities.
* Uniform Numbering Scheme Update (McDowell)
  + Members unanimously agreed to table this discussion until such time as a State or other significant system purchase/upgrade is undertaken.
  + Currently, all significant systems in WA have or are moving towards adoption.
* DNR - Implied Consent Radio Sharing Agreements (Damm)
  + Damm presented DNR’s struggle to implement agreements for others seeking to use the DNR radio network.
  + Currently, DNR is contemplating issuing blanket frequency sharing agreements - along with a list of frequencies and where their use is appropriate (a "user guide") that includes call signs.
  + DNR’s goal is to make radio communication with DNR during fire season easier.
  + Users such as search and rescue, fire districts, and law enforcement would still require eligibility to talk to DNR; however entities such as Weyerhaeuser, Boeing, etc. would not qualify - as spelled out by the FCC.
  + The Texas Statewide Interoperability Channel Plan as an example/template of what DNR is contemplating.
  + DNR proposes to make the agreement/document available via the dnr.wa.gov webpage.
  + This approach and document is intended for the "initial attack phase" of wild land firefighting, allowing entities/agencies to use the frequencies for interoperability with DNR without having a “wet signature” agreement on file.
  + Members discussed that the SIEC is supposed to centrally manage and license frequencies, but is not staffed to do so; therefore, they delegated management to the individual agencies – with each agency having interoperability channels.
  + Anton will present a proposal to the SIEC, requesting the authority to use an on-line (completely web-based) implied licensing, shared use or implied consent use agreement for DNR frequencies.
  + Members discussed how DNR's needs and goals differ from EMD, Corrections or State Patrol, which do not want to be so open to interoperability.
* 800 MHz Rebanding Project Update (Marusich)
  + Only three WSDOT sites remain to be reconfigured, completing the infrastructure Rebanding process. Only subscriber second and third touch reprogramming will remain to be completed.
  + Only minimal programming and the installation of a Broadband Distribution Amplifier (BDA), and the return of legacy equipment remain to complete the WADOC reconfiguration process.
  + Reconciliation of the Wave 4 Planning activities in underway. (est. end April)
  + Wave 4 Implementation reconciliation will begin upon completion of WADOC reconfiguration process and receipt of facility time/expense reports.
  + Final reconciliation is anticipated to be completed by year end 2016 – given current WSDOT reconfiguration schedule.
* Communications Unit Training, Certification, Administration, and Registry (All)
  + FEMA has a list of COML/COMT certified personnel in Washington.
  + Many have taken the classes, but WA has no certification process or task books to conduct such a certification.
  + ICS courses and COML/COMT classes are announced by EMD.
  + **ACTION:** Follow-up conversation needs to include Anton Damm (DNR), Bob Schwent (WSP) and Chris Lombard (SFD).
* Cascadia Rising
  + Cascade Rising is occurring in June.
  + Members identified Cascadia Rising is not a communications exercise.
  + OneNet is proposing to conduct a tabletop exercise during Cascadia Rising.
  + The National Guard is having a pre-exercise which includes personnel from OEC.
* Technical Assistance (TA) Requests (All)
  + What TA requests have been processed previously and by whom?
  + **ACTION:** Need to identify how TA requests are initiated and what future TA programs (i.e.; Statewide Applications, SCIP Updates, FOG Development, etc.) should be considered.
  + For reference, the TA/SCIP Catalog is located on the Public Safety Tools web site: [publicsafetytools.info](file:///C:\Users\jackita.bass\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\6E1743WY\publicsafetytools.info\).

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

* DNR was funded for $1.195 million for radio system improvements.
* LNI is now conducting tower inspections.
  + Radio tower work is now one of the most deadly occupations in the United States.
  + LNI has staff assigned to this work.
  + McDowell reported receiving two inspections on WSDOT tower work conducted by contractors, one of which (Moses Lake) had deficiencies requiring corrective action prior to proceeding.
  + Benavente reported incurring inspections of workers and site preparation work (e.g. grounding) when working for Day Wireless.
  + Damm reported DNR has experienced difficulty getting its older towers to pass such inspections; however, he reported the focus of LNI appears to be on the workers – having a documented training plan, rescue plan, proper equipment, and inspection plan for all the workers' gear.
  + EIA/TIA specifies how often the tower itself is inspected and the inspection checklist.
* McDowell reported on WSDOT’s RFP plans for network improvements.
* WSP approached DNR to execute a tower engineering contract.
  + WSDOT has a consultant contract for these services; however, only WSDOT can use them because the authority to create the consultant contract was delegated.
  + **ACTION:** DNR will work with Blessing Guillerimo (WSP) to address this.
* DOC requested funding to relicense Olympic Corrections Center.
  + Facility will reuse existing frequencies, adding a tower, and relocating legacy repeaters.
  + Zuniga can file an application directly with the FCC; however, no SIEC approval is required as no new frequencies are being requested.
  + The operational footprint will not be altered by this change.
* Several network operators of other 800 MHz networks have asked for a statewide interoperability channel on 800 MHz (mobile only) upon WSDOT implementing its statewide network.