



# State Interoperability Executive Committee

## Minutes October 15, 2015

1:30 – 3:30 pm  
Building 91, Camp Murray

### 1. Call to order, welcome, announcements, and introductions

Chair Bill Schrier called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

- Meeting agenda proposed, no objections.
- Round-robin introductions.
- Members in attendance: Peter Antolin for Ezelle, Sigfried Dahl for Daugherty, John Nisbet, Marc Lamoreaux (WSP) Chief John Batiste, Chuck LeBlanc for Chuck Duffy, Bob Johnson, Patti Kelly, Jim Sharp, Bill Schrier. Via Phone: Stephanie Fritts
- August 2015 Minutes and Bullets reviewed and approved.

### 2. News and Information Roundtable

- Member Kelly reported that Whitcom is dispatching for the Nez Perce Tribe which covers five counties in Idaho. With support from WSP, the service went live September 28 and continues to operate well. Whitcom installed new IP radio console systems this year. Once they receive final approval from the state, they will install new telephone system, Solacom. Schrier pointed out this example demonstrates the need for cross-state and Tribal interoperability and support.
- Peter Antolin reported that the EMD has returned to normal operation level after wild fire season. EMD is awaiting decision on FEMA requests for public assistance, as well as individual assistance requests. EMD also has a FEMA request for windstorm damage.
- Sigfried Dahl stated that E911 released an RFP for ESinet2. They anticipate a vendor selection and the move to improve to begin spring 2016. They are developing an emergency communications plan that includes a phone list of agency directors so they can communicate via Satcom and/or other means.
- Dahl noted that the Great Shake earthquake drill happened 10/15/15 at 10:15am. The exercise brings awareness, encouraging preparation for the “big one.” There were over 1 million participants registered to participate.
- Bob Johnson reported that fire season started 30-45 days earlier than usual and resources are still deployed. Damage this season includes over a million acres burned, over 1500 fires, and over 500 structures lost. Partners including WSP and Washington National Guard were a substantial asset. Schrier pointed out that wildland firefighters have one of the best voice radio interoperability programs between Federal, state, and local. He also noted that DNR’s radio system badly needs upgrades. Johnson agreed and reported that DNR is looking for additional radio system assets.
- Chuck LeBlanc, State Fire Marshal’s office, also noted that the focus of his office has been on the wildfires since June 13, a month early. To keep up with mobilization efforts, the office had to mobilize “all hands on deck” and several other programs were delayed for 3.5 months. LeBlanc expects mobilization efforts to continue into November. There is a lot of accounting to process and the office has a tiered approach to what is tackled first, the priority being to pay. The priority order is volunteer firefighters first, followed by career firefighters, then down list.
- Chief Batiste introduced Assistant Chief Lamoreaux. There have been a record number of fires and mobilizations over last two years. Chief Batiste predicts a worse and longer fire season in 2016 and hopes for additional state and federal assistance. The Chief would like to use the existing Fire Training Center

near North Bend to help DNR move forward with training needs and expand training across the state. Expanded training will help firefighters assist communities with clearing and preparing for fire season.

- The Chief also acknowledged that narrowbanding efforts are going well.
- John Nisbet reported that the DOT provided support to the firefighting efforts including road closures, traffic controls, and sharing info to public. DOT was not successful in their application for a federal grant to regarding connected vehicles but is preparing to apply when the grant is available again. After some discussion it was decided that a resolution or letter of support from SIEC may possibly help with future grant bids.
- Jim Sharp reported that there were many urban fires in Western Washington forcing firefighting agencies to retain resources that would normally be used to help fight fires in Eastern Washington. Both Members Johnson and Batiste agreed that this is an issue that needs to be discussed further. Batiste reported of 26,000 firefighters in the state, approx. 16,000 are volunteers. Sharp reported that radio communications during the U.S. Open went well. USGA planning facilitated the ability for fire and law enforcement to communicate effectively with no interoperability challenges.
- Member Fritts reported that local emergency management has been focused on planning for today's "Great Shake Out."

### 3. 2016 SIEC Meeting Schedule

Schrier explained that in the past the SIEC has met quarterly but has been meeting every other month. Schrier asked if there was a preference for meeting schedules. Member Fritts prefers every other month. Group was in agreement so dates for 2016 SIEC meeting are as follows

- February 18, 2016
- April 21, 2016
- June 16, 2016
- August 18, 2016
- October 20, 2016
- December 15, 2016

### 4. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Radio over IP (RoIP) Status Report

The RoIP project was brought to SIEC for approval several years ago and Lt. Phil Johnson provided an update on the current state. The project was an experiment initiated in 2007. The agency has 1300-1700 employees, many of which are in the field without communications connections or assistance. The project was initiated in 2007 and infrastructure includes internet via state government network, radio via DNR state repeater network, and dispatch by both WDFW and WSP. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of hardware installations are in WDFW installations. WILDCOMM is the agency dispatch center. WDFW plans to continue statewide expansion. Communication challenges include instability of work environment; many workers have no radio and no cell phone and there is often no cell signal where scientific staff works. Lt. Johnson is asking for continued support of the RoIP system. WDFW needs to go before a legislative oversight committee to ask for further resources and needs approval from SIEC for further purchases. WDFW has the funding for such purchases. **The SIEC approved the project and the initial budget in 2007-8. A Motion for WDFW to continue operation of system as described was moved and seconded. No discussion, motion carries.**

## 5. Proposed Public Safety Wireless Technology Program

Schrier introduced the program proposal which has a goal of improving interoperability of data and apps for responders. Examples include situational awareness, similar or common apps deployed statewide, and standardization of video feeds for viewing. Schrier hopes to expand the SIEC to represent more groups, catalog apps in use today, determine usability and needs for apps, and research other options including sensors and equipment. The program could engage federal grants, and recommend standards, and policies, and statute changes regarding interoperability. The proposal includes leveraging existing FirstNet grant through February 2018 and ask for additional funding from legislature. The Program could also engage professional consultants to help cybersecurity, software development, and usability as well as fund to engage on the ground users for app testing and development.

The Program would potentially be going into the 2017 budget but will be discussed with legislators now. Schrier asked for SIEC discussion and general feedback on the concept of the program.

- Member Kelly sees apps technology being very popular and people are already branching off to use different applications. This program may be a chance to start standardization now to avoid bigger problems with interoperability later. Also apps are popular for communications because of low cost
- Member Johnson sees smart phones as a resource but not a dependable mode of communication. Technology could supplement and DNR is looking at opportunities to replace lookouts with Aerial detection flights and remote sensor lookouts that can report smoke, read heat signatures, and can relay info to the dispatch center.
- Chief Sharp acknowledges that integrated apps are now the baseline, not a novelty. He asked if we can move fast enough to build interoperability and respond fast enough to app and software development – technology changes developed commercially.
- Chief Batiste sees this program as being in line with FirstNet goals to communicate in a variety of realms, not just radio.
- Peter Antolin commented that anything that improves situational awareness is helpful but suggested letting the marketplace settle and then seeing what the marketplace determines as the effective apps.

Schrier will continue to socialize the program. FirstNet funds will help the continuing collection of apps in use today. No action needed from SIEC but OneNet will provide more data for SIEC on apps in the future.

## 6. Washington OneNet (WON) Status

Schrier provided an update on OneNet efforts including:

- ATNI resolution 15-60 supporting data collection efforts for Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Montana.
- *After Oso* Video will be released late October and an Active Shooter scenario video is in production currently.
- FirstNet 101, as well as FirstNet 201 and coverage workshops were completed in September.
- Data collection was reported to FirstNet on September 30th.
- OneNet plans to collect and map 911 call data.
- OneNet will be responding to FirstNet Cybersecurity notice in October.

### FirstNet Update

FirstNet Region 10 Outreach and Consultation, Steve Noel, presented an update on FirstNet and the October SPOC (FirstNet State Point of Contact) meeting in Colorado. Steve reported that in the national key metrics Washington is above average. Specifically, OneNet ranked near the top in meeting materials distributed, governance meetings held, and stakeholders contacted (over 100,000). OneNet's videos won awards and are used nationally. The videos are viral in the FirstNet world. FirstNet will release the RFP in late 2016 and State Plans will likely come out early 2017. The SIEC will play a key role in State Plan decisions. Noel also offered a "thank you" to agencies which participated in the data collection.

**Data collection response**

Data Collection was reported to FirstNet on September 30th. A more detailed report is planned for the December SIEC meeting. As of October, 171 agencies have responded, consisting largely of law enforcement and fire. Seven tribes have responded as well. Data shows 90% of agencies responding are using smartphones. The list of agencies that responded is not public but will be provided to SIEC members upon request.

**7. Phased Development of FirstNet**

Because of time this topic is postponed until December meeting.

**8. Ongoing Projects****WSP Narrowbanding**

Bob Schwent reported that current efforts are on WSP District 7 and District 8 will begin in November. The program is still on schedule for completion. Schwent reported that the recent visit from the President of China was an interoperability success. Interoperability was key with the 3-day visit which included 247 miles of motorcade. The system experienced 138,000 push-to-talks and the system was busy less than 1% of the time. Normal communications were not impacted. WSP partnered with Seattle Police Department and the United States Secret Service.

**800 MHz Rebanding**

Michael Marusich reported that rebanding continues to move forward and should be completed by early next year although the accounting will take much longer. There are 6 of 140 sites remaining and 3 of 6 regions are complete.

**SAW Committee Report**

Michael Marusich reported that the Uniform Numbering Scheme discussion has been tabled until further notice. The NASPO contract phase one is completed and contract is in final negotiations. OSCCR consoles have been deployed. The National Guard has volunteered to assemble the Washington State FOG (Field Operations Guide)

**9. Good of the order and Information Sharing**

Nothing new to report.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Next meeting is December 17, 2015, 1:30 PM, at Camp Murray.