

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 21, 2022

Time: 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Attendance:

Angela Knight (WaTech)
Bill Kehoe (WaTech)
Spencer Bahner (City of Seattle)
Tom Wallace (WSP)
Sheriff Glenn Blakeslee (WASPC)
Dongho Chang (WSDOT)
Jarrod Nordloh (DNR)
Robert Ezelle (MIL/EMD)
Brandon McKinney (WFC)
Dan Meyer (ATNI)
Katy Myers (APCO-NENA)
Captain Phillip Johnson (DFW)
Nathan Kresse (L&I)
Bill Tensfeld
Dennis Weber (WSAC)

Welcome, News and Information Roundtable, Approval of 2/17/22 Minutes

Welcome:

Angela Knight, staff to the SIEC, confirmed this is a public meeting.

News and Information Roundtable:

Angela combined roll call with roundtable.

Tom Wallace (WSP) – WSP is upgrading infrastructure such as LMR base stations, microwave radios and site batteries. Completed upgrade to Motorola radio core and started development on a short and long term LMR strategic plan. Final stages of selecting an engineering firm to help with that effort. Bill Kehoe requested a future presentation on the LMR strategic plan.

Robert Ezelle (MIL/EMD) – They have worked on preparing for a potential major cyber incident, with a structure in place. Adam Wasserman, state 911 coordinator, indicated they are also monitoring the 4.9 GHz spectrum issue. The FCC could decide to transfer management of the spectrum from state public safety to a federal entity such as FirstNet. WA state uses this spectrum extensively. They have discussed their concerns with Representative McMorris Rodgers’ staff that the spectrum should remain in local control.

Dan Meyer (ATNI) – Attending ATNI Midyear Conference in May, so he will report to the telecom technology committee the SIEC progress over the last few months.

Captain Phillip Johnson (DFW) – Continued investments in Motorola handheld products to support increased officer staffing and hiring. Installing cradle point routers and deploying them around the state and enforcement patrol trucks. Also anticipate looking into wireless and body cameras into the

future. Working with Verizon to possibly collaborate on broadband push to talk and other broadband solutions. They will be recruiting for and electronic communication system technician soon.

Dennis Weber (WSAC) - Welcomed Dennis as the newest SIEC member. He represents the Washington Association of Counties and is a Cowlitz County Commissioner. He previously served on their local 911 Board, and is currently the vice chairman of the new entity created last year, Cowlitz 911 Public Authority.

Agenda Review:

Bill reviewed the agenda. He reiterated the importance of ensuring members are on the same page in terms of the mission and vision is of the SIEC and the value members add. In future meetings, he would like more ideas from members for the agenda such as presentations from the various jurisdictions, counties, etc. around the state related to projects, initiatives or emerging issues around interoperability. He also wants to continue to align the agenda with the SCIP goals and objectives.

2/17/22 Minutes:

Bill reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. There were a couple of spelling errors to correct. Sheriff Glenn Blakeslee made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections, Dongho Chang seconded, all approved. Minutes approved effective April 21, 2022.

Updates to Bylaws

Bill went through the suggested updates to the bylaws.

Dennis Weber had a concern/question about Article V. (c) to change the word “coordinate” to “approve all state wireless...” Will all county purchases of wireless radio communication devices have to come through this committee for approval or just state agencies?

Bill’s response was since counties are a big part of the state, anything that impacts or adds to or removes interoperability from a statewide perspective is the responsibility here. It’s not granular, such as two or three radios, but it’s more on the system side for large improvements, large equipment purchases that would adhere to these standards, at least for the land mobile radio and trunk radio system requirements.

Dennis agreed there are standards to be followed with interoperability, but still concerned if this would interfere with emergency response. If a slide occurs, departments have to have to act immediately, if radios go out, they have to be replaced ASAP. Okay with intent as long as there is no emergency response interference.

Bill said there is no intent to interfere with emergency response, especially if it's an urgent need. Believes the intent is to ensure that state is standardizing as much as possible and moving in the same direction.

Bill stated the bylaws will be reviewed annually from now on, as required in the bylaws.

Dongho Chang made a motion to approve the bylaws. Dan Meyer seconded. Dennis Weber abstained from vote. All other members approved. Bylaws approved effective April 21, 2022.

State Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Discussion

Bill reiterated that this document should act as the SIEC's strategic plan, and align these meeting agendas to the goals. Bill reviewed the Technology goals portion of the document. The SAW group had a couple of recommendations for goals 6 and 8.

SAW Group Updates

Tim McDowell (on Anton Damm's behalf) provided an update of the SAW Group discussion items from the March 31 meeting:

- WSP reviewed work on equipment upgrades, LMR strategic plan.
- EMD applied for VMed 29 state license; once approved, agencies can then request letters of authorization.
- 4.9 GHz discussion and how important the spectrum is for WA state, especially WSDOT and Seattle; urge anyone part of other public safety committees to stress how important this spectrum is for public safety and our state.
- Discussed Communication Assets Survey and Mapping (CASM) tool; Andy Leneweaver is the current gatekeeper of the tool until a full time SWIC is hired. The state information in the tool needs updated. Potential demo at a future SIEC meeting.
- SAW group recommends focusing on SWIC hire first, then that person can focus on developing a plan to seek an assessment of the state's interoperability and where there may be gaps.
- There were some recommendations for SCIP goal #8 to add some language to develop the e-WAFOG and #6 to reword 6.1 regarding outreach.
- Anton Damm, SAW chair, is the designated contact for SWIC activities.
- WSDOT's LMR project completed coverage testing; they are getting 96-97% mobile coverage on the state highways for the communication system; two more regions ready for mobile radio installations, but they are also dealing with supply chain issues.

Discuss Scope of Effort on External Review of State Interoperability

This agenda item has been deferred until a state SWIC is on board, based on the recommendation from the SAW Group.

Convert WA Field Operations Guide (WAFOG) to an eFOG

A recommendation from SAW Group is to convert the WAFOG to an electronic application, or eFOG. It would be beneficial for staff such as field officers to have this operations guide on an app. Robert Ezelle agreed to have his department look into the coordination effort and amount of work required. It would need coordination with the broader community, possibly a separate work group and CISA for technical assistance.

FirstNet Update

Kyle Abernathy, FirstNet consultant for Washington state, and Brad Steiner, Mission Critical Solutions team, provided some program updates such as progress on network buildouts, coverage expansions, use of high power user equipment to improve connectivity, deployable equipment and improved

interoperability. Bill would like further updates on FirstNet integration within WA state. He would also like to see a presentation of either an in state or out of state real example of implementation, value and benefits and lessons learned. WSP is interested in more information on the expanded coverage.

Good of the Order/Public Comment

Bill opened the forum up for public comment. Daniel Hypes, Chelan County PUD and previously with the state Office of Cybersecurity (OCS), offered that OCS may have some insight on the WAFOG governance.

Bill adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Action Items

Topic	Action	Assigned to	Deadline
LMR Strategic Plan	Future SIEC Presentation	Tom Wallace	TBD
CASM demo	Future SIEC Presentation	Andy Leneweaver	TBD
eFOG Development	Report findings on required effort	Robert Ezelle	TBD
FirstNet	Future SIEC Presentation	FirstNet	TBD

Next Meeting

August 2, 2022, 10am-12pm