State Interoperability Executive Committee Minutes
February 17, 2022
1:30 – 3:30 pm
Virtual via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members/Staff Present:

Spencer Bahner (Seattle)
Chief John Batiste (WSP)
Sheriff Glenn Blakeslee (WASPC)
Dongho Chang (WSDOT)
Chad Cross (Fire Marshall)
Anton Damm (DNR)
Captain Phillip Johnson (DFW)
Bill Kehoe (WaTech)
Angela Knight (OCIO)
Nathan Kresse (L&I)
Bill Tensfeld (WSEMA)
Brandon McKinney (WFC)
Adam Wasserman (MIL/EMD)
Chris Welch (DOC)

2. NEWS AND INFORMATION ROUNDTABLE

Spencer Bahner - deploying PSERN system across King County.

Dongho Chang/Tim McDowell – 60-day reliability testing for the Land Mobile Radio upgrade project. Project should complete by September.

Anton Damm – cooperator frequency guide update out soon. Turned up equipment on LTE LMR in preparation for fire season.

Phil Johnson – replacing legacy equipment; testing FirstNet mobile solutions into patrol vehicles; recruiting for communications technician.

Adam Wasserman – remain activated for COVID response; floods up north; regional interoperability policy workshop scheduled for July in Salt Lake City.

Chris Welch – working with WSDOT on radio updates in transportation rigs and facilities; COVID response.

David Mendel – PSERN project is going well and on track to finish by end of year; better than expected coverage; 18,000 radios to be deployed to first responders this year.

Review of October 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: Approve October 25, 2021 meeting minutes with no corrections. This motion was moved, seconded and carried. Effective date February 17, 2022.

3. **VMed 29 License for State of Washington**

   Establish VMed 29 as a default air-to-ground frequency for MedEvac operations in the wildland. Establish a single state license for VMed 29 then propagate it out to various entities across the state. Military Dept./EMD will own the license. DNR could pay for licensing fee. If you have a working air-to-ground system, use that. This is for when in doubt, VMed 29 is available. This will help with WA/OR/ID cross boarder operations. **MOTION**: SIEC approval for WA Military Dept. to license VMed 29 statewide and through letters of authorization, propagate the use of that as a default air-to-ground channel for medivac operations. This motion was moved, seconded and carried. Effective date February 17, 2022.

4. **SAW Group Updates**

   - New members have joined – Teresa Smith from Gambling Commission and Chris Welch from DOC.
   - Response to FCC's action on 4.9 GHz in late 2021 seems to have had some effect.
   - VMed 29
   - SCIP review
   - New members are welcome.

5. **Discuss Proposed Updates to the Bylaws**

   - Article II. states the bylaws shall be reviewed annually by the committee. We will conduct this review using this format:
     - What adjustments are required?
     - How well is the SIEC executing the requirement?
     - What are the current execution gaps?
   - Article V. Responsibilities:
     - **Clarify who the "office" is; it's OCIO, spelled out in Article III, but do we need to spell it out throughout the document?**
     - No current policies/standards related to state communications systems.
     - Who is the point of contact with the FCC?
     - Is the process for licensing adequate and are we tracking the requests for licensing?
       - The current process is working - agencies and responsible coordinators bring any new spectrum request with a funding decision package to the SAW and SIEC for approval to proceed with licensing.
     - *Coordinate the purchasing of all state wireless radio communications system equipment to ensure that: any new trunked radio system shall be, at a minimum, project-25; and any new land-mobile radio system that requires advanced digital features shall be, at a minimum, project-25.*
       - **Suggested rewording to: <u>Approve</u> the purchasing of all public safety state wireless radio communications system equipment…**
       - **Does this also apply to upgrades to current systems and who would be responsible for coordinating with the SIEC – the agency or the vendor? Yes, would apply to upgrades and the agency would bring the request to the SAW for review and recommendation to SIEC for approval.**
       - **Work on options for adjusting the language before next meeting.**
     - **Has the SIEC sought possible federal or other funding for state-sponsored wireless communications systems? SIEC was involved in FirstNet. In future agendas, look at future opportunities and discuss SIEC role in applying for funding.**
       - **Idea: Create a needs list for the state; if a funding opportunity comes up our role could be to prioritize critical agency/organizational needs and elevate and advocate for funding. SIEC/SAW can start to gather that information.**
     - **Are we doing enough to support recommendations for legislation to support agencies?**

- - Question about definition of wireless communications systems – could include wireless telephones, which is out of our scope. Rewording needed.
  - o **Are we doing enough to foster cooperation and coordination among public safety and emergency response organizations?**
    - Would be great to have communications staff to provide assistance with outreach.
  - o **Potential wording changes; suggestions for staffing; revisit certain responsibilities in future agendas.**

6. **SCIP Review**

- (Earlier in agenda) SCIP Governance Goal 1 – which of the objectives need more attention?
  - o 1.1 – doing roles/resp in bylaws now
  - o 1.2 - Tribal and APCO voting members are on the SIEC.
  - o 1.3 – defining expectations for voting members.
  - o 1.4 – SIEC is not central repository for communications; not centralized; coming from different areas; not well defined.
  - o 1.5 – **funds for staffing should be highest priority; define specific positions needed (SWIC, SIEC staff)**
- Vision/Mission – no changes needed.
- SCIP Governance Goal 2 – reference/outreach material to promote SIEC role/value - no additional comments.
- SCIP Governance Goal 3 – coordinate communication among bordering states and Canada - Vmed 29 effort is good example of this goal.
- SCIP Governance Goal 4 – create field operations guide - FOG has been completed.
  - o (4.3) CASM is not up to date; tool being updated; CASM can be an inventory of experts, assets, use how we see fit; future SWIC will utilize this tool the most; have future SWIC bring tool to SIEC to discuss ways to better utilize the tool to meet our responsibilities and mission.
- **Next meeting – Bill will bring up technology goals for review.**
- Should SAW be updating Goal 3, or is it the whole SCIP? SAW form another group? Bring back recommendation to next meeting.
7. Bill is proposing an external review of the state's interoperability to assess where we are, where we have gaps, and future focus.
   - EMD says good idea.
   - SAW agenda item – next steps
   - Does CISA provide technical assistance in this area?

8. **GOOD OF THE ORDER/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

   No public comments.

   Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.